

The Honor Role

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT ROLE YOU PLAY IN SINGLE PARENT SUCCESS

2025 Summer Newsletter



Ariel's children, Cameron and Adrian, are more than her motivation, they're her cheerleaders as she attends nursing school.

'This program is such a blessing'

Your gifts are helping a single mom turn her nursing dreams into a legacy.

Ariel's biggest fans are under 4-feet-tall and never miss a chance to tell people, "My mom's a nurse!"

Even though she reminds them she's not quite there yet, it's their excitement that keeps her going through long days of work and nursing school.

"They're always hyping me up," Ariel said. "Asking, 'Mom, what did you do at school today?' or 'Did you stick anyone with a needle?'"

Thanks to your donations, Ariel is back on track toward her dream of becoming a nurse. Life with two babies put her education on hold, but now, with her children older and cheering her on, she's all in.

Ariel works part time from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. so she can be a full-time student until 8 p.m.

"Yes, my time is limited with my kids, but the sacrifice is going to be a big reward in the end," she said.

The 12-hours days are tough, but donors like you lighten the load. Ariel used her single parent scholarship last year to pay rent.

For the Spring 2025 semester, she saved the scholarship to help her make ends meet during clinicals, which reduced her work hours even more.

"This program is such a blessing," Ariel said. "Being a single parent is tough. Not everyone has support, but thanks to you, I do."

Your investment in Ariel's education is already paying dividends. She's showing her children what it looks like to work hard, dream big, and never give up.

It's more than financial support — it's a foundation for generational change. And for that, Ariel and her kids are deeply thankful.

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A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Because I am a self-professed “data nerd,” I was recently combing through the 2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book from The Annie E. Casey Foundation — a resource I encourage everyone to read. I was disheartened to see the statistics for Arkansas.

In our state, 72% of fourth graders are not proficient in reading, up from 69% in previous years. Furthermore, 12% of high school students are not graduating on time, and more than 20% of children in Arkansas live in poverty.

As I read these statistics, I thought to myself, **“How will we stop failing our children?”** At that moment, one of my favorite quotes came to mind from John F. Kennedy. It says, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

We must invest in our children because doing so creates a better future for all of us. Investing in children often starts by investing in parents. Parents or guardians are the primary influence in children’s lives, and research shows that their **education level has a significant impact on their children’s success.**

In a recent study, the National Center for Children in Poverty found that the less education a parent has, the more likely their family will be low income. Specifically, the study found that 67% of children with parents who have a high school degree (but no college education) live in low-income families, compared to 31% of children with at least one parent who has some college education. Additionally, low socio-economic status can affect the family dynamic and even lead to social and behavioral problems that can impact children’s academic success and intellectual development.

If we want to change the trajectory for children in Arkansas, **we must invest in their parents.** More than a third of Arkansas children live in single parent households. For 35 years, ASPSF has invested in single parents living in poverty and pursuing higher education to create brighter futures for themselves and their families. Today, your help in delivering on our mission has never been more vital.



I’m grateful for your investment in a better future for single parents and their kids.

Jenn Morehead
ASPSF Chief Executive Officer



Realtor Roz Smith of Keller Williams hosted a May workshop, sharing how recipients from Central Arkansas can become homeowners.

IMPACT NUMBERS*

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

593

Single Parent Families Served

635

Scholarships & Stipends Awarded

\$834,700

Funds Distributed To Single Parents

DID YOU KNOW?

98%

year-over-year increase in Spring Scholarship Awards

**Data as of July 1.*

Single Dads Reflect On Fatherhood

Father's Day was June 15, so we asked our single dad recipients a few questions about what fatherhood means to them. Here are some of their answers!



"Fatherhood has changed me for the better. **It's my reason to be better.**"

-David
Industrial Technology Major
Arkansas Northeastern College



"My favorite part about being a dad is **making my son happy.**"

-Dustin
Business Major
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith



"My biggest hope for my kids' future is that one day **they can graduate college.**"

-Jalen
IT Major
UA-Pulaski Tech

Emergency aid helps spring recipients recover from storms

Jocelyn woke up bleary-eyed on a Saturday morning, grateful to be alive.

