

The Scholarsheet

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

Volume 7 Issue 4 December 2001

CHALLENGE GRANT MET!

W

hen the Tyson Foundation agreed to contribute the final \$6,000, a giant sigh of relief could be heard on Emma Avenue in Springdale. The contribution capped a yearlong effort to match a \$75,000 challenge grant offered by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation for Delta scholarships. The fundraising campaign, supported by several major foundations and companies, also attracted a number of individual donations.

The Delta Scholarship Project, initiated to dramatically increase scholarship support in 27 counties of eastern Arkansas, has a lofty goal of awarding a minimum of 227 scholarships worth at least \$113,333 annually through 2003. Funds raised at the local level will be matched at the 150% level by the ASPSF, leveraging more assistance for students who live and study in the Delta. Along with the upsurge in scholarship dollars, on-site technical assistance is offered to scholarship fund affiliates by full-time field representatives Kim Dollins and Keshia Valley.

(Continued on page 3)

Announcing ASPSF Board of Directors 2002

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Boylee Hamilton, Benton

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Mary Ann Rollans, Russellville

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Arkansas County On-Board

Note: After years of trying to establish an affiliate in Arkansas County, the goal was achieved during 2001. The following is written by Verna Millerd, board president.

I would say that the growth of our program has been slow but steady. After forming a 12-member board in April, we decided to hold our first fundraiser right away by participating in the annual *Wings Over the Prairie Duck Festival* in Stuttgart during Thanksgiving weekend.

Three board members cooked

over 60 gals. of chili which was sold by the cup for a \$1.00 donation. We are still taking orders for frozen bags of chili but I anticipate that we will make about \$600 for scholarships - not a lot of money, but our primary goal of bringing public awareness about our scholarship program was achieved. After hearing the program described, some people made donations spontaneously out of an under-

(Continued on page 2)



News & Cues!

News:

✕ **Moving Up and Out, Poverty, Education, and the Single Parent Family**, by Prof. Lori Holyfield, published by Temple University Press will be available in both soft and hard cover in February, 2002.

✕ The first ASPSF Board of Directors meeting for 2002 will be Friday, January 18th at the Main Library in Little Rock. An orientation session for new Board members will start at 10:00am, followed by lunch at 11:30am, with the business meeting following.

Cues:

✕ Offices of the ASPSF will be closed 12/24 & 12/25; 12/31 & 1/1.

✕ All Scholarship Reports for awards given during 2001 are now past due! If you have not sent in all reports, please do so now.

✕ Matching Grant requests for 2001 must be in before the New Year in order to be matched. ●

The Scholarsheet is published quarterly by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Comments and suggestions should be addressed to the Editor, Lani S. Froelich, ASPSF, 614 E. Emma, Ste. 119, Springdale,

AR 72764 ph: (501) 927-1402

Musings From The Director

By Ralph H. Nesson, Executive Director of the ASPSF

A recent editorial in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette drew attention to the fact that our state's low college graduation rate is a direct cause of our high poverty rate. With the lowest per capita income in the country, the cycle of poverty continues to turn without pause. Yet do you realize what would result from raising the number of Arkansans who hold college degrees to the national average? Personal income would see a tremendous growth and the state's tax revenue would jump ahead accordingly, providing more support for educational assistance to those most in need. Not to mention how many families would enjoy a much higher standard of living and how many businesses and professions would benefit from an infusion of highly trained employees. Voila!! But how do we do it?

The affiliates of the ASPSF, now 66 counties strong, have been at the job of boosting the number of college graduates since 1990. In the process, thousands of single parents with fantastic potential have been assisted to earn their degrees at an impressive rate: 80%! Compare this graduation rate to the state average of 31% and it is easy to see how determined single parents are to climb the educational ladder out of poverty. Given the increase in ASPSF scholarship dollars to the current level of \$575, 457 in 2001 (as of 12/14/01), it is quite clear that the philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors is as strong and vibrant today as it was when our country was founded. ●

"..we are so excited that we have an opportunity to change someone's life."

(Continued from page 1)

standing of what a worthwhile program the SPSF really will be in our area.

I have had one television interview, one radio interview and articles published in the local paper. The ASPSF Leadership Development Conference (6/01) really helped me to understand how everything works. I know that we are a new group, but we are so excited that we have an opportunity to change someone's life. We plan on awarding our first scholarships in January, 2002.

