

COMMUNITY



Several scholarship recipients, their children, and Beauti Control National Executive Director Margaret Ward Bice, pose for a picture during the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund Inc. Spring 2011 Scholar Donor Reception. Contributed photo

WCSPSF awards scholarships to 22 locals during reception

A total of 22 Scholars were recently awarded \$700 scholarships each by the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund, Inc. at its Spring 2011 Scholar Donor Reception. The event was held on the campus of Arkansas State University in Searcy. The event is held each semester to recognize the donors and recipients of the WCSPSF, Inc. scholarships. 83 people attended the event including scholarship recipients and their families, donors, and board members.

Receiving Women Helping Others (WHO) Beauti Control Scholarships were:

Kelly Formel, Latonya Irvine, Tracey Jackson, Misty Jenkins, Tiffani Kiker, Heather Langley, Hermelinda Garcia, Annessia Royal, Emily Satterfield, Allison Stanley, Vicki Vinson, and Tonya Webb. Making the presentation was Beauti Control National Executive Director Margaret Ward Bice.

Receiving Arkansas Department of

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Who: White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund

What: Awarded scholarships to 22 local recipients

When: During the Spring 2011 Scholar Donor Reception

Higher Education Scholarships were: Nicole Allen, Jamie Baldwin, Callie Collison, Debbie Elgin, Shana Emery, and Kayla Fitts. Making the presentation was ADHE executive June Morgan.

Receiving the Walmart Scholarship was Dean Querry. Making the presentation was Wal-Mart Associate Bryan McCoy.

Receiving the Billy Wayne and Wanda Emde Scholarship was Darren Amundsen. Making the presentation was Wanda Emde.

Receiving the Larry and Molly Kircher Scholarship was Constance Franklin. Making the presentation was

WCSPSF, Inc. Immediate Past Board Chair Paul Ford.

Receiving the Citizens State Bank Scholarship was Kimberly Fisher. Making the presentation was WCSPSF, Inc. Immediate Past Board Chair Paul Ford.

The mission of the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund, Inc. is to enable single parents to attain self-sufficiency through post-secondary education.

WCSPSF, Inc. has awarded 300 scholarships since 2000 with a value of \$141,315. In 2010, WCSPSF, Inc. awarded 47 scholarships with a value of \$26,813. In 2011, WCSPSF, Inc. has a goal of awarding 52 scholarships with a value of \$36,400.

For more information contact Executive Director Dan Newsom at (501) 230-2414, e-mail fabfour64@sbcglobal.net or visit www.aspsf.org/county_white.html.

The Daily Citizen

LOCAL

Single parents get help from foundation in Dallas

By Warren Watkins

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Single parents need a hand up economically, a local group believes, and have recently gotten help from a Texas foundation.

"We just received a \$16,800 check from the Women Helping Others (WHO) Foundation in Dallas," said Dan Newsom, executive director of the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund. "This gift will fund 24 scholarships this year at \$700 each. This is the largest gift we have ever received and will fund almost 50 percent of our budgeted scholarships this year."

Newsom said that when he was hired as executive director in February, one of his assignments was to research and to write grant proposals and in May, working with the grant committee, WHO was identified as a potentially good fit. Established in 1993, WHO is committed to encouraging women to help others through volunteer service, supporting organizations dedicated to the needs of women, children and families in crisis, Newsom said, and has granted more than \$4 million to other non-profit organizations.

"In our grant request, we asked for \$5,600 which would fund eight scholarships in 2011 at \$700 each," Newsom said. "But the WHO grant committee called me in December and asked me several questions about our foundation and what we do and how we award scholarships and track the success of our awardees. The last question I was asked

SINGLE-PARENT SCHOLARSHIPS

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Next event: March 3 spring scholarship donor/scholar reception

2010: 47 scholarships worth \$26,813

was, 'Why did you only ask for eight scholarships?'"

Newsom told the WHO representative that the White County group was trying to be frugal and knows that there are many worthwhile organizations that need funding.

Later that afternoon, Newsom said, he received a call from Cindy Turek, the WHO executive director, saying the committee had considered the request and could not award the eight scholarships.

"Then she said, 'We're awarding you 24 scholarships,'" Newsom said. "I was speechless."

Turek commented that the committee was very impressed with what the White County group is doing to better the lives of the single parent families of their community, Newsom said.

"Our goal in 2011 is to fund 52 scholarships so this will practically fund half of the scholarships we hope to award this year," Newsom said.

The White County groups hosts two yearly donor/scholar receptions in the spring and fall, bringing the donors, scholars and their families together for a night of recognition and celebration. The

spring reception will be 6 p.m. March 31 at ASU-Searcy.

Newsom said that there are about 1,850 single-parent families in White County and 43 percent of those families live at or below the poverty level, so the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund is dedicated to helping those families break the cycle of poverty through education.

"The idea is that the single parents will be able to get a post-secondary education," Newsom said. "This will lead to skilled employment. This will allow them to provide a better life for themselves and their children and will encourage their children to pursue post-secondary education. All of this will be of benefit to the community as a whole."

The average age of scholarship awardees is 33, Newsom said.

"I am proud to report that our college retention rate is 86 percent," Newsom said. "The college retention rate across the nation is around 50 percent, so our program is working."

The group's biggest fundraiser is their annual Bunko Bash, held in September or October, with last year's event raising a record \$16,000. Plans for the future include increasing the number of scholarships by five each year and to increase the amount of the scholarships each year by \$50. For more information on applying for a scholarship or donating to the effort, go to ASPSF.org/county_white.html, look for the group on Facebook, call (501) 230-2414 or write FabFour64@sbcglobal.net.