



the SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

SUMMER 2009

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Donation Form	2
Events	2, 3
Student Spotlight	4
Board Spotlight	5
Program News	5
Calendar	6
Contact Us	6

Creating *Even More* Brighter Futures & Celebrating Success After 25 Years!

Always looking for the opportunity to brighten the futures of more single moms and dads, Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County joined forces with the Carroll and Madison county funds to do just that!

The Carroll, Madison and Washington county funds, now Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas (SPSF NWA), will be administered through the Washington County office in Springdale.

Members of the Carroll County and Madison County Board of Directors joined the Washington County Board of Directors to fulfill the new SPSF NWA bylaws.

The announcement of the or-

ganizational change was made at the Spark of Hope event on June 25, 2009 by SPSF NWA Board Chair Jim Crouch.

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County has been a trend-setter in the NWA non-profit community and among the other 70 Single Parent Scholarship Funds in the state of Arkansas. As we celebrate a milestone this year, the 25th Anniversary of Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County, we look to the future of Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas.

With the current economic climate, more single parents are going back to school to become

more competitive in the job market, working to provide for their families. By coming together, these three counties that make up Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas will be able to raise more funds and earn more matching dollars for these more rural counties.

“Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas is taking this first step as a regional approach to empower more single moms, dads and families to pursue higher education,” said Executive Director Jody Dilday.

For the spring and future scholarships, applicants from all three counties will now apply online at www.spsfnwa.org.



SPSF NWA - on the Technology Bandwagon

“Find me on Facebook” and “Follow me on Twitter” are common phrases these days. Turn on any news channel and find anchors and reporters talking about their latest “tweet” or asking you to follow them on one of many social networking sites. Why? Because “news now” has never been faster!

Facebook and Twitter seem to be the more popular of sites to

use for catching up with friends, promoting business and getting news.

With Facebook, non-profits have formed “Groups” or “Cause” pages to promote their missions to the public, acquiring “friends” or “fans” along the way. Sharing Events on Facebook is also an easy and free way to advertise!

Twitter is known as the 140 –

character way of answering the question “What are you doing?” With a click of the mouse, your tweet can take “followers” to your website or any site that will give them the information you want them to have.

So, “Find us on Facebook” and “Follow us on Twitter” and stay informed about all things SPSF NWA! **Contact information found on page 6.**

Events

Rock the Runway



(L-R, Kelly Rourke, Tammy York, Dr. Jacqueline Scott, Jennifer Irwin, Tammy & Josh Mostyn)

The Northwest Arkansas Young Professionals hosted the first annual Rock the Runway to benefit The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County. The event was held at the Garden May 21, 2009.

More than 500 guests wined and dined from local sponsor restaurants. When the sun went down and smoke filled the stage, dozens of local

models “rocked the runway,” including SPSF NWA’s own David Erstine!

As a beneficiary of Rock the Runway, SPSF NWA supporter Jennifer Irwin from Magic 107.9 opened the show with a video that was produced especially for this event with the help of Sean Overbeek. The video, now used for marketing purposes, highlights three SPSF NWA recipients and their children– Charity Jones, Nancy Taylor and Andrea Mutzhaus. Taylor and Mutzhaus were both in attendance for the

video premiere, as was Mutzhaus’ son Jaden, who celebrated his 6th birthday with us at Rock the Runway.

Thanks to NWAYP and event coordinator Tammy York for an unforgettable evening!



Yes! I would like to help provide scholarships to deserving single parents. To donate online, please visit our website: www.spsfnwa.org

Name: _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Options:

◇ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

◇ I authorize SPSF NWA to establish a recurring monthly contribution of \$ _____ on the _____ of each month.

Financial Institution Routing No. _____

Checking/Savings Acct. No. _____

Signature _____

◇ I would like to charge my contribution.

