

# The Scholarsheet

A Newslet-

ter for the

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## CALLING ALL AFFILIATES!

**M**ark your calendars!! This year's Leadership Development Conference will be held at The Austin Hotel and Convention Center in Hot Springs, Fri. May 31st & Sat. June 1st. The LDC is an annual educational event sponsored by the ASPSF for our affiliate board members, and volunteers throughout the state.

At a recent meeting in Little Rock, the LDC planning committee brainstormed on this year's conference. Based on feedback from last years' event, it was decided that the smaller, break-out session model would be followed again this year. Topics chosen for the workshops are:

WHAT EVERY NEW BOARD MEMBER SHOULD KNOW; RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS; INTRODUCTION TO GRANTWRITING; MAKING THE MOST OF VOLUNTEER HOURS; HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FUNDRAISER; BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE DELTA SCHOLARSHIP PRO-

JECT; WORKING WITH THE MEDIA; STRATEGIC PLANNING; AND, PLANNING LARGE FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

The committee has invited two dynamic speakers to address conference participants. They are: UAF Professor Lori Holyfield, a former SPSF recipient and recently published author; and State Representative Tracy Steele, a Pulaski County

**LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE**  
May 31st & June 1st

SPSF board member and executive director of the Martin Luther King Commission.

Registration packets will be mailed out on April 8th. Deadline to register is May 13th and reservations are on a first-come-first-serve basis. The ASPSF will cover costs for room and board for two (2) representatives from each county affiliate.

## STUDENT WINS HIGH HONORS

**J**ennifer Donnor, mother of 6-year old Jonathan Donnor and a recipient of single parent scholarship assistance from Saline Co., recently received wonderful news. In a national academic competition sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa (a national honor society), Jennifer made the highest score in Arkansas and was named a **2002 New Century Scholar**. New Century Scholars are selected on the basis of scores achieved in the All-USA Academic Team competition.

On April 19, Jennifer will be flown to Seattle, Washington where she will be formally presented the award and a \$2,000 scholarship. Awards are funded by the Coca-Cola Fdtn. and Coca-Cola Scholars Fdtn.

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## News & Cues!

### News:

A total of 1,373 scholarships worth \$683,765 was awarded last year to deserving single parents in Arkansas by 56 county affiliates of the ASPSF.

During 2001, the ASPSF honored requests for matching grants from fifty-five county affiliates for a total of \$194,965 - an increase of \$51,541 over the year 2000.

WELCOME! Clay Co. has recently joined the ranks of Arkansas counties with an ASPSF affiliate.

### Cues:

2001 Follow-Up Reports must be submitted by 4/1/02. Remember, they can be faxed! (479) 751-1110.

The following counties do not have Single Parent Scholarship Funds: CLEVELAND, GRANT, HOWARD, IZARD, NEVADA, OUACHITA, and SEVIER. We welcome you to submit names of possible contacts in these areas.

*The Scholarsheet* is published quarterly by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Comments & suggestions can be sent to the Editor, Lani S. Froelich, ASPSF,

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## Musings From The Director

By Ralph H. Nesson

A recent conversation with a friend brought home ever so poignantly the critical importance of *encouragement*. Raised in a Middle Eastern country wracked by poverty and violence, my friend decided at the age of eighteen that he had no possibility of developing and using his skills in his homeland. American teachers at a local university urged him to apply for scholarships abroad, an effort he enthusiastically undertook. The University of Chicago offered him substantial financial aid and he leaped at the opportunity to study at that renowned institution. After graduation, his pursuit of a business career led him to his current position as president of a very successful construction firm in northwest Arkansas. With a wonderful wife and three children, he feels that he made excellent choices for himself and his family.

Just as those American teachers inspired my friend to further his education, Single Parent Scholarship Funds are doing the same for hundreds of mothers and fathers here in Arkansas. Our scholarships represent an opportunity to learn and grow and prepare for a life-transforming career. Positive interaction with Fund board members is the starting point for such a dramatic change in one's life: this form of community support is at the *heart of what we do, enabling single parents to open many doors for themselves!*

*“...it is at the heart of what we do, enabling single parents to open many doors for themselves!”*

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After graduation in Dec. 2001 from Ouachita Tech with a 4.00 GPA in computer studies, Jennifer was offered a full scholarship from the University of Tulsa in OK to become a trained network engineer. She has declined this offer for now because “the offer is good for the next three years, and I feel I need to be with my family more now...family is really important to me.”

