

The Scholarsheet

A Newsletter

ter for the

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STRONG LEADERS, STRONG CONFERENCE

Building on a Strong Foundation — turned out to be an extremely apt theme for the recent Leadership Development Conference held in Hot Springs, May 31st & June 1st, when the most dedicated group of volunteer laborers any organization could hope to have gathered to learn, share and network. Excellence was everywhere apparent in both the programming as well as the enthusiasm expressed at this year's meeting.

The most important reason for this annual meeting is assisting our affiliate representatives to do their jobs better. In order to better plan future conferences we surveyed af-

filiate reps about how long he/she had been involved with SPSF service. Seventy five affiliate representatives attended this years' meeting. Of the 75 rep's, twenty-eight had been involved with their local group for less than 1-yr., thirty-four reported involvement from 1-4 yrs. and thirteen for 5 yrs. or more.

When asked on evaluation forms, "What aspect of the conference did you like best?" - these responses were typical: "roundtable discussions", "all counties coming together as one to improve themselves"; "very friendly", "workshop topics", "meeting intelligent people who offered positive advice", "remarks by recipients" and, "all excellent".



MY DELTA "BEAT" - One Year Later

by kim dollins

When I started my job with the Delta Scholarship Project I looked forward to the challenges ahead with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. How could I travel into counties I was unfamiliar with, where I knew no one? How could I bring together a diverse group to form an ASPSF affiliate? I was also anxious about how as a single mom, I could balance the needs of my job with the needs of my children.

An unanticipated challenge I encountered was sometimes feeling like a Telemarketer! During my first year on the job, I made literally hundreds of

(Continued on page 3)

CONFERENCE ROLL-CALL

Attendance at the Leadership Development Conference consisted of Affiliate Representatives, Speakers, Special Guests, ASPSF Board members and Staff from the following counties (TOTAL # IN PARENTHESIS):

Arkansas(3), Ashley(1), Baxter(2), Benton(2), Chicot(2), Clark(2), Clay(1), Cleburne(2), Columbia(4), Conway(5), Craighead(1), Crawford-Sebastian(1), Dallas(1), Drew(2), Faulkner(1), Garland(1), Hempstead(1), Hot Spring(3), Independence(1), Jefferson(2), Lafayette(2), Lawrence(2), Lee(3), Lincoln(2), Mississippi(1), Monroe(1), Montgomery(1), Newton(3), Ouachita(5), Perry(2), Phillips(3), Pike(2), Polk(2), Pope(1), Pulaski(12), Randolph(1), Saline(3), St. Francis(3), Union(2), Washington(9), White(3), Woodruff(3).



*When we educate
the parent, we
educate the child*

News & Cues!

News:

FYI. Ralph Nesson, Founder and Director of the ASPSF has taken a much needed year off to travel the world, pursue writing and other interests. Expect to see him back in June '04 and in the meantime we will all carry on as usual.

Cues:

COPY THIS NEWSLETTER!
Feel free to make your own copies of each issue of The Scholarsheet to give to your board members, donors, students or other interested parties. It may not be as colorful but the information will be the same.

Check It Out! Parenting is Prevention—a site dedicated to parents who want to keep their children drug-free, offers information & tips concerning substance abuse prevention, publications, weekly updates and resource links at: <http://www.parentingisprevention.org>

We have still not received the 2001 Annual Follow-up Forms from the following counties: Crittenden, Jefferson, Madison, Mississippi, Montgomery, Polk and Scott. Please get these in ASAP!

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Musings From The Director

by cindy webb, interim executive director

Recently I have joined the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund staff as acting executive director while Ralph takes a much-deserved sabbatical from his duties. I spent a great deal of time with Ralph before he took off for his year-long adventure learning the many different aspects of the Fund and all the affiliate Funds.

Ralph taught me a lot. In the past few weeks I have realized that I have a lot more to learn. I am proud to be serving as the acting executive director and am profoundly moved by the work of the organization and all the affiliates. While attending the Leadership Development Conference, I had the opportunity to hear first-hand the important support that is being provided across our state to the single parents in our communities.

Your patience these first few weeks will be a great assistance to me as I learn the operating details. Your enthusiasm has already caught hold and I am busy spreading it throughout my family and friends. Don't hesitate to call our state office, 479-927-1402, to ask for information, provide feedback, or request assistance.

Ralph may be traveling, but you can still rely on the friendly voices and faces of the state office.

Your enthusiasm has already caught hold and I am busy spreading it through out my family and friends.

DOOR PRIZE WINNER ESTATIC!

A special \$1,000 door prize drawing took place at the recent Leadership Development Conference. The winner, Gina Booth sent the following:

On behalf of the Newton Co. SPSF I'd like to thank you for the \$1,000 scholarship. It was particularly wonderful because this past spring our county took a chance and decided to fund ten recipients, a record for us...Our county is very rural and low income, the largest town has only 500 people and there is not one major business. Recipients drive from 1-3 hours to attend college....Thanks again, and be assured this large gift will go a long way in our small county.



