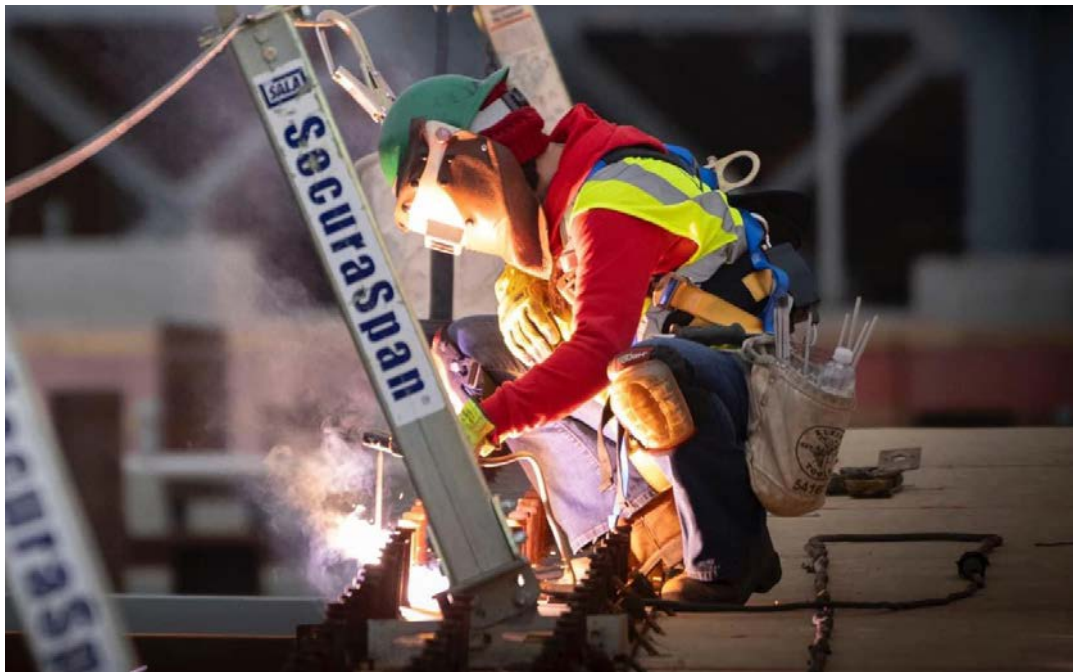
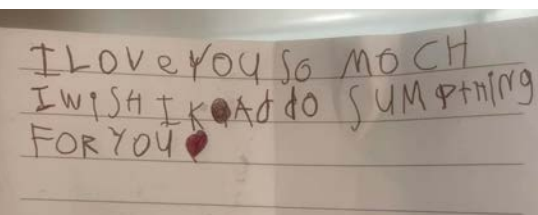


the Honor Role

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

Celebrating the Important Role You Play in Single Parent Success

2024 Spring Newsletter



A two-time ASPSF recipient, Athena now works full-time as a welder. Her daughter is her biggest fan, leaving “I love you” notes around their home to practice her letters. “Gabby brags on me and loves to tell everybody, ‘My mom’s a welder on the bridge!’” Athena said.

Scholarship ignites change

Your support empowered a single mom to forge her own path as a welder.

High above the whirl of speeding cars and the rippling of the Arkansas River, Athena crouches on a steel girder while welding atop Little Rock’s I-30 bridge. Stinger in hand, she fuses angle iron to red iron.

“I’m doing what I’ve always wanted to do. It’s crazy!” said the 33-year-old from Van Buren County. “Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund has encouraged me from the get-go and has stood behind me since I started my journey throughout school and into my welding career.”

A little more than a year ago, her life was very different. Athena cleaned homes for a living, and she and her 6-year-old daughter, Gabby, lived with Athena’s mom and stepdad in Fairfield Bay. Then one day, Athena decided she was tired of relying on others. She needed to show her daughter how to be independent.

