McLeod’s Have a Passion for Nursing ...and for UConn.

Elaine McLeod ’78 discovered her nursing career by accident. In need of a summer job after freshman year, she approached a nursing home near her house, close enough to walk to work. She was hired and very quickly found her passion.

“I admired the nurses caring for the patients so much, that I petitioned for admission to the School of Nursing” says McLeod, who started her UConn journey in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She was accepted, and the rest, as they say, is history. “Nurses are the backbone of the health care system,” says McLeod, who continues to work as a pediatric nurse today. “Even with all the new technology, bedside nursing is still essential. When you’re sick, you want a well-educated, caring person by your side, taking care of you.”

In 2004, Elaine and her husband Chris established the McLeod Family Endowed Scholarship, their first of several gifts to UConn. Since then, the fund has provided scholarships to eight different nursing students. “We wanted to give back, and, of course, I am biased, but I think the School of Nursing and the nursing profession deserve our support.”

Last year, boosting their support for UConn and the nursing profession, the McLeods gave the School of Nursing a four-year commitment to support an annual full-tuition scholarship.

The McLeods also have provided support for UConn more broadly, by providing a fellowship in the Neag School of Education designed to improve K-12 science education, and through Chris’s service as a member of the Board of Directors at UConn Ventures, a subsidiary of the UConn Foundation, created to establish new business start-ups based on innovative technologies developed by university faculty and staff.

“Our goal is to try to support education, and pass along the gift of good education that we received,” says Chris. ■

For additional information on making a gift to the School of Nursing please visit nursing.uconn.edu/giving.