

the Honor Role

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

Celebrating the Important Role You Play in Single Parent Success

2023 Summer Newsletter



**"Aviation is a field of
endless opportunities
and growth."**

-Brandy
2023 Summer Graduate

Soaring toward a brighter future

Higher education is taking Brandy and her daughter to new heights.



Brandy loves to fly. "Being in the air is an incredible feeling," she said.

This summer, the high-flying single mom graduated from Henderson State University with a Bachelor of Science in aviation. But getting to this milestone was no easy flight.

In addition to tuition and fees, Brandy also had to pay for flight training, which cost about \$170 per hour. Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund helped her afford these flights, which were required for her degree.

"It is difficult and stressful to go to school full-time, be a full-time parent, work multiple jobs to provide for myself and my daughter, and carve out the time to get my flight hours in," Brandy said. "So I am incredibly grateful to receive the ASPSF scholarship."

Despite many challenges, Brandy stayed in school. She knew she needed a job she loved and wanted to do until she retired. Her dedication and passion has shown her daughter how the journey to a better life is worth every mile of hard work.

"Aviation is a field of endless opportunities and growth," Brandy said. "Since going back to school and being able to fly, I am so much happier, and I love the purpose it gives to my life."

The next adventure on Brandy's passport: working as a certified flight instructor. Once she has 1,000 hours of flight time, she'll apply for jobs at major airlines.

"Thank you to all the donors, volunteers, and grant writers for allowing me to have this opportunity to receive this amazing scholarship," Brandy said.

Why we give

“I give to ASPSF because I am passionate about the organization and the way it changes lives every day.”

-Stacey Robertson
Two-year donor & volunteer in Fort Smith



Christi Brown is the new program manager for the ASPSF West Region.



Give Every Month & change the future for single parent families

Zar'Rius, Miracle, and Christi'Yanna (pictured above) are seeing their mom, Mercedes, start her journey to become an attorney. First step: earn an associate degree in criminal justice.

It will be a long road for Mercedes, and you can help her reach this goal by becoming a monthly donor. Your recurring gift helps transform families with scholarships, workshops, emergency funds, and more.

Plus, if you schedule a monthly donation today, the amount will not only be **DOUBLED** through our 2023 Match Challenge, but we'll also send you an **ASPSF TOTE** with our thanks (while supplies last)!

What are you waiting for? Set up your monthly gift online today at **WWW.ASPSF.ORG/GIVE**.

Thank you to all GEMS who Give Every Month: Betsy Baker, Kathryn Birkhead, Cathy Bonner, Sally Conduff, Larry Crutchfield, Cheryl & Matt Fulton, Freda Grandy, Pamela Kail, Kurt Kaiser, Dr. Brinda & Fred LeGrand, Adelene McClenny, Michael O'Bryan, Mark Steenhoek, Katy & Dane Wagner, Mike Weaver, Mary Willmuth, and Ray Winiecki.

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar for these fun happenings across the state, raising donations to help single parent students!



We had a blast at the Trey Taylor concert in Fort Smith on Aug. 12!

Sept. 15-30: Dollars for Scholars Online Auction
www.aspsf.org/dollars4scholars

Sept. 21: 13th Annual Single Parent Style Show
10:30 a.m.
Vapors Live in Hot Springs
\$45 per ticket
www.aspsf.org/style-show

Oct. 10: The Lunch Break
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
City Center in Little Rock
\$50 per ticket
www.aspsf.org/lunchbreak

SUPPORTER

SPOTLIGHT



ARKANSAS

Longtime ASPSF partner Entergy Arkansas has been *empowering* single parent students for more than a decade.

Each year since at least 2008, the company has sponsored scholarships for single parents, said Ventrell Thompson, vice president of customer service at Entergy and ASPSF board member.

“We believe everyone who wants to further their education should have the opportunity to do so because it puts them in a better position to improve the quality of life for themselves and their family,” Ventrell said. “Providing financial support and encouragement for single parents empowers them to pursue their goals.”

Recipients whose scholarships are funded by the utility company's generous grant are known as **Entergy Scholars**, including the four single moms pictured below.

The 2023 Entergy Scholars



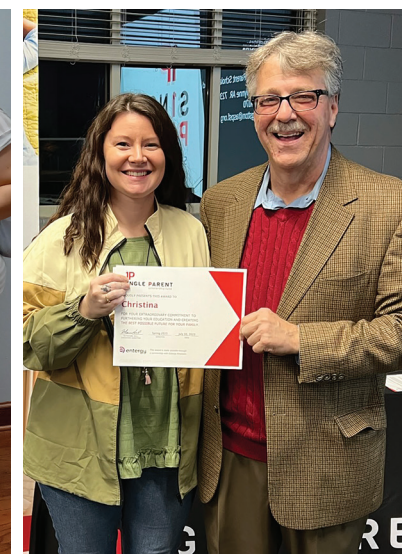
Alexis

Business Management Major
Southern Arkansas University
Pictured with Program Manager Sandra Warren.



Ashley

Psychology Major
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Pictured with her sons, Calvin and Caden.



Christina

Early Childhood Education Major
Arkansas State University
Pictured with volunteer Cham Percer.



Katrine

Education Major
Texarkana College
Pictured with volunteer Martin Warren.

Entergy Scholar Ashley is working on a bachelor's in psychology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. After graduation, she plans to work as a counselor working with at-risk children.

“Being awarded a scholarship has alleviated financial stress for my family by helping to pay bills and the remaining balance of my tuition,” she said. “But it also allowed for me to provide for my son's birthday. I am beyond grateful for Entergy Arkansas' support.”

Ventrell said Entergy Arkansas is dedicated to giving back “to the communities where we live and work.”

“There is a large single parent population in Arkansas,” he continued. “We strive to support them in any way we can. Not only do we support education, but we also focus on supporting efforts to help with food insecurities and low income solutions across the state.

“Whether it's through back-to-school events, classroom instruction, providing scholarships for higher education, summer internships for college students, or adult workforce development programs, Entergy is committed to supporting the communities where we live and work”

Meet an Alum: Carmen Bradford



We caught up with Carmen Bradford, director of marketing and public relations at Philander Smith University and owner of Studio 62, Inc., a photography studio in Little Rock. She shared how ASPSF helped her graduate with her bachelor's from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 2015 while raising two toddlers. Today, she has four kids.

Q. How did the scholarship help you stay in school?

A. It helped me pay for my car note. I needed something reliable for me and my babies. They went everywhere with me! All the teachers knew my kids. They slept at the radio station where I worked. I still have little audio clips of when I'd have them on my show.

Q. Beyond the check, how else did ASPSF support you?

A. The scholarship is flexible not just because of what you can do with your money but also with the people that you meet. In the mentorship program, I was paired with the photographer at the school newspaper. He was the first one who showed me I could do this commercially and make a profit.

Q. Why should a donor give to ASPSF?

A. Donating to this program doesn't just impact one person, it impacts future generations. You could be the difference in whether someone's son grows up to be the president. And every dollar counts. Your \$10 could be the difference between whether someone gets to class because they could put gas in their tank or buy a bus pass.

ASPSF is **serving up hope** at a new **statewide event!**

The Lunch Break

11:30 a.m. Oct. 10 at City Center in Little Rock ✨

You'll hear firsthand stories of single parent success while we honor the advocates, schools, and businesses helping us raise families out of poverty!



Get your tickets at www.aspsf.org/lunchbreak.

— Newsletter sponsor —

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