

KIMBERLY COFFEY FOUNDATION MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AT EIHS – 2026

Kimberly Coffey was 17 years old and a senior at East Islip High School in 2012 when she died from meningitis B one week before graduation and three months before starting her nursing education at Molloy University. In honor of Kim's beautiful spirit and her dream to become a pediatric nurse, the annual Kimberly Coffey Foundation Memorial Nursing Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving senior pursuing a career in nursing. We hope to keep Kim's memory present at East Islip High School, where she was loved by so many.

Although Kim was up to date on all her vaccinations, including the MenACWY meningococcal meningitis vaccine, she had contracted meningococcal serogroup B (meningitis B). Most individuals have received the meningococcal meningitis vaccine (MenACWY) at the age of 11, with a booster administered at age 16. Unfortunately, that vaccine only protects against four of the five serogroups of meningococcal meningitis and does not protect against serogroup B/meningitis B. The meningitis B vaccine was not available to help protect Kimberly in 2012; however, it has been available in the U.S. since 2014. It is important to know that the NYS meningitis vaccine requirement does not include Meningitis B vaccination. **Since 2011, Meningitis B has been responsible for all meningitis outbreaks on our college campuses, and only 43 colleges require the MenB vaccine.** Visit kimberlycoffeyfoundation.org to learn about the transmission of meningococcal meningitis, its symptoms, and how to be best protected.

To be considered for the scholarship, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- East Islip High School Senior
- Minimum GPA of 3.5. Provide a transcript that includes: 1) all grades, including Grade 12 courses in progress, **AND** 2) all grades must be up to date as of the day the application is submitted.
- Provide an acceptance letter from an accredited AAS (RN) or BSN nursing program.
- Provide documentation of receiving a MenACWY meningococcal vaccination and booster, if applicable. The brand names are Menactra, Menveo, or MenQuadfi. Medical exemptions are permitted.
- Provide documentation of starting/completing a MenB meningococcal vaccination series. The brand names are Bexsero or Trumenba. Medical exemptions are permitted.
- If applicable, provide documentation of receiving the combination MenABCWY meningococcal vaccination. The brand names are Penbraya and Penmenvy. Medical exemptions are permitted.
- Provide a reference letter from one or more high school teacher(s).
- Provide a brief essay explaining all three: 1) why they have chosen nursing as a career, **AND** 2) why they feel they are deserving of this scholarship, **AND** 3) how they will honor Kimberly with a focus on why Kimberly's story has inspired them (250 words or less).
- Provide their name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address on a separate page.

