



JHG Texas and its generous supporters have focused over the past five years, on the projected shortfall of 60,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in Texas and 500,000 RNs nationally by 2030. The nursing shortage is an existential healthcare threat in normal times, but even critically more so during a pandemic. Of equal importance to the shortage, the **quality** of nursing healthcare is a parallel issue (as described below). An adequate supply of RNs with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is vitally important to ensure better quality of nursing care in hospitals. The projected shortage of RNs, combined with the need for excellence in the quality of nursing care, doubles the importance of providing scholarships that support student nurses who would not otherwise be able to afford the cost of attaining a BSN.

Why the shortage of RNs?

- **Turnover and Attrition:** the news media reports that many overworked RNs are leaving the nursing profession due to exhaustion, stress and PTSD from their work on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing care is a tough and sometimes dangerous profession!
- **Academic preparation:**
 - **Vocational Approach:** Most student nurses take a fast-track vocational curriculum to earn an associate's degree from a community college or a similar 2 to 3-year vocational course offered by private nursing schools as a pathway to earn RN credentials.
 - **Academic Approach:** A more scholarly pathway to RN credentials is a 4-year curriculum at an accredited university's college of nursing that leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN). Only 48% of RNs in Texas and have earned a BSN, as compared with 46% nationally. Considering that only 30% of Texans have earned a university level bachelor's degree, that demographic substantially narrows the ranks of potential RNs that earn a BSN.
- **Affordability of nursing education:** At the UTA College of Nursing and Health Innovation, 2/3 of the students meet the government definition of financially disadvantaged and could not otherwise afford the costs of nursing education without some form of financial support through scholarships. With annual tuition and fees costs exceeding \$11,000, 48% of the 3,380 current student nurses at Texas Woman's University College of Nursing in Denton, Dallas and Houston

qualify as financially needy and eligible for federal scholarship support (Pell grants), which JHG Texas Nursing Scholarships are designed to supplement. In addition, student nurses incur over \$2,000 in additional costs for their nursing uniforms (scrubs), text books, mandatory vaccinations and health insurance premiums, laboratory fees, etc. Altogether, the costs are daunting for student nurses from low-income households.

Why is a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Important?

- A recent empirical study published in the JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) found that substantially better patient outcomes and an 8% decrease in mortality rates occurs in hospitals that are staffed with at least 80% of RNs who have earned a BSN.
- The study also concluded: “a 10% increase in the proportion of nurses holding a bachelor’s degree was associated with a 5% decrease in both the likelihood of patients dying within 30 days of admission and the odds of failure to rescue.”

Since we all hope to have excellent quality hospital healthcare in our community, it is critically important to support 4-year nursing education resulting in a BSN degree at a nationally ranked college of nursing. For this reason, JHG Texas grants scholarships at TWU and UTA to high performing student nurses who are BSN candidates and who would not otherwise be able to afford the cost of nursing education.

What is our progress to date?

- **2020 Fundraising Year Results:** Good news! Thanks to the generosity of our donor friends, JHG Texas raised \$67,052 in 2020, achieving our fundraising goal of \$65,000 to award 25 JHG Texas Nursing Scholarships in 2021!
- **2016 to 2020 - Five-year Summary of Results:**
 - Funds Raised in 5 years through 2020 = \$205,000
 - Scholarship Awards – 68 (43 through 2020 + funds to award 25 in 2021)
 - JHG Texas BSN Graduates: 15 (9 of 18 at TWU; 6 of 13 UTA)

More BSN graduates are forthcoming in 2021 as JHG Nursing Scholars are promoted from their third-year to their fourth and final year of nursing studies to earn a BSN. Out of the \$205,000 in funding to date, JHG Texas has also co-invested \$25,000 from unrestricted funds with TWU College of Nursing in Dallas to establish a tutoring and academic support center for BSN candidates as described below.

JHG Texas Adds Intrinsic Value to its Nursing Scholarships

- **The Myers-JHG Tutoring and Academic Support Center** was developed by Texas Woman’s University College of Nursing in Dallas in partnership with JHG Texas. Funding for the center was made possible by Mike A. Myers and the Mike A. Myers Foundation. The Myers – JHG Tutoring and Academic Support Center just became operational in the current Spring 2021 semester with an initial count of 35 active student participants who seek to improve their academic performance

in pursuit of a BSN. A fully dedicated staff coordinator, Niki Fogg, MS, RN, CPN and 13 accomplished tutors serve student nurses at the Center. Tutoring is offered free of charge to struggling student nurses at TWU and the tutors benefit from earned fee income for their services rendered. Such fees are paid out of funds granted in part via JHG Texas. Several tutors are current nurse education students (future teachers), which has a two-fold benefit: 1) student participants benefit from peer mentorship and 2) nurse education students acquire clinical hours as tutors. Please visit the center's new website (partly under construction) for an interesting presentation of the Myers-JHG tutoring and academic support program:
<https://sites.google.com/twu.edu/nursing-dallas-tutoring/home>

- **JHG Research Scholar:** In partnership with the TWU College of Nursing, JHG Texas has granted a \$1,500 JHG Research Scholar stipend to student nurse Joselyn Lopez to support extracurricular research in community health issues in conjunction with JHG Texas' participation in the DFW FaithHealth Program, spearheaded by JHG Texas Vice-President Todd Weiss.

Looking Forward:

RNs have become universally acclaimed as brave and dedicated heroes for providing hospital nursing care to patients on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. JHG Texas continues to double down in its support for student nurses who strive to enter the nursing workforce with a BSN. The current goal of the JHG Texas five-year business plan is to grant a cumulative total of over 200 JHG Texas Nursing Scholarships to BSN candidates, by the year 2025. In addition to the scholarships, the five-year plan also provides tutoring and academic support to student nurses.

As volunteers, JHG Texas develops specifications and terms of nursing scholarships in partnership with leading colleges of nursing while providing benevolent direction and academic support to student nurses. In addition to our work efforts, we also have to reach into our wallets to make it happen. This is only made possible by the continued generous financial investment from our members and friends who wish to give back and make a difference in community health care.

Make a Pledge Now! Remitting your investment is easy:

- **By Credit Card** on-line at the JHG Texas donor page with the Communities Foundation of Texas: <https://portal.cftexas.org/jhgscholars>
- **Or by check** payable to: Communities Foundation of Texas with "JHG Texas Fund for Nursing Scholarships" on the memo line. And mail to:
Communities Foundation of Texas
5500 Caruth Haven Lane
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For more information, please visit www.jhgscholars.org or contact henry.fink@gmail.com with any questions.