



What's
INSIDE...

2005 Leadership Development Conference 2

Walker Challenge Grant 2

Rose Adams Leaves SPSF 3

"Play It Again Sam" Plays in Wynne 3

What the Students Have to Say Insert

"A LADDER UP" IS A GREAT SUCCESS



People of all ages who enjoy theater, storytelling, music and

dancing were invited to "The Ladder of Success" at Hendrix College on October 23rd, 2004, to benefit the Faulkner County SPSF. The event marked the first major fundraising event for the organization.

Alice Hines, Vice President of the SPSF Board of Directors, said the board developed the event to have general appeal to a wide range of ages. Entertainment included a live band named The

THE FIRST MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR FAULKNER COUNTY SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP

Boomers, story telling, a play, and a special performance of "We've Got Rhythm" by the FCSPSF board members. Faulkner County SPSF charged \$10 per ticket. Hines said they limited the entire program to about an hour because it was felt that most people were more comfortable with a shorter schedule.

One of the featured artists compared the evening of entertainment to "the old Ed Sullivan show, with something for everyone." The total amount raised for the event exceeded \$2100.

**FCSPSF:
Tid Bits & Facts**

- Faulkner Co SPSF began in 1993.
- The Board has met the full ASPSF match each of the past five years.
- Since 1993, 150 scholarships worth \$472,000 have been awarded.
- Since 1993, Scholarship dollars have increased annually by 138% on average.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY SPSF FINDS NEW ENERGY


Craighead County, one of the SPSF affiliates mentored by the Delta Scholarship Program, was organized in 1993. Through the next nine years, its board raised a disappointing \$8,843 and awarded 37 scholarships worth \$13,964.


In 2002, the affiliate founds itself struggling with a depleted board and waning interest. Together with remaining board members, Delta Scholarship Project staff member Kim Dollins helped Craighead County SPSF restructure the board. Since then, they have partnered with the Crowley's Ridge Development Council as their fiscal agent. They have developed a mentoring service, and their fundraising efforts have been very successful.


In 2003 and 2004, CCSPSF awarded 30 scholarships worth \$12,500, which almost tied their combined efforts for the previous


See page 2—CRAIGHEAD

News &
CUES

 Please send in your completed survey forms regarding the ASPSF Communication CD. Contact Chris Womack if you need a new form.

 Contact Chris Womack if you need more Evergreen folders for your marketing efforts!

 ASPSF is putting together a presentation for the upcoming Leadership Development Conference, celebrating 15 years of success. We need pictures and history from as many affiliates as possible! Please send items before April 1st. Items will be returned!

 The 2004 Follow-up Report forms will be going out soon. The deadline to submit the forms is April 15, 2005. This form is used to report on overall 2004 activity.

HELPING SING

ACTIVITIES

What's happening next

2005 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Take out your calendar and mark **May 21 through May 22** as not-to-miss dates. The annual ASPSF Leadership Development Conference is scheduled to convene on those two days at the Holiday Inn Presidential Conference Center in Little Rock. In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the ASPSF, the conference will feature Attorney General Mike Beebe as keynote speaker, a plenary session devoted to innovative fundraising strategies, and lot of valuable information on a variety of topics ranging from

interviewing applicants to promoting your SPSF to the public. Plus, don't miss the random drawing for the \$1,000 scholarship, great networking opportunities, and the presentation of the 2nd annual Bernice Jones Philanthropy Award worth \$500.

Plan to send three representatives from your SPSF affiliate to the conference free of cost. Registration materials, schedule and more information will be available soon from the ASPSF office.

CRAIGHEAD - Continued from page 1

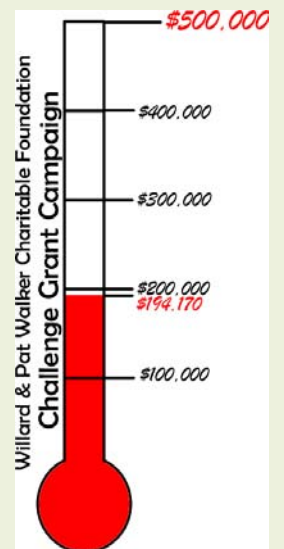
nine years! Wendy Alexander, CCSPSF director, said, "We have a scholarship recipient who is actively raising funds. We [also] have a local prominent photographer who donates portraits of all the scholarship recipients."

Craighead County SPSF has reinvigorated its board, as well as the local community, by finding a network of people who are willing to help those who struggle to help themselves. Great work!

WALKER CHALLENGE GRANT

Since the beginning efforts in March, 2004 to attract contributions toward a \$500,000 challenge grant offered by the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, the ASPSF has raised \$194,170 or 39% of the total needed to complete the fundraising campaign. The deadline for completion is December 31, 2006. All funds raised through the Walker Challenge will go to ASPSF affiliates in increased annual matching grant support.

