

Where Generosity Becomes Tomorrow's Care

A Message from Miren Luczka (BA'05), Development Officer, College of Nursing

Every day in this role, I see how generosity becomes momentum – how individual acts of giving shape the future of nursing and transform the lives of students, patients, and communities. As the development officer for the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing, I have the privilege of working with donors, alumni, and supporters who share a deep passion for advancing nursing education. I'm continually reminded the college is shaped not only by our students, staff, and faculty, but by the people who believe in what nursing makes possible.

Often, a donor's story begins with a single moment – a memory of a nurse who made a meaningful difference, a gesture of care that stayed with them, or a reflection on what compassionate support meant to them or someone they love. For our alumni, it's often a sense of gratitude – an appreciation for the education and support they received as students, and a desire to help the next generation succeed just as others once helped them.

From these experiences, generosity grows. It's an honour to walk alongside individuals and families



Miren Luczka.  Dave Stobbe.

as they bring their philanthropic goals to life by connecting their personal motivations with the college's priorities: supporting students, advancing research, and strengthening healthcare.

Across Saskatchewan and beyond, donors from all walks of life step forward because they see nursing as a powerful force for good. They give not for recognition, but because they know supporting nursing education strengthens the health and well-being of our communities. Their gifts open doors for aspiring nurses, spark innovation in teaching and research, and help us respond to the evolving needs of the people we serve.

In 2025, the College of Nursing continued to feel the impact of this shared commitment. Each contribution, large or small, became part of a much bigger story, one of care, connection, and collective strength. Our donors remind us that progress is never achieved alone. It happens when people choose to invest in others.

Whether you're an alumni, a grateful patient, or simply someone who believes in the value of nursing, I'm here to support you in making a meaningful and lasting impact. Your generosity and trust in nursing education fuel change reaching far beyond our classrooms. Together, we are not only supporting nurses, but we're also shaping the kind of healthcare future we want to inherit here in Saskatchewan and beyond.

This section of our annual report honours the individuals, families and organizations whose support brings our mission to life. Their commitment is helping to build the future of the College of Nursing, and more importantly, the future of healthcare for generations to come.

I look forward to connecting with you and supporting you in achieving your philanthropic vision within the College of Nursing.

— Miren Luczka, Development Officer



Love and generosity surpass a lifetime

Honouring Wanda Krauss's compassion by supporting the next generation of nursing advocates.

Ken Krauss (BComm'80) met his late wife, Wanda Krauss (BSN'80), when he was just 13 years old in their Grade 9 English class. Looking back, Ken says he knew instantly she was the one. For him it was "love at first sight", a feeling he connected to the Kenny Chesney song "You Had Me From Hello."

Ken and Wanda were high school sweethearts, Ken proposing to her just before he turned 18. Their love supported them through the highs and lows of post-secondary education. Whether they were up late together studying for exams or celebrating the end of a successful term, they were there for each other. They married on August 25, 1979, the summer before the fourth year of their degree programs.

"We often reflected and agreed our first year of marriage, while we completed our degrees, was the best year of our marriage," said Krauss. "It didn't matter that we lived on \$3,000 for eight months. We were together and that was all that mattered."

Ken and Wanda built their lives on a foundation of mutual support, being there for each other academically, financially, and emotionally. After graduation, they moved to Regina, where Ken worked as a chartered accountant at Deloitte and Touche and Wanda worked as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit (ICU) at Regina General Hospital.

"Being a nurse was a defining part of who Wanda was," said Krauss. "She wanted to be there for her patients at what was often the worst time of their lives."

Wanda was a strong advocate for others. In both her clinical practice and personal life, she went above and beyond to ensure everyone was treated with respect. She was deeply committed to making sure people received the care and attention they needed and would never allow anyone to be dismissed or overlooked.

As a registered nurse, her advocacy extended beyond clinical excellence. She challenged outdated practices, championed nurse-led medication administration, and emphasized the importance of bedside care essential to patient assessment.

In her personal life, Wanda always put herself second to others.

