The Heckathorn Family Scholarship fund was established in 1991 by Rev. James (Jim) R. Heckathorn with contributions from friends in memory of his wife, Naomi F. Heckathorn. Reverend Heckathorn fully funded the scholarship in 2004.

In addition to being a mother to her five children, Naomi taught full-time on a provisional certificate. She later received her M.Ed. degree from Boise State University. Naomi was a 4th grade teacher at East Canyon Elementary in the Vallivue School District at the time of her death. She was a well-loved teacher, wife, mother, and grandmother.

Jim Heckathorn was a pastor in the Methodist Church before becoming an evangelist for the Church of the Nazarene. He received his M.Ed. degree from Boise State University and was also a 4th grade teacher in the Nampa School District. Jim and Naomi shared an interest in teaching Idaho history and ornithology to their students. They were both avid members of the National Audubon Society and served as officers in the local Golden Eagle Audubon Society which they helped organize. As members of the Church of the Nazarene, the Heckathorns were firm believers in holiness and actively served and participated in events at College Church of the Nazarene, including several Work and Witness Mission trips.

The Heckathorns were proud supporters of NNU. Jim Heckathorn graduated from NNU in 1966 and Naomi in 1967. Two of their five children attended NNU, three of their thirteen grandchildren graduated from NNU, and one grandchild is currently an NNU student. The Heckathorns worked hard to complete their college education, occasionally borrowing money, and commuting to NNU. Due to the Heckathorn's struggles it was their dream to help others desiring a degree from NNU.

This scholarship is provided particularly for students majoring in ministry or education in faith that it will help those who receive the award to touch the lives of others with the love of Christ, as Naomi did throughout her life.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who are active members of the Church of the Nazarene, meet general scholastic requirements, maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA, and show potential for academic success, degree completion, and usefulness in his/her chosen field of service.
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 five years.
4. Preference shall be given, but not limited to, students majoring in ministerial studies or education.
5. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.

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.