

LSC – Tomball  
The Elmer Lee Beckendorf Memorial Nursing Endowment  
30555 Tomball Parkway  
Tomball, Texas 77375

Dear Donor,

My name is Mary Silvers and I have been a student at Lone Star College for over two years. As a recipient of The Elmer Lee Beckendorf Memorial Nursing Endowment I would like to extend my overwhelming gratitude for this amazing honor.

I grew up in a very small town near Tyler Texas. I always excelled in school and was involved in the FHA, the Honors Society, and athletics. I had plans after graduation to attend Tyler Junior College and then apply to their nursing program, but life happened and I was pregnant at the age of eighteen. Shortly after my son was born I went to school and obtained a cosmetology degree. Working as a hairstylist has taken care of my family, but I have always regretted not going to nursing school. Thirteen years and three children later I decided to complete my goals. I went back to college to get the nursing degree that I have always yearned for and I couldn't be happier.

I am a member of the LSC-University Park Honors College and I will be starting the LSC-Tomball nursing program in the fall. With a full time job, college, and three kids, I try to make the most of every moment I have. I love spending time with my family, and I try to make the five hour drive once a month to go see my mom and stepdad.

During nursing school I plan to take summer courses to work towards my Bachelor's degree. After obtaining my BSN I would like to work in a hospital, possibly in the ER or labor and delivery. After gaining experience as a nurse I plan on attending Nurse Practitioner school.

This scholarship has made my goals much more attainable. I feel justified in the decision I made to go to college and I am so proud to know that others see my accomplishments as well. This scholarship has given me a boost of confidence and pride.

Thank you, words cannot express the impact this scholarship has had on not only my future, but my family's future as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Silvers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Silvers

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Dear Donor,

My name is Tracy Ogan and I am writing you today as a student currently attending Lone Star Collage in Tomball. I just received notice that I was selected to receive The Elmer Lee Beckendorf Memorial Nursing Endowment, and wanted to relay my appreciation.

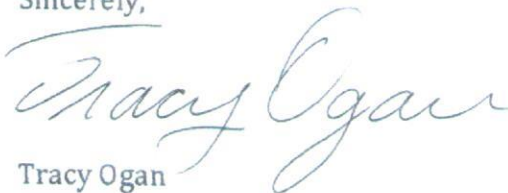
I was born in the Netherlands on an air force base, and after a few years moved to the states where I was raised in Abilene Texas. After graduating High School I started attending collage at Sam Houston State University. As it happened I ended up getting married and moving off to a new life, giving up my education and finding a source of income. Now I have finally been given the chance to pick up where I had to leave off.

After finding out I was unable to have children my husband and I ended up getting a divorce. Since then I have been volunteering at Treatemright animal rescue, and working as a day care teacher while putting myself back through school. I decided I wanted to become a nurse. Not only have some of the most impactful people in my life come from this profession, but also I have a passion for caring for others, and what better way to express it than to become a nurse.

Since I was admitted into the Nursing program I intend on putting all my effort into school. After I graduate with my ADN I hope to start working as an RN and attending night school to attain my BSN, and who knows maybe I can go on to get my masters degree as well. People ask me all the time, what field of nursing I want to go into, and to be honest I don't know yet. I figure once I start clinicals it will lead me to the right path, but my interest currently is doing geriatric or hospice work. My reason is due to the passing of my grandparents, watching their last years, and the work the nurses did for them was the most touching thing I had seen one person do for another.

This scholarship will help me realize all of my goals. I would like to let you know how much it means to me to have people like you who are willing to help a stranger with their dreams. I hope to do wonderful things in my future, and will always remain grateful for this gift.

Sincerely,



Tracy Ogan



Tracy Ogan

### My interest in Nursing

My first memory of wanting to become a nurse was when I was seven years old. My grandmother who was an R.N. taught me how to give my grandfather, who at the time had terminal cancer, his insulin shot. They would dress me up in a little white apron and a nurse's hat and send me in the room to cheer him up and give him his shot. That is also the lasting memory I have of my grandfather, because he passed away a few months later.

That feeling stuck with me, how good it felt to make someone sick feel better, to help them not only with medicine, but to also brighten their day in some way. My grandmother moved in with us not long after his passing, and I watched her practice nursing until she was 84 years old. Her name was Carolee, she worked at a nursing home helping many people younger than she was, but it kept her sharp and happy, she stayed working up until two weeks before she died. I always admired her for the what she did, and would often go with her to the nursing home and talk to everyone as she cared for the elderly.

Later I met my now ex-mother in law, Jodi who was also an R.N. Many people think its strange but even though her son and I didn't stay married, Jodi and myself had developed a wonderful friendship and we still treat each other as family. I must say that she was a huge inspiration to me. Jodi, was a psychiatric nurse, until she retired recently. She would always encourage me when I showed interest in nursing. I knew

how competitive getting into a program was, but she always told me that I had what it took. Listening to her stories, and hearing her passion, always motivated me, assuring me I was on the right path. Jodi has become my study buddy, and one of my biggest cheerleaders.

One of my favorite things to do is volunteer at a local animal shelter, which deals with pit bulls that have been neglected and abused. Going in and taking care of an animal so many are afraid of, helping mend all the mental and physical scars that have been inflicted on them. I can honestly say some of my most proud moments were to see a dog I helped rehabilitate go to a new loving home. My nature has always been to care for the weak, sick, and unwanted. I know that nursing will be a profession that allows me to cultivate that role in my life.

Finally watching my Grandparents that were married to each other for almost 70 years, die within weeks of each other. They had been sick for a while, just the hazards of growing old and falling apart. When I would come to visit watching the in-home-care nurses, and then later the hospice nurses care for them was truly touching to me. Those ladies were there for my grandparents when I couldn't be, and I felt like they were in the hands of angels, knowing how well they were being looked after. I will never be able to thank them for the comfort that afforded me while watching two of my favorite people in the world wither away. I would love the opportunity to repay that feeling. I don't think nursing is a job, I believe it is a calling. I know it won't be easy, but its all about your outlook. My goal is to care for

I have one very special client that was a nurse for over forty years. She has been a huge influence in my life and has been such a positive role model. Her knowledge and encouraging words have helped me obtain my goals. Every week we talk about nursing and I get so excited about my future. She tells me that I will be a great nurse, that I have the smarts and more importantly the compassion it takes to be great. She cried when I told her I got a scholarship, she knows how hard I've worked and told me that I deserved it.

Nursing is not a paycheck, but a calling. A career cannot be based on your income, but rather on what you can give to the career. I will come home everyday knowing I helped someone and to me that is what nursing is about.