

I previously earned a four-year degree in Organizational Communications and Psychology and spent many years working in organizational and operations leadership. While I valued that experience, a deeply personal chapter in my life inspired me to pursue a more direct role in patient care.

When my husband underwent a kidney transplant, I experienced firsthand the profound impact that compassionate and, skilled medical professionals have on patients and their families. That experience sparked my desire to become a medical assistant and contribute meaningfully to patient care. I recognized that my background in communication, organization, and leadership could not be paired with clinical training to support healthcare teams and improve patient experiences.

Pursuing this new career path requires both personal and financial sacrifice. I have been working part-time while completing my education. My goal is to graduate debt-free so that I can begin this new chapter focused fully on serving patients rather than managing financial strain. Receiving this scholarship would significantly ease that burden and allow me to continue dedicating myself to academic and professional excellence.

My long-term goal is to work in a specialty clinic where I can combine my clinical training with my strong administrative and interpersonal skills to support both the medical team and the patients they serve. I am passionate about being a steady, compassionate presence for patients navigating health challenges, just as my family once did.

I would like to present the Memorial Scholarship Award to Linda Maybee from Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids.

After losing my husband a few years ago, I found myself raising two children and trying to hold our lives together. Once we worked through the hardest parts of our grief, I realized I needed to create a new path for us. Retail had been my only work experience, but it no longer aligned with the future I wanted. I took a leap of faith, left my job, and poured my energy into school and my medical assisting program. *It was a major change, but it has become one of the most empowering decisions I have made.*

My plan is to graduate from my medical assisting program and build a meaningful career in healthcare. This new journey represents a fresh start to me, and I am motivated by the opportunity to help people, support patients, and contribute to a field that truly matters.

When my husband passed away, everything in our lives changed-including our financial stability. Losing half of our income made it clear that retail could no longer support my family needs. I knew I needed a career with real growth and purpose. That is why I chose healthcare. It allows me to build a better future for *my children while helping others every day.*

Community involvement is important to me. I stay active in my church, help with my sons Boy Scout troop, and recently my family started serving meals at Pillars. Helping people who are struggling reminds me to stay humble, and it shows my children that everyone faces challenges and that kindness matters.

Receiving this scholarship would take a significant financial weigh off my shoulders and allow me to truly concentrate on my education. As a single mother working hard to rebuild our lives, having this support means I can stay focused on finishing my medical assistant program and creating a better future for my children.

I would like to present the Memorial Scholarship Award to Sandy Cramer Schere from Fox Valley Technical College.