



1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF
EMPOWERING SINGLE PARENTS

Dear Friends,

In 2025, Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund celebrated several milestones, including its 35th year of supporting single parent students and their families.

That level of stability and longevity is noteworthy, and it would not be possible without dedicated volunteers, donors, advocates, and, most importantly, students. We are grateful to our founders, Ralph Nesson and Marjorie Marugg-Wolfe, and those visionary early supporters who created a strong foundation.

The growth and changes that ASPSF began in 2024 continued into 2025. We received a record 3,186 applications in 2025 — a 70% increase from 2024! The volume of applications is a clear indicator that the needs of single parent families are greater than ever.

ASPSF continued strengthening partnerships and expanding fundraising efforts across the state. In response to those efforts, we were fortunate to receive limited-time special project funding that helped us close some of those gaps.

In spring 2025, storms ravaged the state. Many of our students lost food, furnishings, and items

needed for their daily lives. Thanks to a special grant, ASPSF awarded \$10,000 in emergency funding to our students directly impacted by the storms.

Additionally, we used special grant funding to issue one-time stipends for 46 students who qualified in the spring but were denied due only to a lack of funding. The rapid growth in the number of applications made it challenging to scale resources quickly enough to meet the needs of our students, but I am grateful for supporters, like you, who responded in big, new ways to help uplift single parent families.

In the following pages, you will read about the impact of our work together. I hope you will feel the same sense of pride as I do, and that you will be inspired to join us again in 2026 as we change lives for single parent families in Arkansas.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenn Morehead".

Jenn Morehead
ASPSF Chief Executive Officer

2025 Board of Directors

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Arvest Bank

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Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Mike Weaver
Southern Bank

Ray Winiecki
South Arkansas
College

Contact ASPSF



IMPACT NUMBERS

For 35 years, you've been the spark behind every success story. Because of you, single parents are building brighter futures for their children. These 2025 numbers are milestones you made possible.

814

SINGLE PARENTS
in 69 counties received

1,394

SCHOLARSHIPS
across three semesters, totaling

\$1.87M

in flexible
FINANCIAL AID

3,186

Applications Received

213

Recipients
Graduated

119%

Average Graduates'
Income Increase

3.2

Recipients'
Average GPA

68

Workshops
Hosted

1,520

Children impacted by the power of education.



Thank you for supporting
my mama-Nina

-Nima, daughter of Kalilah, 2025 Alumna

Additional Aid for Single Parents

▶ **\$10,000**

Emergency stipends awarded to 42 spring recipients to help recover from severe weather.

▶ **\$43,500**

Spring stipends awarded to 46 applicants initially denied due to lack of funding.

A note about these numbers: ASPSF received over \$500,000 in one-time, special project funding from an anonymous donor. This gift significantly increased these impact numbers, making 2025 an outlier.

IMPACT STORIES

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SINGLE PARENT SUCCESS

Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund began in 1990 with a vision to reach families in every corner of the state. The reflections below offer a glimpse into that 35-year journey and the lives it's touched along the way. Find more stories at aspsf.org/35years.



KELLEE FARRIS, PH.D.

Lee County
2001 Alumna
Volunteer since 2019

When I graduated high school in 1996, I knew I was going to college. I had family support, and I was a top student. What ASPSF gave me was the affirmation that someone beyond my own circle believed in me, too. That confidence carried me further than I could have imagined. Today, I've come full circle. I serve as CEO of a Federally Qualified Health Center, bringing health care access to the very community that first believed in me. The ripple effect of investing in one single parent is immeasurable.



ELIZABETH PARTAIN

Faulkner County
Daughter of 2021 Alumna
Carrie Terry

Watching my mom go back to school was truly inspiring. Not only was she working full time, but she was a student and somehow made time for her kids. I think what stands out to me looking back is the example she set for us, especially as I went through college myself. She showed me that no matter where you are at in your life and the obstacles you have faced, that you can do anything you set your mind to.



