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## At the Table: An Education in Giving

Karen Van Schouwen  
Karen.VanSchouwen@dordt.edu

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# AT THE TABLE: AN EDUCATION IN GIVING

As a child, one of my very first introductions to giving, in addition to the offering plate, was the image of my parents sitting down at the kitchen table once the dishes had been cleared and my sister and I were off to bed. For one evening at the end of each month, my parents would sit with a calculator, a stack of envelopes, and their checkbook. They would look over their budget for the month, pay their bills, then proceed to open each and every letter they had received from missionaries, various organizations, churches, and schools asking for support.



I can still picture the two of them sitting there, reading many of the letters out loud, reviewing if and what they had given in the past and conferring about the timing and need of the current request. Giving was a given. It was as routine as paying the bills and as consistent as the calendar. It was never preceded with a qualifier or accompanied by a complaint. And despite the frequency and sheer volume of requests they received, it was never tedious.

My husband and I now sit at our kitchen table with our own four children

watching and listening. Occasionally, they ask questions. *Where does our money go the most? Why do we cover silage piles for Christian Education?* And most recently upon my return from Wal-Mart, *How much money did you waste?*

As Dordt's director of annual giving, I am now the one asking. For many Dordt College students, a gift to the annual fund serves to make a Christ-centered education not only a possibility, but a reality. I'm responsible for telling their stories. I'm responsible for ensuring that there's a letter on your table and an email in your inbox. It is my job to cultivate giving.

In hindsight, my parents did not intentionally set out to model stewardship, tithing, or even philanthropy through their practice of "month ends." And in all honesty, I know there were times when there was very little left at the end of each month to give. My parents' example was simply the grace-filled byproduct of trust and faithfulness lived out once a month around the kitchen table.

KAREN (HAMILTON, '99) VAN SCHOUWEN,  
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

## CALLING FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

The Alumni Association is requesting nominations for the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in an extraordinary fashion, who give evidence of living out of a reformational worldview, and who demonstrate exemplary service to the community and the world. Please make your nomination at

[bit.ly/dordtnominate](http://bit.ly/dordtnominate).

## Alumni Notes

### '90s

Born to **Mark** ('94) and **Michelle (Bootsma, '94) Bekkering**, Hadley Carolyn, May 7, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Born to **Daphne Lamb** ('99) published her first novel, *The Girls Guide to the Apocalypse*.



### '00s

Born to **Derek** ('00) and **Nici Bontrager**, Kellen William, Dec. 18, 2014, joins Ryleigh (3) in Kalona, Iowa

Born to **Kimberly (Hoogeveen, '00)** and **Jeremy Lamb**, Coen Isaac, March 17, 2015, in Littleton, Colo.

Born to **Mark** ('00) and **Julie Vander Pol**, Malcolm Samuel, June 15, 2015, in Edgerton, Minn.

Born to **Mark** ('00) and **Erika Kimm**, Lyle Wilbur, July 13, 2015, in Manhattan, Mont.

Born to **Philip** ('02) and **Rosaline Top**, Annika Rae, Oct. 3, 2014, in Livermore, Calif.

Born to **David** ('03) and **Heidi (Sorensen, '03) Kok**, William David, Feb. 26, 2012, in Beaver Dam, Wis.

Born to **Jeremy** ('03) and **Kristi (Mulder, '03) Hummel**, Brandon Lucas, March, 2015, joins Morgan (8), Benjamin (4), and Claire (2) in Sioux Center, Iowa. Jeremy teaches agriculture at Dordt College, and Kristi is a stay-at-home mom.

Born to **Leah (De Nooy, '03)** and **Todd Brouwer**, Trevor Douglas, May 1, 2015, in Manhattan, Mont.

Born to **Tim** ('03) and **Abby (Jansen, '02) Foreman**, Asher John, Sept. 2, 2015, in Sioux Center, Iowa. Abby is a social work professor at Dordt College.



Born to **Matthew** ('04) and **Melissa (De Yager, '04) De Haan**, Emmalyn Anne, Feb. 6, 2015, in Bothell, Wash.