

Cynthiana Church Covers NCLEX Costs for 16 MCTC Nursing Students



Shown are MCTC nursing instructors and students.

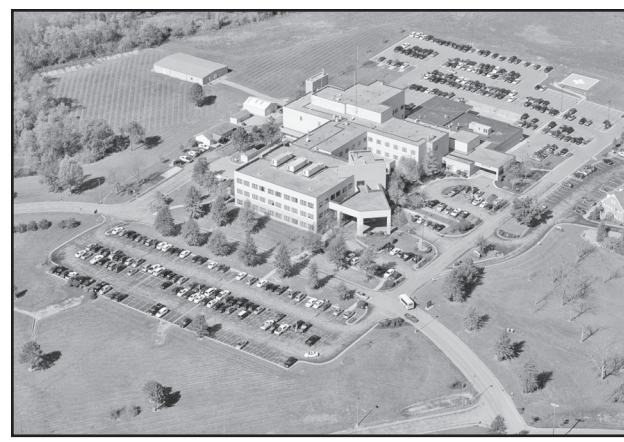
Republican Christian Church in Cynthiana, Kentucky, has donated a \$6,304 check, covering the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) fee for 16 students in the nursing program on the Licking Valley Campus (LVC) at Maysville Community and Technical College. One of the members of the church, Sheila Currans, explained that her mother used to serve as director of nurses at Harrison Memorial Hospital (HMH) in Cynthiana and had a growing worry that nurses for the area were going to decrease over time. When LVC first opened, more nursing students began working at HMH than ever before. "When I first started as an RN (registered nurse), we didn't have nursing students on the floors. But once the college was here...we had lots of nursing support," said Currans. When Currans' father passed away,

her mother pushed for a scholarship to be set up for medical students. "Mama just always felt like you needed to have local people that, many times, even if they leave for a while, come back to their hometown," Currans said. She noted the ability to work in their hometown was important to many people. Over time, the church began helping more students, leading to the NCLEX fees being covered for several students over the years. Currans noted the main goal of covering those fees is to alleviate anxiety for nursing students as they finish their credentials. "You're trying to get your finals done, you're trying to prepare for the boards, and this just seemed like a way to take a little bit of a burden off of them as they're finishing their program," said Currans. The contributions being made by the church

are significant to students because, once they've graduated, they lose access to financial aid to cover those costs. Staci Myers, class secretary at LVC, remarked on the impact the donation has had on her. "I feel like it makes me feel like I'm going to be so prepared for the exam, because I'm going to have that extra time to study instead of having to work and come up with the money to pay for it," Myers remarked. Kirsten Hurst, the LVC class president, also discussed the significance of the contributions. "Through school, everything is pretty piled on top of you, on top of work, school, and all the other things that you within life. To hear that (their NCLEX fees are covered) is really a blessing. It feels like a huge weight's been lifted off of you, because you're not worried about going to find a job as soon as the semester's over in

order to pay for it," she said. According to Hillary Poe, a nursing instructor at LVC, the nursing students at LVC are community-oriented and give back whenever they can. "It's very stressful for students just getting to the end, and then you have the boards right after graduation," she said. "The fact that they were given something this amazing from someone who was a nurse and understands what it takes is even more special." At MCTC, there are often students who do not have the funds for their licensure exam. Gifts can be made to the Next Gen Nursing Fund, which can aid those who need help covering those costs. To set up a donation to that fund, visit the website at maysville.kctcs.edu or contact Cara Clarke at 606-301-6176. *submitted*

Meadowview Regional Medical Center Invested Over \$4.5 Million in Capital Improvement Projects



Meadowview Regional Medical Center announced that it invested more than \$4.5 million in capital improvement projects throughout 2025, reinforcing its commitment to delivering high-quality care, enhancing patient safety, and supporting the long-term health needs of the region. The investments focused on modernizing facilities, upgrading medical equipment, and improving infrastructure across the hospital campus. These projects were designed to enhance patient experience, increase operational efficiency, and ensure that Meadowview continues to meet the evolving needs of the community it serves.

Key capital improvement initiatives in 2025 included replacement of the Air Handling Unit in the Medical Office Building; switchgear equipment replacement for the entire Hospital and Medical Office Building; repairs to the emergency department rooftop air unit; digital portable x-ray machine; 12 new stretchers for the emergency department; and 21 new patient care beds, all aimed at supporting clinical excellence and improving access to care. Meadowview Regional Medical Center remains committed to strengthening local healthcare through responsible investment, innovation, and a continued focus on patient-centered care.

Key capital im-

submitted

Interact for Health Renews Rural Investment Strategy: Funding Now Open

Interact for Health is proud to open applications for its Rural Investments for 2026, reaffirming its commitment to rural communities in the Greater Cincinnati Region. Investments in 2026 will include two rounds of the Rural Changemaker Grant, rolling event sponsorship opportunities, and networking opportunities at Rural Community Connection events in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. Fourteen out of 20 counties in Interact for Health's service area are considered rural: in Indiana: Dearborn, Franklin, Ripley, Switzerland, and Ohio: Clermont, Brown, Adams, Clinton, and Highland. In Kentucky: Bracken, Gallatin, Grant, and Pendleton. Interact for Health's Rural Strategy is a four-pronged approach to community connection, investment, and organizational ca-

capacity building. The Rural Changemaker Request for Proposals is now open for the first round of funding. There will be two rounds of funding in 2026, with at least three organizations awarded per round. **The application deadlines for the first and second rounds are April 14 and September 8, respectively.** Read the full RFP and learn more on their Open Funding page at interactforhealth.org. On that site you can read more about the organizations that were awarded Rural Changemaker Grants in 2024 and 2025. Interact will host three Rural Community Connections events in 2026 to strengthen partnerships and to share updates on Interact for Health's Rural Strategy. Interact for Health staff, members of the Rural Community Council, and prior Rural Changemaker Grant recipients

will attend to share their experiences and answer questions. The Kentucky Rural Community Connection will be hosted on March 19 in Williamstown, KY. Ohio and Indiana dates will be announced soon. Interact for Health's Rural Community Council informs the Rural Investment Strategy and helps to review and to score grant applications for the Rural Changemaker Grant. Fifteen individuals who live and work in rural counties serve on the council. Organizations are eligible to apply for event sponsorship for community events in rural areas. Sponsorships are a competitive process, and funding is limited. Visit interactforhealth.org Event Sponsorship Page. Through these renewed initiatives, Interact for Health continues to strengthen partnerships and create pathways for healthier futures in rural communities. To learn more about Interact for Health's rural strategy and funding opportunities, visit interactforhealth.org/rural-investment-strategy.

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