

## Dordt Community Support Runs Deep

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### Recommended Citation

Bowar, Alicia (2021) "Dordt Community Support Runs Deep," *The Voice*: Vol. 67: Iss. 1, Article 15.

Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol67/iss1/15>

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# DEFENDER FOREVER PROGRAM MAKES GIVING MORE FUN

Defender Forever is the newest way to connect with and give back to Defender Nation.

Defender Forever was born from a desire to offer donors an opportunity to experience tangible community with others who love Dordt and want to have fun while giving back, says Karen Van Schouwen, director of annual giving.

"It is a simple, easy way to support the next generation of Defenders, and it's also a unique source of news, exclusive swag, special discounts, and more," she says.

Defender Forever participants get the inside scoop on facts and tidbits about Dordt. For example, how many pounds of clay did it take to create "The Gift"? What were the Christmas madrigal dinners? What year did the first student computer lab appear on Dordt's campus? How many variations of the Dordt University logo were considered before Dordt decided on the now-infamous DU logo?

Participants are also eligible for special Campus Store discounts, fun giveaways, and a one-of-a-kind welcome box that includes special Defender Forever merchandise.

"It's more than a club, names on a roster, or a thank-you receipt in the mail," says Van Schouwen. "Defender Forever is



**Defender Forever welcome boxes have been leaving campus. Yours could be in the mail soon.**

a tangible connection to Dordt and other Defenders that highlights our commitment, sharpens our wit, and reminds us all why we love Dordt."

## TO SIGN UP

Those who participate in Defender Forever choose to make a gift of \$100 per year. To become a Defender Forever, sign up at [dordt.edu/forever](http://dordt.edu/forever).



"There's something unique about the Dordt community—students, alumni, parents, employees and other supporters," says John Baas, vice president for advancement. "They identify fiercely with this institution. In talking to current students and

younger alumni, we got a sense that this program would be a fun rallying point for Defender Nation. We all have an innate, God-given desire to belong and to be part of a community. You can expect Defender Forever to be fun, to be encouraging, and to be simple to join and stay engaged."

SARAH MOSS ('10)

## DORDT COMMUNITY SUPPORT RUNS DEEP

One of the blessings of serving in the alumni office is connecting with alumni, parents, and current students. We help make connections happen for those that need temporary housing, an invite to a church for someone new to the community, or advice on recommended companies to work for.

We find parents and alumni who open their homes to college students during summer internships and alumni who offer access through their real estate business to house graduate students in temporary rentals.



We may be strangers at first, but there is a common bond shared by Dordt alumni and parents that compels us to look out for one another, to open our homes, and provide job connections that might not have happened otherwise. These connections lead to new relationships, and Dordt hospitality is extended throughout our communities. Being a part of the Dordt community doesn't end after two or four years on campus; it's a lifelong bond and connection to one another.

Thank you to those of you alumni and parents who've offered advice, connections, and support to others, especially to our younger alumni and students. Your service to the broader Dordt community has a memorable impact on those you are blessing.

*Alicia Bowar*

ALICIA BOWAR ('05), DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI & PARENT RELATIONS