

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

OSPSP

Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program

Partnering with single parents in their pursuit of postsecondary education through direct financial assistance and connection to community resources.

Celebrating 10 Years of Opening Doors for Families.

President's Perspective



Dear Friends,

As OSPSP celebrates its 10th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the difference this organization has made in the lives of the families it serves and the many people who have contributed to its mission.

One of the highlights of this past year has been seeing our staff, board members, and other volunteers come together in support of that mission. Our recent Reach for the Stars luncheon was a wonderful example, as we celebrated OSPSP's 10th anniversary. We heard the stories of our scholars, honored OSPSP's founder, Ellen Ingram, with the well-deserved Chip and Lisa Taylor Encourager Award, and we welcomed the always-inspiring Anne Lamott (although a last-minute COVID diagnosis prevented her from joining us in person). The luncheon, including the pivot of Anne Lamott appearing by Zoom instead, was a beautiful celebration, and illustration, of OSPSP and the beautiful community that has grown around its mission.

That spirit of collaboration is at the heart of what makes OSPSP special. The progress we celebrate in this season of the organization reflects the contributions of past and present staff, board members, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Each person plays an important role: whether through financial support, professional expertise, or encouragement. Together, these efforts remind our scholars that they have a community behind them as they work toward their goals.

This anniversary year has been and remains a beautiful opportunity to build on what has been accomplished, and to look forward to reaching families who can benefit from the support and opportunities OSPSP provides. I look forward to seeing what OSPSP, with you, will make possible in the years ahead!

Warmly,
Susan CarinsCurtiss,
OSPSP Board President

204	92%	456	379
Single Parent Students Served	Graduated or are Enrolled	Scholarships Extended	Children Served

REACH FOR THE STARS



What A Celebration!

Reach for the Stars 2026 was a remarkable success, bringing nearly 400 supporters together for OSPSP's tenth-anniversary luncheon and raising nearly $130,000 to support single-parent scholars. Thank you to our sponsors, board members, and committee members who helped make Reach for the Stars 2026 the best yet.

Anne Lamott was unable to travel for the luncheon because of COVID, so her in-person appearance is now planned as a second event: An Evening with Anne Lamott, on November 5. It extends the excitement of Reach for the Stars and gives more community members a chance to connect with OSPSP's mission



