

Shared Grant success story: one year later

Last year, we reported how a shared grant from the Assistance Program helped Rev. Howell Martin while his 19-year-old daughter, Laura, was treated for breast cancer. We are happy to report that Laura remains cancer-free and is newly married. The wedding took place in December 2004, with Rev. Martin proudly officiating.



Laura and Justin

Laura has also graduated from college, where she was actively involved in cancer awareness and fundraising. **“Ironically, one of her sorority sisters discovered a small lump in the breast and had it removed,”** says Rev. Martin. **“She probably would not have had anything done, or even talked to the doctor about it, had she not known Laura’s situation.”**

Presbyterian churches are few and far between in West Texas. **“Sometimes we do feel a little bit isolated,”** Rev. Martin says. **“This is a helpful reminder that we have many, many brothers and sisters who we’re connected with. We’re supported by people that we don’t even know.”**

Interview conducted in January 2005.

About the Assistance Program

When the needs of church workers or their families exceed the bounds of the Benefits Plan, personal resources, or other means, our Financial Assistance and Retirement Housing Programs provide an important safety net. Available forms of assistance include:

- Shared Grants
- Emergency Assistance Grants
- Income Supplements
- Retirement Housing Supplements
- Housing Supplements
- Seminary Debt Assistance

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) oversees benefits programs for church workers and their families, while being guided by the Biblical principles of community and stewardship.

For information on applying for assistance, call 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) or visit the Board’s Web site at www.pensions.org.