

Bridging Education and Healthcare: Proposal for Nursing Scholarship Support

A Long-Term Investment in Community Health and Service

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Introduction

The Self-Reliant Farm's scholarship program was created to address persistent educational barriers affecting students in Culion, Palawan—particularly those from *katutubo* (indigenous) communities living in remote and underserved areas. For many of these families, higher education is not simply challenging; it is often out of reach without truly needed support.

Common barriers include geographic isolation, limited household income, restricted access to academic resources, and the high cost of living away from home while attending school and clinical training. These challenges contribute to delayed schooling, interrupted studies, or the inability to enroll at all.

To ensure that education results in lasting community benefit, this scholarship program is anchored in a pay-it-forward model. Scholars are encouraged to return to serve their community and, as their capacity allows, help support future scholars. This approach builds a sustainable pipeline of locally trained professionals and creates a multiplying impact beyond a single student or school year.

Stewardship of Funds: WE Foundation applies 100% of scholarship-designated donations to the direct educational and living expenses of the nursing scholars. No portion of these donation is used for administrative or overhead costs.

Why Nursing Scholarships

Nursing is among the most practical and high-impact health professions for rural communities. Nursing graduates can directly strengthen community health through preventive care, patient education, maternal and child health support,

basic clinical services, and coordination of care for patients who require referral to higher-level facilities.

In addition, nursing can serve as a strong foundational pathway for students who may later continue into advanced professional training. We are hopeful that some nursing scholars will ultimately pursue dentistry or medicine, using nursing as an essential first step toward those fields and returning with advanced expertise that can further reduce healthcare gaps in underserved areas.

Strategic Alignment With the Cabulihan Clinic Project

WE Foundation is advancing the **Cabulihan clinic project** in 2026 to improve access to essential healthcare services for families who currently face significant barriers to care. While facilities and equipment are important, effective healthcare delivery depends on trained personnel.

Investing in nursing scholarships is therefore directly aligned with the clinic initiative. Scholarship-supported nursing graduates represent a future workforce that can strengthen healthcare service delivery in and around Cabulihan as the clinic project develops. In this way, scholarship support and clinic development function together as a unified, long-term strategy to improve healthcare access, capacity, and outcomes for the community.

Annual Cost Per Nursing Scholar

The estimated total annual cost to support one nursing scholar for one academic year is below

Description	Cost in ₱	Cost in US \$
Living allowance/stipend	₱12,000	\$207
Required school activity fees	₱23,000	\$397
Uniform, books, nursing supplies	₱36,350	\$627
Food	₱50,000	\$862
Rent, Furnishing, Utilities	₱95,000	\$1,638
Travel (RT to/from Culion)	₱31,700	\$547
Dental	₱5,000	\$86
TOTAL	₱ 253,050	\$4,363

This estimate reflects expenses for attendance at a state (public) institution. Costs are expected to be higher for private schools. While this amount may appear modest in other settings, it is not financially feasible for many families in Culion, where a large number of households have no stable or consistent source of income. As a result, qualified students often face delays, interruptions, or the inability to enroll unless scholarship support is available. A donor's sponsorship directly removes the primary barrier to completion—allowing the scholar to remain enrolled, complete required clinical training, and progress steadily toward graduation.

Sponsorship Request: Sponsor One Nursing Scholar Each Year

WE Foundation respectfully invites donors and sponsors to consider a yearly commitment to support one nursing scholar per academic year, either through full sponsorship or partial sponsorship.

A consistent annual commitment provides stability that is essential for student success. When scholars are supported for the full school year, they are more likely to remain enrolled, complete required clinical training, and progress steadily toward graduation—ultimately returning as licensed professionals who can serve communities with limited healthcare resources.

Group Sponsorship Option

If sponsoring one scholar independently is not feasible, supporters may also choose to sponsor a scholar as a group. A group sponsorship may include a circle of friends, extended family members, colleagues, or an organization that wishes to share the annual commitment. This approach allows contributors to combine resources while still providing a meaningful, sustained level of support to one student for the academic year.

To strengthen transparency and donor connection, each scholar has an individual GoFundMe page, allowing supporters to sponsor a specific student and follow their progress over time.

Long-Term Impact: Strengthening Healthcare for the Community

Supporting a nursing scholar is not only a charitable contribution; it is a strategic investment in long-term community health. A single nursing graduate can deliver impact that extends across many years by:

- expanding access to basic and preventive healthcare
- improving maternal and child health outcomes
- increasing health literacy through patient and community education
- strengthening early detection and timely referrals
- contributing to the staffing and service capacity needed for initiatives such as the Cabulihan clinic

Through the pay-it-forward model, this impact can extend even further—helping create a durable cycle of education, service, and opportunity that supports future generations.

Sponsorship and Giving Options

1. Sponsor one nursing scholar for one academic year (full or partial sponsorship).
2. Support a specific scholar through their individual **GoFundMe** page.
3. Become a recurring supporter to provide stable, year-round assistance.

We invite you to participate by sponsoring a nursing scholar each year, donating to support our scholarship program, joining our fundraising efforts, or volunteering your services through WE Foundation.