About the Fund

Erin Keener was in her fourth year of nursing education at West Virginia University when she was killed in a tragic hit-and-run accident in Fairmont in late November 2005. The family began to receive donations in Erin’s name, and used them to create a scholarship fund managed by Your Community Foundation.

“Erin loved nursing so much, we want her name to live on while helping other students achieve their dreams to become nurses,” her mother Debbie Keener said. “We chose to give the scholarship to a fourth-year student because that’s what Erin was, and because there isn’t as much scholarship money available to them as there is for beginning students.”

Erin’s father Bill Keener said the family donated the funds to the community foundation “because we know it will carry on after us and the scholarship will always be there for someone.” The family raised the money through donations and by selling memory bracelets bearing Erin’s name.

Eligibility Guidelines

The endowment will be managed and invested by Your Community Foundation, with net income used annually to provide a grant to one fourth-year nursing student from Marion County or North Central West Virginia who attends West Virginia University and has attained at least a 3.0 grade point average. The WVU School of Nursing, the Keener family and other local citizens will serve as a selection committee, in consultation with the board of directors of Your Community Foundation.

How Can I Donate?

The scholarship will be managed by Your Community Foundation, which will invest the funds to maximize their value. The net annual income from those investments shall constitute the amount of the scholarship award. Any individual, organization or business can make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund.

To make a donation, or to get more information, contact Your Community Foundation, P.O. Box 409, Morgantown, WV 26507. Call us at (304) 296-3433 or visit our web site at www.ycfwv.org.