A statewide advisory group is in formation to assist with further fundraising. Through the combined efforts of this group, the ASPSF board of directors and staff and other supporters, we hope that success in bringing closure to the challenge campaign will be achieved in the near future. By doing so, the possibility of offering over one million dollars per year in statewide scholarships will become a reality.



THE PARENTS...

ACHIEVEMENTS

Who did what

“PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM” PLAYS IN WYNNE

Casablanca, a 1942 movie starring Humphrey Bogart, was featured exclusively at the Wynne Twin Cinema on January 22, 2005, courtesy of the Cross County SPSF, Ross Ford Toyota, and the Wynne Twin. Tickets were sold for \$5 each, with a \$1 discount for groups of 10 or more.

The Wynne Twin donated all proceeds from ticket sales for Casablanca to the CCSPSF. Ross Ford Toyota generously paid the expenses to bring the classic black and white film to Wynne. Mazzi's Pizza in Wynne also generously offered a 10% discount to ticket holders and donated a portion of the proceeds to the CCSPSF.



Poinsett County Single Parent Scholarship Fund recipients for the fall 2004 school semester: (L to R) Marilyn Reece, Tamika Moore, Marked Tree; Paul McAnally, PCSPSF board treasurer; Regena Burns, Trumann; Marsha Nebeker, Leslie Sadler, Harrisburg; Kimberly Tyler, Lepanto (not pictured).

The **Poinsett County Single Parent Scholarship Fund (PCSPSF)** recently awarded \$3,000 to six single-parent students.

Since its inception in 1994, the PCSPSF has awarded 60 recipients over \$36,000 in scholarships. Awardees have completed their education in a variety of subjects, including business, nursing, cosmetology, philosophy, data processing, digital electronics and paramedics.

The PCSPSF receives its funding from the generous donations of businesses and individuals in the county interested in increasing the number of work-ready, well-trained and highly motivated graduates of the scholarship program. Donors in 2004 & 2005 included the Poinsett County Child

& Family Services, the Wal-Mart Foundation, the Bank of Harrisburg, the Harrisburg Rotary Club and the Bank of Truman.

ROSE ADAMS LEAVES ASPSF BOARD

She has served the ASPSF in just about every capacity possible: two terms as Board president, Personnel Committee chair, planning retreat facilitator, donor, organizer of the Pulaski County SPSF, plus member of the Board since 1990. She has been an articulate, impassioned spokesperson and advocate for our organization for the past fifteen years. Now Rose Adams of Little Rock has earned a well-deserved rest and can go back to her regular job as executive director of the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association. Rose's wise counsel and knowledge of nonprofit operation will be missed at ASPSF Board meetings, but those who know Rose are confident that she will always make herself available to advise and assist us. And who knows: we may just have a seat on the Board waiting for her in 2006!

PCSPSF:

Tid Bits & Facts

- Poinsett Co SPSF began in 1994.
- On average, the board raises \$1985 annually.
- 2004 was a record fundraising year and the board met the full ASPSF match.
- Since 1995, PCSPSF has awarded 85 scholarships worth \$36,065.

Musings

BY RALPH NESSON

We have reached a milestone in the history of our organization on this, our fifteenth anniversary. Having just completed a year in which 1,727 scholarships worth \$983,362 were awarded in 65 of Arkansas' seventy-five counties, we are ecstatic about giving out more scholarships worth more money than at any previous point in our history. But beyond the numbers, what else have we accomplished? Most importantly, we have enabled resourceful people who bear the responsibility for the lives and futures of their children to achieve their highest potential.

For each scholarship awardee, intelligence, confidence and determination are his or her most basic human resources. The degree to which we can help our students to utilize their resources hinges on the strength of the relationship we are able build with them. This is why the ASPSF urges its affiliate boards of directors to spend time with their awardees during the interview process, becoming familiar with who they are and what they need to succeed. Words of support and encouragement go a long way for many who feel quite alone in the world and for whom a compliment may be exactly what they need to feel appreciated and respected. An ongoing relationship with a board member or other volunteer acting as a mentor is a natural extension of the interview experience, one that can be extremely helpful and meaningful to students. We have several successful mentoring models among affiliates.

Having come a long way from our modest beginning in 1990 as an offshoot of the Benton and Washington County SPSF, it makes sense to assess our accomplishments and make further plans for the future. Hopefully, we will always bear in mind that we are here for the single parents who want so much to make a better life for themselves and their children through the pursuit of their education.

