

Margaret E. McLaren, RN

Centennial Memorial Nursing Excellence Scholarship

The McLaren Flint Foundation
Established by the Rachor Family Foundation, Ltd

Margaret Eliza McLaren, R.N. was born in 1888 in Kent, Ontario, Canada. Miss McLaren lived a simple life, leaving school at 16 years old to help her mother work the family farm and raise her seven younger siblings. It wasn't until the youngest of them entered school, when McLaren was 28, that she had the opportunity to pursue nursing. Leaving Canada for Detroit, she entered the Nurse's Training School of Grace Hospital. She graduated with the highest honor in 1920 and spent two years of private duty nursing, refusing several hospital positions in Detroit because she felt she needed the experience of working as what was considered at the time, a general duty nurse.

Margaret came to Flint in 1922, when she was offered the surgical supervisor position at Hurley Hospital. In the 1920s, there were very few women in leadership roles, and yet, Miss McLaren excelled in her career beyond expectations, gaining respect from those she worked with for her standards of patient care.

Margaret E. McLaren, R.N. was a member and two-term president of the Zonta Club of Flint, an organization chartered in 1923 and dedicated to "empowering women through service and advocacy." She was also a member of the Flint District Nurses Association and the Michigan Hospital Association, the Michigan Nurses Association, and the American Hospital Association. In 1924, Margaret began her career as Superintendent of Women's Hospital on Lapeer Street less than four years after graduation from Detroit's Grace Hospital where she received a "degree of proficiency." The first that Grace Hospital had granted. As working head of the hospital, she carried much of the load of planning and the fundraising of \$2 million dollars, a terrific accomplishment, for the new building on Ballenger Highway. All the while, she was responsible for expanding the staff from 29 patient beds to 243 beds, which the new building would contain. The new Women's Hospital broke ground in 1949 and opened in 1951. The new facility was renamed McLaren General Hospital in her honor, shortly before she retired. The first hospital in the nation to be named after a nurse, McLaren is one of the few in the nation to be named after a woman. Margaret remained in the leadership role for 28 years and orchestrated the growth of services and facilities to meet growing community needs.

Margaret Eliza McLaren, R.N. died in 1979, but her name and the legacy of her work for the medical community lives on.

Scholarship Guidelines

1. Scholarship awards are merit based, and applicants can be full-time or part-time students who have a cumulative 3.8 grade point.
2. Scholarship awards are based on financial need.
3. Applicants must submit a one to two-page paper outlining why they want to become a RN and the circumstances which have created their need for financial aid.
4. Applicants must be enrolled in a clinical, health care administration or other health-related program at the UM-Flint or Mott Community College.

5. Preference given to current employees of McLaren Flint who are pursuing a nursing education.
6. Preference given to single mothers.
7. Scholarship award must be used for tuition, books and/or supplies toward nursing career.
8. The McLaren Flint Foundation will provide yearly reports, which include an accounting detail and biographical information about the scholarship recipient to the donor.

Scholarship Application Requirements:

Please return the completed Scholarship Application, Cover Letter (demonstrating need, desire to achieve and plan for future) and Official Transcripts to the address listed below or you can apply online <https://www.mclaren.org/flint-foundation/foundation-rachor-application-subsite.aspx>

The McLaren Flint Foundation
401 South Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48532