

# **The Joseph Hageman Memorial Nursing Scholarship**

The Joseph Hageman Memorial Scholarship is in honor of a man whose career demonstrated that there are no limits to the influence a Nurse can have on his patients and his community.

In 1974, Joe became the first male graduate of New Jersey’s Trenton State University Nursing program. From the start, he was not afraid to challenge the status quo. In that same vein, he began his career as an Emergency Room Nurse--a role that aligned well with his love for the unpredictable.

Joe was also a person who cared deeply for his family, so he moved to New Bern, NC, in 1978 to be closer to his parents. As Manager of the Craven Regional Medical Center Emergency Room, he worked closely with patients and their loved ones during medical crises. He and his care were hard to forget. Twenty years later, people would still reminisce with him about their experiences in the ER.

He went on to become an original employee of the New Bern Surgery Center as their Nurse Manager and remained so until 2000.  He was then promoted to Director of Surgical Services, which increased his duties to include the hospital Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), and Central Sterile Supply.  He also oversaw the design and construction of the new state-of-the-art Craven Surgery Center that today assists thousands of people in this area.  In 2002, he was promoted to Executive Director of Surgical Services.  Just one year later he celebrated 25 years of employment with CRMC.

However, Joe was more than a wonderful Nurse and Administrator; he was also an amazing father, husband and son. In his daughters’ minds, he could do anything—climb tall mountains (which he often did), rescue people in distress (he did that too), and build anything he wanted to construct, from birdhouses to catwalks.  Joe and Claire, his beloved wife, traveled the United States from one end to the other.  They journeyed across oceans and seas via sailboat.  They danced together under the stars and slept under them as often, while they camped, canoed, and hiked most of the winding trails on this continent.  Joe was also a dedicated caregiver to his parents. His mother June lost her fifteen-year battle with cancer in 2005.

In 2006, Joe unexpectedly passed away. Even in the throes of grief, the Hageman family and the New Bern medical community knew that his story needed to live on. With the support of the CarolinaEast Foundation, they were able to create a scholarship fund designed to support others as they join the Nursing profession. What began as one scholarship and a memorial to a beloved Nurse has turned into a full suite of financial support for people pursing various levels of Nursing degrees and a celebration of the remarkable individuals who choose, like Joe once did, to provide exemplary care to people in need.

The individuals who receive this scholarship are forever known as Hageman Scholars. His family cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to the man they loved than the heroes who walk among us in our hospital and clinic hallways bearing his name.