The Clara Stutzman Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 1999, as a part of the acquisition of Mennonite College of Nursing by Illinois State University. This scholarship fund was created out of the monies that Clara Stutzman had given to Mennonite College of Nursing several years ago, for the purpose of establishing a private loan fund for students. The funds have subsequently been transferred into and provide the base for the Clara Stutzman Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Clara Ummel Stutzman was born on September 5, 1899 and died on May 4, 1994. She graduated from the Mennonite School of Nursing in 1923, and also attended Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. She married Clarence Stutzman in 1926. He died in 1928. They had one son, Dr. John C. Stutzman, of Normal, Illinois, who is a retired urologist. Clara married Earl Stutzman in 1934. He died in 1977. They farmed near Carlock, Illinois and had one son, James R. Stutzman, who was killed in a farm accident at age 16, in 1952.

Through her life, Clara Stutzman was involved in the activities of the Carlock Mennonite Church, Home Bureau (now Home Extension), Home Sweet Home Mission, Mennonite Hospital Auxiliary and Thrift Shop. She had a continual abiding love for the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing. Clara Stutzman always showed concern for those in need. During her life she often cared for neighbors, who were ill, in their homes and assisted in home births of rural mothers.

The purposes of The Clara Stutzman Endowed Scholarship Fund are to reduce the financial factor as a determinative factor in a prospective student’s decision to enter nursing education, and to promote a spirit of brotherhood, sharing, and servanthood towards mankind.