Both Irving and Beverly Laird were born and raised in New York state and graduated from Eastern Nazarene College. Following Irving's graduation from Nazarene Theological Seminary, they pastored in Indiana for nine years before coming to Idaho. Irving also received the M.S. degree from Butler University and the D.Min. from the American Baptist Seminary of the West.

Dr. Laird served as a professor in the Division of Philosophy and Religion for 30 years before retiring in 1997. During this time he served as Dean of Students for 11 years and Chair of the Department of Special Ministries for 17 years. Dr. Laird initiated the Social Service Ministry major and had opportunity to become involved in the beginning years of several Nazarene Compassionate Inner-City Ministries. Upon his retirement Dr. Laird was presented with The Good Samaritan Award by Dr. Tom Nees, Director of Compassionate Ministries for the Church of the Nazarene.

Beverly taught English in the public schools for over 20 years before coming to NNC in 1991, where she assists students through the Study Skills Center. Irving and Beverly have two children, Steve and Rebecca, and four grandchildren.

This scholarship is provided to assist students who desire to come to Northwest Nazarene University from inner-city compassionate ministries centers, or those preparing to work in urban compassionate ministries.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who are of Christian commitment and show promise of future service;
2. Preference will be given to students who have been involved with or are vocation-oriented towards a ministry of compassion and service with people of need in the United States, preferably in the inner city;
3. Preference will be given to a U.S. ethnic minority person if other criteria are also met;
4. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship;
5. Recipients must meet minimum GPA requirements and have full-time enrollment status;
6. Nominations for this award are to be made by the Department of Religion in consultation with the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs 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 Development Office, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.