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## *News Release* NEWS RELEASE

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### **KENTUCKIANA CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Louisville, Kentucky (July 22, 2024) – Kentuckiana Cancer Research Foundation (KCRF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its first annual scholarship program. This scholarship program exemplifies our commitment to fostering education and supporting outstanding individuals pursuing a career in cancer care.

The scholarships, awarded annually in July are available to residents both of Kentucky and Indiana who attend an educational institution and are pursuing a career in a cancer related field.

Following careful consideration and a rigorous selection process, four remarkable individuals were chosen from a large pool of applicants. Recipients were selected based on their academic performance, extracurricular activities, leadership ability and financial need.

Nicole Ossege of Fort Thomas, Kentucky received a \$7,500 scholarship to apply towards her studies at Western Kentucky University where she is pursuing a BSN in Nursing. She is interested in a career in Pediatric Oncology once she completes her studies in December 2025. Her long-term goal is to obtain her masters and complete a Nurse Practitioner program. Ossege writes that cancer touched her life in 2019 with the death of her grandfather to liver cancer. This led to her decision that cancer care is her passion and her way to make a difference in someone's life.

Sierra Osterling of Louisville, Kentucky received a \$7,500 scholarship for her studies of Nursing at Bellarmine University. Osterling has a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Women's Track and field and Cross Country Team at Bellarmine University. Following

her graduation in May 2026, Osterling, also, as well plans to pursue a career in Pediatric Oncology.

Scholarships of \$3,500 were also granted to Caleb Burkdoll and Sameh Melika both of Louisville, Kentucky. Burkdoll is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree with Sullivan University. He maintains a 4.0 GPA while working at University of Louisville Hospital as well as managing duties of fatherhood. Following graduation Burkdoll is eager to make substantial contributions to the field of cancer research as a pharmacist and a research scientist. Melika has just completed his studies and obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy and works with Floyd Memorial Hospital as an oncology pharmacist. Melika says his ultimate goal is to optimize patient outcomes through personalized medicine management and education.

“We are honored and delighted to make a small positive impact in this community and in cancer care by supporting the development of future professionals that will make meaningful contributions to cancer medicine and research,” stated Dr. Renato La Rocca, founder, and chairman of KCRF.

The application process for Scholarships in 2025 will begin in March 2025. Please visit our website for information.

For more information about KCRF please visit our website at [www.KCRF.org](http://www.KCRF.org)

About Kentuckiana Cancer Research Foundation (KCRF) – Since 2000, KCRF has been dedicated to advancing cancer-related research, prevention and treatment as well as providing informative support to cancer patients and their families throughout the Kentuckiana area. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit serves the Louisville Metropolitan area.

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