

# Mary Hahn Rix Nursing Endowed Scholarship



**Type:** Endowed

**Amount:** Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$500-\$1,000)

**# Offered:** One per year

**Deadline:** Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

**Established:** 2012

**Special Criteria:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing student.

Mary Rix is a collector of quotes. She treasures her grandmother's collection she inherited.

"We're put on this earth to help others," Rix remembers her grandmother telling her. Rix is keenly aware she didn't get where she is today by herself. "Lots of people have helped me along my journey," she says.

Inspired to help others, Rix knew in fifth grade that she wanted to be a nurse. Growing up on a farm near Dysart, Iowa, she learned and benefited from a small town culture of giving.

Rix's own rich and varied nursing career began upon her graduation from Allen School of Nursing with a nursing diploma in 1971. From working as a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps at West Point, NY, then on to Iowa, California and eventually Oregon, Rix worked in a variety of hospitals and settings. While managing an emergency department in California, she received a bachelor's degree in organizational behavior from the University of San Francisco in 1989. Rix ended up at Kaiser Permanente in Portland, OR, where she was pediatric nurse manager and clinical manager of CARES Northwest (Child Abuse Response and Evaluation Service). For the last 12 years of her career—she retired in 2011—Rix managed clinical trials at Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research.

Rix is pleased to watch the focus of healthcare shift toward preventive care. "Yes, we have made incredible advances in healthcare since I graduated from Allen College 46 years ago, but one thing I've come to appreciate over my nursing career is the importance of quality of life," she says. "Nursing enabled me to help people live every day to their fullest."

## Inspired to act

Rix is keenly aware of the nursing shortage. The fact that veteran nurses will be retiring in increased numbers in the coming years concerns her deeply. She included Allen College in her planned giving and started the Mary Hahn Rix Nursing Scholarship to be part of the solution.

My gift will help make sure that highly skilled nurses will be there—at the bedside, in the home, teaching the next generation and conducting the research that helps make lives better," Rix says.

A single mother who raised a son and put him through college on a nursing salary, she doesn't consider herself one of great means. But she has enough to give, she says. "Thinking you're not wealthy enough to give can lead to missed opportunities."

Rix has also helped with Allen Foundation's matching class gift campaign by contacting her classmates and asking them to join her in helping fund scholarships for future nurses. "It has been a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with some members of the class of 1971," Rix says.

Continuing to give back in her retirement, Rix volunteers for causes like programs for at-risk youth and political campaigns. Rix thinks Sydney Smith's quote represents how she feels about the importance of every gift: "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."