BONNIE NICKOL

Pulaski County
Donor & Volunteer since 1990

When Pulaski reorganized in 1997 we were tearful as we awarded \$8,000. If we knew then that \$374,900 would be awarded in Pulaski in 2025, we would have pinched ourselves in disbelief. But I will always remember an interview I had with one of Pulaski's first recipients. She sat nervously at the table while holding her sleeping infant. I asked her what pushed her to take on the arduous role of a student with an infant, with part-time employment, with all the necessary chores and worries that fell on her as a single parent. She looked at me with tears in her eyes, gestured to her child and responded simply, "I don't want my baby to live her life the way I've lived mine."



EDELMA SIMES

St. Francis County
Donor & Volunteer since 1990s

I am always excited when I see any of our scholarship recipients graduate. I feel that I, being a donor and board member of this scholarship organization, have made a positive difference in that person's life. I became a donor because my Dad and grandfather had to help single parent siblings through difficult times.



CHAVA BOYETT

Washington County
Daughter of 1990
Co-Founder Ralph Nesson

As Director of Fayetteville’s Economic Opportunity Agency, my father recognized the highest-potential clients were single parent heads of household already leading by keeping their children housed, fed, clothed, and in school while working low-income jobs. He believed that with encouragement, guidance, and financial support, their possibilities were boundless. That belief led him to found SPSF, grounded in the inherent strength of single parents. His vision realized was to help break the cycle of poverty by giving parents the chance to build toward a better life for their families.



LASHAE ROBINSON

Craighead County
2017 Alumna
Volunteer since 2023

Since graduating, I’ve become more financially stable. I give back to ASPSF because they poured into me effortlessly, whether it was mentoring or finding workshops that would help me. Going to college also benefited my son because I used to drag him around campus. He’s considering going to school to major in music education.



LARRY CRUTCHFIELD

Grant County
Donor since 2018
Father to 2015 Recipient

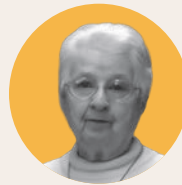
My daughter received the scholarship and invited her mom and me to the ceremony. I was just moved by the number of different stories there and how grateful they all were for the monies. My daughter used her scholarship for a school laptop. Now, she’s a speech therapist.



EDDIE L. THOMAS

Pulaski County
Donor & Board Member
since 2023

As a product of a single teenage parent, I have a duty to be an advocate for those this program serves. I am a firm believer that when people face challenges, leaders should offer solutions and resources. Joining the ASPSF board affords me with that opportunity; and provides a sense of fulfillment, knowing that every decision and every scholarship awarded impacts not only the recipient but generations of people connected to that recipient.



BETTY STIVERS

Newton County
Donor & Volunteer since 1990s

Dr. Nancy Haller asked me to join the Newton County Board because I loved teaching and wanted to inspire students to become teachers. Once a year, we’d take the girls and their kids to breakfast at Ozark Cafe. One mom that we helped was Keisha Manen. She wanted to be a beautician. She got through her training, and we helped her get a place for her beauty parlor. I still go to her today for my hair!



AUNDREA CRARY

Garland County
2004 Alumna

This scholarship gave me the opportunity to dream. Because when you have people that invest in not only your education but also you personally and remind you of what you’re capable of — even if you’re a young mother or a young father that’s just trying to get it done — it put something in me that made me realize that I could do anything. Everything was available to me if I continued to educate myself, which is what I did.



FINANCIALS

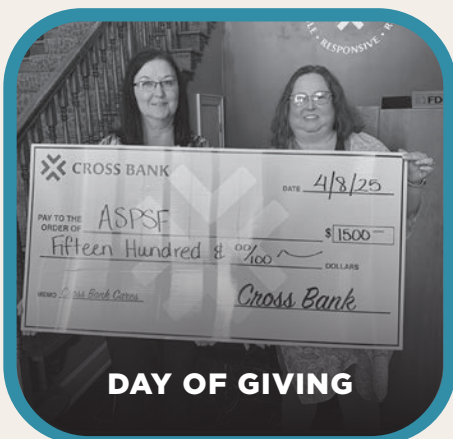
Thanks to strong support from individuals, foundations, and businesses, single parent students across Arkansas can turn education into lasting stability for their families. Help support even more single parents with a generous gift at aspsf.org/give.