"She sacrificed promotions in her career, so I succeeded at mine," said Krauss.

When their children were young, Wanda was asked several times to become the head nurse of the ICU. She always declined, so she could continue working half-time, raise their two sons, and support Ken as his accounting career progressed.

After Wanda retired from Regina General Hospital, they moved to Guelph, Ontario, where they lived happily until her passing on July 9, 2021.

"Wanda and I were together for 47 years," said Krauss. "Not a day, nor rarely an hour, goes by when I do not think about her and remember everything we shared."

After Wanda passed, Ken honoured her in quiet, but heartfelt ways, through making gifts to the College of Nursing on holidays and special milestones. Over time, he looked for a lasting way to reflect not only her memory, but also the generosity and compassion she showed throughout her life. Creating an endowment in her name felt like a meaningful continuation of those earlier gestures and a way to ensure her legacy would support future nursing students.

Ken established the Wanda Marie Krauss Patient Advocacy in Nursing Memorial Award in September 2025.

"I have been told that gift giving is my 'love language'. I took every opportunity to give Wanda gifts," said Krauss. "This endowment gives me the opportunity to continue giving her gifts on her birthday, our wedding anniversary, Ukrainian Christmas, and other dates that were important to her."

Generosity has always held deep meaning for Ken. From the kindness that he and Wanda received as young newlyweds and university students, to the daily generosity Wanda embodied throughout her life, he has always felt profoundly blessed. Having experienced Wanda's giving spirit firsthand for nearly half a century, Ken felt it was important to "give something back" as a gesture of gratitude for all they had been given.

Supporting nursing students now feels like a natural extension of that gratitude. Knowing that others may benefit from the successes that he and Wanda shared brings him great fulfillment.

"I hope being a recipient of an award in Wanda's memory will encourage students to pay it forward and be as generous as Wanda," said Krauss. "It is that nurse's way of caring, compassion, and helping that I hope permeates these students' lives the way it did Wanda's."

Just as Ken and Wanda supported each other through every stage of life, their legacy now supports future nurses. The Wanda Marie Krauss Patient Advocacy in Nursing Memorial Award will honour Wanda in perpetuity, carrying forward the compassion, strength, and advocacy that defined her career. Through this endowment, her impact will continue to uplift students and inspire the same empathy and dedication that defined Wanda's life and career.

“ I hope being a recipient of an award in Wanda's memory will encourage students to pay it forward and be as generous as Wanda. It is that nurse's way of caring, compassion, and helping that I hope permeates these students' lives the way it did Wanda's. ”

– KEN KRAUSS



Ken Krauss holds photo of his late wife Wanda Krauss.
Submitted.

For those interested in establishing an award to honour the memory of a loved one, or in contributing to the Wanda Marie Krauss Patient Advocacy in Nursing Memorial Award, please visit the Donors and Friends section of the College of Nursing website.





Generous gift boosts rural healthcare in Saskatchewan

The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing and philanthropist Mr. Ron Belsher (BComm'68) share a common passion: ensuring communities in rural Saskatchewan have access to high-quality healthcare.

Thanks to extraordinary gifts from Belsher to USask College of Nursing, nurse practitioner students, as well as Bachelor of Science in Nursing students, will be one step closer to achieving their goal of providing care in rural Saskatchewan.

Belsher may have left the family farm in southern Saskatchewan and moved to Saskatoon to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce degree, but even after building a successful 32-year career as a chartered accountant in Calgary, Alberta, he never forgot his roots in a small rural community.

Now retired, Belsher is committed to giving back to the University of Saskatchewan and supporting rural communities like the one he grew up in.

The Ron Belsher Rural Nurse Practitioner Award provides financial support and recognizes good academic standing to registered nurses who are entering or continuing in the USask Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner program in a rural community in Saskatchewan.

"I believe nurse practitioners play a vital role in addressing the primary care needs of underserved communities," said Belsher.

"I've seen firsthand the challenges those in rural communities face when trying to access healthcare and in many cases the healthcare team is limited, especially in areas without a physician. With their advanced nursing education and extended scope of practice, nurse practitioners are an invaluable part of providing quality healthcare in rural Saskatchewan."

