

The Scholarsheet

Newsletter of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

Pulaski Co. SPSF wins M.L. King Award

Plaudits To Pulaski Co.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will present its 2004 Salute to Greatness Award (Non-Profit Organization category) to the **Pulaski Co. SPSF** at a January 16 Gala in Little Rock.

The PC/SPSF has the distinction of being one of a handful of Arkansas counties that affiliated with the ASPSF in 1990. Throughout most of the 90's, a small group of volunteers succeeded in raising money and awarding a limited number of scholarships to local single parent students.

In 1998, the PC/SPSF Board made a key decision that has since resulted in a ten-fold increase in scholarship awards. First, the board reorganized itself and became a partner with the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District. Second, they hired their first paid employee—Ellen Ingram, as part-

time fund Director. This was made possible through a grant from the Levi Strauss Foundation. Ellen earned both a BA and MA at Oklahoma State University before moving to Bentonville with her family. During that time, Ellen was actively involved with the SPSF program in Benton Co. When the family relocated yet again and Ellen was presented with the opportunity to work with the Pulaski Co. group, her previous experience provided a model of success to build upon.

With additional grant support in 2000, Diann S. Siegele was hired as program assistant. Highly skilled in records management, accounting and computing, Diann also brings real-world experience of being a single parent student. She had been a single mother with three children while earning a degree at Pulaski Technical College.

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ASPSF Board of Directors for 2004

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One Goal Down, One To Go!

Born and raised in El Dorado, Martha Digby married soon after her 1997 high school graduation. She traveled overseas with her military husband and when he retired, moved back to El Dorado and opened a business—the town's first cyber café. Martha's two children Joshua and Rachael were quite young when the marriage ended in divorce. Realizing the need for a college education, Martha tried to go to school and work full time to support her children. Her struggles attracted the attention of Mrs. Jodie Mahony whose husband has been active in the **Union Co. SPSF**.

With the additional financial support provided by her scholarships as well

(Continued on page 3)

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!

Mark your calendar! The 7th annual **Affiliate Leadership Conference** is happening April 23&24 in North Little Rock. Registration packets with descriptions of workshops and speakers will be mailed out in early

News & Cues!

News:

► Announcing the establishment of the **Bernice Jones Memorial Award for Excellence in Philanthropy** to be awarded annually to a financial contributor to a SPSF affiliate. A fuller explanation of the qualifications and other details of this award will be included in a letter to be mailed out soon.

► Congratulations to the **Little River Co. SPSF** for giving its first ever scholarship award. A \$600 award was granted to Ms. Shavon Hill, a senior attending Texas A&M U. in Texarkana. Money for this scholarship was raised at a food booth at the Ashdown Hometown Festival in October.

► **2003 STATS.** As of this date, 45 county affiliates report awarding 1327 scholarships worth \$772,731. Matching Grants totalling \$203,016 were awarded by the ASPSF to 63 county affiliates in '03.

Cues:

► Would your donors or volunteers enjoy receiving The Scholarsheet? Please send us their names and mailing addresses and we will add them to our list.

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. Phone (479) 927-1402, FAX (479)751-1110, Email: lfroelic@jtlshop.jonesnet.org □

MUSIC

Following the 2003 holiday season, we have many to whom we would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

To all of our scholarship awardees who struggle so hard to care for your children, persevere in school, hold down part or full-time jobs and maintain a positive attitude, we admire and praise you for pursuing your dreams.

To our Single Parent Scholarship Fund volunteer board members, who devote countless hours to mentoring, fundraising, interviewing and all other related activities, we are most grateful for your total

"The ancient philosopher Hillel taught that the highest level of charity is that which helps others to help themselves."

commitment.

To our donors, who make our matching grants possible, plus salaries, operating expenses and other numerous costs of doing business, we are appreciative of your generosity in giving us the means to continue the work of our organization.

To all who donate services such as printing, publicity, financial management, student support, and countless other items both material and non-material, we thank you for

Ralph H. Nesson
Executive Director

all that you provide to make our scholarships possible.

To our staff, who work beyond the call of duty, a salary is but small compensation for your efforts. And to all the people of Arkansas who prove time and again that helping their neighbors is as important today as ever it was, we are here only because you believe in us.

The ancient philosopher Hillel taught that the highest level of charity is that which helps others to help themselves. The philosophy of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is based on this lesson, one which has proven to be true

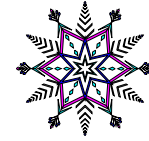
countless times in our 13-plus years: furthering one's education and training leads directly to skilled employment, higher income, and a better quality of life. Please have a healthy and bounteous New Year.





SNIPPETS

Stories of Successful Fundraisers



On Saturday, October 18, 2003, the **Newton Co. SPSF** held its 7th annual *Tour of Homes* fundraiser. An estimated 150 ‘tourists’ paid \$10/ticket to visit a unique Bed & Breakfast Inn as well as three unusual homes hidden in the Ozark hills and hollows near Jasper.

