

Tyler B. Clark

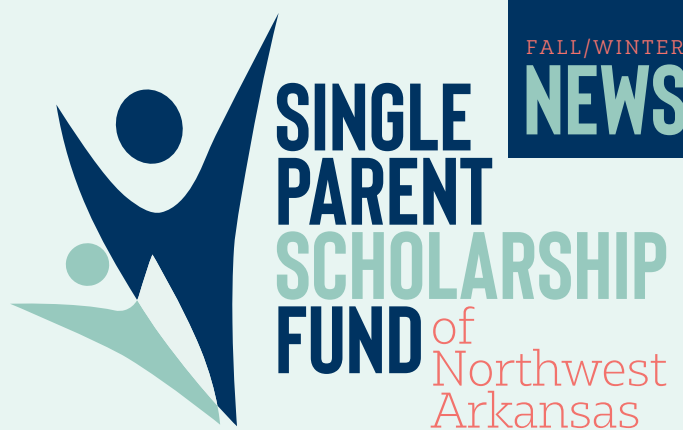
We're wrapping up a busy summer with event after event, supporting our recipients. Over the last several weeks, we've hosted Spark of Hope for over 400 guests to raise money for our fall semester, distributed thousands of dollars in back-to-school supplies, and released funds to the fall scholarship program. Over 140 recipients are a few weeks into the fall semester.

We wanted to step in and add additional value to our scholarships. Brave and hardworking single moms and dads are taking on the challenge of studying, doing homework, working, and raising their children. The economic forecast and inflation have not been great for anyone, especially the working poor. That's why our program department asked our board for an increase in base scholarship amounts for the first time in three years. Carrie Miller, our Chief Program Officer, writes about all those details on page 3.

Speaking of Carrie, we continue to celebrate a huge milestone! On July 8th, Carrie celebrated her 20th year with SPSFNWA. She first started as a temporary employee, moved to part-time, and later to full-time. She is our longest-serving employee and the second staff member hired at SPSFNWA. We applaud her for her years of dedication to our mission, Changing Lives by Encouraging Personal Success.

Before closing, I wanted to thank you for your continued support for SPSFNWA. We have the most amazing supporters who care deeply about our recipients.

My very best,

Staff at the Spark of Hope

BACK TO SCHOOL

On August 4th we celebrated back-to-school prep with our fall recipients and their kids. Each child received a brand new backpack filled with the essentials, and parents got a stipend of \$100 per child to help pay for clothes, shoes, and other needs.

We had great volunteers stuffing backpacks and who donate supplies. Special appreciation to Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette for their support.



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SPARK OF HOPE

The 20th annual Spark of Hope was held July 28 at the Rogers Convention Center. Nearly 400 guests enjoyed the reception that included passed appetizers and a local jazz quintet. A dual entrée dinner and program followed that featured current recipient Melissa Johnson, alumna Amanda Comer, as well as Tommy and Carissa Oakes, the children of current recipient Tammy Oakes. Community Ambassadors Natalie Bartholomew, Community President for First Community Bank, and Jake McBride, Northwest Arkansas' Nash Icon, served as emcees for the evening.

The prestigious Spark of Hope awards were presented to **Denton and Cathy Cole Seilhan**, Outstanding Individuals; **Adventure Subaru**, Outstanding Community Partner; and **Arvest Bank, Benton County**, Outstanding Corporation. The honorees received a beautiful handmade stained-glass award created by local artist Beth DeVerre at Cutting Edge Glass Creations.

We are especially grateful to **Walmart/Sam's Club** for their Summa Cum Laude sponsorship, **Greenwood Gearhart and Lewis Automotive Group** for their Magna Cum Laude sponsorship, and **AVAD3** and **Prairie Farms** for their Cum Laude sponsorship. **CitiScapes Magazine** and **3W Magazine** served as Media Sponsors.

Thanks to generous corporate sponsors and individual donors, more than \$100,000 was raised to support student scholarships and programs.

Thank You to Our Spark of Hope Sponsors

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Denton and Cathy Cole Seilhan with Family and Tyler Clark



Mike, Brittney and Susan Duke



Tommy, Tammy and Carissa Oakes



Board Members: Randy Werner, Craig Overton, Shelle Summers and Brad Crain

25% SCHOLARSHIP INCREASE

In May of this year, SPSFNWA Board of Directors voted to increase the base scholarships by 25% for all levels. Our recipients have experienced an increased cost for tuition, fees, and books. More significantly, inflation is driving increases in the costs of food, gas, housing, and childcare. 2019 was the last time that we increased the amount for scholarships. Raising the scholarship award amounts will help alleviate some of the pressure for our recipients.

New award amounts for scholarships are:

\$2,500

for full-time enrollment

\$1,875

for ¾ time enrollment

\$1,250

for part-time enrollment

SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE

SPSFNWA has been selected again as one of two local charities for the Adventure Subaru's "Share the Love" event!

This event is entering its 15th year for Subaru of America, Inc. During the Share the Love event, for every new vehicle purchased or leased from November 17 to January 3, Subaru of America donates \$250 to the purchaser's choice of participating charities. Brand new for 2022-2023, Adventure Subaru in Fayetteville will match the \$250 donation.

Over the past fourteen years of the event, Subaru of America, Inc. and its retailers have made a real impact, donating more than \$227 million to a wide range of national and local charities.

The last nine years, Subaru retailers have been able to select a "Hometown Charity" to receive donations, in addition to the national charities, and we look forward to continuing the Hometown Charity program this year to help increase the impact Share the Love is making in local communities across the country!



FAMILIAR FACES, NEW ROLES



Sara Stripling

Very few things at SPSFNWA do not have Sara Stripling's fingerprints. Since 2017, she has continuously juggled two positions at once. That's why we are thrilled to announce her new role as Philanthropy Manager.

Sara brings a sense of caring and calm to her work. In the past five years, she has served as our Office Manager, then the Executive Director's Executive Assistant, and as SPSFNWA and SPSFBC merged, as the Program and Development Manager.

Her flexibility and organizational skills have served her well in all these positions. Sara is eager to learn and is highly organized.

Her new role will include administrative support to the Chief Philanthropy Officer and the philanthropy team. She will also participate in all fundraising activities, including donor relations, direct mailings, and special events.

Sara, congratulations on this new role; you deserve it!



Haley Vincent

Many of you are acquainted with Haley Vincent. Haley joined Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA in June of 2022 as the United Way and Tyson Foods summer intern. We were so impressed with her work ethic and drive, that we created a new position for her as Administrative Specialist. When you call the office, you'll likely be speaking with Haley.

She is currently a student at the University of Arkansas, where she

studies Social Work. She loves volunteering with local non-profit organizations such as CASA during her free time. She is also a Canopy Co-Sponsor and volunteers weekly with Peace at Home Family Shelter Crisis Chat Line.

If that were not enough, Haley is currently serving as a Range Control Specialist in the Arkansas Army National Guard. Haley, we're so glad to have you back on our team!



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