

# Duke Nursing Annual Fund



I learned the importance of giving back at a very young age. When I was 3 years old, I suffered with an incurable blood dyscrasia. Without constant blood transfusions and medical attention, I would have died. Grateful for the gift of life, I was determined to give back and decided to become a nurse.

I must admit **I didn't choose Duke. Duke chose me.** I was all set to attend a small nursing school in Indiana. I applied to Duke on a total lark never dreaming I would be strong enough to compete. The sight of Duke's beautiful campus in full spring bloom while visiting left this Ohio girl in awe.

I was thrilled and honored once I learned I had been accepted; however, I still did not plan to attend Duke. I knew there was no way my family could afford it. My dad was determined and encouraged me to apply for financial aid. After several discussions with the financial aid office, we established a workable plan for our family, and I was ecstatic!

**Thanks to scholarship support, I had the privilege of becoming a Blue Devil!** I had the opportunity to grow and mature in the most stressful, stimulating, and challenging environment I would ever experience. I became part of a tight group of sisters at Hanes House dorm who became my family 500 miles away from home.

Since college I have gone on to have a fulfilling career in home health and hospice management. **I owe much of my success to the strong foundation of learning built at Duke. Many times over the years I have recalled the knowledge, the arduous process, or the sheer joy of becoming a better nurse that all began at Duke.**

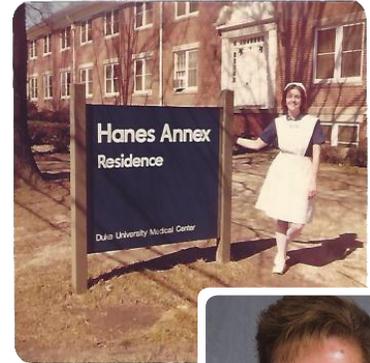
**Once again, I am extremely grateful and choose to give back.** Recently, I became a member of the Duke Nursing Alumni Council, and I volunteer my time offering career advice and information to current students. **I also give to the Annual Fund, which allows the School of Nursing to grow its programs and provides aid to students in need just like me.** I have selected the school to be my beneficiary when I pass on so I can continue to help countless nursing students have the same extraordinary opportunities I did regardless of their economic circumstances.

Your own Duke experience may have been very different from mine, and yet there are memories and moments you reflect on which molded you into something better after you graduated. I am asking you to give something back and foster someone else's growth. Please consider making a gift to the Annual Fund this spring, making Duke a beneficiary of your estate, or volunteering some of your time. **Your support does touch lives and impacts the nurse leaders of tomorrow!**

Forever Duke,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Becky Zagor".

K. Becky Zagor, BSN'80, RN, MN



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