

The Honor Role

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT ROLE YOU PLAY IN SINGLE PARENT SUCCESS

2025 Fall Newsletter

Like Mother, Like Son

For Randelle and Oliver, your support makes generational change possible

When Randelle decided to go back to school, she hoped it would lead to a more secure future for herself and her son, Oliver.

What she didn't expect was how quickly her decision would shape his path, too: Since enrolling at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, Randelle has seen a shift in her 17-year-old son.

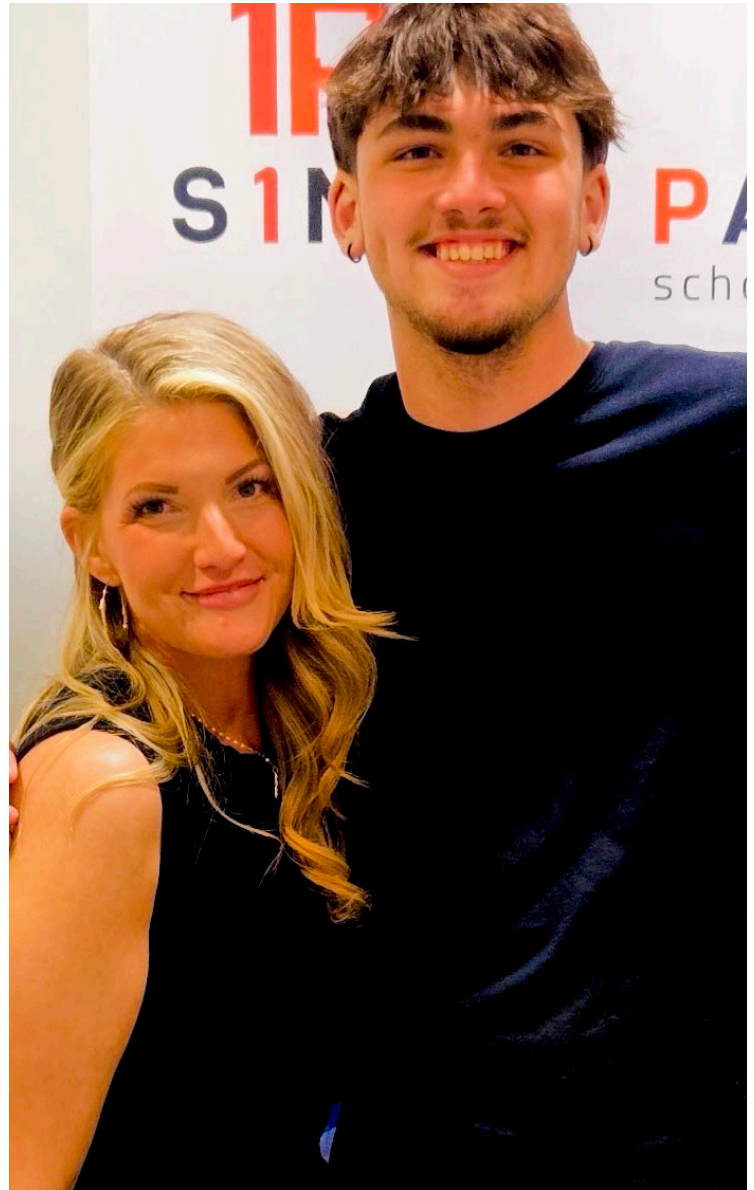
Oliver now works part time, earns better grades, and never complains about balancing school with work, she said.

"I am so proud of him, and I know he's proud of me," she said. "He's even asked me to help him apply for scholarships for when he goes to college."

Randelle's story reminds us that single parent scholarships are more than a check — they're an investment in hope, resilience, and generational change.

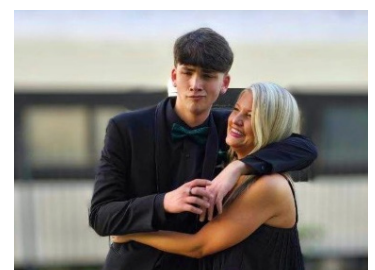
"Your donation didn't just help cover school expenses, it gave me a chance to keep going when things were tough," she said. "Having someone believe in me enough to invest in my education means everything."

Randelle and Oliver's journey shows how your generosity multiplies, turning one parent's dream into a child's inspiration. Thank you for helping families break cycles of poverty and build legacies of success.



"I am so proud of him, and I know he's proud of me."

**—Randelle, 2025 Recipient
Social Work Major, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**



For 17 years, the mother-son duo have always been there for each other.

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A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

There is a famous quote by philosopher Kahlil Gibran that resonates with me because I feel it represents the mission of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund so well.

Gibran said, "***Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.***"

The mission of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund has always been future-focused. While we walk alongside the single parent students we serve, providing a culture of support and wraparound services such as mentoring, coaching, and resource-finding, we do so with the end goal in mind of those students securing family-supporting wages and transforming their lives for themselves and their children.

