



Arkansas
SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MISSION STATEMENT
of the
Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

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

INTRODUCTION

The ASPSF Toolbox was first developed in April, 2000, as an aid to our affiliates in the operation of their Single Parent Scholarship Funds. Since it was delivered into the hands of affiliate representatives, we have received many positive comments on its usefulness and quite a few suggestions for improvement. This Third Edition of The Toolbox is presented to you with the hope that it will further enhance your daily efforts in helping single parents complete their post-secondary education.

In order for this guidebook to reach its full potential as a provider of information, it must be used. We urge our affiliates to keep it in a convenient location for board members, to make copies of it for members who request them, and to make it available whenever working committees need ideas, guidance, and the benefit of the experiences of others in order to complete their important tasks. A full version of the Toolbox is available on our website at http://www.aspsf.org/affiliates_toolbox.html.

If you have ideas for future additions to the Toolbox or would like to contribute example materials, please feel free to contact the ASPSF office at any time. Thank you and best of luck in the operation of your Single Parent Scholarship Fund!

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WELCOME FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

How often have we heard the phrase, “tools for success?” Well, it is my pleasure to present you with a few resources (tools) to assist you in making your Single Parent Scholarship Affiliate a success.

The ASPSF Toolbox was created to provide local affiliates with a guide to assist in fundraising, providing media coverage for local events, recruiting volunteers and board members, mentoring students, and many other topics. The ASPSF Toolbox is user-friendly and is designed to provide on-site assistance with all phases of affiliate development, retention, and growth.

Please use this Toolbox! Share it with others and let us know what worked for your affiliate. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to helping single parents complete their post-secondary education in preparation for meeting their fullest potential in life. Remember, we not only touch people’s lives, we affect generations for life.

Loretta Neal McGregor, Ph.D.
ASPSF Board President 2007

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

In recognition of the severe impoverishment of single parent families in our state, the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund was established in 1990. Modeled on successful incentive scholarship funds in two northwest Arkansas counties, the goal of the ASPSF is to assist poor single parents in completing their post-secondary education in preparation for skilled employment. Our strategy is to work at the county level to organize affiliate scholarship funds operated by local residents and provide on-site assistance with all phases of affiliate development. The ASPSF offers seed grants to new affiliates and matching grants to new and existing affiliates.

The ASPSF is a private, nonprofit corporation with 501(c)3 status granted by the Internal Revenue Service. Governed by a twenty-one member board of directors representing our state's racial, economic, and geographic diversity, the ASPSF headquarters in Springdale has a two member staff in NWA and three staff members living and working in the field. As of December 2006, 71 county affiliates participating in the Fund's activities have awarded a combined total of **17,303 scholarships worth \$8,707,774**. A comprehensive recipient follow-up study completed in 2007 revealed a **77%** retention and graduation rate and a **53%** employment rate at above poverty-level income among working graduates. The report also found that another **17%** of graduates were continuing their education in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program.

A Delta Scholarship Project was initiated in 2000 to spur an increase in scholarship awards available in eastern Arkansas. As of December 2006, a combined total of 3,685 scholarships worth \$1,387,434 have been awarded in 27 Delta counties since its inception. Funding of these efforts has been provided by private foundations, businesses, individuals, and the Arkansas Office of Community Services.

The concept of a community-based scholarship fund aimed at encouraging and supporting the educational and training aspirations of impoverished single parents has been well accepted. Local leaders have so taken hold of this opportunity to help others help themselves that they have brought hundreds of volunteers into service on governing boards of directors. These volunteers have set eligibility guidelines for scholarships, recruited applicants, generated publicity, chosen recipients, and raised money in match of ASPSF grants. Seventy-five percent (75%) of all dollars awarded through our program derives from contributions made by local businesses, civic organizations, churches, family foundations, and individuals.

In recognition of the need to create a permanent source of financial support for the organization, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust, through a challenge grant program, enabled the ASPSF to establish a permanent endowment exceeding one million dollars in 2002.

Twenty-three percent (23%) of all Arkansas families are led by women with no husband or father in the home. It is estimated that this figure represents over 97,000 families, of which 46% were officially below the poverty line in 1999 (2000 U.S. Census). If the trend of increasing impoverishment of women and children continues, there will be more need than ever for education and training opportunities for single parents. The ASPSF is in the vanguard of meeting this need.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our approach to accomplishing the ASPSF mission is to empower community leaders at the county level to establish and operate Single Parent Scholarship Funds. It is our expectation that such empowerment will attract volunteers and resources to the affiliate, all for the purpose of enabling local single parents to complete their post-secondary education and obtain professional, remunerative employment.

