



Christian Community Homes & Services Expands Employee Development Through Helping Hands Scholarship Program

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Christian Community Homes & Services continues its longstanding commitment to team member growth by supporting educational advancement through the Helping Hands Scholarship Fund. This initiative provides financial assistance to employees pursuing further education in healthcare fields, strengthening the organization's capacity to deliver high-quality care across its senior living communities.

The Helping Hands Scholarship, established in 2016 and expanded through the Christian Community Campus Foundation, assists current staff in advancing their careers while fostering a culture of continuous learning. Funds support tuition, certifications, and related educational expenses, enabling team members to build on their skills in areas such as nursing, therapeutic recreation, and administrative roles. This program reflects the nonprofit's dedication to investing in its workforce as a cornerstone of resident care.

By empowering employees to pursue professional development, Christian Community Homes & Services ensures that residents in independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing receive support from knowledgeable and motivated caregivers. The scholarship complements other benefits,

including flexible schedules, competitive wages, and recognition programs, contributing to long-term staff retention and expertise.

Shelly DeStasio, Director of Community Relations of Christian Community Homes & Services, highlighted the program's impact. "Investing in our team's education directly enhances the compassionate, personalized care we provide to every resident. The Helping Hands Scholarship embodies our values of accountability, respect, and compassion while building a stronger future for our organization."

The scholarship originated from gratitude expressed by residents' families. One fund traces to the family of Kayo Suzukida, a former resident at the Hudson campus, who established it to recognize the exceptional care provided by staff. It later merged with additional donor support, allowing broader contributions to sustain educational opportunities. A related Loren and Edie Sultze Scholarship further aids employees and their dependents, honoring former residents who valued the organization's service.

Christian Community Homes & Services operates two main campuses in western Wisconsin. The Hudson campus features WinterGreen independent senior apartments, Pine Ridge assisted living, Pine Ridge Gardens secure memory care, and Willow Glen skilled nursing with transitional care and rehabilitation. The Osceola campus, adjacent to the Osceola Medical Center, offers skilled nursing, transitional care and rehabilitation, and assisted living, with convenient covered access to medical services.

As a faith-based nonprofit founded in 1981 by the Hudson United Methodist Church and community supporters, the organization integrates its core values of integrity, accountability, respect, compassion, and humor into all operations. These principles guide daily interactions and strategic decisions, creating an environment where residents experience dignified, graceful living rooted in Christian faith. Spiritual support, including worship services and pastoral care, complements clinical and social programs.

The scholarship program aligns with broader workforce initiatives, such as free CNA certification classes that include paid training time and guaranteed positions upon completion. These efforts address industry challenges while promoting internal growth, as evidenced by long-serving employees advancing into leadership roles.

Leadership team members, including Directors of Nursing, Life Enrichment, and Human Resources, exemplify the benefits of ongoing development. Many have progressed through various positions at the organization, bringing institutional knowledge and a deep commitment to resident-centered care.

Donations to the Helping Hands Scholarship Fund, facilitated through the Christian Community Campus Foundation, directly support these educational opportunities alongside other priorities such as resident assistance, equipment upgrades, and program enhancements. The foundation channels community

generosity to sustain the organization's mission amid growing demand for senior living services in St. Croix County and surrounding areas.

Residents benefit from the enhanced expertise and stability of staff who participate in the program. Whether recovering in transitional care, navigating memory care, or enjoying independent living, individuals receive attentive support from caregivers who are continuously improving their skills.

Christian Community Homes & Services remains focused on its founding spirit of community collaboration. The Helping Hands Scholarship represents one way the organization nurtures not only residents but also the dedicated professionals who serve them, ensuring high standards of care for years to come.

This investment in human capital distinguishes the faith-based provider and reinforces its role as a vital resource for seniors and their families in western Wisconsin. Through sustained support for employee development, Christian Community Homes & Services upholds its promise of nurturing graceful living for all.

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Christian Community Homes & Services

The values of CCH ground our culture and guide every level of care. We live these principles in daily work and long-term planning, building a community-centered organization committed to quality care and honoring those we serve.

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