



the SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

FALL 2011

SPARKing HOPE since 1984!

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Gwendy Lefforge, Jennifer Forrest, Glenda Graves, Kim Sharpe, Tressa Horton and Wendy Teal from CitiScapes Magazine



Justin DeLille, SPSF NWA Board Chair, and Erik Rivadeneyra from Johnson & Johnson



X, Doris Cordes, Ralph Nesson, Marcia McCain

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas (SPSF NWA) held its annual Spark of Hope celebration Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Fayetteville Town Center. Approximately 350 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 2011 Spark of Hope raised more than **\$360,000** for scholarships.

SPSF NWA Board Chair Justin DeLille and Executive Director Jody Dilday honored the **organization's founder** Ralph Nesson, **founding board members** (Marcia McCain, Doris Cordes, Ruth Collier, Jan Judy, the late Elaine McNeil, the late Lois Fry, the late Charlotte Forsythe and the late Lois Imhoff), **CitiScapes Magazine** and **Johnson & Johnson** with the prestig-

ious **Spark of Hope awards**. Afterward, DeLille and Dilday announced a program to pilot this fall, pairing scholarship recipients with members from the business community for career advising.

Scholarship recipient Brittney Peace presented the second annual **Supportive Employer Award** to her employer **HP Engineering, Inc.** Accepting on behalf of HP Engineering was President Bill Hodge.

McBride and Baker introduced guest speakers Jeff Parmer, SPSF NWA scholarship recipient; Kayla Main, daughter of graduate Beth Main; and Pamela Center, SPSF NWA graduate.

Board Members Dr. Karen Hodges and John Threet announced the 2011 Endowed Scholarship Awards: Meghan McConnell, *Charlotte Langworthy Forsythe Endowed Scholarship*; Nancy Grizzle, *Diane Blair Memorial Scholarship*; Kristie Hamilton,

Thomas Alan Jacoway Memorial Scholarship; Scot Ripple, *Lois M. Fry Memorial Scholarship*; Paula Thomsen-Perez, *Lois J. Imhoff Single Parent Scholarship*; Sjah Short, *Elaine M. Longer Endowed Scholarship*; Caren Carrothers, *Forsythe Family Endowed Scholarship*; Katy Stonesifer, *Willard and Pat Walker Endowed Scholarship*; Jazmin Harmon, *Alford Sherman Endowed Scholarship*; Kelly Story, *Richard F. Cooper Endowed Scholarship*; Charlene Dodd, *Community Hope Endowed Scholarship*

Guests dined on a delectable meal of Filet Mignon and Crab Cake with Fume Blanc sauce, prepared by Southern Hospitality Management. Liquor World sponsored the cocktail hour and evening with an in-kind donation of wine, and the musical stylings of Don't Stop Please entertained guests during the reception.

Thanks to our 2011 Scholarship Campaign Sponsors!

Presenting		Summa Cum Laude	
Magna Cum Laude			
Cum Laude			
Dean's List			
Graduate			

Acosta, AAUW, Berryville Professional Women, Baum Foundation, Domino Sugar, General Mills, Kiwanis of Springdale, Ozarks Electric, NWA Newspapers

Events

ROCK THE RUNWAY

for Education

The 3rd Annual **Rock the Runway for Education** proved why this event has become one of the most awaited in Northwest Arkansas! Coordinator Tammy York with Gatsby Events produces nothing short of a New York style runway with fashion that even Gossip Girl would be proud of!



This third-party event is a crowd favorite, and we look forward to Rock the Runway for Education 2012, which will be part of the new NWA Fashion Week next Spring.

Thank you to Tammy York, Ryan Gill, all the sponsors and the countless volunteer models, designers, boutiques, restaurants, supporters and guests who made this event a SUCCESS for SPSF NWA!

Guests included supporter Elaine Longer, shown above with friends, making a girls' night at Rock the Runway, and our friends at DR Design Firm (photo at right) who coordinated event promotions. This

year's Rock the Runway for Education earned nearly \$17,000, and from that, a donation was made to SPSF NWA.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
W.B. Yeats

Serving Up Scholarships!

Local restaurants offer a great venue for spreading awareness about a cause. For several years, SPSF NWA has held Eat Out for Scholarships one month each year with several local restaurants. In order to grow this program, "Serving Up Scholarships" was born, and SPSF NWA will be holding restaurant nights at all your local favorites throughout the year!

