Every parent wants the best for their child. From the first cry, to the first day of school, to graduation and beyond, parents never stop praying — they wish for good health, happiness and love.

And, they hope for a sound and stable future — an education, a fulfilling career, a safe home.

In today’s world, providing for a child’s education requires extensive financial support and, in most cases, long-term planning. It’s why today’s families consider scholarships and grants more valuable than ever.

“Every little bit helps,” said Therese Hallengren, a postal worker from Rock Valley, Iowa. Hallengren’s daughter, Coty, a nursing major, will graduate this spring with a bachelor of arts degree.

“It’s such a good feeling to know that [because of her scholarship] there’s that much less she has to borrow.”

Hallengren is one of 1,185 Augustana students who are recipients of the College’s 491 annual and endowed scholarships, financial gifts awarded to students based on, primarily, academic merit and financial need.

And, while there’s no doubt students benefit from these gifts, donors argue that they benefit as well — by being able to make a difference in someone’s life.

The John T. Vucurevich Scholarship, which is providing financial assistance to 13 students during the 2010-2011 academic year, including Hallengren, is one example.

“It’s very satisfying to ... know the family is still making a difference in people’s lives and contributing to a stronger South Dakota.”

— Tom Vucurevich

Therese Hallengren, Coty Hallengren, class of 2011, and Les Hallengren, of Rock Valley, Iowa, attend the annual Scholarship Banquet in November.

“A Promising Future

Thanks to Help From One of Augustana’s Endowed Scholarships, Senior Nursing Major Coty Hallengren Will Soon Begin a Career in Helping Others.

“Thanks to help from one of Augustana’s endowed scholarships, senior nursing major Coty Hallengren will soon begin a career in helping others.”

John T. Vucurevich

As for Hallengren, she’s looking forward to beginning her future. As a nurse, she hopes to concentrate in either women’s treatments or pediatrics.