

St. John's College of Nursing
IMPACT REPORT

Spring 2019



St. John's
College of Nursing



Your scholarship gift *matters.*

"I am excited for the opportunity to work in the same unit that cared for my daughter and to fulfill my passion of caring for medically fragile children." - Sara Oglesby, 2018 graduate, NICU registered nurse



HSHS
**St. John's
Foundation**

Letter from the *chancellor*



Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN
Chancellor, St. John's College

Dear friends,

We hope you enjoy this donor impact report. The impact of contributions pooled together is powerful, and all of our nursing students benefit from the generosity of our donors.

We are so proud of our students at St. John's College of Nursing. In this issue, you will be introduced to Sara Oglesby and read about her remarkable story. Sara is a recent graduate who just accepted a new position at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital.

Whether your contribution has gone to support student scholarships, our state-of-the-art simulation center or to send faculty to professional development workshops to enhance the learning environment, be assured your contributions are used impactfully.

Thank you for directing your gifts to St. John's College of Nursing to benefit our future nurses!



Meet scholarship recipient *Sara*

"I am a graduate of the accelerated program at St. John's College of Nursing. I have my bachelor's degree in social work from Elizabethtown College and my master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana.

I worked for 10 years in the field of international adoption. I helped families adopt children from several countries, most of whom had a variety of special needs.

Being in the adoption field led me to the decision to begin a family and provide a child a loving, stable home. I became a licensed foster parent in 2012 and adopted my two children in 2015. My daughter was born at 24 weeks gestation and required NICU care for several months at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. Initially, it was unknown if she would survive and, if so, what medical challenges she would face. Despite the unknowns, I knew I was meant to be with her.

I visited my daughter twice a day and spent many hours holding, feeding, changing and bathing her. I watched as she grew stronger and learned to breathe and feed on her own.

After four months in the NICU, she was discharged into my care with numerous medical needs, doctor appointments and therapy sessions. While at times it was challenging and stressful, it was also rewarding to see her grow and progress each day. She is currently six years old and attending kindergarten. She has overcome the obstacles she faced during her infancy. She is truly a blessing!

After she was in my home for about two months, the foster care agency informed me that her birth mother was expecting another child. A few months later, I welcomed my son into my home. In less than one year, I found myself a single mother of two children. I was overwhelmed, yet blessed to have two beautiful children in my life.

My previous job and my experience with my daughter led to my decision to enter the nursing field.

My daughter and former clients' children inspired me to help others in a new way. I wanted to provide a service that would help children and their families deal with illness, disability or medical crisis. I am excited about my new position in the NICU. I am excited for the opportunity to work in the same unit that cared for my daughter and to fulfill my passion of caring for medically fragile children."

El mundo *necestia* gente que ame lo que hace!



The world needs people who love what they do!

This is the slogan for UDLA University in Quito, Ecuador. In 2018, a team of five people who love what they do traveled to Quito from St. John's College of Nursing to bridge common interests in health and well-being. Faculty and staff collaborated with partners around the world to host a health clinic, provide health evaluations for local families and have meaningful conversations about partnerships and research opportunities.

The generous support of St. John's College of Nursing alumni, friends and partners has an impact close to home and around the globe. Your support for St. John's College of Nursing makes a difference from Springfield to Ecuador!

Contact Bev Neisler, Chief Development Officer, HSHS St. John's Foundation at 217-757-6804 or bev.neisler@hshs.org to learn more about how you can support programs like this at St. John's College of Nursing.

Donors who make a *difference*



"I believe nursing students are the future of health care.

At some point, each of us will be touched by a nurse's care. To keep up with advancements in medicine and all areas of health care, future nurses need to be trained at the highest level. I have seen first-hand the quality of RN's that graduate from St. John's College of Nursing.

I donate to St. John's College of Nursing because it helps ensure our community will be able to continue to offer the highest quality health care available. My support for nursing students is an investment, and it shows future nurses they are part of a supportive community of alumni and friends."

— Kris Maurer, RN, '88

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Jenna Martin Seelbach *Memorial* Scholarship Endowment



This memorial fund was created by the family and friends of Jenna Martin Seelbach (1978-2016) to honor the life and legacy of this remarkable nurse.

Jenna was an embodiment of the qualities of intelligence, kindness, compassion, empathy and humility. She was a devoted student, graduating magna cum laude from St. John's College of Nursing in 2013, completing her degree in four years while she was in treatment for Ewing's Sarcoma, leukemia and graft VS host disease.

Jenna was also president of her class, president of the Illinois Chapter of Student Nurses, a member of St. John's strategic planning team and a member of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society.

"When Jenna passed away in 2016, our family wanted to honor her life and legacy," said her mother, Michele Martin Seelbach.

The family established the Jenna Martin Seelbach Memorial Scholarship Endowment through HSHS St. John's Foundation. Through family and friends' support and donations, two scholarships are awarded annually to support nursing students in their pursuit of a bachelor of science in nursing degree (BSN) at St. John's College of Nursing.

Send *Well Wishes!*

Send words of encouragement to a St. John's College of Nursing student studying for finals! *Use the enclosed return envelope.*

