

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Brookmeade Invests in the Future of the Community Through Dutchess Community College Scholarship Endowments

**Rhinebeck, NY** – Brookmeade has long believed that caring for a community means investing in its future. In 2024, the organization expanded that commitment by partnering with the Dutchess Community College Foundation to establish two endowed scholarships supporting students pursuing careers in nursing and human services. As the demand for skilled healthcare and human services professionals continues to grow, and recognizing the financial challenges many students face, Brookmeade saw an opportunity to invest in the next generation of compassionate caregivers while strengthening the workforce that will serve the Hudson Valley for years to come.

The **Brookmeade Human Services Scholarship** and the **Brookmeade Nursing Scholarship** were each established with a **\$15,000 endowment each**, providing a **\$750 annual scholarship** to two deserving students pursuing careers that strengthen the health and well-being of our community. Through these scholarships, Brookmeade is proud to support the Dutchess Community College Foundation's mission of expanding educational opportunities while helping develop the next generation of healthcare and human services professionals.

On May 13, 2026, members of the Brookmeade leadership team and Board of Directors had the privilege of attending the Dutchess Community College Honors Convocation, where they met this year's scholarship recipients, **Fiona Ferguson**, recipient of the Brookmeade Human Services Scholarship, and **Keegan Ferguson**, recipient of the Brookmeade Nursing Scholarship.

As a senior living community, Brookmeade understands that investing in education is an investment in the future. The demand for compassionate, skilled professionals in nursing, social work, and human services continues to grow, making workforce development more important than ever.

"Supporting students who are pursuing careers in healthcare and human services aligns directly with Brookmeade's mission of enriching lives," said **Jamie Stickle, Human Resources Director at Brookmeade**. "We wanted to create opportunities that extend beyond our campus by investing in local students, supporting the Dutchess Community College Foundation, and helping strengthen the workforce our entire community will rely on for years to come."

Meeting the scholarship recipients brought the impact of these endowments to life.

Fiona Ferguson, a first-generation college student studying Human Services, shared how the scholarship arrived at a pivotal moment in her life after experiencing the loss of her mother and facing uncertainty about continuing her education.

"This scholarship arrived at a moment when I needed it most. It has lifted a significant weight from my shoulders and allows me to focus fully on my academic responsibilities."

She also expressed her gratitude, writing:

"Thank you for your generosity and for the meaningful impact you make in the lives of students."

Nursing scholarship recipient Keegan Ferguson wrote that Brookmeade's support is helping him pursue a lifelong calling.

"Nursing is more than just a job to me. I want to help others and make a positive difference in people's lives."

He added that the scholarship provides more than financial assistance.

"Receiving this scholarship is not only helpful financially, but also very encouraging. It reminds me that others believe in me and my goals."

The Dutchess Community College Foundation recognized Brookmeade's generosity by noting that these endowed scholarships will continue to support deserving students year after year while strengthening the community through education and civic engagement.

Brookmeade believes that investing in students is an investment in the future of the Hudson Valley. By helping remove financial barriers and encouraging students to pursue meaningful careers in nursing and human services, Brookmeade hopes to cultivate a workforce that will continue caring for older adults, families, and the broader community for generations to come.

Brookmeade congratulates Fiona and Keegan on their achievements and wishes them continued success as they pursue careers dedicated to caring for others.

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## About Brookmeade

Brookmeade is a nonprofit senior living community in Rhinebeck, New York, dedicated to providing exceptional independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and rehabilitation services. Guided by a mission of compassion, dignity, and excellence, Brookmeade is committed to investing not only in the care of today's residents but also in developing the workforce and strengthening the communities it serves.