She and her kids survived a tornado that ripped through Cave City the night before, on March 14. Their home was still standing. Their lives were spared. But their struggle was just beginning.

The power went out for six days, spoiling food in their fridge and silencing the internet that Jocelyn needed to attend her online classes.

Her workplace, a local dental office, was reduced to rubble. Suddenly, Jocelyn was without income, relying on her dwindling savings and her single parent scholarship to carry her family.

"I am now driving 45 minutes to and from work every day instead of 15, causing my gas to double in cost," the single mom said.

That road is one many single parent students know too well. They're already balancing college, work, and parenting on a razor-thin margin, and one unexpected expense can be the breaking point.

But thanks to an anonymous ASPSF donor, that didn't happen for Jocelyn or other single parent families affected by the March and April storms.

Because of that donor's gift, ASPSF distributed \$10,000 in emergency funds to help families pay for roof repairs, car damages, cleaning supplies, and more. Jocelyn was awarded \$100 to help re-



Emergency Assistance Requests

Thanks to an anonymous donor, ASPSF students received emergency funds to help them recover from spring storms.

77

Applications

42

Stipends Awarded

\$10,000

Dollars distributed

Types of requests: Food, car repairs, household item replacements, etc.

place spoiled food, offset lost wages, and cover the increased cost of her commute.

"It's help like this that gets us to have that leg up in the world," Jocelyn said. "It's kind of hard to get ahead if you start behind. And so this just really helps."

You, too, can help shorten the road to recovery. Right now, your donation will go two — even three — times as far! All gifts to the Single Parent Emergency Fund will be matched.

Give now: because one unexpected expense shouldn't be the end of a dream.

YOUR GIFT IS MATCHED: Donate to the Single Parent Emergency Fund at aspsf.org/give.



When Kimberly graduated last May, her parents, stepparents, aunt, siblings, cousins, nieces, nephew, and friends (bottom left photo) all came to celebrate — including her four children (right photo).

Meet an Alum: **Kimberly Broadway**

After earning her bachelor's from A-State, she became a kindergarten teacher.

ASPSF caught up with Kimberly Broadway, an alumna now teaching kindergarten in the Marion School District. She graduated from Arkansas State University last spring and has nearly tripled her salary to \$50,000 since starting her educational journey in 2022.

Why did you go back to school?

I worked several jobs as a team leader, assistant manager, key holder, and office manager. It wasn't enough, and I missed so many things in my children's lives due to trying to work to provide for us. I want to be able to show up for them as much as possible. They are my everything!

Why did you choose education as your major?

I wanted to be a teacher to make a positive impact on children, but also because I know they will positively impact me as well. Also, I wanted to have the same schedule — or as close as I can — with my children.

How did you use your single parent scholarship?

I caught up on bills and got my vehicle serviced. For my teaching internship, I had to travel an hour out of town for the better part of three months. Without my car, it would have been difficult for me to fulfill the requirements of my internship and motherhood.

If you met an ASPSF donor, what would you say?

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart because this has almost been the hardest thing I have ever been through. It became so overwhelming. Had I not had a pretty good support system, I might not have had the willpower to keep going. I am thankful to all that have made that possible, and that includes you. Thank you.



Calling all ASPSF Grads!

You're invited to join the ASPSF Alumni Alliance.

This new initiative is designed to celebrate your success, reconnect with past scholarship recipients, and create meaningful opportunities to engage and give back.

More information is coming soon. Stay in the loop by emailing aking@aspsf.org.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



For many years, NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital and Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund have worked side-by-side to promote health care careers for single parents in Northeast Arkansas.

“Many of our students have been employees of NEA Baptist,” said Carrie Allen, ASPSF program manager. “They’re working at the hospital or clinics while they earn their certificate or degree that will allow them to move up at their current job.”

