

HERITAGE

Take another look at gift annuities



This past summer the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) suggested new rates for all gift annuities. Goshen College and our planned giving partner, Everence Foundation, follow these suggestions as the ACGA periodically updates their assumptions. The new rates were set with the goal of 50 percent of the funding amount remaining for charity. The immediate payment annuity rates will increase for all ages.

A gift annuity is a partial gift in that as the donor, you (and a second person if desired) retain the right to regular payments for as long as you live, and at death the remaining amount goes to charity. So you realize a tax deduction for some of the funding amount

upfront, and as you receive payments some of it is taxable and some tax-free.

Not ready for payments but want to assure future income and still leave a significant gift to Goshen College? The rates on deferred annuities (set up today and take payments at a future date) have increased even more than on immediate annuities. Check out how gift annuities work at goshen.edu/give/planned-gifts or call or email me. I'd appreciate the opportunity to discuss them with you.

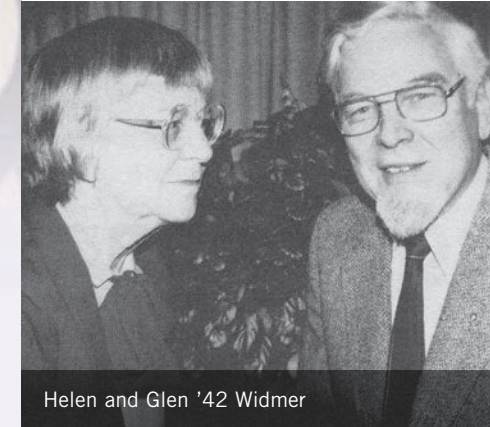
— **Roger A. Nafziger**,
Director of Gift Planning
rogeran@goshen.edu
or call **574.535.7797**

Our students are saying...

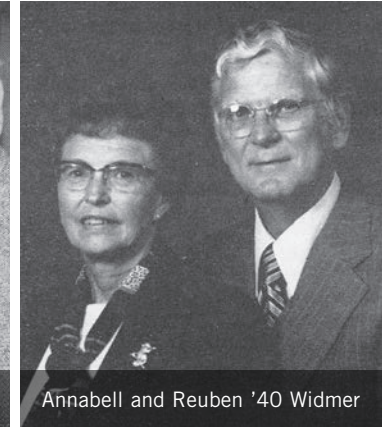
"The liberal arts education [at Goshen College] has given me many opportunities to learn about other disciplines, while still thoroughly preparing me to attend medical school. Through opportunities like SST and internships, I have been pushed in ways students at other colleges aren't, expanding my ethical decision — making capabilities and empathy for others."



— **Erin Bontrager '19**
a molecular biology/biochemistry
and pre-med major
from New Paris, Indiana



Helen and Glen '42 Widmer



Annabell and Reuben '40 Widmer



Esther Widmer '37

Widmer family's spirit of generosity paid forward in nursing, pre-med scholarship

Glen '42, Reuben '40 and Esther '37 Widmer are three of nine siblings from Wayland, Iowa, who attended a one-room school, walked four miles a day to high school and continued their education at Goshen College before entering the medical field. Their dedication to the medical profession continues with the Widmer Medical Endowed Scholarship Fund, awarded to either a nursing or pre-medicine student at Goshen College.

Esther, a 1930 graduate of La Junta (Colorado) Mennonite School of Nursing, worked at Washington County Hospital in Washington, Iowa, for four years before coming to Goshen College to earn a degree in chemistry in 1937. She went on to become the education director at Washington Boulevard Hospital of Chicago; director of nurses at Mennonite School of Nursing in

Bloomington, Illinois; director of nursing education at Grant Hospital of Chicago and director of nurses at Methodist Hospital in Peoria, Illinois. She came back to Goshen College in 1949 to help set up the Goshen College nursing program, and in 1956 returned to Wayland to help care for her aging parents and to be Glen's office nurse. In 1961, Esther accepted a clinical research position at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, where she remained for six years.

Esther was an intelligent, calm, kind and thoughtful person who valued her independence, choosing to remain unmarried to pursue her nursing career. She was generous and from the beginning helped her two younger brothers, Reuben and Glen, attend Goshen College.

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As a family physician, Glen was known to regularly fall asleep in the evening while reading in his chair, dressed and ready for a late-night housecall. He maintained a general practice in Wayland after graduating from the University of Iowa's Medical School in 1944. He was the driving force behind establishing Parkview Home in Wayland, Iowa, which has since grown from a retirement home into a full nursing and retirement home complex that now serves an extended local and regional community. He retired in 1994 at age 76, after almost 50 years of practice.

Reuben established his general practice in Winfield, Iowa, just a few miles from Wayland, before moving to Iowa City to join the faculty of the Department of Family Practice at the University

of Iowa's Medical School. There he compiled research on topics ranging from depression in primary care patients to teen pregnancy, based on his years of rural medical practice, sharing his practical application of knowledge and diverse skills learned in the field while treating his patients.

As young boys, Reuben and Glen were almost like twins, making a great team, which carried through to adulthood. The two brothers consulted back and forth and covered for each other for a weekly afternoon off and for vacations. At a time when specialization was gaining prominence, and before family practice became a specialty, Reuben and Glen were both broadly skilled physicians and surgeons, providing healthcare to their patients (and sometimes even their patients' animals!), and delivering hundreds of babies in appreciative rural communities.

