

Joan Heimler Legacy of Life Scholarship

Versiti is proud to offer the Joan Heimler Legacy of Life Scholarship. This scholarship was created to honor Joan Heimler, a critical care nurse who was instrumental in establishing the Wisconsin Tissue Bank, which became a part of Versiti in 2010.

The decision to donate organs and tissues is made during a difficult time for families and loved ones. Compassionate care provided by critical care and emergency department nurses at this time can be very challenging and yet rewarding. These nurses, in conjunction with their organ procurement organization, tissue and eye bank, provide support to families who have made a decision to provide the legacy of life to others awaiting organ and tissue transplants. The Joan Heimler Legacy of Life scholarship recognizes the nurses who strive to achieve these values in caring for their patients and families.

Who is eligible?

Any registered nurse who works in Wisconsin and works full- or part-time in critical care or an emergency department is eligible to apply. The applicant must provide direct care to patients and families that have made a decision to donate organs and/or tissue at end-of-life, or have played an influential role in supporting the donation process at their institution. An individual can only be awarded the scholarship once. Applicants from previous years that did not receive the scholarship are encouraged to reapply.

What is the scholarship for?

Expand knowledge of nurses through attendance at the National Teaching Institute (NTI) & Critical Care Exposition or Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Annual Meeting. These meetings also provide an opportunity to expand networking with colleagues from around the country. The award recipient may use the scholarship to cover registration, transportation and accommodation expenses at one of these annual meetings.



Joan Heimler, RN, Coach of Team Wisconsin at the National Kidney Foundation Transplant Games. Tom Demski received a heart transplant in 1997. Joan was a member of the transplant team that delivered the gift of life. Tom swam for Team Wisconsin.

Award Applications

Applications are being accepted now through April 1, 2022.

- Complete the Scholarship Application form at **www.versiti.org/medical-professionals/education/scholarships** (you may need to download Adobe Reader)
- Provide a copy of your CV or resume
- Write an essay of 1,000 words or less that explains your role in caring for patients and families making a decision to donate organs and tissue
- Ask your nurse manager or supervisor for a letter of support
- Applications must be emailed no later than April 1, 2022 to **belearning@versiti.org**, or postmarked to: Versiti, Attn. Clinical Education, P.O. Box 2178, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2178