Jennifer's story is even more remarkable because since her 1994 graduation from Benton High School, she has been afflicted with a series of major health problems requiring surgeries. Throughout all her trials, she has continued to work and strive to provide her son and herself with a better way of life.



## SNIPPETS

### Stories of Successful Fundraisers

An interesting theme and beautiful home resulted in a super fundraiser for the **Pulaski Co. SPSF** in September, 2001. \$30,000 -more than double the amount raised two years earlier at their first big fundraising event. Guests at this event went "Under The Big Top" at the home of Tom & Marge Schueck in Pleasant Valley, Little Rock. Amidst circus tents and decorations, patrons of

SPSF enjoyed food, live music and traveling circus acts and mingled with scholarship recipients.

In February, the **Scott Co. SPSF** held a Tasting Treat fundraiser that raised \$3, 010 for local scholarships. Approximately 400 supporters showed up at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall to sample food prepared and donated by local cooks. Additional funds came from the sale (\$5/ea) of a cookbook

featuring the dishes served.

A class on the art of duck calling raised money for the **Woodruff Co. SPSF**. Scott Drummon, owner and operator of "Pintail Peninsula" in Stuttgart, volunteered his time and attendees paid \$5 for the class and an additional \$5 to enter a drawing to win a Cocobolo Duck call. A total of \$160 was raised

## CHECK-OUT ASIS!

We are most happy to report that the technical difficulties that plagued our technology project - the Arkansas Scholarship Information Service (ASIS), have been resolved and the website is up and running again! In addition, other wonderful changes will transpire during the coming months: a complete database

redesign; a new name, a directory that will permit visitors to search the database in a new way; a completely new graphic scheme; and improved instruments to gather demographic data from site visitors.

You can help! After using the ASIS website, please give us feedback on its usefulness to your

students in their search for financial aid information. Let Project Director Christine Womack know about your experience using the site: [cwomack@jtlshop.jonesnet.org](mailto:cwomack@jtlshop.jonesnet.org)



[www.scholarships-ar-us.org](http://www.scholarships-ar-us.org)

## BUILD A STUDENT RESOURCE LIBRARY

Has your affiliate ever considered providing a resource library for your scholarship recipients use? If so, please consider these: *Adventures in Parenting*, is a booklet available free-of-charge from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It contains

information based on decades of research on parenting, as well as the experiences of actual parents and parenting experts and is designed for parents of all backgrounds with children of all ages. Call the NICHD: 1-800-370-2943 or email [www.nichd.nih.gov](http://www.nichd.nih.gov)

Author T.J. Terry applied Basic

Operations Principles to create *Suddenly Single Mom (A Practical Guide to Self-sufficient Survival)*. Her book is an excellent reference tool written in an easy step-by-step format. It is available for \$19.95 plus shipping from the author at (904) 738-4488 or email: [TJTERRY@sprynet.com](mailto:TJTERRY@sprynet.com)

# GOOD REASONS FOR DONOR SURVEYS

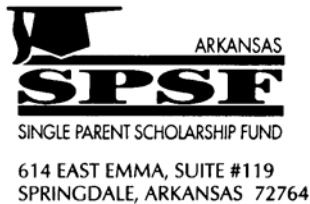
By Ralph H. Nesson

**L**et's assume you want to increase scholarship donations in your county but you do not have a plan. The big question is: where do you start? A good first step is to conduct a donor survey, exploring all possible sources of support. A fundraising committee should be established to prepare and conduct the survey, followed up by submitting requests based upon what is learned from the survey results. Such potential sources as individuals, businesses, civic organizations, churches, foundations and trusts, annual festivals and events, and fraternities and sororities should be part of your survey. As an example, the following survey questions regarding local businesses might be asked:

*Which businesses are most likely to make charitable contributions, given their size, reputation, and ownership? Are the businesses locally owned or branches of regional or national companies? If not locally owned, must you make a request to someone*

*outside your area? Will the local manager support such a request? Are corporate foundations involved? Is there a deadline for requests? Is a company more likely to give if you have a current or former employee on your board?*

Asking for money is never easy, but there is a correct way to proceed. Once you know as much as possible about a business, try to identify someone on your board or among current donors who has a connection to the business, whether through friendships or professional relationship. If possible, have this person make a call to the business or write a letter asking for support. In the best of all possible worlds, a face to face meeting between your board member or donor and the representative of the business would most productive. Make sure that as much as possible is known about the business' giving policies before the contact is made and that it is made with the person most responsible for charitable giving decisions.



*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.