The Lois Santo Labenske Nursing Scholarship

Lois Santo Labenske received her RN and BS in Nursing from Samaritan Hospital and Northwest Nazarene University. She then entered missionary service in the Church of the Nazarene and served for 4 years in British Honduras (now Belize). At times she had to serve as pastor in the small village of Crooked Tree while at the same time attending to the medical needs of the villagers. This was rather overwhelming since she wasn’t a minister but a nurse. The love she had for her Savior gave the needed courage and strength even though she didn’t feel capable to serve in the pastoral role.

She returned from the mission field and married Rev. Elbert Labenske, serving for 25 years as a pastor’s wife. While serving in this full-time position she also worked as a school nurse in Dallas, Texas; a maternity nursing instructor in Fort Smith, Arkansas; a maternity nurse in Portland, Oregon; and a school nurse in El Monte, California, where she earned her MS in Nursing at Cal State Los Angeles.

Lois loved gardening, quilting, cooking and reading. She was the happiest when she was serving others. She loved God, her family and her many friends located all over the country.

After a courageous battle with cancer, Lois responded to the summons of the Master’s voice to enter His eternal kingdom on March 25, 2007. Her brother Loren Santo and sister Rowena “Skip” Corlett, who preceded her in death, were also alumni of NNU.

This scholarship was established to honor her life and her dedication and compassion to others.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students of Christian commitment who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion;
2. Recipients are to be undergraduate students who feel called to the ministry of nursing, with enrollment status of half-time or above;
3. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship;
4. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years;
5. Nominations for this award are to be made by the Department of Nursing through the School of Health and Science and 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.

Northwest Nazarene University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.