Certainly, our everyday work with our students and the hard work they put in throughout their educational journey creates change. But the real progress for these incredible students and their families is best measured by the bright, confident futures they create.

For 35 years, ASPSF has provided vital support for low-income single parents. Before the Fall 2025 term, ASPSF had already surpassed 2024 in the number of students awarded a flexible scholarship designed to be a gap-filler, helping keep families afloat during challenging times.

As we wrap up our Fall award ceremonies, I am proud to share that we are on track to **increase scholarship awards for 2025 by 70% thanks to your support.**

The need for ASPSF has never been greater. We have seen that in the number of applications we received this year. But with your help, we can continue to rise to the challenge.

Our students have big dreams for their families. And because you choose to invest in their futures, those dreams progress into reality.

Thank you for investing in Arkansas' single parents. We could not do this without you



Gratefully,

Jenn Morehead

ASPSF Chief Executive Officer



Fourteen single parents celebrated their Fall 2025 scholarship at a ceremony in West Memphis. In total, ASPSF distributed over \$800,000 in scholarships for the fall semester.

2025 IMPACT NUMBERS*

With your help, single parents receive the support they need to pursue their education.

837

Single Parent Families Served

1,450

Scholarships & Stipends Awarded

\$1,875,900

Funds Distributed To Single Parents

**Data as of Oct. 27, 2025*

Recipients Reflect on Veterans Day

Service, strength, and sacrifice define the single parent experience. This Veterans Day, hear directly from ASPSF recipients who have served, reflecting on what this day means to them.



“Veterans Day honors all those who have been willing to and have given their lives to the service.”

–**Raeghan**, Army
Psychology Major
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith



“Veterans Day is a reminder of all the soldiers who gave up physical and emotional parts of themselves to protect this country.”

–**Kristy**, Army National Guard
Education Major
University of Arkansas- Pulaski Tech

Painting Brighter Futures

Seventeen children in Pulaski County attended art camp at no cost thanks to the Arden J. Stephens Foundation. Plus, their families received back-to-school items!

"I enjoyed every day of camp and brought every piece of art home to go into my room. I love learning new art skills."

-Jori



"I made friends and learned many artistic techniques. I really enjoyed seeing the play and being able to be a part of that experience."

-Jonas

Children of **Donyel**,
Nursing Major at Baptist Health College



"My son had an unforgettable experience at the art camp. Each day was filled with laughter and joy. He came home every day buzzing with excitement, eager to share his artistic adventures."

-RaVonne, Business Major at UA - Pulaski Tech

School supplies pickup



Amanda Shavers

In her own words, 2016 Alumna Amanda Shavers shares how her story has come full circle: from a struggling single parent to entrepreneur and nonprofit leader helping nontraditional students.

I decided to return to school when my oldest child Aleigh, was preparing for high school. I never made it beyond the ninth grade, and that concerned me. How could I help her with high school and college if I never experienced it myself?

I knew I was out of time and out of options, so I dove into the pursuit full force and found a path forward. All the odds were stacked against me. I was on unemployment. My support network was nonexistent. I had not touched academics in over 10 years. I did not fit in college life: I had kids and I was older.

Through ASPSF, I found a way to rewrite my story. The financial assistance was a plus, but the real benefit came from the mentorship.

My regional director for ASPSF was Jamie Marshall, and she changed my life. She believed I was capable of going further and doing more than others. Presenter Dr. Jan McCormick taught me what the word “grit” meant. I will never forget that day, as it resonated, and that word became available to define my burning desire for education.

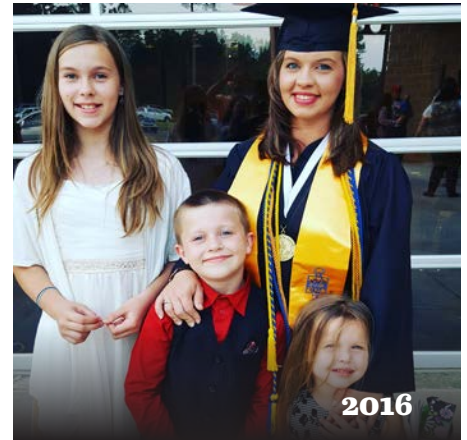
I also got the chance to build a student group under ASPSF. It truly helped me develop the skill sets that I use today in business. From negotiation and content creation to balancing a nonprofit’s budget, I can thank ASPSF for helping me practice those skills long before I became an entrepreneur.

Through these experiences, I found my passion for helping others access education and achieve success. Now, nine years later, I’ve reached two big career goals. I launched a consultancy firm and a 501(c)(3) organization. These two entities work together to help nonprofits find funding and students from all backgrounds graduate debt-free.

