When Dorothy Dolphin learned that she was the top sales performer and manager for the Twin Cities’ largest temporary services firm and that she, as a woman, was the lowest paid, she decided to resign and start her own business. Using a small loan and her own living room furniture for her office, Dorothy started Dolphin Staffing, now one of the largest temporary employment agencies in Minnesota. From the beginning, all three of her children—Tom, Kathy, and Greg—were involved with the firm, which now serves restaurants, banks, and real estate companies.

Dorothy served on Notre Dame’s Advisory Council for the Mendoza College of Business from 1995 until 2005. Her son, Tom, serves on the Advisory Board for the Gigot Center in the Mendoza College of Business. The Dolphin family has also supported the Dorothy Dolphin Family Business Plan Competition and athletic grants-in-aid.

The Dolphin Family Library Endowment for Business Information allows the Hesburgh Libraries to maintain world-class business resources in support of an upwardly mobile Mendoza College of Business. Enabling the acquisition of books, videos, journals, and important electronic databases, all aimed at keeping in step with the fast pace of business in a global economy, the Dolphin Endowment is a critical component of programs such as the Executive MBA program in Chicago, international and distance-learning initiatives, and the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.