



Norman H. Volk Doctoral Scholarship

Established in 2015, the **Norman H. Volk Doctoral Scholarship** at the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing was gifted by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc. in honor of Mr. Volk's retirement from the foundation's board. This fund was established to provide tuition assistance to students who specialize in geriatric older adult care while demonstrating economic need and academic merit. Recipients of this scholarship are known as **Norman H. Volk Scholars**.

Norman H. Volk: Champion of Better Care for Older Adults

Norman H. Volk (1935-2024) was a beloved husband, father, and businessman who devoted decades of volunteer service to improving care for older adults by championing nursing and other health care professions. Norman and his wife Alicia were the loves of each other's lives.



Norman received his master's degree from Marquette University and in 2004 received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from Valparaiso University. From 1979 to 2015, he served on the Board of Trustees of The John A. Hartford Foundation, A private, national philanthropy dedicated to improving the care of older adults. Norman was an iconic and beloved leader at the foundation where he served as Chair for 13 years. He was known for his love of the organization's mission which is focused on aging and health. His support for the grantees and staff who worked hard to realize that mission was legendary.

Norman's board service at The John A. Hartford Foundation, which was established in 1929 and became known for funding innovative biomedical research, overlapped with the organization's transition in 1982 to its current mission of improving the care of older adults. Norman, a superb collaborator, worked with other board leaders to steer the foundation in its initiatives in academic geriatrics and training, with a goal of nurturing leaders in health care research, education, and practice. This galvanized a sea change in geriatric healthcare that resulted in the creation of Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine at medical schools across the country, the Paul B. Beeson Scholars program for researchers in geriatric care, and the Medical Student Training in Aging Research initiative, among many others that changed the trajectory of geriatric medicine.



However, it is the field of geriatric nursing that may have benefited the most from Norman's vision and leadership. Norman was passionate about supporting nurses and was a champion for the foundation's first nursing grant to New York University to create the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing in 1996. That grant helped launch the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative, including the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity program supporting scholars and fellows, the Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence at many schools of nursing, and fostered grants to support curriculum change in academic nursing programs to embed geriatrics across all nursing education. Norman was a fixture at geriatric nursing project site visits and conferences, and he donated his time and thoughtful advice to nursing leaders and students, alike.

Norman went beyond his service at The John A. Hartford Foundation to be a force in the field of nursing, geriatrics, and health care. He served as a member of the Advisory Council of Stanford University's Center on Longevity. He was a member of the New York University College of Nursing Board of Advisors since its inception in 2005, where, with his wife, Alicia, he endowed the annual Norman and Alicia Volk Lecture on Geriatric Nursing. Norman was a board member of the American Federation for Aging Research from 2020 to 2023. He was a Trustee at his alma mater, Valparaiso University, and was a member of the National Council at its College of Nursing. Norman also served as an advisor of Old Westbury Gardens for over 30 years. In 2005, Mr. Volk became a member of the New York State Delegation at the White House Conference on Aging at the invitation of the Governor of New York and the New York State Office for the Aging.

"Norman was visionary and knew that the space for improving geriatric care was a wide-open opportunity..."

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, President Emerita, The John A. Hartford Foundation, Dean Emerita, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing

"Norman was always trying to move the world to a better place. He was not patient about change. In the very best sense of that...What Norman saw is that nurses are the ones actually treating patients and contributing powerfully to how patients recover - and how fast. He was dedicated to making that clearer to funders, to hospitalists, and to society."

Laura Carstensen, PhD, Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Professor in Public Policy, Professor of Psychology, Director, Stanford Center on Longevity