47%
Scholarships as Percent of Expenses

69
Counties Served

613 Annual Donors	16¢ Cost per Dollar Raised	21% Liabilities as Percent of Assets
133 Volunteers	2,930 Volunteer Hours	\$105,890 Value of Volunteer Time



A COMMUNITY OF CHAMPIONS

We are honored to recognize these incredible donors who gave gifts of \$2,500 or more in 2025.* Your generosity opens doors for single parents working toward a brighter future.

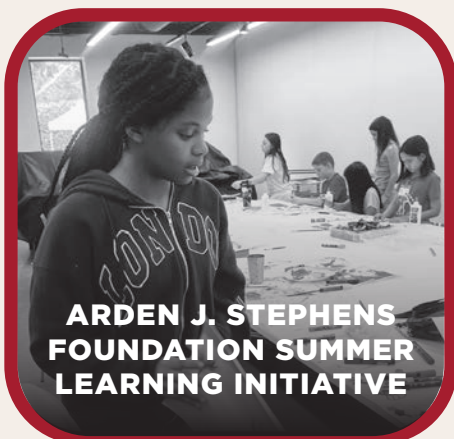
Adam J. Weissman Foundation	Conger, Cynthia	JJ White and Beulah R. White Charitable Trust		
Alice L Walton Foundation	Conway Corp.	Kaiser, Kurt		
Anonymous	Denver Foundation-Beacon	Methodist Foundation for Arkansas		
Anonymous	Eisele Family Endowment	Monroe County Community Foundation		
Anonymous	Elizabeth H. & Stanley E. Evans Charitable Foundation	Morris, Dorothy	Stone Ward	University Of Central Arkansas
Anonymous	First Electric Trust	NEA Baptist Health System	Thalheimer, Alan	Wallace-Ward, Susan
Arden J. Stephens Foundation Inc.	First Presbyterian Church Fort Smith	Phillips County Community Foundation	Tiger Commissary Services	Walmart Spark Good
Arkansas Division of Higher Education	Greenwood Gearhart Inc.	Presbyterian Women, First Presbyterian Church Hot Springs	United Way Of Boone County	Wear & Share Inc
Arkansas Office Of Community Service	Heart of Arkansas United Way	Ray, Jackie & Joseph	United Way of Greater Fort Smith	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Arvest Bank	Henthorn, Mary	Rebsamen Fund	United Way Of Northeast Arkansas	William Thomas & May Pitman Hennessey Foundation
Arvest Foundation	Hoefer, Judy	Rector, Nancy	University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College	Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Baptist Health	Horney, Franshel & Paul	Richardson, Ron	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Wohlleb, Mary & Jim
Carol and Witt Stephens Charitable Foundation	Hot Springs Village Community Foundation	Ross Foundation		Young, Sandra & Craig
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Inc.	JD Finish Line Foundation	Schueck, Marge		
Clement, James		Simmons Bank		

The Honor Society

This elite group of donors sponsored two events and contributed to the Annual Fund.



Learn more at aspsf.org/honorsociety.



**If you see an error with this listing please email development@aspsf.org or call 501.858.2010*



Pursuing an education as a single parent has been one of the greatest challenges I've faced. There are days when balancing school, work, and parenting is overwhelming. But this scholarship is a reminder that I'm not doing it alone. Your support is more than just financial help. It is encouragement, validation and a reminder that others believe in my journey. Thank you for believing and helping my children's and my future be a brighter one!

Sincerely,
Erin

Erin, 2025 Alumna

The Mission:

Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund provides a culture of support, equipping single parents to navigate their futures with confidence.

Support single parents at
aspsf.org/give.