SNIPPETS

Stories of Successful Fundraisers

The SPSF of Columbia County held a successful and fun evening event on April 24th, at Harton Theatre on the SAU campus, Magnolia. Beth Anne Rankin, Miss Arkansas'94, a nationally recognized pianist and recording artist donated her talents as did several local dancers, singers and musicians. During the evening, SPSF scholarship recipients were acknowledged and recognized and \$1,044 was

raised for future awards.

On the lighter side - (this one was too good not to share) After weeks of selling squares to raise funds for new band uniforms the Marshall Band Booster Club (Marshall H.S., Marshall, AR) and an excited throng eagerly waited while Lexi the yearling calf roamed the football field. The field had been

marked before-hand into grid patterns which created a checkerboard, each numbered each section corresponding to a ticket sold. You guessed it! The crowd eagerly waited for over an hour and finally voila! Lexi 'did her business' on square 24 and they had a winner of the \$500 prize and still made money for uniforms! Now that's community spirit!

SPSF Grads Are Grrreat!

Teri Garrett, a former Boone Co. SPSF recipient, is currently employed as deputy Court Clerk. Teri graduated May'01 from North Arkansas College, Harrison, with an Associate's degree in business and was also presented with an Honors award as outstanding graduate in her department.

Kellee Mitchell former recipient from Lee County

graduated in December'01 from the UALR with a BS degree in Health Science. She is currently enrolled at the University of Memphis pursuing a Masters in Sports Medicine. Lee County also reports that **Keena Marie Bennett** graduated from Phillips Community College in Helena May'01 and is currently employed at Helena Regional Medical center as a Registered Nurse.

The Hot Springs Co. SPSF reports they are extremely proud of **April Bedford**, December'01 graduate of Ouachita Tech and is employed as an LPN at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hot Springs. April was also known as a volunteer extraodair at the Head Start center her three children attended.

(Continued from page 1)

calls to complete strangers, most of whom had never heard of the ASPSF, much less the Delta Scholarship Project. I am happy to report that only one person hung-up on me and most others were kind enough to listen. People who did listen instinctively responded to the concept behind ASPSF because they knew first-hand the obstacles facing single parent families and understood that education is key to changing the lives of im-

poverished single parents. I also did not anticipate the resistance to my help I sometimes found when contacting already established SPSF affiliates. Getting these counties to accept and welcome the assistance I can offer is one of my goals this year.

I love diversity, so a challenge I eagerly anticipated was organizing people of diverse backgrounds to work towards a common goal. What I did not expect was how

much **fun** my job would become as a result of being part of such a diverse, wonderful and caring team of volunteers and donors. For that I am very thankful. Now when I speak to strangers about the work I do, people will say, "I've heard about the single parent scholarships and what wonderful work that you all are doing, how can I be a part of it?" I smile and say "Well, get out your checkbook and calendar and let's sit down and talk."

WHAT'S THAT NAME?

by chris womack, project director



New logo for ASC

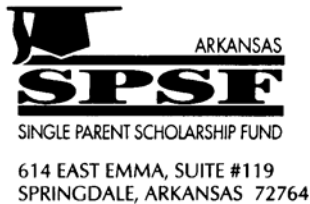
As you may recall from the March issue of The Scholarsheet— change is the name of the game for the Arkansas Scholarship Information Service (ASIS) project. Here's an update on the latest:

As of May 2002, the project name has changed to Arkansas Scholarship Connection (ASC). The new name is easier to remember and easier to say and we won't be confused with the Arkansas state accounting system, AASIS! We also changed our logo (see above) but our site address is still: <http://scholarships-ar-us.org>

The new database is almost finished and will be loaded onto the ASC web site in the very near future. Those of you who attended the LDC had the opportunity to try out a demo model of the new database and through your surveys provided some excellent feedback about the project and how ASC services provides assistance to many areas in Arkansas.

Kelly Bradley, the ASC Outreach Director, has been busy mailing letters and surveys to Workforce Investment agencies and higher education institutions across the state. Her intention is to find out how our services could best help their clients and students. Based on results we have received so far, we are going to be very busy participating in scholarship seminars and workshops in the next several months!

Want to have some fun? Need to get away from it all? Come see us at the Arkoma Fair in Fort Smith, the Washington County Fair in Fayetteville or the Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock! While you're at it, donate a little money for a chance to win a prize! We will have drawings for several expense paid vacation getaways. Negotiations are in the works for such vacations as Disney World, Hot Springs, Tulsa, and Buffalo River hunting/fishing expeditions.



www.aspsf.org We're on the Web

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