The Ron Belsher Rural Nurse Practitioner Award is a gift of \$400,000, awarding two \$5,000 awards per year starting in the 2026-2027 academic year.

"I am a proud USask alumnus, and I wanted to give back to the university that shaped my path and make a meaningful impact on the province I once called home," said Belsher.

"Giving back to the community is a value my parents deeply instilled in me."

In addition to the nurse practitioner award, Belsher has also committed \$100,000 to establish the Ron Belsher Rural and Remote Placement Awards for undergraduate students.

Two awards of \$2,000 per year will be given starting in the 2025-2026 academic year to provide financial support for undergraduate students in their fourth year of study, who are participating in a placement in a rural or remote community. These awards will help cover travel, food, and accommodation expenses to increase the accessibility for urban students to do rural and remote placements.

The College of Nursing and Belsher share a commitment to the belief that students should have the opportunity to learn where they live, so they stay and practice in their communities where they complete their nursing program.

"We know if our students do their nursing education in a rural community and become a registered nurse, they are also likely to practice in the community afterwards," said College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous support Mr. Belsher is providing with these awards," said Dr. Richter. "His generosity is truly transforming the lives of our students. These awards help ease financial burdens, allowing students to focus on their studies and clinical practice."

At the heart of Belsher's gift is not only the desire to give back to the University of Saskatchewan and to make a meaningful impact on healthcare in rural communities, but to show his deep support for the nursing profession. His sister, Pat (BSN'67), was a registered nurse who retired in 2008 and often spoke with great pride about her education, the profession, and the rewarding career she had as a registered nurse. Ron's daughter Heather has worked as a licensed practical nurse for 30 years, specializing as an operating room nurse.

"I truly believe these awards to the College of Nursing will benefit students who will go on to be wonderful registered nurses and nurse practitioners, strengthening the health and well-being of Saskatchewan's rural communities," concluded Belsher.

“ I truly believe these awards to the College of Nursing will benefit students who will go on to be wonderful registered nurses and nurse practitioners, strengthening the health and well-being of Saskatchewan’s rural communities. ”

– RON BELSHER



(l to r) College of Nursing Assistant Professor - Academic Programming Kelly Hughes, Associate Professor - Academic Programming Cheryl Besse, Ron Belsher, and Dr. Solina Richter. Breanna Pochipinski.



Ron Belsher with sister Pat. Submitted.

Opportunities to Create Lasting Impact in the College of Nursing

Every donor has a unique motivation for giving. The College of Nursing offers a wide range of meaningful opportunities to support student success, advance nursing research, and strengthen healthcare across Saskatchewan and beyond. Whether the goal is to create immediate impact or build a legacy for future generations, donors may choose from the following giving options.



Annual gifts

Annual gifts provide flexible support that allows the College of Nursing to address urgent and emerging needs as they arise. Donors may direct their gift to priority areas, such as student awards, clinical learning experiences, research initiatives, or innovative academic programming. Donors also have the option to designate their contribution to an existing award or fund within the College of Nursing, ensuring their support aligns with an area of personal significance, while making an immediate and meaningful impact.



Corporate matching

Corporate matching programs allow donors to amplify their support for the College of Nursing – often doubling or tripling the value of their contribution when an employer matches charitable gifts. Many companies match donations made by employees, spouses, or retirees, helping expand impact in areas, such as student financial aid, research, and clinical education. Donors are encouraged to check their employer’s matching gift program to maximize support for nursing students and initiatives.



Tribute and memorial gifts

Tribute gifts offer a meaningful way to honour or remember a loved one, mentor, or healthcare professional. These gifts may support student bursaries, named awards, or specific areas of the College of Nursing that reflect the honouree’s contributions to nursing and community care. They serve as a lasting tribute, while supporting the next generation of compassionate and skilled nurses.



