The Roxboro Lions Club has awarded Piedmont Community College (PCC) student Kristi Hobbs its first Lion Bobby Long Roxboro Lions Club Scholarship. Hobbs, a 2008 Person High School graduate, is enrolled as a second year student in PCC’s Associate Degree Nursing program, where she has maintained a 3.5 grade point average.

“I have found that by attending class every day, not only do I learn so much, but I realize more and more that I am a future nurse. It is what I was born to achieve,” said Hobbs. “My family realizes that it takes many hours of study and dedication to become a nurse, so my job now is being a full-time student.”

She was formerly employed part-time at Thompson-Allen Inc. for two years. Her employer, Phillip Allen, praised her by saying, “The future of our community will always be bright if we are able to continue to help develop and education fine young people like Kristi Hobbs.”

Her Lions scholarship is valued at $500 and supplements scholarships she has also received—the Gordon P. Allen Family Scholarship and the Phillip Kerns Memorial Scholarship, for a total of $1,005 in awards.

The Lions Club has sponsored a scholarship at PCC since 1983, but the club attached importance significance to its PCC scholarship this year by renaming it to honor one of its own, Bobby Long, who passed away this year. Long had been a member and “staunch supporter” of Lions in Person County for over 50 years. He joined the club in June 1958 and served as President in 1962. He was responsible for bringing 19 people into Lions, and he rarely missed a meeting during this 50-year tenure.
His fellow Lions remember him fondly with the following recollections.

- “Lion Bobby has had the reputation of getting involved with any project the Club undertook. He has told stories of going house to house with other Lions, selling brooms. He has sold Lions Candy for Halloween, Lions Light Bulbs, and ice at Hog Day in Hillsborough.”

- “He had a personal connection with the Lions Mission “To serve as knights of the blind”. He spent many years helping blind individuals in Person County. He is remembered well by those he served.”

“Lions have always been involved in the community and have relied on the Leos (student Lions Club members) of Piedmont Community College and other volunteers (especially from the PCC Nursing Program) for support,” said Lions President Phil Hille. “One such project is the Vision Van which provides free screening for middle school students in Person County. Such projects provide valuable experience to those that serve.”

“The Roxboro Lions will miss this kind and generous Lion and wish to honor him permanently by awarding this scholarship.”

Over the years, the Roxboro Lions has changed the focus of this scholarship to support the Associate Degree Nursing Program, handicapped students, and the general student population. It also increased the value from $300 to $500 per academic year. Recipients must be enrolled or plan to enroll in six or more credit hours of instruction at PCC in a diploma or degree program. The scholarship is awarded based on the following priorities: vision impaired handicap; studying the Nursing program; scholastic achievement, moral character, and the individual’s potential to achieve established academic goals.

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