

## HOW TO APPLY:

Email: [Brandy@ndafp.org](mailto:Brandy@ndafp.org) to obtain application form

Please submit your application online by January 31.



North Dakota Academy of Family  
Physicians Foundation  
Attn: Brandy Jo Frei  
501 N Columbia Rd #2002  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
Phone: 701-772-1730  
Fax: 701-777-3849  
Email: [brandy@ndafp.org](mailto:brandy@ndafp.org)

---

# Don Breen Rural Externship in Family Medicine



---

July 1934—August 1989

---

## EXTERNSHIP DETAILS:

---

### Donald J. Breen

#### Who

First Year Medical Students

#### Where

Beulah, Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Hettinger, Hillsboro, Jamestown, Mandan, Mayville, Minot, Oakes, Valley City, Wahpeton, and Williston

#### Purpose

To expose First Year Medical students and their families to medical practice in North Dakota.

#### Preceptors

Active members of the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians

#### Requirements

Membership in the AAFP/NDAFP and currently between the first and second year of medical school

#### Stipend

\$500 in Grand Forks, Bismarck/  
Mandan, Fargo and Minot  
\$1000 for a Small Town

~ A Family Physician

~ NDAFP Member

~ An Educator

~ A Devoted Father

Donald J. Breen was a true friend and supporter of Family Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians.

After completing four years of undergraduate education at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, Don Breen was accepted into the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in the Fall of 1956. Since UND School of Medicine was a two-year school at that time, he moved on to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to complete his medical school education. His internship was at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI. The following two years found Don and his family at K.E. Sawyer Air Force Hospital in Michigan to complete his military obligation.

Having been born in northeastern North Dakota, Don and his family returned to North Dakota to begin his private practice in Hillsboro, ND in September 1963.

Dr. Breen became a member of the AAFP and the NDAFP in 1965. He became an AAFP Fellow in 1976. From 1976 to 1989 Dr. Breen served first as Alternate Delegate and then as a Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates. On the state level, Dr. Breen served as our President, Chair of the Education Committee and Program Chairman of the Family Medicine Update held in Big Sky, MT each year. In

1986 Dr. Breen was the North Dakota Family Physician of the Year and was selected one of the ten finalists for 1987 AAFP Family Doctor of the Year.

Dr. Breen had an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor in Family Medicine at the UND School of Medicine. He was a preceptor for the Sophomore and Senior Medical Students for over ten years.

In his community Dr. Breen was very active as well. From a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus to being the Hillsboro High School team physician for 25 years. In addition he was the City Health Officer, Past President of the Hillsboro Civic and Commerce Association and member and Past President of the Hillsboro Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Breen married SuzAnn Strichers in 1959. Together they raised a family of eight children—five sons and three daughters. Of the children, two have chosen to be family physicians—Charles (Chuck) who is practicing in Hillsboro and Julie Ann Larson who is practicing in Detroit Lakes, MN.

The most important aspect of Dr. Breen's life was his role model in family medicine, community, church and family.