**Seeing and congratulating Ashley at graduation was exciting because I invested in her and it worked. I had the joy of helping others as others have helped me along the way.**

---

**Decades of service as a consultant and executive leader for fundraising campaigns throughout the country taught John B. Donovan powerful lessons about giving. Whether he was leading the next YMCA capital campaign in New York, Ohio or Wisconsin, or closer to home for Mercy One Medical Center in Dubuque, John has always made a personal commitment to help others.**

“I have been so fortunate. If I can help people and the community, that’s what I’m going to do—it brings me joy,” John said.

When the pandemic arrived in Iowa last year, John reached out to the NICC Foundation to see if a student, especially a single mother, needed help. The Foundation selected Ashley Northouse who became the grateful recipient of rent, groceries, housing and transportation assistance and she completed her Respiratory Care degree in May 2021.

Ashley believes John’s support is the lifeline that kept her going. “The support made it so I could balance being a mom and going to school,” she said.

John was on-hand at commencement last spring to celebrate her achievement.

---

**One of the magical things about the NICC Foundation Golden Ticket scholarship is that it isn’t a behind-the-scenes decision. Donors are able to nominate someone in their community to receive the scholarship and celebrate that nomination with the recipient. These recipients want to earn a college degree, but financial obstacles are in their way.**

Fidelity Bank and Trust awarded a Golden Ticket to one of their employees, Megan Ohm, this summer. Megan is now enrolled in the College’s Business Administration program and excited about a career in banking.

“I’m planning to complete my degree and begin a business career. I love working with people in the community, seeing and helping people I know,” Megan said. “When I received the Golden Ticket scholarship I was surprised and caught off guard. I started crying. I was so happy. The scholarship has really helped me so much.”

The need for scholarship for students is great in northeast Iowa. The Golden Ticket scholarship allows donors and community leaders to be the “eyes and ears” of the College by providing extra assistance just when someone needs it.

---

**The NICC Foundation participated in the Community Foundation’s annual Great Give Day event. Through the online giving blitz that day, we asked donors to help support our students who financially “fall through the cracks.” These are students who, for various reasons, do not qualify for state or federal grants. In turn that leaves them with the option of either taking out student loans or paying out-of-pocket for their education.**

On Great Give Day, you, our donors, collectively raised more than $5,000 which allowed the NICC Foundation to award five students a $1,000 Silver Ticket scholarship.

Cazrielle Elder, a Health Information Technology student, received one of the scholarships during a very stressful semester when she tried to balance her class load and a full-time job.

“Receiving this scholarship truly saved me, by alleviating the financial stress I was facing and allowing me to give my full attention to classes. Life is hard but this helped. I am a giving person and this inspired me to work harder so I can one day return the favor,” said Cazrielle.
This year there were times when we were empty. Too much work, too much stress, too little time and never enough money to make it all work. At times, our proverbial “buckets” were empty.

But that’s where you came in. You shared your gifts with us and that support changed everything. It gave us each what we needed to keep going and reach our goals. You filled our buckets and we will always remember.

From all of us who needed the fill-up; we see you and we thank you.

Sincerely,
The Students of Northeast Iowa Community College

During the 2020-2021 academic year, 770 students applied for a scholarship and 484 of those students received a scholarship.