

Philanthropy refers to the act of donating money and time to improve the lives of others, frequently requiring personal sacrifice.

The College of Nursing would like to recognize the philanthropists who have given greatly and sacrificed much in support of nursing education.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A was the last of the five-year degree program in the (then) School of Nursing (now College of Nursing) at the University of Saskatchewan.

As they celebrated their 50-year reunion in 2023, classmates expressed a desire to commemorate their careers in nursing by creating an annual bursary for a full- or part-time student in the College of Nursing.

Members of the class have worked in all aspects of the profession – clinical practice in acute, long term and community settings, education, research and administration – and wish to support the profession by encouraging and supporting students.

The annual BSN Class of 1971A Student Award is available to a full- or part-time student in the College of Nursing demonstrating financial need. The class has generously committed to offering the award annually for three years with the potential to extend, pending fundraising efforts.

The alumnae recognize the competing demands on students’ lives today as they balance jobs, families, and other financial responsibilities. They understand these demands can have an impact on a student’s ability to complete the BSN program on a full-time basis. Through this bursary, the alumnae wish to recognize and encourage students to continue their studies, either full- or part-time, or to return to the program if their studies have been interrupted.



The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A. 📷 Bob and Cathy Anderson.

Theresa and Dr. Hung Fook Ma

Theresa Ma (BSN’75) and her husband Dr. Hung Fook Ma (MD) chose to support College of Nursing students as a way to give back to the college where it all started for Theresa. After both working as medical professionals for over five decades, the Ma’s are very passionate about healthcare in Saskatoon.

Now retired, Theresa was a registered nurse and Dr. Ma, a medical doctor. They spent most of their careers working in all three hospitals in Saskatoon.

Theresa and Dr. Ma spent their early years in big cities. She began her career as a nurse in both London and Scotland and he was born in Hong Kong. They moved to Canada in 1964 when Dr. Ma accepted a position in Saskatoon. Although they initially planned to develop their careers in larger centres, they quickly fell in love with the charm of Saskatchewan and decided it would be a great place to raise their children, Phillip and Priscilla.

Although initially educated overseas as a nurse, Theresa returned to university and completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1975.

In 1986, when Theresa was working as a registered nurse, she and a colleague completed a two-week course in palliative care at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, MB. They brought the knowledge from the course back to Saskatchewan, and together with a team of other healthcare professionals, began delivering palliative care in Saskatoon, as part of a pilot project. The concept of dedicated end of life care was quite new to the province at the time.

During her years as a registered nurse helping others, Theresa learned the importance of compassion in healthcare and hopes to help others realize the importance for years to come. Through the Ma’s generous contributions to the College of Nursing, Theresa and Dr. Ma are helping to educate and shape the nursing professionals of tomorrow.



University of Saskatchewan nursing alumna Theresa Ma (BSN’75). 📷 Submitted.

A Message of Gratitude to Our Anonymous Donors

Your extraordinary generosity speaks volumes without uttering a single name. You have chosen to support USask nursing students silently yet profoundly, transforming lives and futures. Your support serves as a ray of hope for nursing students who dream of making a difference. Your gifts are not just a financial transaction; they are lifelines that allow promising students to pursue their educational dreams, support for innovative research that advances healthcare, and the creation of opportunities for students facing financial barriers.

To our unseen benefactors, please know this – every scholarship awarded, every research project funded, every student supported carries a piece of your compassionate spirit. You are unsung heroes who are quietly reshaping the future of nursing and healthcare.

From the bottom of our hearts – *Thank You.*

“ We are grateful for the opportunity to support nursing students. The nursing profession is so important. While it can be challenging, it can also be very rewarding. The students who receive our gifts and go on to become nursing professionals will make a big contribution to the province and the country. The University of Saskatchewan has been very helpful in making this happen, and it makes good use of money that we will never need or spend on luxuries that we neither need nor want. These students are taking on a very demanding course of studies, and it is a privilege to be able to help them in this small way. ”

– ANONYMOUS DONORS, COLLEGE OF NURSING

# YOU Make a Difference

With gratitude, the College of Nursing recognizes our philanthropists who have given accumulated gifts of \$1,000 and more, as of December 31, 2024.

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