

## Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund

# STUDENT IMPACT: NICOLE EVANS



The redemptive story of the impact of Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is not necessarily how the story begins, but how it ends. Like many of our single parent students, success is reached after experiencing hardship and failure.

Growing up, Nicole Evans was shuffled from house to house because of her parents' addictions and abuse, living out of trash bags, in very impoverished conditions. She later turned to drugs and alcohol herself, developing a deep distrust of figures of authority, and struggled with low self-esteem. In the midst of her downward spiral, Nicole became pregnant.

“This is where the story changes. During some point in time while I was pregnant, something in me changed... **I became determined to do better, and to reach my potential...** I have found myself through my struggles. I still have pain from my past, I still have days where I just want to cry. But, **I am strong for my two sons, and I will finish school and go on to help others...** I may struggle, and I may fall. It may take me a long time to climb this mountain, and others may judge and look down on me as a single parent, but I will be successful. That, I can promise.”

Nicole believes that going back to school was “the best thing I have ever done for myself.” Ever since starting the summer semester 2015, she has earned a 4.0 every semester. Her drive is clear in such a stellar academic performance. This dedication is reflected in her career goals as she is, “passionate about teaching and about using my past to help others in any way I can. I am passionate about making this world a better place and opening the eyes of those around me to the serious problems our country is

facing today.” She attributes her success to her devotion to her children, support of family and friends, and the help of the ***Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Desha County***.

Nicole Evans sends a message to other single parents working so hard to better their lives:

“I see you, I see you up at midnight working on a paper trying to finish a load of laundry so your children will have clean clothes to wear to school. I see that you’re tired and want to give up sometimes. But I also see you smile at your babies and pick yourself up and keep going. We can do this. We deserve this opportunity. Having children didn’t slow us down. Keep going, because I see you.”