



Date: July 1, 2010

For Immediate Release

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## Single Parent Scholarship Fund Awards Recipients and Supporters at the 2010 Spark of Hope

(Fayetteville, AR) Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas (SPSF NWA) held their annual Spark of Hope celebration Thursday, June 24, 2010 at the Fayetteville Town Center. Approximately 400 guests gathered for a cocktail reception before the 7 p.m. program hosted by Jake McBride from Kix 104 and Laine Baker from KNWA Today. The Spark of Hope celebrates the success of the year's scholarship campaign from corporate and individual giving. The 2010 Spark of Hope raised more than \$350,000 for scholarships.

SPSF NWA Board Chair Justin DeLille and Executive Director Jody Dilday honored Geoff and Leslie Oelsner, First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, and Global Dairy Products Group with the prestigious Spark of Hope awards. Afterward, DeLille and Dilday unveiled the organization's new logo, which features a parent and child studying together beneath a tree, symbolizing our short-term investment in a single parent's education yielding long term benefits for our entire community as well as generations to come.

Scholarship recipients Paula Alvarez and Detra Johnson presented the first annual Supportive Employer Award to their employer Architectural Contractors, Inc. (ACI) Accepting on behalf of ACI was President Jay Berryman. **<Photo Attached: L-R Jack Parrish, Paula Alvarez, Jay Berryman, Troy Wilson and Detra Johnson>**

Walmart/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, Hiland Dairy, CitiScapes Metro Monthly and the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation gained recognition in the Magna Cum Laude Society at the \$10,000, as well as the United Way of NWA, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, Kix 104, Hot Mix 101.9, 93.3 the Eagle, and Magic 107.9.

McBride and Baker introduced guest speakers Patricia McClendon, SPSF NWA scholarship recipient; Sir Duncan, son of graduate LaDeana Duncan; and Sarah Pursley, graduate.

Board Members David Erstine and Shana Kasperek announced the 2010 Endowed Scholarship Awards:

Amy Hollingsworth, *Charlotte Langworthy Forsythe Endowed Scholarship*

Sharon O'Grady, *Diane Blair Memorial Scholarship*

Cassie Reid, *Thomas Alan Jacoway Memorial Scholarship*

Angie Johnson, *Lois M. Fry Memorial Scholarship*

Andrea Mutzhaus, *Lois J. Imhoff Single Parent Scholarship*

Candice Hill, *Elaine M. Longer Endowed Scholarship*

Toni Beeman, *Forsythe Family Endowed Scholarship*

Pamela Center, *Willard and Pat Walker Endowed Scholarship*

Mandi Beesler, *Alford Sherman Endowed Scholarship*

Guests dined on NY Strip steak, Rosemary chicken, buttered parsley new potatoes, whole green beans, Italian Crème Cake and Black Forest Cake. Liquor World sponsored the cocktail hour and evening with an in-kind donation of beer and wine, and the Ben Harris Trio entertained guests with a jazz ensemble.

**<Photo Attached: L-R: David Erstine, Debra and Dan Broyles, Gen and Frank Broyles>**

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