Newport Beach philanthropists George and Julia Argyros have donated $2.5 million to Hoag Hospital to support nursing education, the hospital announced Thursday.

The gift from the family foundation will be presented Thursday at the hospital's Nurses Day event.

Julia Argyros' sister, Connie Jones, was a nurse for more than 40 years.

"Of course doctors deserve and should receive recognition for their contributions to healing," Julia Argyros said in a statement. "But in the end, it is often the nursing care that patients talk about the most."

The money will be used for a variety of educational programs for nurses, the hospital said.

In recent years the couple has given $5 million to UC Irvine's eye institute and $5 million for Children's Hospital of Orange County's new emergency room.

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