Soon after, Athena and Gabby moved into their own

place, and Athena enrolled at Arkansas Welding Academy, her dream since taking a shop class in high school. The two lived off Athena’s savings and ASPSF scholarship checks.

During the stressful moments, Athena found solace through the nonprofit. “When I went to the scholarship ceremony, it made me feel not so alone — that there were more people like me,” she said.

Within eight months of starting trade school, Athena was hired at D.T. Read Steel Co. Inc. as the company’s first female welder. Today, Athena is earning \$30 an hour and studying to become a certified welding inspector. This will allow her to make more money, travel, and spend more time with Gabby.

“I couldn’t have done it without ASPSF’s donors,” Athena said. You put food on the table, and you helped me keep a positive outlook and keep going forward.”

New executive director

Jenn Morehead

Jenn started May 6 as ASPSF's third executive director. We can't wait for you to meet her!



Family: Jenn and her husband, Jeremy, are raising two kids and rescue dogs in Conway.

Education: Bachelor's from UCA and Master's from A-State

Last position: Director of Development, Hendrix College

What are you most excited about in your new role? ASPSF has an incredible purpose, and it is clear to see that the staff and board work hard to achieve its mission. I am excited to bring fresh perspective and knowledge to build upon its strong foundation and help grow the organization. There is so much upside to this opportunity that it is hard to narrow it to one thing!

What do you love about the ASPSF mission? I grew up in a single parent household, so I understand a bit about the challenges single parents face. Education is so powerful, and it was a lifeline for me.

What's your proudest accomplishment? I take immense pride in my family and the ways in which we love and support each other every day. But aside from my husband and kids, my own education is my proudest accomplishment. I am a first-generation student, and on one side of my family I am the only one to complete college, so earning my degrees felt like a win for my whole family. I hope it has inspired others in my family, and I know my education has improved my life and the lives of those around me.

Do you have any hobbies? I love to read, cook, and bake. I also volunteer a lot, so aside from work and family, my volunteer endeavors take up most of my time.

Read more of the Q&A at aspsf.org/jenn.

Why we give



"As an organization, we believe in empowerment through the power of knowledge and education!"

-Chiquitia Yarber (far right)

President, Ozan-Inghram Iron Mountain Neighborhood Development Corporation

OIIM has been an ASPSF donor since 2018. The board (pictured above) recently presented ASPSF with the MLK Acts of Kindness Commitment to Service Award in Texarkana.



Fundraising in Style

Fashion trends may come and go, but not the Single Parent Style Show! Garland County volunteers hosted the annual luncheon on April 25 in Hot Springs and raised nearly \$17,000!



Photo captions: 1. Garland County volunteers Puniza Sharma, Terri McKisack, Scarlett Barnes, Susan Gaither-Maddox, Helen Bumpas, Dawn Cattaneo, Sally Pierce, and Stephanie Beakey 3. Kristi Baugh and Nicole Herndon 3. Barbara Wade and Dorothy Morris 4. Student speakers Katrina and Mikki 5. Noreen Killen and Diane LaFollette

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kathy White Loyd

A single mom with a successful business and teaching career, Dr. Kathy White Loyd is passionate about helping women reach their full potential.

