



## The Len & Geri Back

### S•C•H•O•L•A•R•S•H•I•P

Geri Leih was born in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of a Nazarene minister. Len Back, born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, was introduced to the Lord through a local Church of the Nazarene. Both Geri and Len attended Northwest Nazarene University where they met, dated, and were married in 1954. Their time at NNU set their future course spiritually, vocationally, and socially.

After graduation the Backs moved to California where Geri began a 30-year teaching career spanning kindergarten through mid high. In the mid-70s she established the Christian Day School at First Church of the Nazarene in Salem, Oregon, which continues to operate. Geri retired from teaching in 1990. Len pursued careers in human resources, insurance claims, and sales management, and then found his niche in 1976 selling real estate, a career he continued until retirement in 2001.

Daughter Trycia, son Les, and youngest daughter Kelly were all born in Pasadena. In 1969, the family moved from urban Camarillo, California to rural Salem, Oregon. Their home "in the country" afforded cattle, horses, fish ponds, and the like.

Len and Geri, consistently and heavily involved in the Church of the Nazarene, were especially effective working with youth groups and young married Sunday school classes. Faithful to invest their time, energy, passion, and resources to make a difference in people's lives, they experience numerous contacts from individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by their compassion and wisdom. Though retired from their vocations, Len and Geri remain actively involved at Salem First Nazarene. As Sunday greeters, they welcome all who arrive; they participate in Steven's Ministries, outreach ministries, and in any other area where they are needed.

All of their children attended NNU, and Len and Geri maintain a strong tie to their alma mater. The Backs continue to support the University by hosting music groups, attending basketball and baseball games, sponsoring a fundraising luau, promoting NNU in their local church, and spending a week on campus each summer, painting! Their appreciation for the life-changing experience they had at Northwest Nazarene University is deeply held and clearly evident.

### *Criteria for the Award*

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.
2. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.
3. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years.
4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.

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*A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.  
Gifts to NNU's Endowed Scholarship Program become a "helping hand" to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others.  
For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.*

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