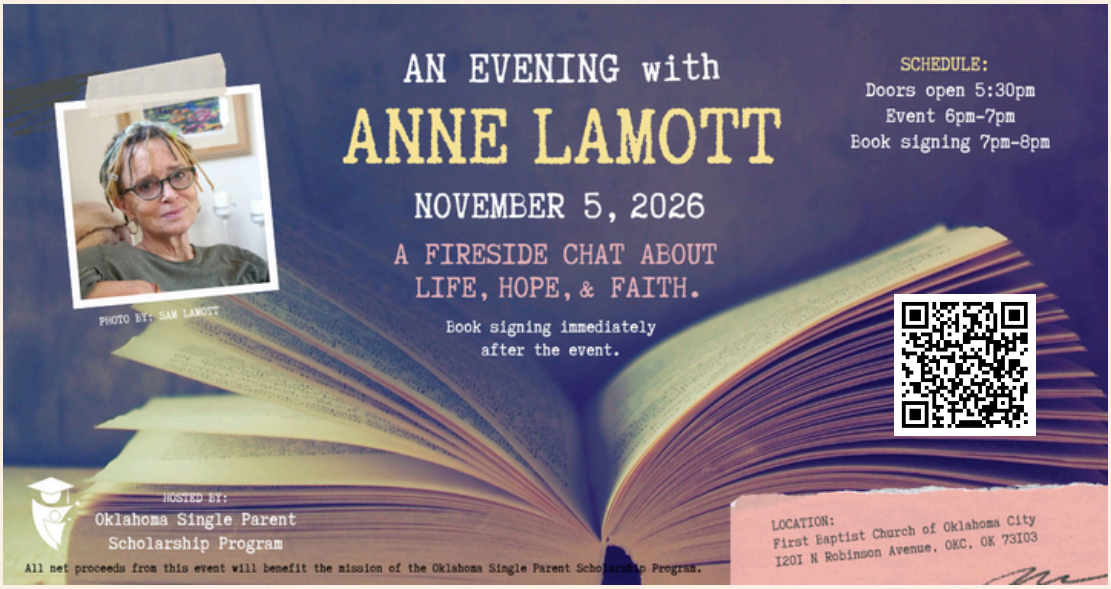








Anne Lamott is the author of seven novels and several best selling books of nonfiction including *Operating Instructions, A Journal of My Son's First Year*, a candid, humorous memoir about mother raising her son in Northern California; *Some Assembly Required: A Journal of my Son's First Son; and* a classic book on writing; *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life.* Anne's latest book co-authored with her husband Neal Allen is *Good Writing: 36 Ways to Improve Your Sentences*. Lamott has also authored several autobiographical essays on faith. The lifts, comforts, and inspires all the while keeping us laughing.



Dear Donors and Supporters,

Why we do what we do....

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your generosity and continued investment in single-parent families like mine. Returning to college in my 40s has been one of the most rewarding decisions of my life. What began as a step of faith has opened doors to opportunities, personal growth, leadership, and a future I once could only imagine.

This past May, I celebrated graduating with two associate degrees, and my educational journey is far from over! As I continue pursuing my bachelor's degree, I am reminded that it is never too late to chase the dreams God has placed on your heart. As a single mother and grandmother, one of my greatest joys has been knowing that my children and grandchildren are witnessing this journey. They are learning that perseverance, faith, and determination can change the direction of a family's future. Your generosity reaches far beyond financial assistance. You are investing in families, future generations, and legacies that will continue long after graduation. I truly believe that when faith, opportunity, and generosity come together, extraordinary things happen. Thank you for believing in me, supporting my education, and being part of God's provision in our lives. This is what you're sowing into, and I am incredibly grateful!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Caroline Smith, OSPSP Graduate

Spring/Summer 2026 Graduates

Congrats!

Ariakna "Ary" Atencio
OSU-OKC Early Childhood

Carle Brocksmith
MACU Interdisciplinary Studies

Spring Byington
Rose State Mass Communication

Shanice Cargle
Central Ok College Nursing

Asiyah Crowe
SNU Health Care Administration

Tashina Deer
MACU Nursing

Sierra Grunewald
OCCC Diversified STudies, Health Sciences

Karri Kennedy
MACU Elementary Education

Chas-Nay Mason
OSU Nursing

Caroline Smith
OSU-OKC Political Sci & Development

Randa Smith
OSU-OKC Business Management

Heather Thompson
UCO Psychology

Fall Awards Ceremony







2026 OSPSP Board of Directors

Susan Carns Curtiss, President
LuAnne Kuelzer, President Elect
Jessica Schwager, Secretary
Jeb Cook, Treasurer
Melanie Armstrong
Barbara Batchelor
Kelli Bowie
Taylor Boyd
Morgan Brammer
Sommer Brown
Brandy Burgess
Beth Condley
Marsha Herron
Bianca Hollins
Destiny Hulsey
Ellen Ingram
Aizhan Karabakayeva
Amber Martin
Carolyn Messick
Jill Trauschke

Learn more
at www.ospsp.org

okspsp
OK_SPSP
ok_spsp

OSPSP Staff

Executive Director:
Julie Leclercq
julie@okspsp.org

Student Services Coordinator:
Lauri Johnston
studentservices@okspsp.org

Marketing & Stewardship
Emily Buckelew
OKSPSP.org@gmail.com

The Honor Roll



MONTHLY GIVING SOCIETY

Donate Here

meet the match

A Match for the Next Decade · 2027

$24,000
Stanton L. Young Foundation
+ OSPSP