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code (last 3 numbers on back of the card) _____

Name on card _____

Your contribution can be mailed to:
SPSF NWA - 614 E. Emma, Suite 103 - Springdale, AR 72764

Local Restaurants & Celebrities Support Scholarships

The 2009 Eat Out for Scholarships campaign was a great success with more restaurants than ever participating! Thanks to the following restaurants for donating 15% of all tickets after 5 p.m. each Tuesday night in April to Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County. The next SPSF NWA Eat Out for Scholarships will be April of 2010. For more information, contact Anne Jackson at anne@spsfnwa.org.



(L-R) from KNWA Alex Flippin, Kelly George, Liz Hogan and Neile Jones

Despite the rain, Maggie Moo’s Ice Cream & Treatery was the place to be May 12, 2009 for Celebrity Scoops for Scholarships. More than a dozen local celebrities scooped and created sweet treats for patrons and supporters of SPSFWC from 5-8 p.m. Maggie Moo’s offers this “Celebrity Scoops” program to local groups and charities, donating 50% of all sales during that time back to the organization.

Maggie Moo’s Manager Joey Morrison presented a check for \$250 to SPSFWC following the event.

A HUGE thanks to Maggie Moo’s and our fabulous celebrities: Mayor Lionel Jordan, Steve Clark, Blake Hanby, Kim Sharpe, Missy Shanklin, Strike from the NWA Naturals, Kyle Kellams, Tom Yazwinski, Neile Jones, Alex Flippin, Kelly George, Liz Hogan, Jennifer Irwin, Scott Shackelford, Kevin Kinder, and the Fayetteville Fire and Police Departments.



Spark of Hope 2009

Anatole France said, "Nine-tenths of education is encouragement," and encouragement is what the Spark of Hope is all about!



(L-R) Recipients Alissa Parker, Andrea Mutzhaus, Beth Main (graduate), Cheryl Walker and Brook Hart at Spark of Hope

On June 25, approximately 360 guests gathered for a cocktail hour before the evening program hosted by Jake McBride from Kix 104 and Jennifer Irwin from Magic 107.9. The Spark of Hope celebrates the campaign for scholarship dollars from corporate and individual giving. The 2009 Spark of Hope raised more than \$278,000 for scholarships.

Jim Crouch, SPSF NWA Board Chair, and Lisa Brown, SPSF NWA Board Treasurer, honored Scott and Beth Poole, Kiwanis of Springdale, and Hiland Dairy with the prestigious Spark of Hope awards.

Wal-Mart/SAM'S CLUB Foundation was acknowledged as the Presenting Sponsor. Birds Eye Foods and Dean Foods Dairy Group were recognized in the Summa Cum

Laude Society at the \$25,000 level. Splenda, CitiScapes Metro Monthly and the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation gained recognition in the Magna Cum Laude Society at the \$10,000 level.

McBride and Irwin introduced guest speakers Paula Alvarez, SPSFWC scholarship recipient; Jasmine Akhtar, daughter of recipient Sarah Akhtar; and Lisa Hollingsworth, graduate.



(L-R) Birds Eye Reps Emily Digby and Jen Bedwell, Spark of Hope Awardees Beth and Scott Poole

Guests dined on NY Strip steak, garlic and herb mashed potatoes and roasted baby vegetables. Liquor World sponsored the cocktail hour and evening with an in-kind donation of beer and wine, and Jazzmopolitan entertained guests with a three-piece jazz band.

Executive Director Jody Dilday and Board Member Justin DeLille announced Endowed Scholarship

Recipients:

Angela Franklin
Charlotte Langworthy Forsythe Endowed Scholarship

Lanie Miller
Diane Blair Memorial Scholarship

Melissa McKee
Thomas Alan Jacoway Memorial Scholarship

LaTasha Gray
Lois M. Fry Memorial Scholarship

Brook Hart
Lois J. Imhoff Single Parent Scholarship

Paula Alvarez
Elaine M. Longer Endowed Scholarship

Jeremy Riddle
Forsythe Family Endowed Scholarship

Liesl Kraft
Willard and Pat Walker Endowed Scholarship



(L-R) Ed Mullins, CEO of Prairie Farms Dairy; Brant Croxdale, General Manager Hiland Dairy-Fayetteville; Steve Lang, Walmart National Sales Manager; Gary Aggus, President of Hiland Dairy; SPSF NWA Board Chair Jim Crouch

Events

"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own."

