

# The Scholarsheet

The Newsletter of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund  
"Educating Arkansas' families one parent at a time"

## Delta Scholarship Project Set For GO!



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*Crowing for the Delta Project.*

The staff and Board of Directors of the ASPSF proudly announce the inauguration of the Delta Scholarship Project to be launched during spring 2001! This 3-year project has now been funded and soon, two staff positions will be added to the ASPSF organization to work in the 27 counties identified by the Walton Family Foundation as comprising the Delta region of Arkansas. Funding for the Delta Scholarship Project has been generously contributed through grants from the Walton Family Foundation, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Arkansas Office of Community Services, and the Foundation for the Mid-South.

Our new employees, termed "Field Organizers", will be expected to identify and contact existing nonprofit organizations in the target areas for the purpose of developing collaborations and partnerships to form new single parent scholarship funds, and to offer support services to the new boards once formed. Staff will also work to strengthen existing affiliates through training workshops, publicity and in other ways assisting them in their on-going efforts to generate scholarships for single parents.

**Background and History.** It has been obvious for several years to both the Director of the ASPSF and to the Board that there is a need for a paid staff person (or persons) to reside and work for the benefit of low income single parents in the Delta area of our state. The current two-person dedicated ASPSF staff resides in the far NW corner of Arkansas and the distance factor and the 'spread too thin' factor has prevented us from providing the required support for Delta counties (continued on

### FROM THE EDITOR

by Lani Froelich

September 2000, marked my second year as Administrative Assistant to Ralph Nesson and the ASPSF and it also marked a big change for our office as we added a new staff person (Jean Kebis) to work solely on the Washington Co. SPSF. As a result, a considerable part of my work load has shifted, affording me the opportunity to resurrect and revitalize our newsletter, *The Scholarsheet*. Although my enthusiasm for this new assignment is great, my skills at publishing are considerably less than that. As I collect articles and dream of how to produce a newsletter that matches my own standards for excellence, I am reminded that the last time I worked on a news publication was back in high school (class of '67) using typewriters and the old cut & paste methods of layout and paste-up. I am currently struggling to master this publishing software, and with the help of a desktop publishing course, I promise that future editions of our newsletter will be both larger, more interesting and ultimately, more useful to our affiliate boards, the students they serve and to donors curious about the ASPSF. (continued on back)



Editor, continued.

Future plans for *The Scholarsheet* include, but are not limited to: helpful hints for board development, fundraising, student success stories, affiliate feedback, parenting information, interviews with people possessing expertise in areas of use to our work, websites of interest as well as news and announcements about the ASPSF organization.

*The Scholarsheet* will be published on a quarterly basis. Please send comments, additions, or suggestions to: ASPSF, 614 East Emma, Ste. 119, Springdale, AR 72764

#### FYI

*Hope Magazine*, included an article on the ASPSF in it's December 12th issue. To find the article on the net, go to [www.hopemag.com](http://www.hopemag.com)

#### CALENDAR

•Friday, January 26th, 2001. ASPSF Board of Directors Meeting. Orientation for new members starts at 10:00 am; regular meeting at 11:30 pm. Location to be announced.

•May 1st, 2001. Deadline for affiliates to submit annual Follow-up Report.

#### DELTA PROJECT COUNTIES:

\*Mississippi, \*Crittenden, \*Lee, Phillips, \*Desha, \*Chicot, Clay, \*Greene,\*Craighead, \*Poinsett, Cross, \*St. Francis, Monroe, Arkansas, \*Lincoln, \*Drew, \*Ashley, Randolph, Lawrence,\*Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, \*Lonoke, \*Jefferson, Sharp, \*Independence, \*White.



Education allows the tree of humanity to flourish

## Year 2000 Accomplishments

by Ralph Nesson

Greetings to all readers of our newly reborn newsletter! We have been enjoying our most productive year ever, awarding over \$500,000 in scholarships for the first time since the ASPSF founding in 1990. Congratulations to all ASPSF affiliates! Other accomplishments include the development of new affiliates in Hempstead, Logan, and Crittenden Counties and an increase in our annual matching grant maximum per county to \$4,000! As always, we appreciate the wonderful volunteer spirit of affiliate board members who have contributed so much time and effort to making local scholarships available, reminding us ever more convincingly of the daily miracles wrought by those who care deeply about others.

Year 2000 also witnessed the completion and distribution of our long awaited ASPSF Toolbox, "a compendium of useful information, resources, and materials for Single Parent Scholarship Funds". We intend to periodically update the Toolbox with new items of practical assistance to affiliates and invite you to contribute, also. From what we hear, many of our affiliates are using the Toolbox as a guide and reference for their activities and we are most happy to know that it is helpful to them.

No message from the director would be complete without an acknowledgment of the efforts of our scholarship recipients to earn their degrees and make a better life for themselves and their children. You are what this organization is about and we are very, very proud of your accomplishments!

#### Delta Project continued,

Currently, 21 counties have affiliate organizations in this area, but it has proven extremely difficult to achieve the level of success desired and deserved through volunteer efforts alone. In addition, realities of economic, social and traditional practices have placed roadblocks to growth of ASPSF affiliates. For example, the economic reality of counties with a lower level of prosperity and job opportunities hampers local fund raising efforts. A dedicated staff person working in these areas could do much more to promote and make known the unique objectives of the ASPSF and thus encourage contributions to local affiliates. Social and traditional factors identified include a lack of belief in the need for higher education. It is sometimes difficult to convince parents that they can return to school and be successful when education was not a high priority in their family. ASPSF Field Organizers will be positioned to bridge this culture gap promoting realistic educational objectives for area residents. Another barrier to growth of the ASPSF in these counties is racism. The culture of racial prejudice, of disunity between the black and white people in these areas must be addressed. Staff residing in the Delta area will be sensitized to racial issues and will actively work to encourage a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding and acceptance.

**Job Qualifications:** Contact this office for complete details.

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is to enable single parents to attain self sufficiency through post-secondary education.*