

## BSJ Corporation Awards Two \$1,000 Adele M. Stolder Scholarships

**LA CROSSE, Wis. (Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>)** – Bethany St. Joseph Corporation is honored to announce two outstanding employees, Samantha Spencer and Kylie Schmitz, as the 2025 Adele M. Stolder Scholarship recipients. Established by Mary Ellen Stolder in honor of her mother, this scholarship supports the educational pursuits of Bethany St. Joseph Corporation staff, furthering our commitment to assisting employees in achieving their academic and professional goals.



Our first scholarship recipient, Samantha, is approaching her final year at UW-La Crosse as a Biomedical Science Major on her path to becoming a physician. She shared in her essay that the most impactful experience on her journey in healthcare has been her role as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Bethany St. Joseph Care Center. Samantha has been in this role with BSJ Care Center since January 2024. She states, “Building and becoming a part of this community has by far been my favorite role as a CNA.” Samantha also values the opportunity to advocate for the residents she cares for, specifically those who may not be able to do so for themselves.

“Samantha stands out as an attentive, hard-working, motivated, and compassionate individual who takes pride in the work and care she provides for our residents,” said Paige Schatzke, Director of Nursing at Bethany St. Joseph Care Center. “She shows great communication skills by promptly reporting resident changes to the nurses, working well with her fellow CNAs to ensure quality and timely cares occur, and tailoring her approach to each resident depending on their situation and needs.”



Kylie, our second scholarship recipient, is a senior at UW-La Crosse majoring in Exercise and Sport Science with a minor in Psychology on the Pre-Physician Assistant track. In June 2022, she began working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Onalaska Care Center. In her essay she shares her gratitude of this opportunity stating, “I developed strong communication and interpersonal skills, learned the value of teamwork, and discovered the importance of personal connection in care.” She also values the supportive staff and teamwork that OCC provides due to quality training and a shared goal of a safe and enjoyable environment for residents.

“Kylie has proven herself to be an extremely hard-working individual who goes above and beyond to ensure each of her residents are cared for physically and emotionally,” said Ashley Huiras, Director of Nursing at Onalaska Care Center. “She fully embraces holistic and patient centered care as she finds unique and individualized ways to provide care for each person, such as reflecting on their previous employment, speaking about their specific interests and hobbies, or ensuring they get outside on nice days. It is apparent in the way she works and how she holds herself that Kylie is dedicated to caring for people and is an asset to the Onalaska Care Center nursing team.”

Bethany St. Joseph Corporation extends its heartfelt appreciation to all applicants for the 2025 Adele M. Stolder Endowed Scholarship. We are truly grateful for the outstanding talent, dedication, and effort each applicant brought to the selection process. We thank the volunteers on the selection committee and Mary Ellen Stolder for her continued generosity in making this scholarship possible. Since its inauguration in 2020, this scholarship has provided financial assistance to seven Bethany St. Joseph Corporation employees as they further their educational journeys. Our organization was exceptionally grateful for the opportunity to award two scholarships this year and look forward to further expansion with awarding three \$1,000 scholarships in 2026.

**About Bethany St. Joseph Corporation:** Bethany St. Joseph is a non-profit, non-stock corporation that owns and manages a variety of properties, equipment, and licenses in the Seven Rivers Region of Western Wisconsin. BSJ offers skilled nursing care, post-hospital care, adult day care, assisted living communities, independent senior apartments, therapy services, and employment opportunities. BSJ’s mission is to provide quality care and services responsive to the needs of those they serve, with dignity, respect, and in a cost-effective manner while placing value on the recipient, their family, and staff. For more information about BSJ, visit [bsjcorp.com](http://bsjcorp.com).