The success of this annual event is due to good planning and good volunteers - student/recipients and the local board. The Harrison Daily Times ran a 4-part series of articles about the Tour that featured each site. (Can you imagine how much an equal amount of paid advertising would have cost the local Fund?). In 2003, NC/SPSF awarded 34 scholarships worth \$13,450.

Hot Spring Co. SPSF has re-

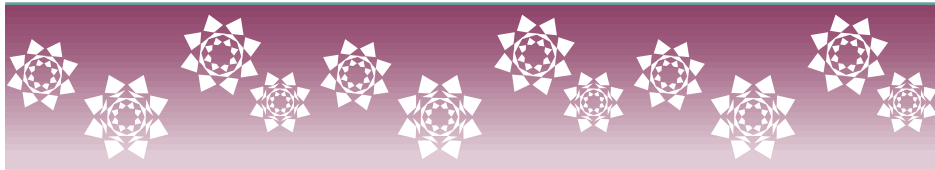
ported awarding 12 scholarship worth \$3,600 to deserving single parent students during ‘03. One of their more successful fundraising events was a Spaghetti Lunch that included food prepared by the ladies of the Extension Homemakers Council and free delivery of meals. This event earned over \$900, as well as valuable publicity for the fund.

The **Bradley Co. SPSF** is fortunate to have the support and enthusiasm of the local Retired Teacher’s Association. The RTA acts as sponsor and fundraiser for the program and employs a variety of fundraising devices including direct appeals and events to raise scholarship money. One of their efforts, selling raffle tickets for a new TV, raised \$1,313 for scholarships. Because of

their efforts, BC/SPSF presented 9 scholarships worth \$4,500 to deserving single parents.

Proceeds from a Golf Tournament helped the **Mississippi Co. SPSF** award 10 scholarships worth \$2,500 during 2003. The well publicized event earned \$480 for the Fund.

During 2003, the **White Co. SPSF** received help once again from local philanthropic massage therapists who gave “free” massages to people who donated to the Fund. With the addition of a gift basket raffle, \$1,715 was raised at this event. White Co. has reported awarding 21 scholarships worth \$8,500 for ‘03



(Continued from page 1) Martha

as the emotional support and mentoring provided by the Union Co. board, Martha received an Associates of Arts degree from South Arkansas Community College in 2000. Martha says that without the SPSF she “would not have made it...the program made a world of difference by helping with utility bills, car insurance, repairs and medical bills...I hope someday I can help someone the way I was helped.”

Martha and her children now live in Bentonville where she is employed as an Accounts Receivable Teller at Northwest Arkansas Community College. She is also enrolled as a student at John Brown University working towards a BA in Organizational Management. She has also been chosen to receive a scholarship from the Benton Co. SPSF.

(Continued from page 1) Pulaski Co.

When asked about the great turnaround in the PC/SPSF, Diann said: “success is due to talented and committed volunteers, hard-working students who give the word “multi-tasking” a whole new meaning, and graduation/retention rates that prove the program works.”

While small and relatively obscure just a few years ago, the Pulaski Co. SPSF is emerging as one of the most popular education-related nonprofits in the Little Rock area. During the year 2003, the Fund awarded 113 scholarships totaling \$73,450 to single parent students.

Chris Womack, Project Director

We Will Be Connecting...

Year 2003 has been a productive year for the **Arkansas Scholarship Connection!** As part of the effort to achieve our annual goals, we mailed ASC post cards to all Single Parent Scholarship Funds, to be included with mail outs and available on hand for students. We appreciate your support and your willingness to provide important informational resources such as ASC to your students. In 2004, we will replace the post cards with more attractive bookmarks, to more easily fit inside a standard business envelope.

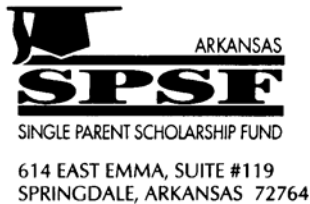
Outreach Director Kelley Bradley, has been *zooming* across the state, speaking with high school guidance counselors and attending financial aid fairs at colleges. During '03, she and I worked with forty-nine new high schools and twenty-three new higher education institutions. We are currently providing services to 187 schools throughout Arkansas.

The new ASC Web Site is nearing completion! Some great information will be available for the first time from this web site, including a glossary of financial aid terms, several tutorials to help stu-

dents apply for college and financial aid, and some tips and information specifically for adults returning to college. We will send out notices when the new site is launched.

As always, ASC is eager to help your students. Please let us know how we may help you effectively serve them.

If you have special needs or questions, please contact me at: cwomack@jtlshop.jonesnet.org And please visit our website: <http://scholarships-ar-us.org>



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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.