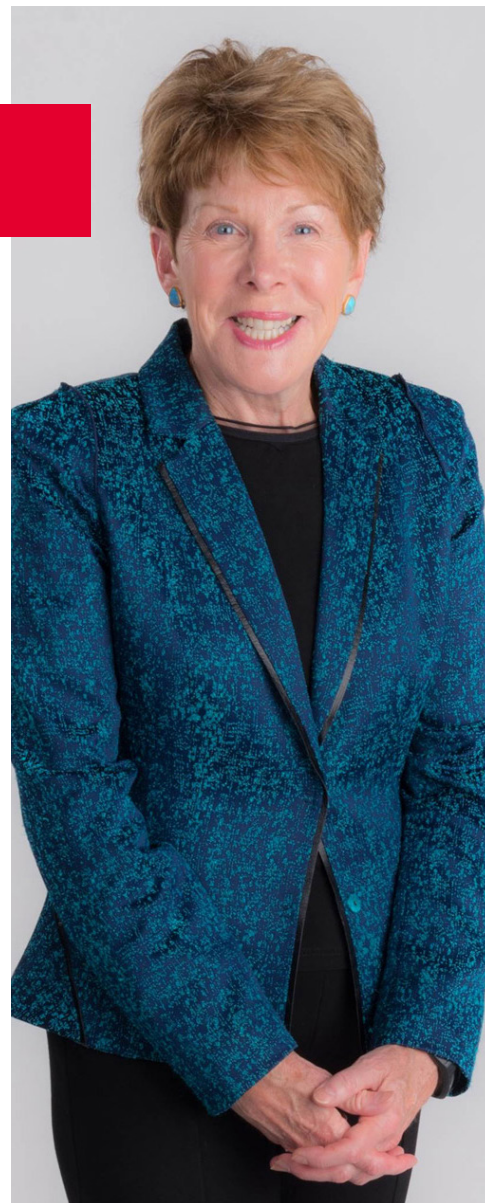
She doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk. Kathy started the Women's Business Leadership Center at Arkansas State University. So when Kathy found out about Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund in early 2023, she just had to learn more.

Kathy joined a scholarship interview and found herself connecting with the single mother who talked about juggling work, parenting, and school. Kathy remembered when she was a single mom with one daughter, another on the way, and no degree.

"It made me think of me, needing money to go back to school," Kathy said. "I needed scholarships, and I needed mentoring to encourage me to set an example for my kids. ASPSF provides both to single parents."

Soon after the interview, Kathy made her first gift toward single parent success. She also hosted a workshop for ASPSF recipients, sharing her experience and advice on how to set goals and work toward them.

With her support both as a volunteer and donor, countless single moms and dads are now closer to achieving their career dreams. Thank you, Kathy, for championing single parents!



3 reasons why you need an ASPSF tee, tote



1

They Support Single Parents.

Every purchase funds crucial resources for single parent students striving to create a better future for their families.



2

They Raise Awareness.

Sporting an ASPSF tee or tote sparks conversations and sheds light on the unique challenges of solo parenting.



3

They Show Solidarity.

Proudly wearing an ASPSF tee or carrying a tote sends a powerful message that you stand alongside single parents.

Why wait? Go now to aspsf.org/store and make a difference in the lives of single parents.



ASPSF 'set me on the right path'

2000s



When 19-year-old Jill Mills found out she was pregnant, she was determined not to give up on her college dream.

"I didn't want to be a statistic, another single mom with no degree," said the Sherwood native. "Thankfully, I found the Single Parent Scholarship Fund. It was such a blessing because I didn't know how I was going to make it work."

Her scholarship check went toward car payments so she could drive to campus. The program's workshops taught her financial literacy skills, which she passed on to her son Riley! In his teens, he started his own shoe-shining and vending machine businesses.

Jill, meanwhile, received her bachelor's degree and married Tony, Riley's dad, who owns a hair salon. She worked for many years in the public school system as a family service manager. Now, she's a stay-at-home mom and loves volunteering in the community.

Riley came along when Jill was a college sophomore. Thanks to ASPSF's flexible scholarship, she could handle the financial strain as a single parent student.

"Without ASPSF, I don't know what I would have done," Jill said. "It gave me a way to finish school and set me on the right path for the wonderful life I have today."

2020s



Here's Riley and Jill today (both left)! Jill and her husband had another son, Reece, and the family gives back to ASPSF and other organizations.



"Hi, I'm Mauricia. I just wanted to say thank you for supporting single parent students like me."

Watch Mauricia's full thank you at aspsf.org/mauricia.

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Donate today to pave the way to brighter futures for single parents and their kids! Give now by scanning the QR code or by going online to aspsf.org/give.

