Betsy Gardner Scholarship Information

The Betsy Gardner Scholarship was established in 2017 as the Madison-Deane Initiative transitioned to the Madison-Deane Education Fund. The scholarship is named in honor of Betsy Gardner, RN, a skilled, compassionate hospice nurse and friend of Drs. Jim and Joan Madison.

_Pictured, L to R: Betsy Gardner, RN, and Joan Madison, MD_

THE STORY
When Jim Madison was faced with challenging pain and symptoms in the course of his terminal illness, he and his wife Joan turned to hospice care. The arrival of Betsy Gardner changed the course of Jim’s illness. With improved pain management and other symptoms soon under better control, Jim was able to live his remaining days enjoying his family, friends, and apple orchard in the Vermont landscape he called home.

The Madison-Deane Initiative, now the Madison-Dean Education Fund, was born of the gratitude felt from this personal experience.

WHO CAN RECEIVE THE AWARD?
The Betsy Gardner Scholarship is awarded to Vermont registered nurses working in the field of hospice and palliative care who demonstrate a professional commitment to:

- Being a catalyst for change regarding the culture around death and dying
- Providing the very best compassionate, informative care to patients and families facing terminal illness
- Supporting individuals and families in advocating for their own care and the care of their loved ones in accordance with their wishes and values

The intent of the scholarship is to support the continued professional development of up to four Vermont nurses annually in their pursuit of certification through the Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Association or their engagement in national nursing or hospice conferences specific to end-of-life care.