

Thank you for inquiring about the Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship.



Suzanne Billings was a pediatric social worker who dedicated much of her professional life to working with families of children with kidney disease. Suzanne was integral in the development of NW Kidney Kids and served as President of the Board from 2013 until her death in 2017. Suzanne radiated joy and pride in her kidney kids' accomplishments; she was a true champion for her families and is beloved and missed by all whose lives she enriched over the years.

In the spirit of Suzanne's life work, a scholarship has been established to promote independence and self-empowerment. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist in the development of skills and knowledge to facilitate life-long self-sufficiency for a "kidney kid". These funds can be used to support the higher education or technical training of a young adult with kidney disease.

The Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually by NW Kidney Kids in alignment with its mission to encourage young people with kidney disease to realize their potential and embrace their futures. For the 2026–2027 academic year, one eligible recipient will receive a \$2,500 award. The scholarship funds must be used within the calendar year in which the award is granted.

To apply for this scholarship award, a person must meet all the following qualifications:

1. Experience Chronic Kidney Disease stage 4 or 5, before the age of 18
2. Live within the Northwest Kidney Kids geographic area; that is, live in Oregon or SW Washington and/or see a Pediatric Nephrologist at Kaiser Permanente NW, Legacy Randall, or OHSU/Doernbecher, before the age of 18.
3. Born on or after September 1, 2000.

The applicant must also meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Senior in high school with good standing and working towards a high school diploma or GED with plans to attend an accredited higher education institution or trade program for the academic year 2026-2027.
2. Currently attending an accredited higher education institution or trade program with plans to continue for the academic year 2026-2027.
3. Previously completed high school or obtained a GED; accepted and planning to attend an accredited higher education institution or trade program for the academic year 2026-2027.

The applicant may not be related to a current member of the Northwest Kidney Kids Board of Directors or a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Instructions:

1. Complete this online [Scholarship Application Form](#)

Section 2: Personal Information

Section 3: Essays

2. Provide a Letter of Reference to the qualifying person of your choice.*

3. Have a Nephrologist verify medical diagnosis and proof of care before the age of 18.*

Deadlines:

March 1, 2026 - Application, Essay, Letter of Reference, Medical Verification Due.

March 15, 2026 - Winner informed.

April 11, 2026 - Winner announced & award presented at NW Kidney Kids Gala

*These forms are available to download at www.nwkidneykids.org and are due by the scholarship deadline of March 1, 2026.



Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship

2026 Letter of Reference

Dear _____, (*print your reference name*)

_____ (*print your name*) is an applicant for the Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship. Suzanne Billings was a pediatric social worker who dedicated much of her professional life to working with families of children with kidney disease. Suzanne was integral in the development of NW Kidney Kids and served as President of the Board from 2013 until her death in 2017. Suzanne radiated joy and pride in her kidney kids' accomplishments; she was a true champion for her families and is beloved and missed by all whose lives she enriched over the years.

In the spirit of Suzanne's life work, a scholarship has been established to promote independence and self-empowerment. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist in the development of skills and knowledge to facilitate lifelong self-sufficiency for a "kidney kid". These funds can be used to support the higher education or technical training of a young adult with kidney disease.

The Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually by NW Kidney Kids in keeping with its mission to encourage young people with kidney disease to realize their potential and embrace their future. For the academic year, 2026-2027 one applicant will be awarded \$2500.

Please provide a letter (max 250 words) describing your relationship with the applications. Please speak to their character and how this applicant embodies the spirit of the scholarship.

Send this cover sheet with your letter directly to the scholarship committee at info@nwkidneykids.org by the scholarship deadline of March 1, 2026.

If you have immediate questions you can contact Maggie MacKenzie, Events & Marketing Manager, (971) 570-709 or Maggie@nwkidneykids.org

Thank you,

NW Kidney Kids Scholarship Committee



northwest
KIDNEY
KIDS

Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship

2026 MD Medical Verification & Proof of Care prior to 18

Dear _____, (*print Nephrologist name*)

_____ (*print your name*) is an applicant for the Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship. Suzanne Billings was a pediatric social worker who dedicated much of her professional life to working with families of children with kidney disease. Suzanne was integral in the development of NW Kidney Kids and served as President of the Board from 2013 until her death in 2017. Suzanne radiated joy and pride in her kidney kids' accomplishments; she was a true champion for her families and is beloved and missed by all whose lives she enriched over the years.

The Suzanne Billings Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually by NW Kidney Kids in keeping with its mission to encourage young people with kidney disease to realize their potential and embrace their future.

In order to apply for this scholarship award, a person must meet all the following qualifications:

1. Prior to age 18, experience Chronic Kidney Disease stage 4 or 5.
2. Prior to age 18, live within the Northwest Kidney Kids geographic area; that is, live in Oregon or SW Washington and/or see a Pediatric Nephrologist at Kaiser Permanente NW, Legacy Randall, or OHSU/Doernbecher.
3. Born on or after September 1, 2000.

Please sign below indicating that your patient meets the above qualifications prior to 18. Send this cover sheet to the scholarship committee at inf@nwkidneykids.org by the scholarship deadline of March 1, 2026.

Nephrologist Name

Nephrologist Signature

Hospital/Office

Phone/Email

If you have immediate questions you can contact Maggie MacKenzie, Events & Marketing Manager, (971) 570-7609 or Maggie@nwkidneykids.org.

Thank you,

Northwest Kidney Kids Scholarship Committee