

The Scholarsheet

Newsletter of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

Volume 8, Issue 4 December 2002

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In October, the ASPSF Board of Directors held it's annual planning retreat and one of the important outcomes of this retreat was the decision not to hold a statewide Leadership Development Conference (LDC) in 2003. This decision was in part influenced by an outside study of our organization that was recently completed. There's no better way to see the holes in one's socks than to be scrutinized by a sociologist.

Background. The Walton Family Foundation contracted with Dr. Daniel Ferritor, Professor of Sociology and former Chancellor of the University of Arkansas to perform a comprehensive study of the effectiveness of ASPSF. The completed study was available for use during planning retreat and it in many ways influenced the direction that consultation took. While the Ferritor study shows that ASPSF is indeed very effective in fulfilling it's mission, there is room for improvement in services we offer affiliates.

During the discussion about the LDC, Board members, Cindy Webb, AED, and staff considered the pros and cons of adding field staff, additional services or both to the current ASPSF program. After extensive consultation it became clear that it

was time to do something a little different. Our first step is to really get in touch with our affiliate organizations and appraise the strengths and weaknesses of each. To do this we must work to understand each unique situation caused by the variety of socio economic conditions faced by different regions of our state. Thus the idea of focus groups was born. The focus group format will help us learn how to best serve the volunteer affiliate programs in the coming years.



Four focus groups are scheduled for 2003. ASPSF staff and board members will lead each group and the input gained will be compiled and analyzed at the 2003 Board Planning Retreat. The goal of these meetings is to provide future services that are tailored more specifically to the varying needs of our affiliates.

Letters have been mailed to all affiliate contacts requesting that one representative from each affiliate register for one of these four meetings. A representative should come prepared to talk about the services ASPSF currently provides to you, their usefulness to your affiliate, your ability to access these services, and what additional services you would like us to provide. A

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ASPSF Board 2003

Alice Abson

Mabelvale

Rose Adams

Little Rock

Valerie Brown

Little Rock

Beverly Chappell

Augusta

Stephen Copley

Gillett

Herman Davenport

Little Rock

Cathy Foraker

Fayetteville

Tyler Fowlkes

Fayetteville

Diann Gathright

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Boylee Hamilton

Benton

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Peggy Sissel

Little Rock

Diane Tatum

Pine Bluff

Edward L. Williams

Morrilton

Marjorie Wolfe

Rogers

Margaret Wright

Arkadelphia

News & Cues!

News:

► The Toolbox is now available on the ASPSF website: aspsf.org. Thanks go out to our fabulous webmaster Christine Womack for completing this task which also allowed us to fulfill an organizational goal for this year. Gratis!

► Stats for 2002: As of the date of this publication, 54 counties have requested a total of \$202,550 in matching grants and 51 counties report awarding 1,041 scholarship worth \$537,230. These numbers will be adjusted as final reports arrive during the new year.

Cues:

► A fond farewell goes out to four retiring Board members: Mary Alexander, Peggy Beller, Susan Chappell, Sandra Carlisle. We will also miss two members who tendered resignations due to other obligations: Dot Rappeport and Norbert Schedler.

► Affiliates with application forms on the website should visit the site and make sure your form is still up to date. Send updated forms to Chris Womack at: cwomack@jtlshop.jonesnet.org.

The Scholarsheet is published quarterly by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Comments & suggestions can be addressed to: Lani Froelich, Editor, 614 E. Emma, Ste. 119, Springdale, AR 72764.

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Times They Are A'Changin...

BY CINDY WEBB, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Well, not drastically, but there are some changes coming in 2003. The changes that are being made will continue to build a case for increased funding and support for affiliate organizations. The county affiliates are the heart of Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund and it is the role of the state organization to assist you in the most meaningful way possible as you work to reach your scholarship goals.

The changes in the year-end follow up report, the different approach to leadership development and the new sections in The Toolbox reflect the commitment of your staff in the state office to your affiliate. We hope you will give us the feedback we need to make these changes best fit your affiliate.

I am especially proud that our Toolbox is now available to all members of every affiliate via the internet. All one needs to do to access it is download the free Adobe software. You can search the document using the Adobe tools, you can print out any sections you want without having to print the entire document, and you have immediate access to any changes we make to it throughout the year instead of having to wait until an annual review occurs. Please let us know what additions or changes we should make to it, and we will let everyone benefit from your input.

Since the Toolbox is online now and we have mailed you the most recent printed document, we do not anticipate creating a new printed document next year. If you want a printed copy and do not have internet access, contact the state office. Otherwise, we ask affiliates to help us preserve our funds for scholarships and use the internet version as much as possible.

Happy holidays to everyone and again, thanks for all your hard work.

Same Form, New Look

As part of ASPSF's commitment to better understand each affiliate's operations and to provide better information to interested funding sources, we will begin to gather new types of data in 2003. The annual Follow-up Report Form is being redesigned with additional questions and will be the instrument for gathering this new data. The revised follow-up form asks the

same questions as before but with additional questions about demographic data of students, number of applications received, types of degree programs and schools recipients enroll in, financial questions such as amount of funds on hand, fundraising activities and other organizational questions.

