

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Help Single Parents *Succeed*



1P
SINGLE
PARENT
scholarship fund

ASPSF recipient Racheal Williams celebrates her December graduation with her son, Deadrick. Racheal is now working as a teacher and studying for her master's degree.

Help Single Parents.

A graduate from Benton Beauty School, Rachel Childers used her ASPSF scholarship to cover nearly all the tuition, allowing her to spend more time with her son, Gabe, because she didn't have to work full time while attending trade school.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Looking back at this second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am more thankful than ever for the individuals, organizations, and businesses brought together by the ASPSF mission. Enormously generous, you have made our work possible through your volunteer hours, financial and in-kind contributions, thoughtful leadership, and valuable partnerships. Thousands of you came together to support our single parent students and their families through a most challenging time, and I know I speak for all of us when I say I am forever grateful.

It was a difficult year. Very difficult. And yet, as I look back at 2021, I see an ASPSF more appreciative than exhausted, more passionate than discouraged, and far more energized than defeated. We are now stronger, nimbler, and more efficient with new technologies.

And what of the single parents we serve? They continued to amaze us as they powered through schools oscillating between virtual and in-person (often with very little notice), layoffs and job changes, and, of course, health fears and challenges. COVID-19 didn't remove a single difficult issue these parents were dealing with but rather layered on top, making everything harder. And yet these women and men continued to "bring it" semester after semester through such difficult times. How can we let up when they're working so hard?

We were pleased to see COVID-related closures easing by year-end. However, we kept many of our scholarship check presentations, workshops, and fundraisers virtual just to be safe, and we loved seeing everyone as they came through various drive-thru events.

In 2022, we look forward to launching a new scholarship application portal, a new accounting platform, and several major marketing initiatives designed to attract new scholarship applicants and volunteers.

I'm incredibly grateful for your partnership and support of these efforts. Together, we're improving the daily life and changing the future for thousands of single parent families across the state. I'm glad you're on this journey with us.



Deborah Hill

1P

Help Single Parents Thrive

OUR IMPACT IN 2021

In addition to scholarships, we support our single parents with mentoring, coaching, and training, preparing them to be a vital part of Arkansas' workforce.

\$1,426,637

Scholarship Money Distributed

2,436

Single Parents & Children
Positively Impacted

401

Graduates

1,430

Scholarships Awarded

168

Student-Development Workshops

84%

Graduation & Retention Rate



Douglas, the son of a recipient, checks Program Manager Alodia Hankins' heart-beat at a workshop.



Alexa Clark and her family receive a dental kit after attending Delta Dental's workshop about oral health.



Volunteer Sherry Breckenridge (left) gives recipient Tori Parnell and her daughter a crib for attending a safe sleep workshop.



Ashley Taylor receives her scholarship check at a drive-thru ceremony.



Union County scholarship recipients receive their checks and certificates.

Help Single Parents

Reach

Single dad ‘trying to change the family norm’ by going to college

Single father Kendrick Jackson found himself sitting at home collecting disability checks to support his daughters, Keniya and Kimmorah. He had fainted at his factory job after having heart surgery and couldn’t return.

Kendrick’s coworkers had urged him for years to return to school, but no one in his family had gone to college — almost everyone he knew worked at a factory.

Then, Kendrick went to a friend’s birthday party: “I was sitting there, talking to his college friends, and I was holding a good conversation, but I felt so inadequate because everybody in this room had degrees. But I knew I could know as much as they knew.”

When he returned home, he applied to Phillips Community College in Stuttgart and started on his associate degree. Now, Kendrick has only two more semesters before he earns his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. His career goal is to become a counselor.

Kendrick said that his decision to get a postsecondary education has affected his family, too.

“My daughters and I have competitions over who has the highest GPA,” he said. “Now college is becoming a normal conversation in the house. Even with my cousins — now they’re talking about college. I’m trying to change the family norm: We don’t have to go work in a factory.”

Kendrick has been an Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund recipient for several semesters and said the aid has helped him afford online textbooks, food during the at-home days of the pandemic, and gas to drive the 30-plus miles from his home in Stuttgart to Pine Bluff to attend classes.

“As far as the scholarship, it’s been good to me,” he said. “It’s helped me every semester. It really is a blessing.”



Kendrick with his daughters, Keniya and Kimmorah

Help Single Parents

Learn

Scholarship recipient helps invent life-changing device for professor's father

When Lisa James and her team presented a device to help their professor's father hug again, she had no idea it would be so well-received. The video of a man hugging his grandson for the first time in eight years went viral after Lisa's Arkansas State University occupational therapy professor shared it on Facebook.

Lisa said she and her teammates cried when they saw the video. "To see his reaction and how much it moved him to be able to do this small thing, it really taught me a lesson as a therapist that just because I don't think it's a big thing, doesn't mean that it's not a big thing," she said.

More than 400 people worldwide have asked if they can purchase the HugAgain. Lisa and her classmates are in the process of setting up a business so they can sell the device that wraps around a wrist, allowing the other arm to lift both arms over someone and give a hug.

Lisa, who has two children, decided to return to school after 28 years as a pharmacy technician. She began taking prerequisite classes online at ASU-Mountain Home, where a financial advisor told her about Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Since 2019, the scholarship has helped her with tuition, books, and a move from Calico Rock to Jonesboro for school.

Lisa graduates in August with an Associate of Science degree and hopes to pursue low vision certifications in the future. Her daughter, Macy, is blind and attends the University of Arkansas. Like so many involved in ASPSF, Lisa aims to empower people to build a better future.

