

## ***The Lois Bailey Balken Scholarship Fund***

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The Lois Bailey Balken Scholarship Fund (LBBSF) was established by her children in 2006 to honor her passion for healthcare and to attract and assist young people to pursue careers in this field. Lois Balken was a Board President of the Coastal Health Alliance. She was a key contributor in helping the organization grow and implement its mission of providing high-quality primary health care to all members of the West Marin community. Since its inception, 50 scholarships totaling \$27,850 have been awarded.

Adriana Ponce is a medical assistant who started working at the Coastal Health Alliance (CHA) in 2010. She received her first scholarship from the LBBSF in 2011, to help fund the pre-requisites for applying to nursing school. "I used the money towards tuition and books" she said, adding that "I love health care and helping people who really need the help." Adriana is now enrolled full time in the nursing program at Santa Rosa Junior College and is on track to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

CHA Board of Directors has been challenged by the family to match a \$10,000 gift for the purpose of expanding the LBBSF in response to our health care staffing shortages. This is a proactive response that raises the bar from modest, but welcomed educational support to a very meaningful incentive. This increase will enable students to move faster toward their career goals, while reducing their need to work full-and part-time while attending classes.

This scholarship meets so many important needs:

- Provides a viable career path for locals in a highly-valued, well-compensated industry
- Serves the entire population of West Marin
- Retains a local workforce
- Contributes to sustainable health services

The combined fund of \$20,000 will be awarded in the first year. Applicants must live in West Marin, and/or work for the Coastal Health Alliance. Successful matching funds will encourage the family donors to continue with their generous gift on an ongoing basis, establishing an exemplary legacy that will incentivize local young people to pursue the viable career of their dreams.

***Please donate now.*** Make your check to the Coastal Health Alliance, memo LBBSF. Send it to P.O. Box 910, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956.

*The LBBSF is administered by the Coastal Health Alliance.*