With this new information and a

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SNIPPETS

Stories of Successful Fundraisers

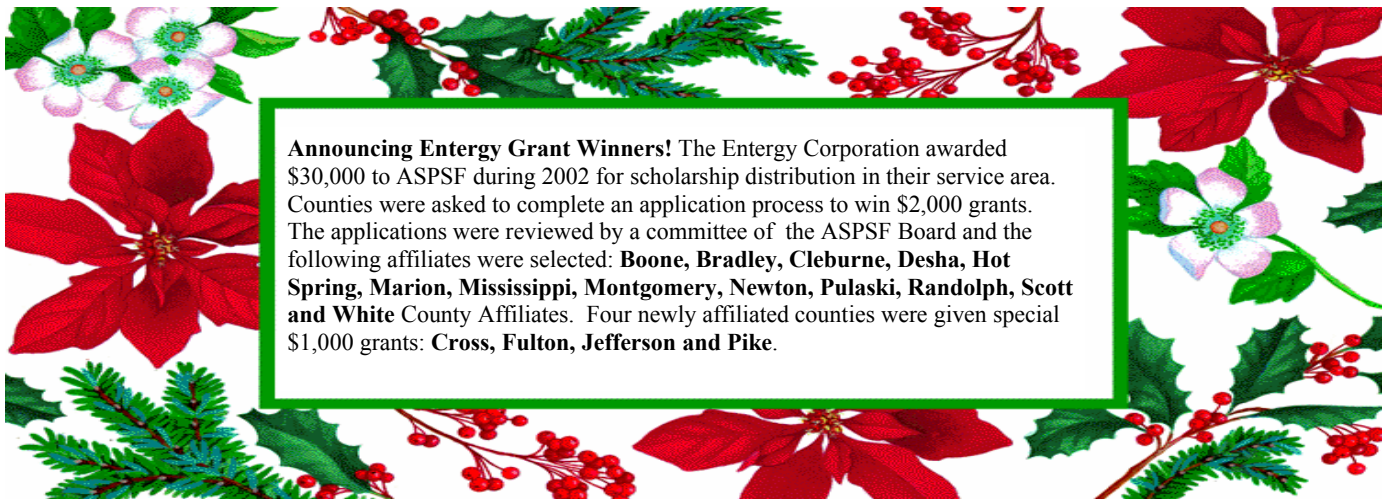
Massage anyone? A truly unique fundraiser was hosted December 7th, by the **SPSF of White Co.** Karen Waller, owner of Body Map, arranged with Hastings in Searcy to set up four massage chairs in the store for one afternoon. Karen also convinced seven other local therapists to volunteered to give ten minute chair massages for \$10 donations to SPSF. A total of \$650 was raised and the therapists all agreed to volunteer again next

year if the local board wants to make this an annual fundraiser. Pre-event publicity was excellent with radio spots, flyers and news articles attracting lots of holiday shoppers in need of stress relief.

Marion Co. SPSF is fortunate to have a fundraising group separate from the Fund board, Marion County Christian Women. MCCW hosted the annual Tour of Homes fundraiser since "adopting" the SPSF in '96.

The '02 Tour included three homes and raised more than \$1,700 for scholarships.

The **Lonoke Co. SPSF** reports that their annual Fish Fry netted \$2,837 for scholarships. The Fry event was held at Lonoke High school cafeteria on October 24th with help from the local board and recipients and was well attended.



Announcing Entergy Grant Winners! The Entergy Corporation awarded \$30,000 to ASPSF during 2002 for scholarship distribution in their service area. Counties were asked to complete an application process to win \$2,000 grants. The applications were reviewed by a committee of the ASPSF Board and the following affiliates were selected: **Boone, Bradley, Cleburne, Desha, Hot Spring, Marion, Mississippi, Montgomery, Newton, Pulaski, Randolph, Scott and White County Affiliates.** Four newly affiliated counties were given special \$1,000 grants: **Cross, Fulton, Jefferson and Pike.**

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new database due to be operational early next year we should be able to produce a comprehensive picture of our State program that is not currently possible. We have learned through personal contacts with many affiliates that they are already keeping this sort of information, but have never been asked to submit it to the state office. Through the evaluation process we have been

undergoing it has become apparent that we should be gathering such additional data in order to demonstrate the full range of services provided to single parents in Arkansas by our affiliates. In addition, such data will be invaluable as we work towards personalizing the services we offer to each county group. Without such information, it will be impossible to gauge the progress of our various programs and give assistance

when needed.

As funding resources become more scarce and program accountability requirement change, we feel its imperative to begin collection of this data now in anticipation of questions that might be asked in future.




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complete meeting schedule can be found below:

Location	Date and time	Host site
Little Rock	January 31, 2003 2:00-4:00 pm	Little Rock Central Library
Springdale	February 21, 2003 2:00-4:00 pm	Jones Center for Families
Forrest City	April 25, 2003 2:00 – 4:00 pm	WorkForce Development Center
El Dorado	May 16, 2003 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Southark Community College




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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is to enable single parents to attain self sufficiency through post secondary education.

