



## *Millie & Ken Hom*

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the Millie & Ken Hom Nursing Scholarship Program. Ken was looking for a special way to honor his late wife, Millie, a true pioneer for nursing in eastern Montana. In 2005, he established a permanent endowment with the Holy Rosary Healthcare Foundation to provide opportunities for nursing students and invest in the future of healthcare for our region. Scholarships, in the name of the Homs, are awarded annually to nursing students with eastern Montana ties.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Millie & Ken Hom Nursing Scholarship Program criteria includes:

- Student has spent at least 12 months of his/her life in eastern Montana.
- Student is enrolled or plans to enroll in an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree program related to nursing.
- Student is currently enrolled in a nursing program and scholarship funds are requested to assist with next year of nursing education. NOTE: Applicants who have worked at least 12 months as a CNA may apply for this scholarship without being currently enrolled in a nursing program.
- Student has achieved at least a 2.75 GPA.
- Student has a proven need for financial assistance for nursing educational costs.

Each member of the independent selection committee uses the same measurement tool for each application. The written applications and supporting materials will be evaluated and finalists selected. The finalists will then be asked to complete an in-person interview with the selection committee. Scholarship recipients will then be selected and all applicants will be notified.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Scholarships are awarded for up to \$2,500 per person to a selected number of students annually. The number of scholarships awarded annually is decided by the scholarship selection committee.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

January 10	Scholarship applications available
April 7	Application deadline (postmarked by)
April 10-25	Application review and applicant finalists identified
May 5-15	Finalists complete in-person interview

May 20	Scholarship recipient(s) notified
May 25	All scholarship applicants notified
August 30	First half of scholarship funds disbursed to educational facility (up to \$1250 fall semester)
January 11	Second half of scholarship funds disbursed to educational facility (up to \$1250 spring semester)

### **INFORMATION**

The Millie & Ken Hom Nursing Scholarship Program is administered by the Holy Rosary Healthcare Foundation. For more information or answers to your questions, please contact: Holy Rosary Healthcare Foundation, 2600 Wilson Street, Miles City, MT 59301; (406) 233-2604; HRH-Foundation@sclhs.net.



## *Millie & Ken Hom*

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### ***MILLIE & KEN HOM: Two Very Special People Passionate About Providing Opportunities for Nurses in Eastern Montana***

This remarkable couple, married December 1, 1954, always enjoyed eastern Montana and felt strongly about the area. Ken, a police officer and city judge, and Millie, a nurse and educator, touched many, many lives. Let's learn a little about these two very special people.

Ken Hom was born in Beach, North Dakota on March 5, 1934. Ken was raised on a farm. At age six, his family moved to Brusett, Montana; and when he was a teenager, the Hom family moved to Forman, North Dakota where he later graduated (in 1952) from Forman High School. Ken moved to Miles City before entering the Army in 1953. During his three-year commitment, he married Millie and then returned home and began his 20-year career in law enforcement as an officer with the Miles City Police Department. In 1994, Ken took on new duties and was appointed City Judge until 2005, when he retired. That was the year he chose to establish a nursing scholarship endowment to reward those pursuing a nursing education and create a permanent way to honor and remember Millie and her many contributions to the nursing profession.

Millie was born November 19, 1933 in Houston, Texas and moved to Miles City while a young woman. Although she wasn't born here, she took Miles City into her heart. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School and attended Sacred Heart Church.

Establishing a legacy of caring for others, Millie Hom was a true pioneer for the nursing profession in Montana. An article in the December 6, 1968 Miles Community College *Pioneer* student newspaper revealed that Millie's career as a caregiver began while still in high school, when she worked as a nursing assistant. She went on to the Presentation School of Nursing at Holy Rosary Hospital (which operated until 1959). After working for several years as a Registered Nurse, she attended Miles Community College. Millie continued her education at Montana State University in Bozeman, receiving her master's degree in Registered Nursing.

Returning to Miles City, Millie was employed at Holy Rosary Hospital and became the first Registered Nursing Program Director charged at developing the program at Miles Community College in 1968. Her numerous duties included developing the curriculum and ensuring accreditation, recruiting, collecting equipment, and arranging for clinical experiences. During the first year of the program, she was the only instructor.

Why did she work so hard? According to husband Ken, "Because she felt strongly about providing quality training and education to nurses. At the time, there was a shortage of nurses, and she thought it would be a good idea to have the nursing program here."

Ken says Millie worked hard to polish her proposal for the Associate of Arts in nursing program for Miles Community College. As part of the approval process, a strong presentation was necessary as two other sites in Montana were also battling for the program: Kalispell and Havre. Millie presented the curriculum to several different boards, and Ken recalled her stage-fright when speaking about the program in front of large groups. Other colleges had sent several staff members and even the presidents of their institutions, but Millie appeared as the only presenter on behalf of Miles Community College and eastern Montana. Her vision and perseverance impressed a number of people and approval was received.