The two organizations took their partnership to the next level last year when NEA Baptist became a presenting sponsor for a new Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament benefiting ASPSF and two other Jonesboro nonprofits.

NEA Baptist became a sponsor again this year for ASPSF’s Inaugural Day of Giving on March 21. Thanks to this gift and others, \$35,000 was raised for single parent students.

Ty Jones, director of marketing for NEA Baptist, said the health care system is proud to support the ASPSF mission.

“The ripple effect from these scholarships is seen from the compassionate care provided to our patients by recipients who may not have had the chance to chase their dreams without the financial assistance from ASPSF,” he said.

Since its founding in 1977, NEA Baptist has believed in giving back.

In the early 2000s, the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation created a program that serves as a liaison between patients and pharmaceutical companies. Since its inception, it has assisted patients throughout the region in obtaining over \$46 million in life-saving medication. That program — along with five others — is funded and managed today by the foundation.

In addition to funding its own initiatives, NEA Baptist also supports numerous nonprofits like ASPSF. Last year, it donated over \$63,000 to more than 20 organizations in the community.

“Because of its deep roots in the community and as a key business, NEA Baptist provides nonprofits with a lot of assurance when it backs an event or program,” said Shaila Creekmore, ASPSF development officer. “NEA Baptist has become a corporate sponsor we know we can reach out to for support.”



Marcy is one of many recipients who works at NEA Baptist. She’s studying to become a registered nurse.

NEA Baptist

ASPSF Donor Since
2024

Hospital Location
Jonesboro

Foundation Established
2001

2024 Gifts to Local Charities
\$63,000+

All Around Arkansas

Communities across the state believe in single parents!



1. Hot Springs



2. Little Rock



5. Mountain Home



3. Jonesboro



4. Fort Smith

Photo captions: **1.** Arvest Bank sponsored April fundraiser The Gatsby in Hot Springs. *Pictured from left:* Franklin Bass, Brianna Otero, and Maret Cahill Wicks **2.** Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield donated \$500 after its Enterprise Employees' Committee selected ASPSF as a 2025 Charity of Choice. *Pictured from left:* Christine Gronwald and recipient Takida. **3.** Cross Bank sponsored A Day of Giving in March. *Pictured from left:* Polly Harlan and Shaila Creekmore. **4.** ASPSF Program Manager Christi Brown accepted a donation from longtime donor First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith. **5.** Twin Lakes Community Foundation awarded ASPSF a \$1,600 grant in April. *Pictured from left:* Layton Lee, Kim Paul-Williams, and Joy Smith.

Grants & Sponsors

Help us thank these donors for awarding ASPSF with a grant or sponsorship between Jan. 1 - June 16.

Alice L Walton Foundation	First Presbyterian Church	Roebuck, Tammy & Johnnie
Anonymous	Heart of Arkansas United Way	Simmons Bank
Anonymous	Hoefer, Judy	Southern Bank
Arkansas Department of Human Services	Johnson County Community Foundation	St. Francis County Community Foundation
Arvest Bank	Ladies of the Sacred Heart	The Mustard Seed
Brown Comstock Private Wealth Advisors	Lee County Community Foundation	The Ross Foundation
Crittenden County Quorum Court	Little Rock Meet & Greet Club	Twin Lakes Community Foundation
Cross Bank	Morris, Dorothy	United Way of Greater Fort Smith
Faulkner County Community Foundation	NEA Baptist	United Way Of Northeast Arkansas
First Electric Trust	Phillips County Community Foundation	Valley View Farms
	Pierce, Sally & Robert	Walmart Spark Fund for Charities

Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 2 / A DAY OF HOPE

City Center: 315 N Shackleford Road, Little Rock

Tickets: \$75 at aspsf.org/hope

Reserve your seat at ASPSF's annual luncheon celebrating the hope your support brings single parent families.



NOVEMBER 8 / KENDRA GIVES BACK

Kendra Scott store: 17717 Chenal Parkway, Ste. H111, Little Rock

Online: 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.



DECEMBER 2 / GIVING TUESDAY

Online: aspsf.org/give

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