

An Increase in Alumni Giving

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Recommended Citation

Moss, Sarah (2022) "An Increase in Alumni Giving," *The Voice*: Vol. 68: Iss. 2, Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol68/iss2/4>

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Moss: An Increase in Alumni Giving



This year, Dordt offered alumni a new way to give through the Defender Forever program. Defender Forever gives subscribers insider access to one-of-a-kind merchandise, exclusive deals, unique news, and a welcome box—all for \$100 a year. Dordt now has over 400 new members to Defender Forever. To learn more about Defender Forever, visit Dordt.edu/forever.

AN INCREASE IN ALUMNI GIVING

On average, eight percent of alumni give back to their alma maters, according to U.S. News and World Report. However, at Dordt University, 20 percent of alumni gave back to the institution this past fiscal year—an astounding number when compared to the national average.

The fact that Dordt has an above-average giving rate shows how much alumni appreciate their Dordt experience, says Karen Van Schouwen, director of annual giving.

"The time they spent on campus, the relationships they formed, the instruction they received, and the opportunities they had have made such a difference in their lives that they're willing to give back to help others achieve the same type of education they received," she says.

And Dordt alumni feel so well-equipped that many are willing to recommend a Dordt education to others. According to the 2022 alumni survey, 93 percent of alumni said they would recommend Dordt to a high school student. In addition, 93 percent of alumni respondents also said that if they had to do it again, they would choose to attend Dordt.

"Our alumni desire to give back financially because they believe in the mission of Dordt, were significantly impacted by the education they received, and were blessed by the Dordt community as students," says Alicia Bowar, director of alumni and parent relations. "They give to many other organizations who are also committed to the advancement of God's kingdom—churches, Christian schools, nonprofit organizations—and Dordt is one of those organizations blessed by the generosity of our alumni community."

This achievement is a testament to the hard work and creativity of Dordt's staff including the annual giving team, says John Baas, vice president for advancement.

"More than that, however, it's an indication of the way Dordt alumni feel connected to Defender Nation and recognize the value of their Dordt education and experience and how much they want to make sure that this kind of living and learning in Christ-centered community continues to be accessible to future generations," he says.

SARAH MOSS ('10)

profit organizations in Nicaragua; in September, Gómez and others at Tesoros de Dios were sure that the non-profit would be closed by the end of the year.

"However, the Lord showed his favor and mercies upon our nonprofit and his deep love for people with disabilities. Our organization is still running, and we are in the process of growing out of a crisis. As a director, woman, and mother of a five-year-old, I felt exhausted and broken due to all that the organization was going through," she recalls.

When she received the email in November from the CCCU letting her know that she had received the award, she says she wept in her chair.

"I felt like it was God's way to bring affirmation of his love, plans, and purpose in my life. He reminded me that he opened doors for me to study in an amazing Christian university, and he used each professor, roommate, and mentor to deepen the roots of my faith and prepare me to face challenges that come."

SARAH MOSS ('10)



LEARN MORE

To hear more about Wendy Gómez Matamoros' work at Tesoros de Dios, watch this video: youtube.com/watch?v=UGB3m23e7_Y