"With Macy being in my life, I've been around a lot of people who are visually impaired and don't even know what's out there for them or that they can accomplish independence," Lisa said. "I would love to be able to work with them to show them there's so much that you can do on your own."

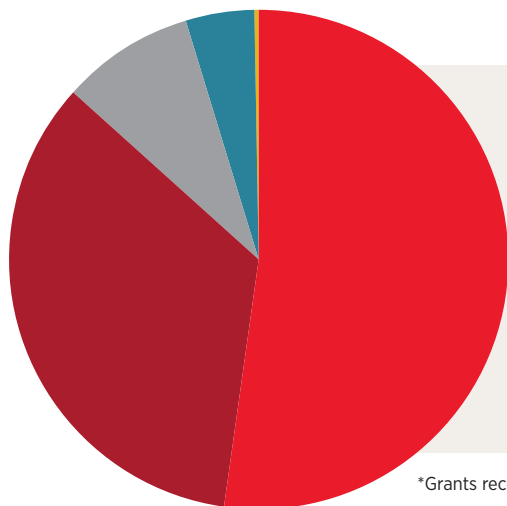


Lisa with her daughter, Macy

Help Single Parents Excel

OUR 2021 FINANCIALS

We're happy to report another year of strong financial support from individuals, foundations, and businesses. Thanks to you, we can continue to create stronger, more educated, and more self-sufficient families across Arkansas.



INCOME

52.5% = Future Years Fundraising*

34.2% = Organizational Grants & Giving

8.7% = Endowment & Investment Income

4.4% = Individual Giving

0.2% = Other Income

\$7,927,357 = Total Income

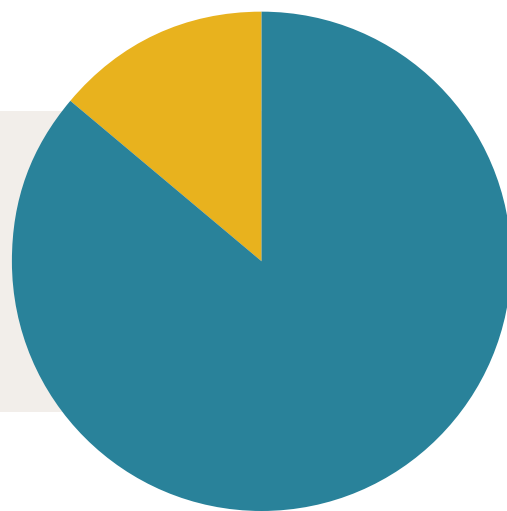
*Grants received or committed but are not available to use until a future date.

EXPENSES

86.2% = Program Support

13.8% = Administrative Expenses

\$3,199,723 = Total Expenses



“ASPSF is a lifesaver for single parents in Arkansas.”

—Alana Sterling, scholarship recipient, with her two daughters, Joleigh and Kristen

In 2013, Alana was raising her daughters on about \$9 an hour. Today, this University of Arkansas at Little Rock student makes around \$30 an hour, and only a few more classes stand between her and her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Help Single Parents *Grow*

OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS

Volunteers are valuable cheerleaders for our students.

2021 VOLUNTEERS of the MONTH

Thank you to the following individuals recognized for their exceptional service to ASPSF, our recipients, and their children.



The Rev. Sharri Johnson,
Ozark West Region



Sally Joy Pierce,
Ouachita Region



Paula Rose-Greer,
Northeast Region



Ashley Buchman,
Ozark Central Region



Dr. Brandon Chase
Goldsmith, West Region



Dr. Charles Donaldson,
Student Services Chair



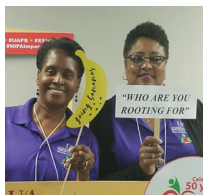
Kellee Farris,
East Region



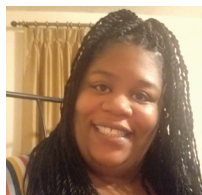
Debbie Barnes,
West Central Region



Mike Weaver,
Treasurer/Finance Chair



Hazelene McCray & Angela
Anderson, Southeast Region



LaJoy Montgomery,
Central Region



Tenequa Martin,
Southwest Region



Sunshine Bartlett,
Personnel Chair

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers are the heart of our organization.
They make our work and impact possible.

413

Generous and Committed Volunteers

110

New Volunteers Welcomed in 2021

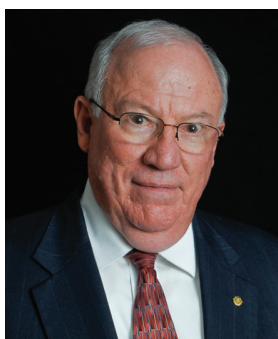
6,454

Hours of Service Contributed

\$193,297

Savings for the Organization

(Source: Independent Sector)



David Crouch,
Bylaws Chair

In Memory of David Crouch

In early 2022, the world lost a wonderful man in David Crouch. David was an exceptional board member for us and for our sister program, the White County SPSF. Beyond his work with us, David served others through his deep faith, his many years at Harding University, and his volunteer work in and around the Searcy community. He will be greatly missed by us and all who were fortunate to know him.



Ready to help hardworking single parents like Latisha earn a degree? Donate or volunteer at aspsf.org/support-us.



“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. **This scholarship has helped greatly with the financial burden that comes with being a single parent.** The money from the scholarship has helped make ends meet in time of hardships. I have also been able to focus on my studies rather than on my financial stress.”

—Latisha French, social work major at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, with her daughter, Lachelle

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scholarship fund

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