Dorothy Griffin is president of Varflex Corporation, a manufacturer of electrical insulating sleeving founded by her father and uncle. Her late husband, James, graduated from Notre Dame’s School of Commerce in 1934 and was a prominent attorney in Rome, New York. Dorothy taught French and English for seven years prior to her marriage and her association with Varflex. At Notre Dame, she is a member of the Stephen Theodore Badin Guild and serves on the Advisory Council for the Snite Museum of Art.

In addition to this endowment, Dorothy supports the Dorothy G. Griffin Endowed Collection in French Poetry and the Dorothy G. Griffin Chair in Modern American Literature. This endowment is targeted for building the collection of rare books and documents within the Department of Special Collections at the Hesburgh Libraries. Earnings enable the acquisition of American historical documents, especially those within the colonial and Early American periods of United States history, including letters and other handwritten materials, such as diaries, ledgers, and government documents, as well as printed matter, including books, almanacs, newspapers, broadsides, and related items. As this collection develops, it will be used extensively by Notre Dame’s undergraduates in history and American studies, as well as those in several other areas of the humanities.