Ben Sweetland

Spark of Hope 2009 Sponsors

PRESENTING



SUMMA CUM LAUDE



MAGNA CUM LAUDE



CUM LAUDE



DEAN'S LIST

- Blue Bunny
- Domino Sugar
- Hormel Foods
- National Dairy Holdings
- Pinnacle Foods
- Sara Lee Foods
- Schreiber Foods
- Unilever
- Greenwood and Assoc.
- Holiday Inn NWA
- LiveLight! Media

GRADUATE

- Acosta
- Northside Rotary
- Ozarks Electric
- Seneca Foods
- Tyson Family Foundation

Sponsors

Single Parent Scholarship Fund OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS, INC.

Student Spotlight



Andrea and Jaden with Strike at Celebrity Scoops for Scholarships

Andrea earned a 4.0 her last semester at NWACC and transferred to the U of A with an overall GPA of 3.85!

Andrea Mutzhaus Graduation and Beyond

The day of my divorce was very surreal. Walking out of the courthouse with the strength and support of my Dad at my side, I knew huge changes were around the corner for me and my son. The wheels in my head began spinning. I had financially supported my husband through his own education, with the glimmer of hope that

my turn was next.

After enduring a difficult relationship with him, we divorced right before he earned his degree. I was awarded full custody of my son and became the primary provider of all my son's needs. I knew I had to find a way to make it. The managerial positions I held just barely paid my bills and I couldn't imagine living life this way forever.

I wanted to save money for my son's future education. I wanted him to have all the enriching experiences in life I could possibly give him in order to make him an intelligent, good, wise man that embraced diversity later on in life. I wanted to be a shining example of how anyone can beat the odds and accomplish what they set their mind to if they really work hard on a goal and give it their all. I wanted to go back to school and get that degree in education that I had always dreamed of; I just didn't have a clue how I could financially do it.

One day while sitting in front of

a computer at the bank where I worked, a friend called me who had also experienced a recent divorce and had become a single parent herself. She mentioned she had heard of the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County and thought we should check it out. My heart jumped, and immediately I knew this was my chance. After my first nerve-shaking boardroom interview with SPSFWC, I was so excited (after the nerves calmed) that if awarded, I might actually be able to pull it off.

I began my adventure with higher education shortly thereafter. It's been two-and-a-half years since I began. I earned an associates degree in Elementary Education from Northwest Arkansas Community College in May 2009 and will start the bachelor's program in the fall at the University of Arkansas.

Each semester I've gone to school, I've come in to interview with Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Not only the financial support (which almost covers my rent each semester) but the emotional support I've received is out of this world. I work hard to make those who have helped me proud, and I attribute part of my academic success to just this.

The Fund changed my little family's life. I don't know how I could have made the pieces fit financially to accomplish what I've done without it. I'm now on my way to earning a bachelor's

degree in Elementary Education and plan to become mid-level certified. My goal is to teach middle school Social Studies or possibly Science.

My son has watched me study hard and has been able to experience many college related activities through the clubs I've been a part of. A lot of what I've learned about childhood education has remarkably already helped me to guide him through his kindergarten year. He sees Mommy work hard; he saw Mommy walk and get that degree in May; and he will continue to watch as I trudge my way to that end goal. Hopefully that will be enough to inspire him to do the same one day.

I can't wait to sit back and watch him accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I can only hope that somehow, somehow, my example made an impression on him and he understands how wonderful it is to give and help those in positions of adversity, just as the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County did for his Mommy.



Andrea and Jaden at Rock the Runway

□ Written and submitted by Andrea Mutzhaus

Welcome New Board Members

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas is pleased to welcome George Knight to the board of directors. George is a native Arkansan and has lived primarily in NWA since arriving as a freshman to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

After 29 years in sales and management, George retired from IBM. He currently serves as a University Relations consultant with Acxiom, where he enjoys working at the various career fairs and interviewing students.

