

The Scholarsheet

Newsletter of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

Fall 2003 ~ Volume 9, Issue 3



ASSESSING 2002

Each Spring, we ask our active affiliate organizations to complete a Follow-Up report about their scholarship recipients of the previous year. The data they report on this form helps us assess how well the purpose of ASPSF is being actualized.

The form mailed early this year (for 2002) was longer than normal, requested some new information about students and for the first time, information about the affiliate organizations themselves. We knew beforehand that all respondents would not be able to answer all of the new questions. We also knew the questionnaire would need fine-tuning but hoped that eventually, meaningful results would be obtained.

RESULTS: During 2002, 61 counties awarded 1654 scholarships with a total value of

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GOODBYE MRS. JONES

...And Thank You!

This is a story in two parts. Part 1 is about a wonderful, generous, giving lady from Springdale, Arkansas, Bernice Young Jones, who died this month. Part 2 is about her connection to the ASPSF.

Part 1: Born October 31, 1905 in the small community of Oak Grove, Arkansas, Bernice learned early to do her part within family life, and that Christian compassion should extend to the community around her. After graduating from Springdale High School in 1924, she went on to earn a teaching degree from the University of Arkansas. For several years, she taught at Harmon and Oak Grove Schools and in 1938, after a long courtship, she married the up-and-coming Harvey Jones.

The business success of Harvey Jones is almost mythical— in 1918 at the age of 18, Harvey started a grocery and hardware hauling enterprise with a team of mules and a Springfield wagon. He bought his first truck one year later and

the Jones Truck Line took off, eventually growing to be one of the largest trucking companies in the USA. Bernice and Harvey shared the same goals and philosophy, caring deeply about their community and its people. Throughout 51 years of marriage, they demonstrated this dedication through generous financial support given to numerous educational programs and medical facilities throughout Arkansas and other states.



After Harvey's death in 1989, Bernice carried on the vision that she and Harvey shared for so many years - to help those in need and to make the future brighter for families of today and generations to come.

Of paramount importance to Northwest Arkansas were the conversions of the former Jones Truck Line facilities into the three buildings on the Jones Center Campus. The former truck terminal lives on as the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for Families, with swimming, ice skating and various other recrea-

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News & Cues!

News:

► Welcome to newest affiliates - **Sevier** and **Nevada** Counties! The DeQueen Rotary Club is the leader in forming the Sevier program. A citizens group in Prescott has organized the Nevada Board with fiscal sponsorship to be provided by the UA Community College at Hope.

► Mark your calendars! The 2004 ASPSF Leadership Development Conference is scheduled for April 23 & 24, 2004 at the Wyndham Riverfront Little Rock. Look for more details in the next issue.

Cues:

► AFFILIATES!

- 1) Please submit requests for matching grant money for 2003 before December 19th.
- 1) We still need Scholarship Award Reports for Spring, Summer or Fall, from several affiliates.
- 2) Remember to visit our website: **aspsf.org** periodically to check the accuracy of your information. Thanks!

The Scholarsheet is published quarterly by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Comments & suggestions can be addressed to: Lani Froelich, Editor, 614 E. Emma, Ste. 119, Springdale, AR 72764. Phone (479) 927-1402, FAX (479)751-1110, Email: lfroelic@jtlshop.jonesnet.org

MUSINGS

From Executive Director

Ralph Nesson

There is a wonderful “connectedness” between Arkansans that brings us together in a common bond. This bond of friendship, mutual support and cooperation is what makes organizations like the ASPSF possible. In truth, there will always be difficulties to overcome between people. And yet, it is the degree to which we pursue our common bond that makes all things possible and all problems open to resolution.

I had a wonderful opportunity to witness the bond at work during a recent visit to the city of DeQueen. Diann Gathright of Rich Mountain Community College (and the ASPSF board) had suggested that I speak with Zahir “ZZ” Kamruddin, a successful entrepreneur who is very active in civic affairs in the DeQueen community. After phone conversations and e-mail correspondence with him, I was invited by ZZ to address the local Rotary Club about the possibility of starting a Sevier County SPSF. Before and after the presentation, I observed the ease with which ZZ, a native of Pakistan, conversed with fellow Rotarians and encouraged them to consider serving on the new SPSF board. A few weeks later, ZZ hosted another meeting at which representatives from several community organizations met to formally declare themselves the board of directors of the Sevier County Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Mr. Kamruddin offered to chair the group and to provide the necessary leadership for progress toward its first scholarship awards in the spring of 2004.

