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Lower Keys Women’s Club Annual Fashion Show Supports FKCC Nurses



FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree (center) accepts a \$4,000 donation on behalf of the FKCC Foundation from Lower Keys Women’s Club President Loretta Baker for nursing scholarships, surrounded by (L to R) FKCC Dean of Allied Health and Nursing Norman Olsen, FKCC nursing students/LKWC scholarship recipients Kristina Sellers and Emily Rivas, and FKCC Nursing Professor Debbie Allish.

KEY WEST, FL, March 9, 2010—The Lower Keys Women’s Club held their annual fashion show luncheon at the Grand Key Resort last month to benefit nursing students at Florida Keys Community College. The fundraising event is the club’s largest of the season and enables them to maintain ongoing support, including this year’s contribution of \$4,000, to the FKCC Foundation’s “Lower Keys Women’s Club Nursing Scholarship” fund, which was established in 1967.

Before the club members walked the runway wearing fashions on loan from local vendors, Fast Buck Freddie’s, Chico’s, Bert and Frannie’s, and Key Collections of Big Pine, the

attendees got to hear from the FKCC students whose lives they have transformed through the scholarship fund. Second-year nursing student and mother of two Rima Kasprzak thanked the club members for their generosity and explained how receiving the scholarship has helped to make her goal of becoming a nurse attainable.

"Without this scholarship, it would take me many stressful years to complete the nursing program. I'd have to take out loans and work another job, which would take away time from my family and from my studies," says Kasprzak. "But with the Lower Keys Women's Club nursing scholarship, I am a better student, a better mother, and ultimately, I will be a better nurse."

Fellow scholarship recipient and aspiring nurse Kristina Sellers echoed Kasprzak's sentiments. "This scholarship lets me know that there are people out there willing to help others... they're giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream."

The LKWC has been dedicated to serving the community for 45 years through fundraising and contributing to a myriad of local organizations and charities.

"In 1967, there was an urgent need for nurses and health care providers; the club recognized that need and decided to support the FKCC Nursing Department by providing scholarship funds," says LKWC President Loretta Baker. "To continue our founders' efforts through loyalty, kinship, work and charity, we are pleased to provide scholarship funds for well deserving FKCC nursing students."

For more information about the Lower Keys Women's Club Scholarship or how to donate to the FKCC Foundation, contact FKCC Foundation Director Patti Carey at patti.carey@fkcc.edu.

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