Executive Director
Ralph H. Nesson
rnesson@jtlshop.jonesnet.org

President
Alice Abson

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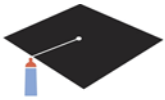
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Tom Mueller	

Delta Scholarship Field Staff
Beverly Chapple
Kim Dollins

**Arkansas Scholarship Connection
Project Director and LDC Coordinator**
Kelley Bradley
kbradley@jtlshop.jonesnet.org

**Editor, Webmaster, and
Executive Assistant**
Chris Womack
cwomack@jtlshop.jonesnet.org



Arkansas
SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
614 E. EMMA AVE., STE. #119
SPRINGDALE, AR 72764

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There were times when I felt I couldn't continue with school. I never dropped out because I always knew that I had someone else behind me to give me that extra push..."

Tena McBurnett

Hi, I'm Tena McBurnett. In 1995, I was tired of working in a dead-end job at a local factory. I knew I would never succeed without a higher education. That prompted me to enroll in classes.

I was excited when I found out I was awarded a full Pell Grant and could continue to work. I went to school in the mornings and worked 8 hours on an evening shift immediately after my last class. My son was five at the time and had just started kindergarten. I only saw him for a few moments in the mornings before he went to school. He was asleep at night when I would get home. I sometimes stayed up until 4:00 a.m. studying for tests or reading assignments. It was really hard.

I am not sure how I could have accomplished my goals if it weren't for my parents who helped me take care of my son. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for supporting me and for putting up with my hectic schedule.

Eventually I quit my job due to my hectic load of being a full-time worker, student, AND mother. My son and my studies needed me more. My son, who had been struggling a little, began improving in school. And I later landed a part-time job in the Graphic Designs Department at UAM. The job allowed me to better juggle school and bills.

However, money was still very tight. I moved out of my parents' home and moved in with my sister and her two children. We helped each other make ends meet. I began receiving food stamps, which helped tremendously,

but still wasn't enough. I later received a Stafford loan and a State grant through my counselor.

And then I was awarded the Lincoln County Single Parent Scholarship Fund. It felt good to have received something that I had to apply for myself. Each semester I applied for the scholarship. Sister Mary Walz always called to remind me to reapply if she did not receive my application. It was that kind of caring and shared excitement that always made me want to work harder. My grades improved because I did not want to let down the people who selected me to receive the scholarship. There were times when I felt I couldn't continue with school. I never dropped out because I always knew that I had someone else behind me to give me that extra push: Sister Mary and the LCSPSF committee.

In 1999, I graduated from UAM. I am now work at the Bank of Star City. I am also newly married to a wonderful man. My son is almost 14 years old and my daughter is 2 years old. I am on the Board of Directors for Lend-A-Hand of Lincoln County, and I also serve on the Lincoln County Single Parent Scholarship Board. It is extremely gratifying to be able to have been a recipient of the good deeds these organizations bestowed upon me and now I can do the same for others that are in the same position I once was in myself.

SPECIAL INSERT

WHAT THE STUDENTS HAVE TO

SAY



DEAR ASPSF,

THIS IS MY SUCCESS STORY. YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH HELP YOU WERE TO ME. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

HOT SPRING COUNTY SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
PAULA TOLAND

A Burden Made Lighter

While I was traveling down a long and winding road,
I had to carry with me a heavy, financial load.

I had my goals held plainly in my sights,
But I kept enduring daily, tremendous financial fights.

"What will I do," said I, " should I fail to pay my bills?"
"Will I make my goal as I struggle up these steep financial hills?"

"And what if transportation won't get me to the place,
Where I'll finish my goal and this grueling financial race?"

A friend said to me, "You can do it, and I know exactly how."
"Are you sure?" I asked as I crinkled up my brow.

"There is a fund available," she replied, "if you qualify and ask."
"What shall I do?" I asked, "I want to know the task

All that I've known before comes with a hefty price."
"Darling," she said, " don't think about it twice."

"You simply apply and let them know your need.
They'll help you with your burden; they'll help you plant a seed."

I did as she suggested and made my goal complete
While caring people helped me to finish this marvelous feat!

Now I have my diploma and my weary days are lighter
Because a Single Parent Scholarship made my burden lighter.

August 1, 2004

The Lonoke County Single Parent Scholarship Program is a magnificent organization. My name is Rhiannon Sampson, and I have been a recipient of the scholarship twice and hope to be awarded it a third time. I am a single mother with two amazing children and have been given an exceptional opportunity to attend college in three years and become a mathematics teacher for grades 4 to 8.

I, along with others in my situation, would not be able to further our education without support, particularly with monetary assistance. By receiving the Lonoke County Single Parent Scholarship, along with other financial support, I was able to spend less time worrying about my education and more time focusing on my education and my children. Because of such support, I was able to roll in 16 class hours during the Spring 2004 semester and hold a 3.5 GPA. As a result, I was included on the ASU-Beebe Academic Vice Chancellor's List.

I would just like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the people who are responsible for making this scholarship available and for contributing to my success and to the future of my family. I only wish that there were more programs similar to this one.

Sincerely,
Rhiannon Sampson