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I became a single parent in 2005 when my husband passed away due to an accidental drowning. In that single moment, our household income was reduced to a quarter of what it had been. "Our expenses" became "my expenses" and I was left to raise a teenage son alone.

I earned just barely too much to qualify for any benefits from social security or even food stamps. We lost our medical insurance and I had no one that I could lean on to help us financially. My income just wasn't enough to make ends meet. I had a mortgage, household expenses, taxes and a **mountain** of medical bills. I was completely overwhelmed.

After much thought and prayer, I decided the best chance for us was for me to return to school. I qualified for some financial aid, but not enough to cover the whole cost of college which is *quite* expensive. This led me to seek other sources. My search proved very rewarding as I discovered the Drew County Single Parent Scholarship program and the rest is history! I graduated with my LPN and went on to complete my RN degree in May 2013.

As a mom, I can tell you that this program made a wonderful difference not just in my life, but also for my son. I know that he understands and appreciates my struggle. He has learned that you have to work hard and make sacrifices for what you really believe in. Through this he has learned patience. He is a good boy, turning into a good man, and I am very proud of him and I know he is of me.

Thank you, Single Parent Scholarship Fund, for helping us overcome tragedy and create this new life we're living now.