Dr. David L. and Marie Hans Jester Endowed Social Work Scholarship

“Go ye into all the world” begins at home. Social work in local communities brings help and hope to others, creating legacies that resonate into many generations.

Wayland alumni, former trustees, faculty, staff, and friends worked together to honor this legacy for David and Marie Jester, who, through lives dedicated to social work and educational missions, exemplify the maxim, “Working together, we make a difference.”

Marie Jean Hans was born August 12, 1929, in Indiana to Ralph and Lucille Hans. David Linville Jester was born March 5, 1930, in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) to missionaries William and Daisy Hicks Jester.

David and Marie graduated from Georgetown College (Ky.) and married in 1951. Marie earned an MRE degree from Carver School of Missions and Social Work at Southern Seminary. David completed BD and MDiv degrees at Southern Seminary; MA and EdD degrees at Teachers College of Columbia University; and graduate studies at University of Ibadan, Ahmadu Bello University and University of California-Berkeley.

The Jesters ministered as missionaries in the United States, Nigeria and other countries. David served as president of Niger Baptist College; founder of the School of Basic Studies, Ahmadu Bello University; and faculty and administrative positions at Kentucky’s Campbellsville University and Georgetown College.

David became the ninth president of Wayland Baptist College in 1981. During his tenure, Wayland moved from college to university status. Graduate, associate, lifelong learning, vocational-technical, radio, television, and other programs were added. Good Friday became a school holiday, McClung University Center opened and the Learning Resources Center (libraries-art gallery) nearing completion. Wayland expanded outreach to San Antonio, El Paso, Hawaii, Albuquerque, Taos, Clovis, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. The Amarillo and Lubbock campuses gained new facilities.

The Jesters left Wayland in 1987, continuing their work in social and educational programs at Central Texas College, Texas State Technical College, South Texas College and Mid-Continent University (Ky.), where David retired as Chancellor Emeritus.

David and Marie settled in Louisville, where David serves as a deacon and president of two boards. Marie is president of PEO and a leader in WMU. They have three daughters – Lisa, Daneta, and Karina – and three grandchildren.