The Miles Community College Nursing Program began enrolling students in fall 1968, and the first class of nurses graduated in spring 1971. One of the original graduates, Meredith Hirsch, recalls "Millie was a go-getter. She was determined we know everything we needed for the state boards." At that time, the Registered Nursing licensing examination consisted of a two-day written test held in Helena.

Ken states that Millie worked hard to make sure her classes did prepare students. She often worked until midnight and woke up at 5:00 a.m. to carry out all of her teaching and administrative duties.

Millie left Miles Community College in 1977 but continued working in the nursing field. Her many activities included the Eastern Montana Red Cross, administering the BS nursing program at Dickinson State College, helping to establish the Garfield County Nursing Home, and serving as president of the Montana Nurses Association. After retirement, she volunteered for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and was one of the founding members of the Convent Keepers to preserve the Ursuline Convent.

Millie Hom passed away on August 11, 2000. In addition to family and friends, she left behind the foundation of a nursing program that has since graduated over 1000 nurses and impacted thousands of lives.

The Millie & Ken Hom Nursing Scholarship Program was established in 2005 to permanently honor these two remarkable people who shared a special love for eastern Montana.



*Millie & Ken Hom*  
NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### APPLICATION CHECK LIST

As outlined in the selection criteria, applicants must meet particular requirements to be considered for the scholarship. Please use this checklist as a guide to ensure your application is complete.

- Complete & Submit Application
  - Designate your ties to eastern Montana. Per the scholarship guidelines, student must have spent at least 12 months of his/her life in eastern Montana.
  - Student is enrolled or plans to enroll in an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree program related to nursing.
  - Student is currently enrolled in a nursing program and scholarship funds are requested to assist with next year of nursing education. NOTE: Applicants who have worked at least 12 months as a CNA may apply for this scholarship without being currently enrolled in a nursing program.
  - Student has a proven need for financial assistance for nursing educational costs.
  - NOTE: If you need extra space to complete the narrative portion of the application, please re-state the question and then provide your response to allow the selection committee to easily follow your application.
- Current Educational Transcript with grades
  - Per the scholarship guidelines, student must have achieved at least a 2.75 GPA in the last 2 semesters of education.
- Proof of Financial Need
  - Per the grant guidelines, student must exhibit a proven need for financial assistance for nursing educational costs.
  - Please attach a copy of your most recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) award letter, if available, that designates the amount of scholarships, grants, and other aid being offered for the next academic year.
  - If you don't have the award letter, please provide information from the educational institution that you are attending showing your financial aid (including scholarships, grants, loans, and other aid) for the current academic year and your last year's personal tax return.
- Letters of Recommendation
  - Please attach three signed letters of recommendation (for example: last employer, current or former instructor/professor, personal reference)



*Millie & Ken Hom*  
NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**APPLICATION**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

How many semesters of college have you completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently enrolled in college? \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Field(s) of Study \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not currently enrolled, when do you plan to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

Where and in what field of study?

Please list any other colleges you have attended, not listed above, with dates, field of study and GPA.

Tell us about your ties to eastern Montana.

Tell us about your need for financial assistance related to your pursuit of a nursing education.

Why are you interested in being a nursing professional?

Have you completed any hands-on learning, job shadowing, or other career exploration related to nursing? If so, tell us about that.

Tell us about your work experience in the health care industry? Provide name of employer, dates of employment, and duties of the position.

If you're pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing, tell us about your nursing education to this point.

If you're pursuing a master's degree in nursing, tell us about your clinical work in nursing to this point

What type of work do you want to do in nursing? Do you have a particular area of specialty or interest?

What are your goals as a nursing professional?



What scholarships, awards, grants, and other financial assistance have you been awarded related to your current pursuit of a nursing career

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?  Yes  No

If yes, where, when and for what?

Please attach a copy of your most recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) award letter, if available, that designates the amount of scholarships, grants, and other aid being offered for the next academic year. If you don't have the award letter, please provide information from the educational institution that you are attending showing your financial aid (including scholarships, grants, loans, and other aid) for the current academic year and your last year's personal tax return.

Please attach three signed letters of recommendation (for example: last employer, current or former teacher/professor).

In addition, please review the application checklist carefully and attach all appropriate paperwork and/or proof that may be required related to the selection criteria. For example, proof that you've achieved at least a 2.75 GPA in the nursing program. Please review your finished application carefully to ensure its complete and supports the selection criteria.

By signing below you agree that all information provided is accurate and true.

---

Name

---

Date