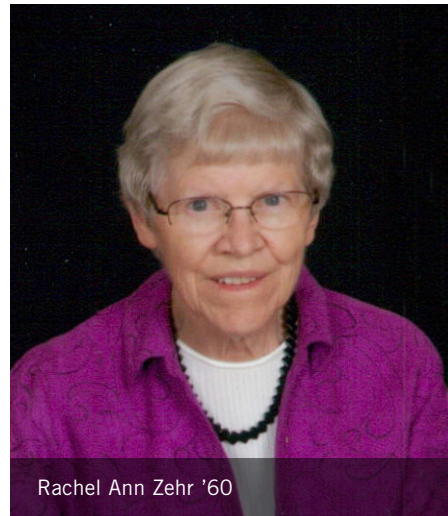
Glen's wife Helen, a nurse who shared many of his accomplishments, and their children set up the fund in 2012 in memory of the three siblings.

"I think that the biggest part of the legacy was generosity and thinking of others," said Glen and Helen's youngest daughter, **Jan Hadley '80**. "Being observant of people made them really feel like [my parents] cared."

Though Glen, Reuben and Esther passed away in 2011, 2014 and 1971 respectively, it was important to Helen, who passed away in 2015, and her children, all Goshen College grads themselves, that they establish a way to provide financial support to nursing and pre-med students in the same spirit Esther helped Glen and Reuben attend Goshen College.

— by Kristin Troyer '19

Rachel Ann Zehr '60: A passion for education



Rachel Ann Zehr '60

go to college," said **Lila King '64**, one of Rachel's sisters.

The "where" for seven of the eight Zehr siblings was Goshen College. Rachel graduated in 1960 with a degree in elementary education.

After graduating, Zehr went directly into voluntary service in Philadelphia, where she was assigned to work at a pathway school with young Deaf students. Zehr would also learn to know a family in Philadelphia with two Deaf children, which furthered her desire to help Deaf kids achieve their educational goals.

Upon completion of her voluntary service, Zehr enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she earned a master's degree in Deaf education.

Zehr then moved back to Normal, Illinois, where she taught for several

years at Illinois State as part of their hearing impaired program. At the time, there were many Deaf students at Illinois State, and Zehr further witnessed the need for qualified Deaf educators.

Zehr was incredibly compassionate and also had a penchant for working with bureaucracy. She was a true extrovert who excelled at finding and resolving problems. This skill set enabled Zehr to eventually become the hearing impaired education director for a division of the Illinois Department of Education that managed a region of central Illinois. Her friends and family describe Zehr as having a warm and caring presence.

"Students and teachers spoke very highly about how resourceful and compassionate she was with people she worked with," said King.

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And while she worked in education, Zehr's devotion to helping others went far beyond her professional life. Upon retiring, Zehr would for years go into schools to run hearing screenings for children, one of her many volunteer efforts. And just as Zehr was given aid by her older siblings to attend college, Zehr also helped her sister pay for her education when she attended Goshen College. And she gave generously to her local church scholarship fund, which assisted students going to Mennonite colleges.

Zehr was heavily involved in her church community and served on the Illinois Mennonite Board of Education. She would often go to different Illinois churches to introduce new Sunday school curriculum. Always a believer in Anabaptist education, Zehr gave graciously to Goshen College and other institutions throughout her lifetime.

She spent much of her time in Normal, Illinois, living with her sister Edith, and together they would often host and form lasting relationships with international students who attended the nearby university. The sisters also loved to travel — often together — and made

a point to always learn as much as they could about the cultures and locations they visited.

Following Zehr's death in 2016, her family established the Rachel A. Zehr American Sign Language Scholarship Fund using Zehr's estate gift. The scholarship will support Goshen College students majoring in American Sign Language (ASL) or ASL interpreting. Given Zehr's lifelong dedication to the Deaf community as well as Goshen College, setting up the scholarship was an easy choice for her family.

— by Kristin Troyer '19

HERITAGE

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Heritage Newsletter, published several times yearly, is a service for friends of Goshen College on developments in planned giving and estate planning. Each issue also focuses on a small number of participants in the college's special and deferred gifts program. Information in *Heritage Newsletter* should not be considered an interpretation of the law or of federal tax rules and regulations. Your own lawyer, bank trust officer or financial adviser can help you select the most advantageous way to give or bequeath funds or property to Goshen College.

THEN & NOW

Celebrating 50 years of SST

This year, Goshen's groundbreaking international Study-Service Term (SST) is celebrating 50 years of transformational global citizenship.

SST began with three experimental units to Barbados, Haiti and Colombia in 1967. With the success of those units, the program officially launched in the fall of 1968, taking students to Costa Rica, Guadeloupe and Jamaica, and over the next half-century, taking more than 8,000 students to 24 countries.

Teaching is a common SST service opportunity, as seen here with **Jane (Smucker) Beyeler '69** (left), who taught in a Barbados classroom during the experimental unit in 1967. More than 50 years later, **Amber Tate** (right), a sophomore American Sign Language major from Florissant, Missouri, served this semester in Arequipa, Peru, teaching Deaf students.

