The current goal of the Scholarship Committee is to raise a $30,000 endowment. We are dedicated to honoring Sarah’s legacy with the presentation of awards annually to Franklin County applicants who best exemplify her dedication and commitment to health care for all.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Dr. Sarah A. Kemble Memorial Scholarship Fund please make your check payable to:

Sarah Kemble Scholarship Fund
c/o Greenfield Savings Bank
Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

(This is a tax-deductible charitable donation)

Thank you on Behalf of the Scholarship Committee!

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

Albert Schweitzer
Sarah Kemble, MD, MPH died of cancer at her home on December 13, 2017. She was 59 years old. This scholarship was established by the Community Health Center of Franklin County to honor her commitment and dedication to the development of quality health services for underserved populations. She believed health care was a right, not a privilege.

Recognizing the need for access to health care for individuals and families living in rural Franklin County, Sarah worked tirelessly with a grassroots committee to establish the Community Health Center of Franklin County in 1995 in Turner’s Falls, MA. She served in numerous health center roles including Executive Director, Medical Director and Primary Care Physician until 2011. During her tenure, Sarah spearheaded the opening of a second site in November of 2006, the Desmond Callan Health Center in Orange and two school-based clinics at the Mohawk and Pioneer Regional High Schools. The health center recently moved to its new site in downtown Greenfield; both health centers offer primary health and dental care, behavioral health care, nutrition, transportation, and outreach services. Sarah would be excited that her legacy be carried on by this scholarship fund rooted in her community.

The Franklin County Community Health Center Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the establishment of the “Dr. Sarah A. Kemble Memorial Scholarship.” The program will award three scholarships each year to promising high school seniors, and veterans, who plan to pursue a career in health care, demonstrating a commitment of service and carrying on the legacy of Dr. Kemble.

Dr. Kemble wore many hats and will be remembered as a leader, advocate, activist, educator, mentor, and clinician and made time to participate on many New England regional and local health care organizations. Her public service was far-reaching. In 2011, she testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Care and Aging hearing entitled “Is Poverty a Death Sentence?”.

In 2014, as Chief Medical Officer for the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System in Northampton, she observed what she believed were “systemic dangerous practices” resulting in inferior care for veterans. It was her final wish to complete a 23-page affidavit documenting her clinical experiences at the facility. She died five days after the release of the report. Both WCVB-TV (Boston) and WWLP (Chicopee) investigative teams, as well as local newspapers, followed the story of the investigation of the Northampton facility by the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection in Washington, D.C.