

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County Receives Donation from Bank of America/Merrill Lynch



From Left: Edward Fillmore, David New and Rhonda Vanhook from Bank of America; Jack Eaton from SPSF/BC.

On May 27, 2015 Bank of America/Merrill Lynch presented a donation to Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County (SPSF/BC). The donation will provide scholarships to single parents in Benton County. SPSF/BC helped 172 single parents go back to school last year. Scholarship funds are used to pay direct school expenses, but may also cover living expenses, such as rent, utilities, transportation or childcare. Students also have access to counseling and academic/career guidance. Bank of America's investment in community organizations enables SPSF/BC to provide assistance to single parents pursuing higher education.

For more information on how to support the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County and impact the lives of a single parent family visit www.spsfbc.org or contact us by email at spsfbc@spsfbc.org or by phone at 479/254-8550.

About Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County's (SPSF/BC) mission is to enable single parents to achieve self-sufficiency through post-secondary education. As the largest affiliate in the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund network, SPSF/BC focuses on the whole student and the needs of his/her family. We provide an empowering and nurturing growth environment that helps a single parent attend school, while addressing issues which, if not addressed, could undermine academic success or cause early withdrawal. We do this through a variety of support programs, including: **Professional and Personal Counseling** that helps students process life events and increase their self-confidence and sense of worth; **Academic and Career Guidance** that assists students in identifying and efficiently pursuing an appropriate course of study leading to employment; **Life Skills Workshops** that allow students to adjust to the college environment and develop their critical thinking, communication, research and time management skills; **Tutoring** for students who need a little extra academic help along the way; **Mentoring** to help students build the confidence they need to change their lives. We also connect our students to members of the Alumni Council, who have walked the path before them and completed their degrees.



History of Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County

Single Parent Scholarship Fund began as a grassroots effort to provide financial support and services to low income single parents in order to reduce or remove the barriers to success. In 1984 Founders Marjorie Marugg-Wolfe and Ralph Nesson envisioned a holistic approach which included financial support, mentoring, career and personal counseling, referrals to other community services, self-improvement workshops, moral support and bolstering a sense of family.

Awarding seven \$150 scholarships in its inaugural semester, the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County paved the way of hope and opportunity for thousands of single parents. Within 6 months of graduation, around 85% of SPSF/BC scholarship recipients obtain a job above the poverty level. Over time, the success of this approach to educational support in Benton and Washington Counties led to the establishment of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund affiliate system, growing to serve all 75 counties in Arkansas.

Today, SPSF/BC has made great strides in helping improving the quality of life for thousands of single parents and their children throughout Benton County. Community volunteers are the lifeblood of this program. In 2001 President George Bush presented Marjorie Marugg-Wolfe the nation's highest honor for community volunteers, the annual Points of Light President's Community Service Award.

Media Resources: spsfbc.org/news/media-resources