



## Meet Chris

*St. Matthews resident  
former sheriff's deputy*

Chris Kinard served as a sheriff's deputy for nearly 14 years when he decided to return to school and pursue a nursing degree at OCtech.

"My family was blessed with a special needs child in 2011. There were many questions and emotions that accompanied her birth and subsequent medical procedures," he said.

"We received tremendous help from friends and strangers alike, and many nurses we encountered made an impression on me that I will not soon forget. I realized a short time later that I wanted to provide the same care and compassion that had made such a difference in our lives."

Chris is now a senior Associate Degree Nursing student at OCtech and a recipient of scholarships through the OCtech Foundation. He and his wife have three daughters under the age of 5.

"I had been working a part-time job to bring in a little, but I realized that the time would be better spent studying," he said. "My family of five is surviving on one paycheck, but we are determined to see this through. I have served my community since joining the South Carolina National Guard in 1994. I have worked in the area, trying to make it a better place for us and our children."

“ I will continue to serve the community by working here after I graduate because I have learned that the relationships you have are more important than any paycheck you receive. ”

CHANGE THE LIFE OF A STUDENT  
AND A FAMILY BY SUPPORTING  
FUNDING FUTURES, OUR ANNUAL  
GIVING PROGRAM DIRECTED TO  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS.



Chris and his wife Carin are pictured with their daughters, 2-year-old Campbell, 1-year-old Carsen and 4-year-old Charley.



THE COST TO ATTEND COLLEGE IS MORE THAN JUST TUITION AND BOOKS. STUDENTS NEED HELP WITH THE ENTIRE COST OF AN EDUCATION, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, FOOD, HOUSING AND — IN SOME CASES — UNEXPECTED EMERGENCIES.

*Meet Bridgett* OB-GYN unit nurse  
at Palmetto Health Baptist



Bridgett Hipps is used to doing things on her own, but she found herself in a tight spot during the summer semester of the ADN program. Despite having student loans and working as a licensed practical nurse, Bridgett still didn't have enough money to cover the cost of books and other expenses required for the program.

"I was actually trying to pay out-of-pocket that semester and I just didn't have the money," the 2015 ADN graduate said. "I went to Mrs. Kay Blackwell in tears, asking her if she could say a prayer for me. I told her I didn't know what I was going to do. She said, 'I think I know the answer.'"

“ I didn't want to bother anybody. I was trying to take care of it myself, and I was kind of embarrassed. But I'm glad I talked to Mrs. Blackwell. The assistance I received from the Foundation helped me through that semester. It was a blessing. ”

Bridgett said she always wanted to be a nurse.

"When my grandmother was sick, I saw how the home health nurses interacted with her," the Swansea native said. "Participating in her care made me want to be a nurse that much more."

"I had an awesome experience at OCtech. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

"Scholarship emergency funds have been so beneficial to our nursing students. When challenging life circumstances occur, these funds have assisted students in paying for tuition, books, fees and gas. One student used the money to repair his vehicle, thus giving him transportation to the college. He had an unforeseen, immediate need and nowhere to turn. Had he not had the availability of this money, he would have been so far behind and, quite probably, would have been unsuccessful in his classes. Many recipients are moved to tears upon receiving the funds, and all voice deep and genuine appreciation for the help. In my time here at OCtech, I have seen these recipients — once in such dire need — go on to graduate and have successful careers. In many cases, the scholarship emergency funds made the difference in reaching dreams and changing lives."

KAY BLACKWELL  
Dean of Health Science and Nursing, OCtech



THE GOAL OF THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN  
 IS TO RAISE \$75,000  
 ALL FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN  
 WILL BE USED FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

*Meet Samantha*  
*registered nurse at The Oaks*

Samantha Haynes loves her job as a registered nurse in the rehabilitation department at The Oaks. But it was a long, uncertain journey to get there.

"There were times when I had to choose between gas and food," the 2014 graduate said. "I lived in Walterboro, and both of my parents were disabled. I was really broke. I had savings before I started, but you've got to be a really special person to work and be successful in the program. I ate a lot of ramen noodles and Chef Boyardee. I also had a deal with a nurse who graduated the year before me – I kept her kids when I wasn't in school for free room and board to live closer to school."