Members of the Arkansas Co. SPSF Board are: Verna Millerd, Cindy Grove, Dianne Luebker, Arnetta Clark, Frank Millerd, Wallace Owens, Wanda Loudermilk, Bruce Martin, Margaret Owens, Donna Kimes, Michelle Tomilson and Rev. Stephen Copley. ●



Student Helps Those Who Helped Her

Jona Henderson is a SPSF scholarship recipient and Criminal Justice major at North Arkansas College, Harrison, with an unusual career goal - to someday open a probation/parole office in Newton County.

Jona is also one great saleswoman! This single mom and full-time student has been helping the SPSF with its new fundraising project - selling scented gel candles which resemble fruits in canning jars and fish in fishbowls. Jona

has already sold over \$1,400 worth of candles which are produced by a local cottage industry called Pioneer Kitchen Works. Gel candles are purchased wholesale by the SPSF and resold by volunteers to help fund scholarships.

When asked how she sold so many candles, Jona replied that it was easy because folks in the Jasper area, (pop. 500), believe in helping and supporting each other. Undoubtedly it is that

same attitude that has made the annual Newton Co. SPSF Tour of Homes fundraiser a success in this rural, mountaneous county of our state. Pioneer Kitchenworks can be reached at: gina@jasper.yournet.com



Jona Henderson with her son, Bradlee

“ Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”
Malcolm X

(Continued from page 1)

Foundations and businesses play a critically important role in education, particularly through the provision of grants for scholarships. We are fortunate in Arkansas to have foundations and companies which are serious

about improving the quality of life of families through their support of the career aspirations of single parents. The Delta Scholarship Project is viable only because of those in the philanthropic world who believe in giving people a chance at earning a college diploma. ●

ASIS Project Hires Outreach Director

Greetings from Kelley Villines Bradley, the new AR Scholarship Information Service Outreach Director! First let me say how excited I am to have become a part of ASIS. I was hired in November by Chris Womack, Project Director, to coordinate state-wide outreach activities to increase awareness of our services. This effort is being supported through a contract agreement with the AR Department of Higher Education, which recognized the need for an expansion of our ser-

vices throughout the state.

Since hired, I have been busy helping Chris with various projects such as building the outreach and marketing aspects of ASIS and creating a game plan for future activities. Next year, I will travel around the state visiting schools and colleges to promote the ASIS Project.

The ASIS website has an abundance of scholarship information available as well as a free scholar-

ship database. The scholarship database itself has been temporarily disconnected from our website for reconstruction. Our new database will be up and running in early 2002 and will list over 1,900 scholarships.

For more information, call Chris or Kelley at (501)927-1402. We will help you find the scholarship information you need to start you on your way to a plethora of educational opportunities. ●





Let's Shed Some Light On Follow-Up Reports

By Lani S. Froelich

As the year ends, I thought it would be useful to remind affiliates that they will be asked to complete follow-up reports on 2001 scholarship recipients next Spring. An informal survey was taken and tips gleaned from these responses indicate that when viewed in it's proper light, the follow-up process should flow easily and naturally as part of your program.

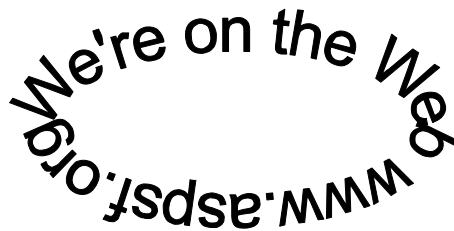
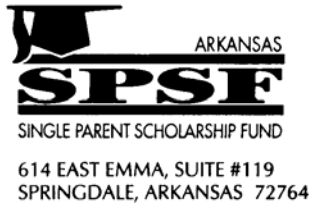
One survey respondent replied that his committee keeps details of each award in its official minutes. These details make it easier to locate recipients when follow-up time arrives. Another reported that record keeping required by TANF funds which the affiliate also receives, provides easy access to the information required by ASPSF. Another person recommended

that groups make contact with their colleges and work with on-campus offices such as the Student Support Services.



Affiliates with larger programs have found it necessary to have a special committee composed of board members dedicated to follow-up reporting.

Furthermore, your scholarship application form can be designed to aid in tracking recipients by requiring that the applicant provide the address and phone of a close relative/friend. With this information on file, even if the recipient drops-out of school and moves away, important follow-up information can be determined from the relative/friend. ●



Mission Statement: The mission of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is to enable single parents to attain self-sufficiency through post-secondary education.