I am honored to share my story with you. There are many ways to spend a donated dollar, but your investment in ASPSF not only invests in the students, it also invests in the future, as the children watch their mom and dad climb a huge mountain with the help of their prospective communities. You changed my life, and that step changed the lives of my children. Thank you for your investment.



Amanda receives her scholarship, and a year later she starts an alliance for nontraditional students.



Amanda graduates with her associate degree from the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana. Today, her two oldest children are enrolled in college.



Amanda (left) starts a company and nonprofit to invest in her community.

About Amanda

Home
Miller County

Job Titles
Founder, CEO
Arc & Root Funding Co.
Founder, Executive Director
Scholars Arc Foundation Inc.

Education
Associate Degree, UAHT
Bachelor’s Degree, ATU
Master’s Degree,
LSU Shreveport

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Larry Crutchfield

When Larry Crutchfield's daughter received an ASPSF scholarship in 2015, he was moved by more than the moment.

"It wasn't a big event," he said. "But it was powerful. Every student had a story. They were proud. They were trying."

That night, Larry became a donor. He hasn't stopped since, and he's ASPSF's longest monthly donor.

"I just put it on autopay," he said. "It's a bill I want to pay. It makes me smile to know students are still being recognized and supported."

His daughter used her scholarship to buy a laptop. Today, she's a speech therapist. Her proud dad? He's still giving — every single month.

"You couldn't give to a more deserving group," Larry said. "And no one's a better steward of your money."



Larry and Tammy Crutchfield's (above) daughter Kelsey received a single parent scholarship in 2015. Today, Kelsey is a speech therapist.

About Larry

Larry is ASPSF's longest GEM: He's been Giving Every Month for a decade!

ASPSF Donor Since
2015

Home
Grant County

Grants & Sponsors

Help us thank these donors for awarding ASPSF with a grant or sponsorship between June 17-Oct. 23.

AAUW-Little Rock
Andrea & Bruce Dobson
Arden J. Stephens Foundation
Arkansas Community Foundation
Arkansas Tech University
Arvest
Baptist Health
Brookshire Grocery Co.
Cadence Bank
Carol & Witt Stephens
Cindy & Chip Murphy
Columbia County
Community Foundation
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Conway Management
Craighead Electric

Crossman Printing
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Dr. Charles & Mable Donaldson
Entergy
Everett Buick GMC
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Greene County
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Heart of Arkansas United Way
Holy Spirit 777 Inc.
Hot Springs Area
Community Foundation
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Community Foundation

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Monroe County
Community Foundation
Murphy USA

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital
Ozan Inghram Iron Mountain Neighborhood Development Corp.
Ozark Mini Trucks
Rotary Club of Stuttgart
Sherece West-Scantlebury & Joseph Scantlebury
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UA Little Rock
United Way Of Boone County
United Way of Greater Fort Smith
United Way Of Northeast Arkansas
University of Central Arkansas
Walmart Spark Good Fund
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

A DAY OF *hope*

Your kindness turned A Day of Hope into a day of life-changing impact. More than \$109,000 was raised on Oct. 2 for single parents.

These proceeds will help fund 68 full-time scholarships and ensure recipients have the tools and encouragement they need to graduate. Thank you to everyone who made the third-annual statewide banquet a success. See more photos online at aspsf.org/hopepics.



Outstanding Philanthropy Partner:
Arkansas Community Foundation



Emcee Donna Terrell, Distinguished
Alumna Tikima Simpkins, and CEO
Jenn Morehead



Keynote Speaker Lisa Fischer



Guests Anne Fox, Missy Sparks, and
Phyllis Kloski



Alumna Speaker Carrie Terry (center) with her colleagues from OG&E.



Outstanding Educational Partner:
University of Arkansas at Little Rock



Recipient Speaker Takida Jester



Guests Mary Willmuth and Cindy
Conger



Outstanding Corporate Partner: Arvest



Volunteer Committee: Teresa Roche,
Mary Kate Snow, Alisha Breeding,
Jacie Lemons, and Kristin Lamberth

Upcoming Events



KENDRA
SCOTT

NOVEMBER 8 / KENDRA GIVES BACK

17717 Chenal Parkway, Ste. H111, Little Rock

aspsf.org/kendrascott

Purchase jewelry at Kendra Scott online or at the Little Rock store and a portion of the sale will go to ASPSF for scholarships and support.

GIVING
TUESDAY

DECEMBER 2 / GIVING TUESDAY

aspsf.org/givingtuesday

Participate on this global day of giving with a generous gift to ASPSF. Donations matched!

ASPSF
DAY
OF GIVING
MARCH 20, 2026

MARCH 20 / DAY OF GIVING

aspsfday.org

ASPSF Day of Giving is a 24-hour statewide online event to come together as a community and lift up single parents who seek to improve their lives.