We expect affiliates to establish supportive relationships with their applicants and awardees for the purpose of empowering them to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Support in the form of referrals to other community resources, mentorship, and applicant interviews are encouraged. Any auxiliary programs should be strictly voluntary.

We encourage affiliates to share successful operational strategies with the ASPSF network in order that all within the network can benefit.

We will provide matching grants and developmental supportive services to affiliates with the expectation that they will provide scholarships in a consistent manner, comply with reporting requirements, honor the general eligibility requirements, treat all scholarship applicants and awardees with respect, and maintain a positive reputation in the community.

THE DELTA SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund initiated a project several years ago focused on the Delta Region of East Arkansas. The purpose of the project is to harness strong leadership to the development of affiliates where additional support and training are needed. The result has been a significant increase in the number of scholarships awarded to the residents of the target area, enabling them to enroll in and complete career-directed courses of study leading to professional level employment and financial self-sufficiency.

Two field representatives work on-site in the Delta to achieve the goals and objectives of the project. They work to identify and contact existing nonprofit organizations to develop collaborations and partnerships around new Single Parent Scholarship Funds, and to offer support services to both new and existing funds. Field representatives work with emerging leaders and unaffiliated persons expressing an interest in forming new Funds. Through contact with existing organizations, established leaders, and emerging leaders, additional interest is generated in the concept of community-based incentive scholarship funds for single parents in the Delta region.

DELTA SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT HISTORY

The Delta Scholarship Project is a special effort to strengthen affiliates and increase the number and value of scholarships awarded in the Mississippi River Delta area of Arkansas. It originated from an idea generated by the ASPSF Board of Directors who recognized the need for enhanced scholarship availability within this economically depressed region. In January, 2001, the Project was launched with a promise of funding from several sources, including the Walton Family Foundation, the Arkansas Office of Community Services, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and the Foundation for the Mid-South. The initial goal of the Project was to award at least 680 scholarships worth \$340,000 among twenty-seven counties between 2001 and 2003. In its first year, the Project organized or re-organized six Delta affiliates and added three more in the first few months of 2002. The Project has operated with increasing effectiveness and success since its inception.

FIELD STAFF SERVICES

Field representatives Kim Dollins and Beverly Chapple live and work in the Delta region of Arkansas. They are responsible for harnessing leadership energy to develop affiliates and to offer their assistance to the boards of affiliates that request training, advice, and other services. They are particularly geared to assist with strategic planning, board development, public relations, and fundraising. Each affiliate can receive such help, tailored to its unique characteristics and needs.

Because of the success of the Delta Scholarship Project, an additional field representative position was created in 2006 to serve the central/west central region of the state. Working out of her home in Conway, Svetla Dimitrova was hired in 2007 to provide support and training to affiliates from Grant County in the east to Franklin County in the west.

Single Parent Scholarship Funds in the Delta and Central Arkansas are encouraged to remain in regular contact with their field representative and to fully utilize their skills and services. A list of counties in the Arkansas Delta and Central Arkansas regions and their assigned Field Representatives appears on the next three pages.

ASPSF FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

Kim Dollins PO Box 84 Phone: (501)728-4354 kimdollins@yahoo.com
 Searcy, AR 72145 Fax: Same

Counties Served:

Clay	Jackson	Randolph
Craighead	Lawrence	Sharp
Cross	Lonoke	White
Greene	Poinsett	Woodruff
Independence	Prairie	

Beverly Chapple PO Box 264 Phone: (870)459-2299 bevchapple@yahoo.com
 Brinkley, AR 72021 Fax: (870)459-2251

Counties Served:

Arkansas	Drew	Mississippi
Ashley	Jefferson	Monroe
Chicot	Lee	Phillips
Crittenden	Lincoln	St. Francis
Desha		

Svetla Dimitrova PO Box 11769 Phone: (501)205-4707 sveltasd@yahoo.com
 Conway, AR 72034 Fax: Same

Counties Served:

Cleburne	Garland	Pope
Cleveland	Grant	Van Buren
Conway	Johnson	Yell
Faulkner	Logan	
Franklin	Perry	

Jamie Harberson PO Box 960 Phone: (870)584-4471 jamielharberson@yahoo.com
 DeQueen, AR 71832 ext. 1130
 Fax: (870)642-3320

Counties Served:

Bowie (Texas)	Little River	Union
Clark	Miller	
Hempstead	Nevada	
Howard	Ouachita	
Lafayette	Sevier	