On April 20, **U.S. Pizza** on Dickson Street donated 10% of all sales to support SPSF NWA! Every Tuesday night in May, **Café Delta Soul** on Mission and Crossover also contributed 10% of sales to scholarships. And on May 4, local

favorite **Hugo's** donated 15% of meals after 5 p.m.

Next up, **Hjem Restaurant** on the Fayetteville square will support SPSF NWA with 15% of sales each Tuesday in September going to SPSF NWA!



SPSF NWA Graduate LaDeana Duncan with kids Sir and Justice at U.S. Pizza



Wendy Stouffer (left) with her mother Barbara Dinning and sister

SPSF NWA's first Mother's Day Campaign, not only raised several hundred dollars for scholarships, but recognized amazing women in a special and unique way. Throughout the months of April and May, supporters made a \$10 donation to SPSF NWA and sent in a photo of the "Mom" in their life. We posted these photos and sentiments in a special "THANKS MOM" section on the SPSF NWA website.



Throughout July and August, SPSF NWA promoted raffle ticket sales for the Cox Suite at Arvest Ballpark. Cox donated their ballpark digs for the August 20 Naturals game to SPSF NWA for this event. The prize package included 15 tickets to the game, 4 VIP parking passes, and a ballpark style dinner for the whole crew!

The winner was drawn at the August 14 SPSF NWA board meeting. Thanks to Cox, **George Knight**, along with his family and friends had a great time at the game and enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with the fine folks at Cox. **The raffle earned \$1,200 for scholarships!** THANK YOU COX for partnering with SPSF NWA in such a creative way to raise scholarship dollars!

Events



SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT DETAILS

October 15, 2011
Gator Golf, Fayetteville
Flights at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Hole Sponsorships—\$200
Team Sponsorship—\$50 (sponsor an SPSF Family to play!)

REGISTRATION

Teams of Four—\$60
Forms and Online link available at www.spsfnwa.org/events

CONTACT

Anne Jackson at anne@spsfnwa.org with any questions.

Johnson & Johnson

the Social Scene...

SPSF NWA is offering a “trilogy” of socials to introduce new friends and supporters to the organization. In January, we held the very first Scholarship Social at West End. In April, we hosted a gathering at Savor, and in August, we held the final Scholarship Social of 2011 at Powerhouse Seafood and Grill. From 5 to 7 p.m., guests socialized with SPSF NWA supporters, including board members, community leadership council, SPSF NWA recipients, graduates and staff.



These “after-hours” affairs are a great way to engage co-workers and friends with SPSF NWA in a casual setting. A \$10 donation at the door provided complimentary beer and wine to all attendees. Sponsorships for the 2012 Scholarship Social series are available. Sponsors will have exclusivity for these events, with the opportunity to welcome guests and provide information about your business. Please contact anne@spsfnwa.org if interested.

Annetta Young, Lori Slane, Teresa Williamson, Paige Zaloudek & Jeromie Hale

THANK YOU!

Thanks to our friends at Campus Bookstore, SPSF NWA scholarship recipient **Justina Arriaza** was awarded \$300 towards textbooks for the Spring 2011 semester. Justina studies nursing at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. Congrats, Justina! And a big **THANK YOU** to Campus Bookstore for offering SPSF NWA recipients an additional discount on their textbook purchases at their Fayetteville and Rogers locations. Your contribution and support creates better, brighter futures for single parent families!



Campus Bookstore Locations:

Fayetteville—624 West Dickson Street
Rogers—2600 West Hudson Rd., Ste. C

Events

*“After
the verb
‘To Love,’
‘To Help’
is the
most
beautiful
verb
in the
world.”*

Bertha

VonSuttner

Events

Student Spotlight



Child's Name and Age...

Jackson Priesmeyer - age 2

School Attending and career path...

John Brown University - Organizational Management

Current place of employment...

McDonald's

Something that has surprised me about motherhood...

How strong your love for your child is. You always hear people talk about how much they love their children, but you never truly understand until you have your own. I love Jackson more now

meet KRISTI

than I did while I was pregnant with him, which I never thought was possible!

My ultimate dream day...

Have a ME day! I would love to be able to wake up, sit outside while drinking a cup of coffee, go work out, and then go and get a mani/pedi/massage!! That would be heavenly :)

I heard about SPSF NWA through...

My aunt received the scholarship through SPSF Benton County. She said it was a huge blessing and encouraged me to apply for it!

I find my inspiration in...

My past and how far I've come, regardless of the circumstances thrown at me. I'm able to look back and say, "Wow! I've come a really long way! If I did all that, what I'm facing now should be a piece of cake!"

My favorite part of the day...

