

Education Grant Creates Breakthroughs for Newborns



For life-long learners like Kirby Davis, scholarship funds available through ARNET (Alberta Registered Nurses Education Trust) mean a chance to keep discovering ways to advance her field.

Without the Lloyd and Florence Cooper Leadership Scholarship, Kirby would not be able to pursue her passion for learning and neonatal medicine – a passion that led to breakthrough care for her tiny and vulnerable patients.

“I have dedicated my entire nursing career to helping premature and sick newborn babies, and this scholarship allows me to continue my education and finish my Masters Degree,” credits Kirby.

As a member of the Southern Alberta Neonatal Transport (SANTS) team, Kirby is part of the specialized neonatal team that is the first to respond when babies are born premature or in need of critical intervention in rural communities across Southern Alberta. Her passion for

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learning has helped her inform advances in the care her team is able to provide in the first critical minutes and hours of a struggling newborn’s life.

Through her masters program, Kirby discovered that her team could use a machine proven to assist with advancing outcomes for infants who experience a loss of oxygen to the brain due to periods of not breathing. This cooling machine uses a technique called therapeutic hypothermia. To be most effective, the treatment must begin within a short window following a newborn’s birth making it an important tool, not only for the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), but for the SANTS team as they are providing life-saving interventions while in transit.

“I moved to Calgary for university and put myself through school,” says Kirby. “I had a very large student loan when I left and needed to focus on paying it back. Education grants allowed me to continue my educational pursuit in the field that I love while alleviating additional financial stress.”

Kirby is currently exploring advances to simulation-based training environments to improve neonatal care outcomes. Current research in the area has indicated improved outcomes in high-risk situations, decreased mortality, and reduced health care costs. For each family that requires the care of the SANTS team and the NICU, the gift Lloyd and Florence Cooper made in their will means that families can continue to have hope.

**Calgary Health Foundation's partnership with ARNET:
Lloyd and Florence Cooper loved Calgary and bringing families
together through their business and longtime passion, Lloyd's
Roller Rink. Following the couple's passing, Lloyd's Roller Rink
closed after 50 years of being a source of joy for so many. Now,
their legacy lives on through future generations of nursing leaders
and researchers who are caring for Alberta families every day.**

“The best research has to have a strong connection to the frontlines and our nurses are everywhere, connecting with patients across all aspects of our health system,” says Marilyn Wacko, Executive Director of ARNET. “Investments in nursing education have led to a decrease in mortality rates and an increase in the quality of care our loved ones receive.”

Because of this, Calgary Health Foundation partnered with ARNET to create the Lloyd and Florence Cooper Scholarship for Nursing Leadership to recognize the pivotal role nursing plays in Alberta's health system and to recognize and honour an inspirational couple. The program awards ten scholarships of \$5,000 to nurses seeking

leadership opportunities and conducting research that will directly improve knowledge and have an immediate impact on care delivery.

While health care faces new challenges regularly, this year has been particularly difficult with the COVID-19 pandemic calling for more agility and adaptability – skills that nurses in various roles are leading every day.

You can join donors like Lloyd and Florence Cooper by leaving a gift in your will to Calgary Health Foundation and making a commitment to helping advance care that will meet the challenges of healthcare in the future.



“This award has an added special meaning for me as, being a Calgarian for over 20 years, my family and I have enjoyed spending time at Lloyd's Roller Rink and truly appreciate this legacy gift left by the Coopers dedicated to supporting future generations of registered nurses.”