

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Application Form

Eligibility

Residents of Berkshire County who are pursuing a degree of any kind in nursing at Berkshire Community College (BCC). Applications are invited from students who are graduating high school seniors or older.

- Applicants must be accepted into the nursing program at BCC having met all registration requirements and prerequisites.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing, as evidenced by a GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Applicants must have demonstrated financial need with priority given to low income students.
- Applicants must have been a resident of Berkshire County for five years prior to application.

Awards

There will be one award of \$1,000 given for the 2010/2011 school year. Awards will be paid for the student's second semester (provided evidence is submitted of being enrolled and in good academic standing).

Deadline

Completed applications must be received at Berkshire Community College by 5 p.m. on March 23.

To Apply

Complete the attached application form and send it to Carol McDermott, Nursing Department Secretary, Berkshire Community College, 1350 West Street, Room Melville 239, Pittsfield, MA 01230 along with:

- A certified transcript of high school or Berkshire Community College grades
- A copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR), which you will receive from the federal government when you complete your FAFSA. Your SAR must include your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC number will be shared with the committee to indicate level of financial need. You may add a letter to be shared with the committee if you feel that the EFC number does not accurately reflect your financial need.
- Two letters of recommendation from a recent teacher, counselor, and community leader or employer. At least one reference letter should address your demonstrable interest in nursing, helping other people or signs of compassion for others
- A typed or printed statement of up to two pages to give the Committee a brief autobiographical sketch. Include pertinent highlights of your educational and career goals, special interests, ambition, activities or community service. Let us know if there are any obstacles you have overcome in your life, or other experiences that demonstrate your effort and ambition to achieve your academic and life goals

Notification

Applicants will be informed of the Berkshire Taconic's decision within **three** months of the deadline date.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Scholarship Committee. This committee includes Rubin family members. Their recommendations will be reviewed by Berkshire Taconic's Board of Directors.

Review Criteria

The committee will review requests for scholarships from candidates who meet the eligibility requirements above. As Rhoda Rubin was single mom and a local school nurse, the following criteria will also be taken into consideration in the process of selecting the scholarship recipient:

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

271 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230-1972

T: 413.528.8039 F: 413.528.8158 info@berkshiretaconic.org www.berkshiretaconic.org

- Preference is given to women who are single parents, i.e. women who are raising their child or children by themselves and maintaining an independent household

Questions

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, program director, at 413.528.8039 or by email at maeve@berkshiretaconic.org.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for philanthropy. We provide creative leadership by identifying current and future needs in our communities. Since 1987, families, individuals and community groups have been establishing permanent charitable funds, which we administer and invest. Berkshire Taconic is proud to serve as steward for the Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund.

About Rhoda Rubin

Rhoda Goldenberg Rubin was born on May 29, 1933, in Brooklyn, NY. Following the death of her mother at the age of one, she and her brother moved to the Catskill Mountains to live in Ellenville, NY, with an aunt and uncle. After her aunt's sudden death at the age of 29 (when Rhoda was only nine), they were sent to live with their grandparents on their farm. Rhoda always had a love for animals and cherished life on the farm. The death of her grandmother was a particularly difficult time for young Rhoda. In her autobiography written in 1949 at the age of 16, Rhoda wrote "Ever since I can remember there have been suffering and hardships in our family, and I have had many occasions to visit my relatives in the hospital. It seems that I was born with the desire to become a nurse." She wanted to go to nursing school to fulfill her ambitions "to alleviate the suffering of humanity."

In her elementary school years, Rhoda attended a one-room schoolhouse where at times she was the only one in her grade. She graduated from Ellenville High School in 1950 at the age of 16 and went on to fulfill her dream—she graduated in 1953 from Union University School of Nursing (Albany Medical Center) in Albany, NY. She moved to Pittsfield, MA, in 1953 after marrying Jerrold Rubin. She worked as a registered nurse at the former Hillcrest Hospital for more than 30 years. Following her divorce, she worked full time for the Pittsfield Health Department as a school and public health nurse (for more than 28 years), while maintaining her position at the hospital working evenings. She was raising three children by herself and when asked how she managed to raise three children and maintain a household while working two jobs (and, at times, a third part time job), her response was always, "I did what I needed to do." She was a remarkable woman with an intense sense of pride and fortitude. It was through her persistence and hard work that she provided for her children without outside assistance. Her children grew up with the basic necessities but one thing that was never lacking in their home was the love of their mother.

Rhoda spent her life helping others and had a special place in her heart for the less fortunate. She was awarded the Pittsfield Gazette's Most Valuable Pittsfielder in 1993 and the Berkshire County Guidance Association Award for Contributions at Reid Middle School in 1990. She was also recognized by the Pittsfield Splendid 100 in 1986. Rhoda retired from the Pittsfield Health Department in 1995 but continued substituting in schools, assisting with flu clinics, visiting nursing homes with her beloved dog, Zippy, and volunteering with park gardening until the time of her death in 2004. Rhoda Rubin dedicated her life to her children and to the children and families in her community. She was a nurse in the true sense of the word and unselfishly gave of herself to virtually any person or animal in need.

As a legacy to their beloved mother, Debbie, Ron and Lane Rubin, along with contributions from her friends and relatives, established the Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist single parents wanting to fulfill their dreams of becoming a nurse—to help others and to provide an especially meaningful means of supporting their families.

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund Scholarship Application Form

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Please complete this form and return it by March 21 to Berkshire Community College along with the attachments referred to in the accompanying guidelines.

Applicant's Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Have you been a resident of Berkshire County for five years prior to the date of this application?: _____

Please indicate the schools you attended:

Elementary School: _____ City/State: _____

Middle School: _____ City/State: _____

High School: _____ City/State: _____

Marital Status: _____ Number of children: _____

Enrollment Data

Fall 2010 Credit Load:

Day: _____ Evening: _____ Total Combined: _____

Anticipated Spring 2011 Credit Load

Day: _____ Evening: _____ Total Combined: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date from BCC: _____

Spring 2011 Major: _____

Employment History (two most recent jobs)

From /To: _____ Employer: _____ Hrs/Wk: _____ Job Description: _____

From /To:	Employer:	Hrs/Wk:	Job Description:

List any acknowledgements/awards of merit, caliber, or excellence

List any community activities and/or volunteer work, with corresponding dates

I certify that all the statements made on this application form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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