

Marjorie K. Cochran Scholarship



Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$1,000)

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 1996

Special Criteria: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student; preference may be given to a student active in Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) at Allen College or in church or with mission experience; student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Born on a farm five miles northeast of Traer, Iowa, Marjorie Cochran spent many hours feeding orphaned lambs and nursing the sick and injured puppies, dogs and cats.

When patients complimented her soothing backrubs, she told them the tender touch came from the many hours she spent "hand" milking cows.

Music was her main passion during school days at Geneseo Township Consolidated School. She was involved with violin, piano, clarinet and voice. After high school graduation and a year of pre-nursing at Iowa State Teachers College, Congress passed the Bolton Act making it financially possible for her to give tender loving care through a nursing career instead of veterinary medicine.

During Cadet Nurse Corps student nursing days at Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota, Marjorie was able to enjoy singing in the Nurses Chapel Choir. In affiliation with Lying In and Children's Memorial Hospitals in Chicago, she sang with the Christian Businessmen Service Center Gospel Teams. The six-month senior cadet period was spent in EENT surgery and dermatology.

After graduating from nurses training in September 1946, Marjorie worked at Allen Memorial Hospital from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. a few months, and then headed west to Denver, Colorado. There, at St. Luke's Hospital, she was head nurse on the Critical Care General Medical Surgical Ward.

In April 1951, Marjorie returned to Waterloo as an office nurse for Thomas Trunnel, M.D., a dermatologist.

In November 1951, she married Walter R. Cochran. Together they spent many years as youth directors at Grace Brethren church in Waterloo and Davenport, Iowa, and Bible Church in Dubuque.

After 13 moves at the direction of Deere and Company, Marjorie and Walter finally settled on a hill in Hickory Hollow, south of Waterloo. Marjorie's roses provided the tender loving care for select patients at Allen Memorial Hospital for several years.

Walt and Marjorie have two sons and one daughter and many grandchildren. Marjorie passed away in 2014 and Walt passed away in 2019, but Marjorie's and Walt's life's professions and avocations are continued through their families.