

the Honor Role

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

Celebrating the Important Role You Play in Single Parent Success

2024 Summer Newsletter



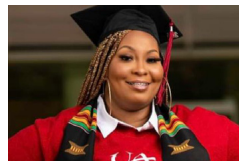
Fall 2021
First scholarship



Fall 2021
Associate degree



Fall 2022
Fourth scholarship



Spring 2023
Bachelor's degree



Fall 2023
ASPSF Volunteer



Spring 2024
Master's degree

From Doubt to Degrees

Supported by you, Charlene turned her aspirations into accomplishments.

Charlene had finally finished studying for the night when, to her horror, she couldn't remember whether her sleeping daughters had eaten dinner.

"I felt so defeated," said the single mom from Forrest City. At the time, she needed to raise her 1.6 GPA to qualify for financial aid. She refused to let the guilt and self-doubt consume her. "I told myself, 'I can do it. I'm not a bad parent. I'm working on my degree to be a better parent.'"

Charlene realized that to reach her childhood dream of becoming a licensed social worker, she had to forgive herself — and make changes. She quit her full-time job to focus on her family and education.

"I had to make adjustments to my lifestyle," Charlene said. "There were times when I felt overwhelmed and wanted to give up, but because I have such a strong support system, I was able to surmount this."

That support system included the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. For five semesters, your donations provided Charlene scholarships and workshops that gave her new skills. ASPSF Program Manager Marci Langston also coached her throughout her journey.

Over three years, Charlene earned her associate degree and bachelor's degree, graduating with a 3.9 GPA. The single parent scholarship ended after



Charlene is the first in her family to earn a bachelor's and master's, but she won't be the last: "My oldest daughter told me, 'I'm going to go to college just like you!'"

she completed her bachelor's, but Marci stayed in touch. She helped Charlene find resources to make it through a yearlong master's degree program so competitive that only 20 of 200 applications are accepted — and Charlene was one of them!

Now, Charlene has three degrees and multiple job offers doubling her salary. But she's not done studying: She must pass a licensing exam. Her long-term goal is to open her own clinical practice.

"To the wonderful donors at ASPSF, thank you for believing in me and in all single parents who have goals we want to see through and finally can with your support."

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Why we give



“Helping single parents reach their full potential changes the trajectory of their life as well as their children’s lives. It gives back to society as a whole for generations!”

–Dr. Brinda & Fred LeGrand
Greene County volunteers and monthly donors since 2021.

Home Sweet Home

Resource partner Habitat for Humanity helps ASPSF recipients like Will become first-time homeowners.

Since the Spring 2023 tornado struck Central Arkansas, Will and his son, Jalen, have been living in either a damaged apartment or with friends.

But not anymore! In a few weeks, the duo will move into their own three-bed, two-bath house from Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas (HFHCA), a nonprofit helping families live in affordable and safe homes.

“I’ve always dreamed of having my own home, and now it’s finally time,” said Will, a foster dad who adopted Jalen. Will is one of four ASPSF recipients in two years who received a Habitat home after attending an informational workshop.

Qualifying for his house was no easy task. Will worked two jobs to lower his debt-to-income ratio. He and Jalen also volunteered 200 “sweat equity” hours. It was all worth it to become a first-time homeowner with a 30-year, zero-interest mortgage rate, Will said.

“Homeownership is a way to generate family wealth, and I’m so proud of Will for doing this,” said Manuela Catic, Homeowner Services Coordinator with HFHCA. “He’s creating stability for his son.”

In their new home, Will and Jalen will have their own rooms to study for their senior semesters. In May, Jalen graduates high school, and Will receives his bachelor’s in elementary education from Harding University.

“ASPSF has been more than a help to my family with great resources and wonderful donors and volunteers!” Will said.



ASPSF recipient Will and his son, Jalen, (top photo) volunteered 200 hours as the down payment for their Habitat home (bottom photo). They can’t wait to move in over the next few weeks.

More photos at
aspsf.org/habitat

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Debbie Faubus-Kendrick

A hand-painted Razorback stool sits in Dr. Debbie Faubus-Kendrick's living room. She has other Hog memorabilia, but this item is special because she collected it through ASPSF's online auction last year.

"It's one of my favorite things!" she said.

The stool's artist was none other than ASPSF staff member Arlene Green, and Debbie is challenging her to create something new for the next auction this fall. The Funds For Futures Online Auction runs Oct. 12-27 and will have even more unique items and services to bid on!

Debbie has been donating to ASPSF by participating in raffles and auctions since 2020. While she delights in finding one-of-a-kind things, she also strategically participates in these events because she knows they convert directly into single parent scholarships.

As the dynamic director of Crawford County Adult Education Center for 17 years, Debbie has been a fierce



Thank you, Debbie, for supporting single parent students through our auctions and raffles!

advocate for education for 42 years. She first heard about ASPSF in the late 1980s, and it's one of the many resources she shares with the Center's students.

Recently, the Center helped a single parent earn her GED, start a new job, and create a plan to graduate in 2025 with a bachelor's degree.

Debbie supports ASPSF because the mission so closely aligns with her personal life mission.

"I think it is important that everybody is a servant," she said. "In my heart that is what I need to do because I care about people and want to help people and want to see them be successful."

Single Parent Summer Fun



PHOTO CAPTIONS: 1. Keysten enjoys an ice pop as his mom, Marcy of Mississippi County, receives her Summer Scholarship. 2. United Way of Northeast Arkansas donates \$8,000. 3. Annassia (right) receives her Summer Scholarship from Southeast Region Program Manager Makayla Washington. 4. Boone County recipients Leah and Cody receive Summer Scholarships. 5. Recipient Zannon performs at the Central Region graduation celebration. 6. Board Treasurer Michael O'Bryan, and his wife enjoy a night of fun at a bingo fundraiser.

— Upcoming Events —

Oct. 12-27

Funds for Futures Online Auction
Donate an auction item or bid on something fun!

aspsf.org/auction

Oct. 17

The Lunch Break

Join us in honoring our outstanding community partners, and hear directly from inspiring scholarship recipients.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Center
315 N Shackleford Rd, Little Rock

aspsf.org/lunchbreak



Use this matching opportunity to help even more hardworking single parents like Amber of Cleburne County who's studying health science at the University of Central Arkansas.

Amplify your impact

Have you heard the amazing news? Generous friends are matching donations to Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund up to \$250,000 through the end of 2024!

With special 1:1 and 2:1 matching opportunities, your gift will go even further to support single parent students like Amber (above) who has used her scholarship to maintain her car.

"As a full-time single mother of six children, our vehicle is our lifeline. Thank you so much for allowing us this opportunity for this extra money," she said. "I have so much



gratitude for the ways in which you all make my dream of continuing my education attainable!"

Your donation is more than a scholarship — it's a chance to transform lives through the power of education.

See your gift multiplied! Give now by phone, mail or online.

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"Every day brings me closer to finishing and showing my daughter that anything you put your mind to can be done as long as you don't give up."

—Harley of Ashley County
Nursing Major at UAM-CTC



Change a life today at
aspsf.org/give