No matter where you travel in our state, there are folks like ZZ Kamruddin who have a lifelong commitment to service to others and to doing so in a selfless, tireless way. Such a “connection” between people makes all things possible and creates opportunities for change, including Single Parent Scholarship Funds. We are truly fortunate to be Arkansans and to share a strong common bond.

Need up-to-date statistical data about your county? www.fmsindicators.org— provides statistics for every county in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. It is a new ‘tool’ on the website of the Foundation For The Midsouth. Thirty-one economic and sociological indicators can be found in eight general categories: population; income & poverty; employment; family & kids; education, housing; health; crime & safety. The site is user-friendly, interactive, and easily searched.

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tional and meeting areas. What was once a corporate office building is now a Health Education facility. The JTL shop building, where big rigs were once repaired, is now home to over 40 non-profit agencies, including the ASPSF! These extraordinary acts of philanthropy drew national attention when, on February 26, 1996, President Clinton awarded Mrs. Jones the Presidential Citizen Medal for her service to humanity.

Part 2 of this story is about how Mrs. Jones was instrumental in providing encouragement and support through financial assistance to the fledgling ASPSF, as told by Ralph Nesson.

"I met Bernice in the mid-1980's. At the time I was Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington Co. (EOA) and she began contributing to our Elderly Nutrition Program and to the Washington Co. SPSF. These were unsolicited contributions (she read about the programs in the paper) and I went to her home to introduce myself and thank her personally for her help. She continued to support the WC/SPSF in virtually every semester we offered scholarships. She would say, *You let me know if any of the girls need help* and I would inform her when we had more applications than money to offer. She would then simply have a check written for the balance.

I went to Bernice in early 1989 with the "dream" of taking the Single Parent Scholarship Fund concept statewide, this after 5+ years of seeing the Washington & Benton Co. programs grow into very successful local organizations. She immediately responded with the offer of a \$50,000 grant from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation to cover a salary and travel expenses.

"She believed in the idea, she encouraged it when it was only a dream, she brought it to life with financial support...."

Her generosity, complemented by funding from the Office of Community Services and the Tyson Foundation, enabled me to resign from EOA and become the director of the new Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund in 1990. Three years of funding from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust followed and other foundations and corporate supporters joined Bernice in their support of our efforts.

In 1993, we requested of Bernice a \$500,000 challenge grant with which to build an endow-

ment for the ASPSF. Although it took five years to meet the challenge, we completed our campaign in 1998 and now have a permanent endowment of 1.2 million dollars.



The ASPSF would not have been possible without Bernice Jones. She believed in the idea, she encouraged it when it was only an dream, she brought it to life with financial underwriting, she nurtured it with continuing grant support, and she ensured its future through the largest gift it has ever received. Those first few years of organizational infancy were the "critical time" of either continuation or failure and she never wavered in her desire to see us succeed."

To learn more about the Jones Center for Families visit their website: www.jonesnet.org

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\$878, 307. According to these reports, seven hundred and seventy (770) single parents were given scholarship awards, thirty-three (33) male, seven hundred thirty-seven (737) female. The number of children living in the homes of these students totaled one thousand two-hundred and thirty-six (1,236)!

Congratulations to all our hard working ASPSF affiliates on a job well done!

FRESH RECRUIT JOINS THE DELTA TEAM

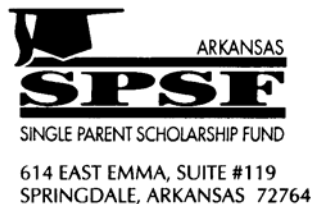
Beverly Chappell, of Augusta, has been hired to fill the recently vacated position of Delta Field Organizer. She brings to the job a unique combination of formal education, professional skills, and first hand experience that bodes well for her success.

Beverly holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development and has been active in the LeadAR training program. For 27 years she was employed by the American Greeting Corporation, in McCrory, holding several dif-

ferent administrative, management and supervisory positions. In addition, Beverly served on the Woodruff County SPSF Board and also on the ASPSPF board.

About her new job, Beverly says: "I received a blessing from God when I was given the opportunity to work for the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Having been a single parent I, *know* the difficulties faced by single parents. I was blessed with a strong family support base—when you say family most people think only of the

immediate family but my family goes way beyond those people—that encouraged and told me that I could do anything if I put my mind to it. I want single parents to remember something my family support base always told me—*remember there is never a star too far or a dream too crazy that cannot be achieved if you focus, plan and persevere.* It is my hope that in working with the Delta affiliates we can help single parent accomplish their dreams!"



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