Endowed gifts

Endowed gifts create a permanent source of funding for the College of Nursing. The principal remains invested, and annual earnings support long-term priorities, such as scholarships, research programs, faculty development, and innovative teaching. Endowments ensure sustained support that will benefit nursing students and the profession for generations to come. All endowed gifts are subject to a minimum investment requirement, ensuring the fund is sufficiently robust to generate meaningful annual support.



Legacy gifts

Planned gifts allow donors to make a transformative impact on the future of nursing education. By including the College of Nursing in estate plans – through a gift in will, life insurance, retirement funds, or other planned giving vehicles – donors create a lasting legacy that supports future students, strengthens academic programming, and upholds personal values.



Stocks and securities

Donors may choose to support the College of Nursing through gifts of publicly traded stocks, bonds, or mutual fund units. These contributions offer substantial tax advantages, including a tax receipt based on fair market value at the time of transfer and the elimination of capital gains tax when securities are donated directly. Such gifts are liquid, low risk, and can be used immediately to advance priority needs within the College of Nursing.

YOUR IMPACT

Connect with us

To learn more about these giving opportunities, or to explore which option best aligns with your philanthropic goals, please contact us.

Miren Luczka

(306) 966-5653

miren.luczka@usask.ca



The College of Nursing is grateful for the support of our community of donors and friends.

Together, we are empowering nursing students and advancing clinical research that strengthens our healthcare system in Saskatchewan and beyond. Your generosity supports scholarships, bursaries, clinical placements, and innovative research initiatives promoting health equity, enhancing communities, and transforming nursing practice. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, past and present. The names below acknowledge contributions made from May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

*Those who have passed away are gratefully acknowledged and marked with an *.*

Gifts of \$500,000+

One Anonymous Donor

Gifts of \$200,000 - \$499,999

Ron Belsher
One Anonymous Donor

Gifts of \$100,000 - \$199,999

Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet
Theresa & Dr. Hung-Fook Ma

Gifts of \$50,000 - \$99,999

Stella Swanson

Gifts of \$25,000 - \$49,999

Evelyn & Joe Klein
Kenneth Krauss
St. Paul's Hospital Foundation Inc.

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999

Fay Puckett
Kramer Ltd. Foundation Fund
Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation
Shauna Ives
The Donald and Claire Kramer Foundation

Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999

Barry Brown
Betty Minifie
Jacqueline Sims
Nancy & Charles Weisdorff
Saskatchewan Union of Nurses
Wendy & Alex Campbell

Gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999

Ardis Janzen
Blanche Richards
Cindy Peternelj-Taylor
Crystal Procyshen
Jacqueline Sims
Janet McKenzie

Jill Bally & Erick McNair
Joan & Bill Turner
Karen & Ray Bodnar
Karen Shaw
Lorraine Hill*
Mary Matiko Fund
Michelle Gingara
Mrs. Emily Peacock and Family
Myrna Klein
Phyllis & James Goertz
Rouse Family Fund
Shelley & Gregory Peacock
Solina Richter
Trudy Jaskela
Three Anonymous Donors

Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Al & Marjorie Veroba
Bill & Rita Nell
Bruce Kluey
Donna Brunskill
Edith May Forrest Fund
Jan Guidinger
Joan Litzenberger
Linda & Pat Landine
Marga Cugnet
Marjorie Becker
Merle Kisby
Nancy Kot
Nancy Steward
Pat & Dwayne Dietrich
Ron Bigsby & Judy Walker
Ruth McKenzie
Wendy & Tom Duggleby
Three Anonymous Donors

Gifts of \$25 - \$499

A.D. Marks
Alice McBride
Alice Nycholat & Byron Christopher
Alice* & Bill Reynolds
Ann & Rich Burton
Ardyth Nestegard Alexander
Arlene Franko
Arlene Wolff
Arlette Spencer
Arliss Nadeau & Carlo Stuglin
Audrey Miller
B. Dyck
Barbara Link
Betty Lou Agnew

