June Trauernicht was born June 8, 1939 to David and Helen Cummings Trauernicht. In 1952 June was left a quadriplegic from Polio. Through dedication and hard work, she overcame numerous obstacles on her way to gain an education and independence.

June graduated cum laude with a BA degree in Sociology from Northwest Nazarene College in 1963. She received an MS degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Idaho State University in 1974. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at ISU and was nominated to the honor list of Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges. For more than 25 years June worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist and helped bring language, education, and manual skills to the developmentally disabled residents at the Idaho State School and Hospital at Nampa.

In 1977 June was named Idaho Handicapped Employee of the Year and was nominated for the President’s Trophy for Handicapped Americans of the Year. She served for two years as Miss Wheelchair Idaho and received the Miss Achievement Award of America. In 1990 she was given the Zona Centennial Women’s Award, and was selected as a Distinguished Citizen in the Idaho Statesman.

June loved a challenge and felt no task was too large to overcome. She felt education was the key to achieving these tasks. She accomplished her goals through the years with the help of many people for whom she was forever grateful. She wanted to extend this help to other people by establishing a scholarship for disabled students or regular students in their sophomore year interested in seeking an education in the health field.

Criteria for the Award

1. Awards shall be given to students who have attained sophomore standing or above and a GPA of 2.5.
2. Recipients shall be students majoring in health related fields.
3. Preference is given to students with financial need who are physically handicapped.
4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.