The Promise of The Allen Scholarship

When Oscar and Viola Allen created a scholarship fund through their trust in 1993, they envisioned giving an impetus to young women who were embarking on careers in medicine. Now, almost two decades later, the Community Foundation recently awarded eleven scholarships to women from the Ukiah community.

The Allen's probably knew their scholarship would help promising young women, but they may have only had a glimmer of the opportunities open to women and the diversity of career choices that were reflected in this year's scholarship recipients. In addition to women who are studying to become nurses and doctors, others have the goals of receiving their doctorates in pharmacy, physical therapy, or psychology. One young woman wants to be a nurse anesthetist, while another has the long term goal of becoming a research scientist in the field of brain chemistry – a field that has advanced considerably since the Allen's created the fund.

Although the fields of study and career paths are more diverse today, one of the things that has not changed is the motivation for the women pursuing careers in medicine. According to Megan Barber Allende, Operations and Philanthropic Services Manager, at the Community Foundation, the common denominator is a passion for helping others. "One young woman summarized it beautifully when she told the scholarship committee that she was brought up in a culture where helping others was the main objective even when her family had very little." Megan went on to explain, "Each person we chose had volunteered in some capacity. Several of the women have been mentors or tutors; others have served those less fortunate at soup kitchens. Notably, one young woman, who began volunteering at the Ukiah Valley Medical Center Emergency Room at the age of 15, is now a Hospice volunteer, inspired by a young cancer patient who visited one of her classes."

The Allen's, by setting up a scholarship fund that is now administered through the Community Foundation, committed a part of their legacy to the promise of young women entering the medical field. I am happy to report that this year's recipients are living up to, and possibly even surpassing, the Allen's hopes for the future.

If you want to find out how the Community Foundation works with people who are interested in contributing to future generations through the legacy of a scholarship fund, visit <a href="https://www.communityfound.org">www.communityfound.org</a>