

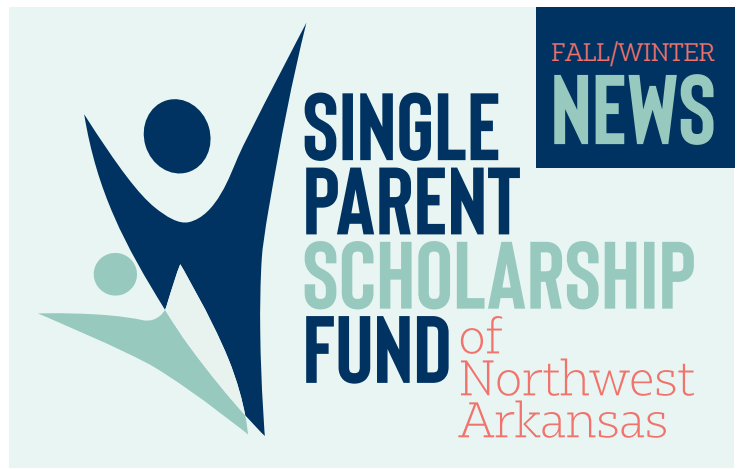
A NOTE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tyler B. Clark

It seems like July 1st was a lifetime ago since we merged all four counties into one organization. It has been a thrilling experience to watch SPSFNWA flourish amongst change. As I've mentioned time after time, the team has a laser focus on ensuring that our recipients and applicants are priority number one! With expanded services and programs and services now offered in Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington Counties, the future is very bright for Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA.

In this bi-annual newsletter, you will find the most current updates about past and upcoming events with the purpose being to keep you engaged and informed. Even as the global pandemic continues to rattle the economy, our healthcare systems, and the job market, we are steadfast in our commitment to change lives by encouraging personal success through higher education. Since July, the office has been open, providing full access to our team, but with Zoom and telephone appointments available. In December, we will host our first in-person gathering since March 2020. Read more about Jingle Mingle inside.

The future is so bright because we can help single parents achieve their goals, inspire their children's success, and build a stronger community and economy together. I hope you will share our excitement about this merger, which will provide greater efficiencies and additional program offerings for



our recipients. As we live in a region that values collaboration, we believe that this will create opportunities to raise even more dollars for scholarships.

For those who might not know all the staff and board members, I encourage you to view our website: <https://spsfnwa.org/leadership/>

Onward, together!

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

SPSFNWA celebrated the beginning of our school year with a drive-through school supply giveaway! Recipients were able to pick up backpacks of supplies as well as a stipend check to purchase any additional items they needed. Before leaving, they were able to stop by and visit with **Leo and the Breyer's Ice Cream Truck** for a tasty treat! Special thanks to **Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette** for their generous school supply donation.



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SPARK OF HOPE

SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND of Northwest Arkansas

The annual **Spark of Hope** was held virtually August 31. The prestigious Spark of Hope Awards were presented to **Mike and Susan Duke** as Outstanding Individuals, **Greenwood Gearhart** as Outstanding Corporation, and **Professional Business Systems** as Outstanding Community Partner.

Jaclyn House from **KNWA/Fox 24** and **Jake McBride** from **Nash Icon 94.3** did amazing jobs as the emcees for the evening. The heartfelt remarks from SPSFNWA recipient **Montinique Davis** and alumna **Mandi Beesler** added so much to the program.

Greenwood Gearhart, Lewis Automotive Group, and Walmart were our Magna Cum Laude Sponsors and our Cum Laude Sponsors were **Citiscapes, Hog Country Media, KNWA/Fox 24, Nash Icon 94.3, Pharmavite, Prairie Farms, and Sapphire Homes.**

More than 700 people visited the Spark of Hope website in August.

Proceeds from Spark of Hope were used for scholarships and program support. Mark your calendars for the next **Spark of Hope on July 28, 2022, at Embassy Suites.**



WELCOME COUNSELING INTERN, KELLI MAESTRI

"I am a native of NWA who graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Marketing. I have been married for 28 years and have three children...22, 19, and 16. For the last 22 years, I have been able to focus on my family while working part-time. My last job has been a pie business out of my home. I have a heart for others so when I realized an empty nest was quickly approaching, I decided to dedicate my time to helping others in a skilled way. After being out of school for 26 years, I took the terrifying step of going back to school to get a master's degree in counseling at John Brown University. After three years of study, I am excited to use the knowledge I have gained to help others grow, heal, and change. I believe people have the skills and ability to rewrite their stories; my role is to help my clients find their voice. Whether you are experiencing anxiety, depression, or are just overwhelmed with life, your story matters, and I am honored to work with the SPSFNWA recipients and their children."

Northwest Arkansas' original mini-golf tournament, **Golftoberfest**, was held October 16-31 at both **Gator Golf** in Fayetteville and **Golf Mountain** in Lowell. Participants were able to play at their convenience during this two-week period and each player received a t-shirt and a cap. Prizes were awarded for the first, second, and third place teams, as well as numerous Hole-in-One opportunities.

Lewis Automotive Group was our Eagle Sponsor and our Birdie Sponsors included **Citiscapes**, **Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette**, **Collier Drug Stores**, **Gildan**, **Outdoor Cap**, and **Pharmavite**. We were thankful for each of the Par, Hole-in-One, and Tee Box Sponsors, and we appreciated **Gator Golf** and **Golf Mountain** for serving as the host sites.

Proceeds from Golftoberfest were used for scholarships and program support. We had over 500 registered players, including 19 recipient families.

SPSNF of Northwest Arkansas GOLFTOBERFEST



HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

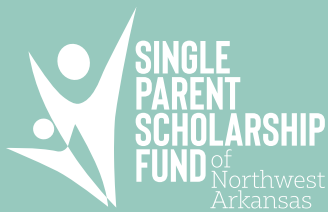
It got spooky this October at the SPSFNWA office! **The Rotary Satellite Club of Bentonville** donated Halloween costumes and treat bags for our recipients. One recipient wrote "this year, we were not going to do Halloween, as I was unable to get my kids' costumes. Thanks to you guys, we have some." Thank you to the Rotary Satellite Club of Bentonville for helping us brighten our recipients' Halloween!



EMPOWER SUMMIT

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the Fall 2021 SPSFNWA **Empower Summit** was held via Youtube. The program featured SPSFNWA's Director of Counseling, **Twyla Rownak**, as well as our counseling intern, **Kelli Maestri**, speaking about time management and our counseling services. In addition, videos from **Cameron Smith & Associates** on resume writing and interview skills, and **Mark Jones** from **CCOA** on financial survival for the single parent, were also included. Recipients who watched the video had an opportunity for a \$50 bonus and a chance to win a new laptop. Thank you to our Fall 2021 Empower Summit presenters!





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Annual Fund and Grants Manager
Mallory Mounce attended Fundraising
from Foundations and Grant Management,
presented by the The Fund Raising School
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.



◀ **CHELSEA B.**

Thanks to the support of the **John and Evie Tate Technology Assistance Program** SPSNWA was able to support 11 single parent recipients with technology needs this Fall. The total grant amount for this semester was \$2500 with each recipient receiving between \$100 to \$300. The \$20,000 grant was given in honor of **John and Evie Tate** to be distributed over a 5 year period.

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

Jingle Mingle



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RSVP by Nov. 30th to steven@spsfnwa.org