

Demmel Family Endowed Health Sciences Scholarship

In Memory of Juanita Fortsch and Grace, Raymel, Mildred and Wilbur Demmel



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: 2019

Special Criteria: Health Sciences student. Minimum GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale), demonstration of community involvement and financial need.

The Demmel Family Endowed Health Sciences Scholarship was established by the children of Juanita Fortsch—Ann Riley, Sandra Becker and Glen Fortsch—in accordance with her wishes prior to her passing on November 14, 2019. The scholarship honors Juanita and her family, recognizing their deep ties to Allen Hospital and Allen College.

Juanita grew up on a farm in northeast Iowa and worked in distribution at Allen Hospital (now UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital) for 23 years. After retiring, she remained connected to the Allen community through regular participation in retiree luncheons.

Her family's longstanding involvement with Allen inspired her desire to support future healthcare professionals. Juanita's daughter served as the administrative business officer at Allen College, and her daughter-in-law is the current dean of the School of Health Sciences. Two of her granddaughters graduated from Allen College's BSN program, with one serving as a labor and delivery nurse at UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital and approximately eight years as a clinical instructor for Allen College. Additionally, Juanita's mother and sisters contributed to Allen Hospital through volunteer services and dietary roles.

Juanita enjoyed crocheting, puzzles, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren. She witnessed firsthand the compassionate care provided by Allen Hospital and hoped this scholarship would help middle-income students—those who may not qualify for other financial aid—pursue careers in healthcare and continue the legacy of care she so deeply valued.