

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH Auxiliary honours two student volunteers with Dixie Mikel Scholarships— Congratulations to Tovan Lew and Sydney Fournier

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, January 17, 2024—The NHH Auxiliary recently honoured two exceptional student volunteers by presenting them with the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Award in Memory of Dixie Mikel in recognition of their 2023 volunteerism and commitment to the hospital.

Yvonne (Dixie) Mikel was the wife of a prominent local physician, Dr. Don Mikel. A long-time supporter of the Auxiliary at the former Cobourg hospital site, Mrs. Mikel is credited with founding the Student Auxiliary Volunteer program which continues to this day, in expanded form, at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH).

The scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,250, are awarded annually by the NHH Auxiliary Board to successful applicants currently attending a university or college. Applicants must have accumulated a minimum of 80 volunteer hours at NHH and be attending a post-secondary institution taking courses that lead to degrees in health sciences, nursing, medical research, or biotechnology.

2023 recipients are Tovan Lew and Sydney Fournier.

Tovan is currently studying Biomedical Science (Honours program) at Trent University in Peterborough. For the past two and half years, he has been an active volunteer with the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP). Prior to HELP, Tovan was a volunteer in NHH's Emergency Department.

Sydney Fournier is enrolled in the Health Sciences program at the University of Ottawa and recently supported NHH's Emergency Department and Day Surgery units as a student volunteer. During her time as a volunteer, Sydney was the recipient of an NHH Foundation Gift of Gratitude, which celebrates individuals who have supported a patient's care journey at the hospital.

"It is a pleasure to recognize these students, the latest in a long line of local youth recognized for their commitment to their community. Dixie Mikel sought to connect student interests with hospital and community needs, while granting valuable experience. With the hospital's support, it is our pleasure to continue this tradition," said Selena Forsyth, President of the NHH Auxiliary. "On behalf of the Board, I thank Tovan and Sydney for their interest in the NHH Auxiliary and wish them the very best with their continued studies."

The Dixie Mikel Scholarship is presented annually, between the late fall and early winter of each year. Applications for the 2024 awards are requested before July 30, 2024. For details on the scholarship and current volunteer opportunities, including application forms, please visit the [Volunteers tab](#) of the hospital website.

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About Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary – The Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary volunteers are dedicated individuals of all ages who work alongside hospital staff, physicians and midwives supporting the work of virtually every department. Whether delivering water jugs to patients, helping in various service areas throughout the hospital, taking shifts in the Auxiliary’s two retail operations (The Little Treasure Shop, at NHH, and Petticoat Lane, on Munroe Street in Cobourg) or providing a warm welcome at the main entrance, Auxiliary volunteers play a critical role in strengthening the quality of care and experience at NHH. For background information on the Auxiliary, please visit <https://nhh.ca/Volunteers/NHHAuxiliary> or follow us on Facebook [@northumberlandhillshospitalauxiliary](#)

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