Is when I get off of work and pick Jackson up from school. He is ALWAYS so

excited to see me and comes running up to me with a heartfelt kiss and hug to follow. Melts my heart every time!

I value education because...

No one in my family has any education past high school. My mother only made it through middle school. While she may be doing well for herself now, raising me was financially a huge struggle. She, too, was a single mom, which often led to working 2 or even 3 jobs at any given time. She did what she had to do so we could survive, but our time together suffered tremendously. I want to make sure I don't struggle like she had to. I value every second I get to spend with my munchkin, and an education is a proven way to help make sure I get to spend as much time with him as possible!

One word to sum me up...

BLESSED!

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

Angela Schwindt

SUMMER OF FUN!



SPSF NWA Graduate Andrea Mutzhaus with son Jaden, Carolyn Rehbeck & Jody Dillard at the Graduation Open House



Makenzie Price and Dalton Hamilton at the Scholarship Strike Out



Sophia and Isabel Pacheco with Sierra Montgomery at Family Movie Day

SPSF NWA is **SO MUCH MORE** than scholarships! We not only offer quality personal and career development trainings, but we also provide opportunities for FUN every chance we get!

Parenting is a master juggling act, and we know that fun activities often take a backseat to running kids to school, work, and providing all the essentials for daily life. That's where we come in! Staff at SPSF NWA are thrilled to utilize connections through our organization to benefit our scholarship families.

In May, we held our first **Graduation Open House**. SPSF NWA board members and leadership council congratulated spring grads with a cake and punch reception at the SPSF NWA office.

This summer, SPSF NWA hosted **Family Movie Day** at the Fayetteville Public Library. Scholarship recipients and

their kids joined staff and volunteers to watch Disney's Tangled and snack on theater-style popcorn! What a treat!

For some back-to-school FUN, SPSF NWA hosted the **Scholarship Strike Out** at Arvest Ballpark August 8. Approximately 100 scholarship recipients, kids, and SPSF NWA staff and volunteers cheered on the Naturals and participated in on-field activities. Dalton Hamilton, son of recipient Kristi Hamilton even threw out the first pitch!

During the pre-game festivities, all school-aged children of current recipients received a "mini scholarship" or stipend for school supplies sponsored by the Walmart/SAM's Club Foundation.

Other activities offered to recipients each year include tickets to Walton Arts Center productions, riding in the U of A Homecoming parade and participating at SPSF NWA's Golf-toberfest.

Support

JOHN STARE



Company/Title:
Johnson and Johnson
2005 – Present. Director of Sales

Hometown and/or when you moved to NWA:

Originally from Cleveland, OH and with my career Jeannie and I have bounced around the Midwest, most recently living in Indianapolis prior to moving to Rogers in July 2008.

Married to: Jeannie Stare (SPSF NWA CLC)

Kids: Mac (12) and Colin (10)

Hobbies:

The family and I are very active in sports and fitness. We are a big baseball and football family and exercise as a family several times per week both outdoors, swimming and in our home gym.

Why did you get involved with SPSF NWA?

The original connection was a past business relationship between J&J and SPSF, but after meeting with Jody and Anne felt an immediate connection and felt our partnership could go/grow to a much higher level.

What inspires you the most about the families we serve?

For me it's all about the positive domino effect our work produces. We help one single parent and it immediately helps their children and I believe will impact generations that follow. I believe it not only serves a financial need but also helps reinforce the work ethic and value system that will be engrained in that family and everyone they touch.

CHRIS SMITH



Company/Title:
Walmart
Senior Sourcing Manager – 9 Years

2010 Merchandising Excellence Award (Buyer of the Year)

Hometown and/or when you moved to NWA:

Newport, Arkansas.
Moved to NWA 1999 to attend the University of Arkansas

Married to: Tiffany Smith

Pets: 1 dog (Darth)

Hobbies:

Riding my motorcycle and spending time with family and friends.

Why did you get involved with SPSF NWA?

My mother was a single parent who had me at the age of 16. My grandmother encouraged her to finish high school and go to college. My mother followed in her footsteps and became a teacher. My grandmother raised me (from birth until I moved to college) so that my mother could focus on her education and start a career.

What inspires you the most about the families we serve?

To see so many single parents who are committed to breaking all obstacles in order to provide a better life for their children. They have chosen to take the path less traveled and in doing so motivate their children and families to be even stronger.

Board
Spotlight

“The beautiful thing about learning, is that no one can take it away from you.”

B.B. King



State of the PROGRAM...

