

Dove Healthcare Community Foundation

Education Fund: Supports Community Classes Aimed at Growing Healthcare Workforce

It's no secret that while our aging population is ever-growing, our direct care workforce is not on pace to keep up with the demand for care. According to a 2018 report produced by a coalition of provider associations:

- 1 in 5 Wisconsin skilled nursing and assisted living facilities are experiencing caregiver vacancy rates of 30%
- In the next 12 years, the number of Wisconsin residents age 65 and older is projected to reach 1,535,5003
- More than 90,400 Wisconsin residents live in care facilities, a 23% increase in the past 15 years

Recognizing this trend, Dove Healthcare committed over a decade ago to take an active, hands on approach to helping train and grow the next generation of area healthcare workers.

- Through partnerships with UWEC, CVTC, and WITC, our skilled nursing facilities are important sites for Nursing, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Physical Therapy Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Therapy, EMT/Paramedics, and Health Information students to complete their clinical assignments year round.
- Dove Healthcare's Nurse Educators lead several classes for the public year round:
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
 - Medication Aide
 - CNA Bridge
 - State-mandated training classes for Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF)

All classes are open to the public without any obligation or requirement to become an employee of Dove Healthcare.

- Student Enrollment Numbers:
 - 2015-2018 CNA Classes: 752 students
 - 2010-2018 Clinical Students: 928 students

Dove Healthcare is fiscally responsible for all operational costs, including Nurse Educator salaries; classroom space and furnishings; instructional materials; and all audio visual and technology equipment.

An ongoing challenge has been having enough computers and other equipment available to keep pace with the high volume of students, but furthermore, the upkeep and maintenance of these items has put a strain on resources as well.

The Education Fund will ensure we can keep up with the demand for these classes by having adequate supplies and equipment in the classroom and ensure the timely repair and replacement as needed as well. It's imperative that our partnerships with area colleges remain intact and our classes remain full, with opportunity to expand, in order to bridge the gap between the demand for care and caregiver vacancy rates.