



# *Jack and Kathy Wilhelmi Scholarship Endowment*



**J**ack and Kathy were born and raised in the Lake Region area; Jack in Starkweather, and Kathy in Devils Lake. Little did they know when they met over thirty years ago what path their lives would take together.

Jack graduated from Starkweather High School and joined the Air Force. After completing four years in the service, he began farming with his father, Charles, and eventually took over the farming operations. Over the years, Jack also always had a second job when harvest was completed for the season. He worked in a concrete plant, drove truck, constructed steel buildings, and worked for the railroad. The years went by, and he was offered a job for Melroe in Bismarck, North Dakota, during the winter months as a welder/mechanic. Jack also traveled the eastern United States for three winters repairing spray coupes, and if he had any spare time, he helped lay carpet with his Uncle Phil Steffan. His next “second jobs” were crop adjusting and finally

becoming a crop insurance agent. Since retiring, he volunteers for the Farm Rescue Program, assists Chip in the honey bee business, and continues to sell crop insurance. When he is in Arizona, he serves on a variety of committees and assists the condo association whenever needed, which is at least once a week. His next pursuit is to join the Color Guard for the VFW.

After Kathy graduated from Devils Lake Central, she attended Lake Region Junior College (now Lake Region State College) to complete a two-year associate degree and planned to continue her education to become a teacher. Instead, she received her associate degree and a secretarial certificate. Then, for the next seven years, she worked for the college. Most of those years were spent under the direction of Dr. Merrill Berg, president at that time. Dr. Berg helped Kathy pursue her dream of becoming a teacher by assisting her to obtain a fellowship grant for two-year graduates to receive training/education to teach in their field of employ-

ment. Off to UND she went to get her BS in Business and Technical Education. After graduating, she taught at the high school level and then as a business instructor for LRSC and Little Hoop Community College at Fort Totten (now Cankdeska Cikana Community College). Kathy continued to pursue her education, eventually obtaining a masters degree from UND in business and computers. After her son, Brian, graduated from high school, she moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to teach at Mohave Community College until her retirement.

In Arizona, Kathy is a board member for her condo association. She has been a board member for a charter school and assisted at the soup kitchen for the church. She also assists at her church in Devils Lake.

Over the years, Jack and Kathy have continued to pursue their dreams while living in two

different states. Jack spent time in Arizona in the winter, and Kathy spent time in North Dakota in the summer. During that time together, they worked and played hard, worked and planned for their future, and thanked their parents for instilling in them strong faith, values, and work ethics.

Now that they are both retired, Jack and Kathy want to give back to the community that gave them a start. Jack's favorite saying since his retirement is "Living the dream!" Because Jack has spent most of his life in farming, never regretting a day, they want the earnings from this endowment to provide scholarships for students enrolled in the Precision Agriculture program or other technical programs. Their hope is that these scholarships will provide some assistance to help students achieve their life dreams so that one day they can also say "Living the dream!" ●

