Irven J. Harter was born in Alberta, Canada in 1925. Irven was raised on a farm along with six brothers and sisters. After serving in the Canadian army during the 1940’s, Irven moved to British Columbia and began a career falling timber for logging operations.

Margaret H. Harter was also born on a farm in Alberta, Canada. William J. Griffin, Marg’s father, pioneered the work of the Church of the Nazarene in the Peace River district of northern Alberta. Early memories include ministers, missionaries and evangelists as guests in the family home. Marg attended CNC in Red Deer, Alberta, and later moved to British Columbia.

Irven and Marg met and were married in 1956 and established their home in Chilliwack, British Columbia. A son, Gordon blessed their home and Irven soon decided a career change was in order so that he could spend more time with his family. In 1958 the Harter’s moved to Vancouver and began work in a chain of motels. Irven became interested in moving to the USA and in 1959, the Harter’s, including Gordon and their new baby girl, Linda, moved to Tacoma, Washington and became partners in the Tacoma Travelodge. From there, they moved to the Moses Lake Travelodge, the Wenatchee Travelodge and in 1963, moved to Yakima and joined the Red Lion Corporation. A second son, Duane, arrived during their time in Yakima. Another move was made in 1967 when Irven opened the new Thunderbird/Red Lion Motor Inn in Bellevue, Washington. Irven was part owner and general manager of that operation until he retired in 1981. The Church of the Nazarene has been the family home church throughout the years so NNC became home to the three Harter children as they received their degrees in business administration for Gordon and Duane and social work for Linda.

Irven and Marg built their dream home in Woodinville, Washington after his retirement. Irven soon learned that he had cancer and spent the next six years fighting the disease. He passed away in 1988.

Irven and Marge believed in NNC and it was their desire to help young people receive a Christian education that prompted their decision to establish the Harter Family Scholarship.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be persons of worthy character and academic achievement who demonstrate a potential for future service.
2. Recipients must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher.
3. Students may apply by using the Departmental Scholarship Application.
4. Nominations are to be made by the Director of Financial Aid to the Scholarship Committee.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNC’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 Development Office, NNC, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8842.