GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS

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PRESS RELEASE

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$35,000 in Nursing Scholarships Distributed to Worthy Students

On July 15th, Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation presented $35,000 in scholarships to seven deserving college students pursuing degrees in nursing and healthcare.

The scholarship program, named after one of Golden Valley Health Centers (GVHC) founding board members, Flora R. Martinez, is a tribute to the essential care provided by nurses. Flora R. Martinez served GVHC for 43 years and believed in the organization's mission. She had a heart for nurses and understood their love and dedication to the profession. Upon her passing in 2014, her family promised to continue her legacy, and the Flora R. Martinez Nursing Scholarship was established.

The 2025 scholarship recipients include: Aileen Phan, Natalie Rodriguez and Zaila Kayhan who are earning a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from CSU Stanislaus, Giselle Gracias, who is a current UC Irvine student, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Recipients not pictured include Emily Smith, who is earning a Master of Science in Nursing from UC Davis, Krithika Praveen, a student at UCLA, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and Jose Cruz, a Grand Canyon University student who is obtaining a Registered Nursing Degree.

At the award ceremony, Flora's granddaughter, Karla Seijas, shared stories of Flora's kindness and the positive impact she made in the community. Her spirit of activism and passion for equity live on through her lifelong example of selfless service, compassion, and advocacy for change. Despite many challenges and barriers, she persevered and never let anything stand in the way of her goal to ensure her community members had access to proper healthcare, education, and a place of worship.

Scholarship recipients were selected by a committee of Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation Board and community members. Awards were based on the applicants' academic performance, financial need, and application letters that were submitted. For more information, visit gvhc.org/foundation/

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The mission of Golden Valley Health Centers is to provide access to high-quality health care for all, serving with dignity, respect and compassion. Golden Valley Health Centers operates 47 clinics across Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, providing healthcare services to 160,000 diverse patient populations since 1972.