"I'm still paying off my student loans, but between loans and help from the Foundation, I made it."

Today, Samantha has found her calling in geriatric care.

"I love my patients," she said. "They have totally changed the way I look at beauty and what matters."



“ Today, I feel like my life is enriched. The OCtech Foundation helped make my lifelong dream of becoming an RN come true. I wouldn't be here without their support. ”



WHAT LOCAL EMPLOYERS  
 SAY ABOUT OUR GRADUATES



"The nursing students come to the Regional Medical Center for their clinical training. They are top-notch and pass all of their licensure exams the first time. We hire many of them at graduation because they're quality students. It's just worked out so well for us. We have a great relationship with OCtech – I couldn't ask for more."

**TOM DANDRIDGE**  
 President and CEO, Regional Medical Center



"We've hired many graduates from OCtech. They really teach the students what they need to know when they go out into the workplace and the work ethic they need to be successful in the business world."

**JOHNNY EVANS**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer, CF Evans Construction, OCtech Foundation Board Member

Since its founding, my family has been a supporter of OCtech and the OCtech Foundation. My father, William W. Dukes, Jr., was a charter Foundation board member and served on the board until his death in 1998. While he served on the boards of several corporations and many non-profit organizations, he had a special appreciation of and dedication to OCtech. As the co-founder of Applied Engineering Co. and its CEO, he knew first-hand the importance of an educated workforce. He also recognized the value of OCtech in enriching the community. He experienced some of that enrichment himself, taking computer literacy and advanced computer programming courses at OCtech. He gave back with his time, financial support and business expertise.

After a career in higher education in alumni relations and fundraising, I returned to Orangeburg and happily immersed myself in community activities. I was honored to accept a place on the OCtech Foundation Board in 2001 and have served continuously since that time. While the talents I offer may be different from those of my father, what we have shared is our belief in the value of OCtech in enhancing and strengthening our community. Volunteers and community support are essential in making a good school become a great school!

**SUSAN DUKES WEBBER,**  
OCtech Foundation Board  
Member

## DID YOU KNOW?

Associate Degree Nursing students  
**CAN EXPECT TO SPEND \$7,500**  
for uniforms, equipment, books  
and other program supplies.

An Automotive Technology  
**SENIOR TOOL SET COSTS \$2,500.**

Respiratory Care students face  
**NEARLY \$4,000 IN ADDITIONAL**  
expenses on top of tuition.

Welding students spend more than  
**\$900 FOR SUPPLIES AND BOOKS.**

## WHY I GIVE!

"The journey from application to graduation is not without roadblocks. Faculty members understand this and can empathize with the experiences of our students because we've all taken that journey. Giving to the Foundation provides an avenue for me to help students financially, in the hope that our future graduates will have one less roadblock."

**STEFANIE GADSON BROWN**  
OCtech Patient Care Technician Instructor,  
Healthcare Training and Development Coordinator

"OCtech and the nursing faculty introduced me to nursing, thereby establishing the foundation for professional and personal opportunities that may not otherwise have been possible for our family. Given the countless ways our OCtech experience has impacted our family over the last 25 years, Hank and I welcome opportunities to support nursing students and the nursing program with our gift to the Foundation."

**PAMELA HUGHES, MSN, RN**  
1997 OCtech Associate Degree Nursing Graduate,  
Former OCtech Faculty Member

"My mom and dad had a great work ethic, and they required their children to work hard, as well. They were of the generation where an education was your ticket out, your ticket up, so you could have a better life. They wanted their children to have a better life than they did. Both of my parents went out of their way to make sure I made it. I owe a lot to them and want to pass it on. The best investment in life is other people. This scholarship is my way of honoring my parents, affirming what they did for me, and me giving that opportunity to someone else. It's not just the student who gets a degree – somebody else is on the receiving end of that, as well."

**DAVID BATES**  
Arnold and Carolyn Bates Endowed Scholarship for CNAs, EMTs and PCTs