A die hard Razorback fan, George has been keeping statistics and score for Razorback athletics for more than 35 years.

George is also an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hiking in Colorado and floating the Buffalo River when he is at home in Arkansas. George and his wife Vicki have two grown children and live in Fayetteville.

Members from existing boards with the Carroll County and Madison County Single Parent Scholarship Funds also joined the SPSF NWA Board of Direc-

tors. From Carroll County: Susan Brandt, Traci Culling and Pam Yarberrry. From Madison County: Kyle Mooty, Donna Samples and Joanna Taylor. Stay tuned to learn more about other members of the SPSF NWA Board of Directors in future Board Spotlights.



George Knight with his dog Jackson

Board Spotlight

Program

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Partners for a Purpose



SPSF NWA is pleased to partner with Cox

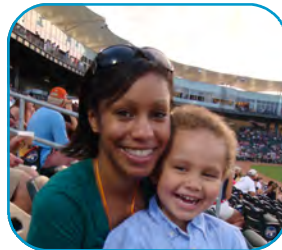
Communications to offer a resume-building seminar free of charge to all fall scholarship recipients.

At this event, SPSF NWA will also be presenting \$50.00 “back-to-school supply” scholarships sponsored by the Wal-Mart/SAMS Club Foundation to school-aged children of fall 2009 recipients. In order to make this worthwhile opportunity for students a bit easier, SPSF NWA will also provide dinner and childcare.

When: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00pm

Where: The Jones Center, Room 130 (Generations)

For fall scholarship recipients who would like to attend this program, please RSVP by calling 750-4971 or email carrie@spsfnwa.org.



Recipient LaTasha Gray and Dylan

The Northwest Arkansas Naturals launched its Pack the Park program this year to benefit local non-profits. SPSF NWA was proud to be one the partner organizations! Of the discounted \$6 tickets, \$3 will be donated back to SPSF NWA by the NWA Naturals.

On July 13, the Naturals took on Corpus Christi, and SPSF NWA was out in full force! Arvest Bank helped sponsor tickets and meal vouchers for more than 50 SPSF NWA recipients and their children.

Thanks to the NWA Naturals and Arvest Bank for supporting scholarships!



Event Calendar

STAFF

Jody Dilday
Executive Director

Carrie Montgomery
Program Director

Anne Jackson
Development Associate

Cris Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant

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WEBSITE

www.spsfnwa.org

 www.facebook.com/spsfnwa

 www.twitter.com/spsfnwa

August

14:
SPSF NWA
Board Meeting

22 & 23:
SPSF NWA golf
tournament in
Madison County

September

7:
Labor Day
(office closed)



October

15:
Fall Scholarship
Deadline

17:
Golftoberfest



Golftoberfest 2009

presented by Splenda is Saturday, October 17!

Flights 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. at Gator Golf in Fayetteville

Teams of Four- \$50

Hole Sponsors- \$200 (includes one team)

Hole-in-One Sponsors- \$300 (includes two teams)

Contact Anne Jackson at anne@spsfnwa.org.

Spring 2009 Graduates

Brandy Gossman—NE Technical Center, Licensed Practical Nurse

Arlene Jones—NWACC, Criminal Justice

Charity Jones—U of A, Speech Pathology

Lena Luanglathay—NWACC, Respiratory Therapy

Beth Main—NWACC, Registered Nurse

Christina Meeks—U of A, Psychology/Criminal Justice

Lynnette Moeller—U of A, Elementary Education

Andrea Mutzhaus—NWACC, Elementary Education

Holly Newton—Paul Mitchell The School, Cosmetology

Jennifer Shepherd—U of A, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Sakvibola Tath—U of A, Communications

Allen Trichell—NWACC, Aviation Maintenance

Single Parent Scholarship Fund
OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS, INC.

serving Carroll, Madison and Washington counties

