



ENCOURAGING LOCAL NURSING STUDENTS

July 14, 2016 – Stratford, ON – Students at [Stratford Northwestern Secondary School](#) can now apply for a new nursing scholarship – all thanks to a local woman.

Known for her kindness and generosity – here in Stratford but also in many other impoverished areas around the world – local Rotarian Jean Aitcheson RN established the **Jean Aitcheson Nursing Scholarship Fund** at the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#) for a Northwestern student entering his/her first year of post-secondary studies at a Canadian University or Community College working to obtain registration as a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) or Registered Nurse (RN).

“After 52 years in the field, 48 of which were at the Stratford General Hospital, I’m deeply passionate about nursing,” shares Jean Aitcheson. “In celebration of my retirement, I set up the scholarship at the Community Foundation so that I could encourage young people to get involved in nursing and I’m thrilled to annually support a local student as they begin their career.”

Jean has traveled the world providing assistance through volunteer outreach programs with organizations such as Rotary, Missionary Ventures, Friends of the Orphans, Care Partners and various different church organizations. She’s worked in countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Bangladesh and Malawi in Africa. She doesn’t intend to slow down anytime soon and plans to continue this outreach in her retirement.

“It has been such an honour to work with Jean and helping her fulfill her wish of establishing a scholarship for local students headed into a nursing career,” adds Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. “Her love for nursing and for this community will long be remembered through the work of her Fund.”

Through contributions made by Jean, her family, friends and colleagues, Jean’s scholarship has reached \$33,333 and continues to grow. Donations can be made to the Jean Aitcheson Nursing Scholarship Fund by visiting www.spccf.ca and clicking on [Donate Now](#).

-30-

About the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#)

The Stratford Perth Community Foundation (SPCF) is an organization for everyone and unique because donations – large or small – are never spent but are combined and invested. The earned income is used to make grants to local charities year after year to build a vibrant not-for-profit sector in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. To make all this work, we share our unique understanding of community needs and help mobilize and guide donors to specific community initiatives. For more information about SPCF please visit www.spccf.ca

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