

from the desk of
Pam Matteoni

Dear *EDAWN Investors & Community Members,*

Mental health struggles have reached an alarming level in the United States and right here in Nevada, affecting millions of individuals across all walks of life. From anxiety and depression to more severe conditions, the impact of mental health issues can be overwhelming, often leaving those who are suffering without the support they desperately need. Nevada only has 8.5 psychiatrists per capita, compared to the national average of 16.1. Our state's severe shortage of psychiatrists is creating a mental health crisis. Our loved ones are struggling to access the critical care they urgently need, with devastating consequences.

After 25 years of struggling with mental health issues and addiction, our precious son, brother, and friend, Darren Robert Matteoni, lost his valiant battle to those dreaded diseases – primarily mental and behavioral health issues. Darren's life was tragically cut short due to the lack of accessible mental health services in our community. His warmth, humor, and compassion touched the lives of everyone who knew him, and his untimely passing has left a huge void.

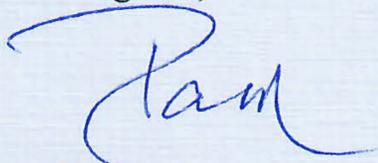
To honor the memory of Darren, a remarkable young man and Reno native, our family, Mike, Pam, Daniel and Caitlin, has established the *Darren Robert Matteoni Memorial Scholarship*. This scholarship is a call to action, inspired by Darren's life and the challenges he faced. It aims to address the shortage of psychiatrists and comprehensive mental health services in our health care system. By supporting third- and fourth-year medical students who aspire to specialize in psychiatry, the *Darren Robert Matteoni Memorial Scholarship* seeks to empower the next generation of mental health professionals to provide the care and support that individuals like Darren so desperately need.

Please join us as we honor Darren's legacy and help alleviate the financial burden of medical education for our future health care leaders. Our hope is that this scholarship will build our mental health care workforce and inspire recipients to pursue their careers with empathy, dedication, and a commitment to making a difference. Through their work, we strive to create a legacy that reflects Darren's enduring spirit and ensures that others receive the care and support they need to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

You may mail a gift to the address below. Please make the check out to 'UNR Foundation' and note in the check's memorandum line 'Darren Matteoni Scholarship.' If you have any additional questions, please contact Pam at 775.843.1517.

The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation
Financial Services and Records
University of Nevada, Reno, Mail Stop 162
Reno, NV 89557-0162

Warm regards,



Pam Matteoni

Darren's mom & mental health advocate



You may also support the scholarship by making a gift online.