As we begin another academic year, Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas is poised and ready to offer single parents **encouragement** and **access** to higher education thanks to a generous gift from a loyal donor, and a new program on the horizon.

Gift In late June, SPSF NWA received a donation of appreciated stock from a long-time supporter (who wishes to remain anonymous). This incredible gift, valued at more than \$50,000, will endow a full scholarship and strengthens our financial position in these difficult economic times. The donor who made this gift has created a lasting legacy. You can too, and it is simple to do. Consider leaving a portion of your estate to Single Parent Scholarship Fund through your will or naming SPSF NWA as one of

the beneficiaries in your life insurance policy.

New PROGRAM

SPSF NWA will be piloting a new program this fall, designed to add **support beyond the scholarship** for our recipients, as well as a meaningful way to engage new volunteers in the mission of our organization. Members of our Student Support Committee, which include *Board Members, Community Leadership Council members* and *Alumni*, met throughout the summer to design what will be known as the **PRO (Professional Resource Opportunity) Program**.

The **PRO Program** will utilize experienced professionals in the community as advisors for current SPSF NWA scholarship recipients. These volunteer advisors (PROs) and students will be matched according to degree program or career

field. Both will attend a one-hour training session, which will include an overview of the program, goals and guidelines. Following the training, PROs will be introduced to their assigned students, and together they will agree upon a date to meet for a one-hour advising session.

Students will utilize their time with the PRO to learn about working conditions, day-to-day work duties, skills required for success, pathways to promotion, and other opportunities available in the field. The intention is to give students nearing graduation a glimpse into the real-life workday of professionals who hold the degree they are working towards.

More details on the PRO Program, including how to get involved, are listed on our website at: <http://www.spsfnwa.org/2011/08/pro-program>.

Program

Calendar

STAFF

Jody Dilday
Executive Director

Carrie Montgomery
Program Director

Anne Jackson
Development Director

Courtney Pacheco
Administrative Assistant

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SPSF NWA Blog
@ www.spsfnwa.org



COUNTRY
— MEDIA LLC —



September

5:
SPSF NWA Office Closed
Labor Day Holiday

6, 13, 20, 27:
Serving Up Scholarships
Hjem, Fayetteville

25:
PRO Program, 2 p.m.
The Jones Center

October

15:
Spring Scholarship
Deadline

16:
Golftoberfest
Gator Golf, Fayetteville
Flights at 10 & 12:30

November

24-25:
SPSF NWA Office Closed
Thanksgiving Holiday

December

1:
Jingle Mingle, 6-9 p.m.
Scarpino's, Fayetteville

23-26:
SPSF NWA Office Closed
Christmas Holiday

Dec. 30-Jan. 2:
SPSF NWA Office Closed
New Year Holiday

Spring 2011 Graduates

Paula Alvarez	<i>Kaplan University</i>	<i>Accounting</i>
Pamela Center	<i>University of Arkansas</i>	<i>Elementary Education</i>
Kristie Hamilton	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Respiratory Therapy</i>
Carole Haws	<i>University of Arkansas</i>	<i>Social Work</i>
Natasha Johnson	<i>NTI</i>	<i>Practical Nursing</i>
Andrea Mutzhaus	<i>University of Arkansas</i>	<i>Elementary Education</i>
Amanda Prince	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Assoc. of Science Business</i>
Dacia Robberson	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Associate of Science</i>
Stephanie Seuyaphanh	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Associate of Science</i>
Kelly Story	<i>University of Arkansas</i>	<i>Master of Arts in Teaching</i>
Paula Thomsen-Perez	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Associate of Science</i>
Melissa Veach	<i>NWACC</i>	<i>Business Management</i>



Super Scholars

(recipients with a 3.5 GPA and above for Spring 2011)

Paula Alvarez
Desarie Alvis
Justina Arriaza
Mandi Beesler
Pamela Center
Tina Culley
Charlene Dodd
Christine Eckert

Kiayanna Foster
Angela Gonzalez
Nancy Grizzle
Carole Haws
Angie Johnson
Jennifer Jones
Shannon Kiger
David Klotzbuecher

Patricia McClendon
Melissa McKee
Ashly McPherson
Juliana Mendoza
Andrea Mutzhaus
Sharon O'Grady
Tracy Pack
Brittney Peace

Kimberly Pease
Amanda Prince
Cassie Reid
Scot Ripple
Alaina Ryan-Hunt
Crystal Shoffit
Kathryn Stonesifer
Kelly Story

SCHOLARSHIPS. SUPPORT. SUCCESS.