



# NEWS

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## **Grateful family establishes endowed nursing scholarship in mother's name**

Grand Junction – The family of Mary Elizabeth (McDonald) Dolan today established an endowed scholarship fund with a \$30,000 gift to the Mesa State College Foundation. The Mary Elizabeth (McDonald) Dolan Endowed Scholarship Fund is designed to provide support to a nursing student who has the potential to further his or her education with financial assistance.

In addition to the gift from the Dolan family – Catherine Boyt, Gerald Dolan, Patrick Dolan, Gregory Dolan and Brian Dolan – two corporate donors are expected to contribute \$10,000 each to the fund.

The Dolan family presented the foundation with a ceremonial check for \$30,000 this morning.

“At this time when the nation is facing a huge shortage of nurses, these funds will help us prepare the next generation of nurses who will help meet the growing need,” said Dr. Kristy Ruess, chair of Mesa State’s Department of Health Sciences.

Mary Dolan faced difficult challenges throughout her life yet always persevered and, despite her hardships, succeeded in keeping her six children together and in raising them well.

A Grand Junction native whose mother died in childbirth when she was only two years and whose father was not the stay-at-home type, Mary was shuffled among relatives for much of her young life. She finally came back to the Grand Valley and lived with relatives on a farm northwest of town. She graduated from the old Applewood School, enrolled at Mesa and became a registered nurse.

She left nursing to marry and raise a family. At 40, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Shortly thereafter, her abusive husband divorced her, leaving her and their six children with only a house and a mortgage.

She loved, cared for and counseled her children.

“We, her family were very blessed to have her as our mother. In that spirit of her selflessly giving, we, the Dolan family, establish this scholarship in her name in honor of her life and her giving spirit, said son Jerry Dolan.

“It is our fondest wish that this scholarship help many people over many years with a leg up on the way to productive satisfying lives. Our mother would love to see that and hope for the very best for the recipients.”

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