Bill Reynolds
Blondina Matheson
Bob & Vi Jacob
Bonnie Rushowick
Braden Davie
Brenda & Gerald Lashyn
Brenda Dyck
Bryan & Eileen Harvey
C. M. Miller
Carol Fowke-Burns
Carole & Paul Bakule
Carole Schriek
Catherine & Michael Close
Cecile M. Hunt
Cindy Manderscheid
Colleen Vassos
David Piska
Dawn McKenzie-Weinhandl
Diane Dodds
Donna Thompson
Dorothy Korol
Dorothy Miller
Dr. Linda Ferguson & Les Ferguson
Elaine Jamison
Elizabeth & Ronald Richardson
Ethel Harmel
Eunice Patterson
Gail Laing
Grace Iverson
Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan Order of the Eastern Star
Greg Smith
Gwen McDonald
Heather & Daniel McAvoy
Helen Willison
Henda & Maynard Olson
Hildegard Wieggers
Irene MacDonald
Jean Sencal
Jo-Ann Herle
Judith O'Shaughnessy
Judith Wiens
June L. Blau
Kathleen Chisholm
Kaz & Ruby Shikaze
Linda & Grant Bachiu
Lois O'Brien
Lorraine Cowan
Louise Racine
Lydia Mayerle
Margaret J. Holt
Margaret Olfert
Margaret Seto-Chan

Margery & Dana French
Marian Moore
Marjorie Piska
Marjory Gammel
Mark Tomtene
Marla Daniels
Marsha Jerred
Marusia Ladanchuk
Miren Luczka
Miriam Chiduku
Nancy Knorr
Norma Wallace
P. Susan Wagner
Patricia Peterson
R & Donna Quinney
Reita Palmer
Rosalind Giffen
Rosanna Loughlin
Rosemarie Baum
Roxanne Bagnall
Ruth Warkentin & James Hawrishok
Sarah Carter
Sheila & Don Ragush
Sheila McKay
Sylvia L. Acton
Tammy Swank
Tania & Dale Kristoff
Terry Budd
The Loreen Campbell Murray Fund
Thomas & Mona-Jill Eremondi
Toni Christopherson
Tony Korol
Tracy Gabriel
Valerie Dennis
Valerie Klusa*
Vernon Slipetz
W. Smith
Walter Nicholaichuk
Wanda Bryce
Thirty-four Anonymous Donors

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If you have questions about the donor list, please contact Miren Luczka at (306) 966-5653 or miren.luczka@usask.ca.

Celebrating Some of our Best and Brightest

Outstanding student achievement was celebrated November 15 in Saskatoon, as the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing hosted its annual awards ceremony.

Students, families, friends, donors, and members of the College of Nursing faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the presentation of 97 awards, totaling \$447,743 in scholarships and bursaries.

“Receiving these awards is a powerful testament to the dedication and perseverance these students have shown during their nursing education,” said Dr. Solina Richter (DCur), dean of USask College of Nursing.

“Our undergraduate and graduate programs are rigorous and demanding, requiring not only academic excellence, but also a deep commitment to wanting to serve as future nurses. These award recipients have demonstrated exceptional ability, resilience, and sincere passion for their studies and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments.”

The day not only celebrated students’ achievements, but also honoured the extraordinary philanthropic efforts of College of Nursing donors, whose support is vital to the students receiving scholarships and bursaries.

“These awards have a profound impact; they truly transform the lives of our nursing students, one individual at a time,” said Dr. Richter.

“Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, nursing students are able to focus on achieving excellence in their studies and clinical practice without the added stress of financial burden. This support makes all the difference because without these awards, some students might not be able to complete their program.”

“Every generous donation to the College of Nursing, no matter the size, matters deeply and is used to support students and important initiatives essential for success of our nursing programs,” said College of Nursing Development Officer Miren Luczka (BA’05).

“Donor kindness is more than a lifeline for students—it fosters a spirit of generosity and reciprocity, inspiring these future nurses to serve their communities and give back, as they advance in their careers. Celebrating the student award recipients and connecting with the generous College of Nursing donors at the award ceremony was a truly meaningful experience for me.”



Donor Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet (BSN'74) with The Influence of Educators Award recipient Morgan Christensen (BSN'09). © Dave Stobbe.