



Newsletter

Spring 2023

Helping low-income single parents fulfill their dreams of self-sufficiency through post secondary education.

Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program (OSPSP) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 2016 on the principle of providing scholarship funding and support services to high potential, low-income single parents. With a bit of financial support and encouragement, eligible single parents - many of them working full-time, raising children alone, struggling to make ends meet and on the brink of dropping out of college - can earn life-changing degrees and escape poverty. Scholarships are offered twice a year for the Fall and Spring semesters. Potential recipients must complete an application demonstrating their need for assistance, potential for success, and proof of full-time enrollment. After the student is awarded, they are matched with a mentor to set goals and receive support.



President's Perspective

Lisa Edmonds, Board President

Greetings and welcome to the spring edition of the OSPSP newsletter. Our small, but mighty organization is proud to enter its seventh year with continued growth and hope for low income, single parents who strive for a better future by obtaining their degree. Financial insecurity is an enormous set back for our students. What may seem like a relatively small issue for many of us, can derail our students from achieving their dream of a degree. Our scholarship of \$1200/semester provides assistance in any way - car repairs, diapers, food, housing, utilities, tuition and books.

This spring we awarded 20 scholarships and we anticipate 10 of our recipients to graduate in May. To date, 49 student graduates are beneficiaries of our program. Our hope is to continue to increase the number of scholarships and help those single parents find our organization.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our program director Jennifer Winfrey and past president Jill Trauschke who managed our student interviews the last two years. This is an enormous task organizing and reviewing applications and scheduling interviews. We are delighted to welcome Julie Leclercq this spring as our Student Services Coordinator. She will manage the interview process and continue to improve our relationship with participating schools. Julie will be a great asset to OSPSP.

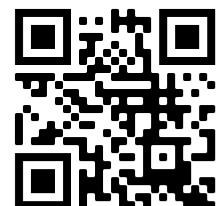
Please join me as we welcome our newest board members Taylor Boyd, Evelyn Cardona, Randal Lewis, Shuntae Wallace and returning board member Ellen Ingram. Their insight and enthusiasm is a great addition to OSPSP.

I quote the author H. Jackson Brown, Jr. "Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have". OSPSP gives hope to our students to realize their path to a secure job, develop confidence and financial independence and pass their success to the next generation.

Thank you for your continued support of our program and please share our story with others!

Lisa Edmonds

**2023 - 2024 Scholarship
Application Open
May 15th - June 30, 2023**
www.okspsp.org/apply



Spring Semester Recipients!

Melanie Armstrong - UCO
Tristen Baker - Rose State
Lisa Ballard - UCO
Maggie Barnett - USAO
Tyanne Brewer - Rose State
Arianna Camerlin - USAO
Jarrah East - OCCC
Adrine Fouateng Wanchie - OSUOKC
Crystal Fry - UCO
Delisha Gardner - Rose State
Tobie Golden - UCO
Kathrine Hughes - OCU
Mary Anne Jones - OCCC
Chantell Lanum - USAO
LaTisha Pruitt - SNU
Karla Santos-Perez - UCO
Kelli Swaim - OCCC
Rosaura Teus - UCO
DeAvian Wright - OCCC



2016 - 2023 IMPACT

90 Students Served
197 Scholarships
49 Student Graduates
Schools include: OCCC, OSU-OKC, OU, Langston, OCU, Rose State, SNU, UCO, and USAO

I enjoy serving as a mentor for Lisa, who is completing her undergraduate degree this spring at UCO. We meet a couple times each semester to discuss current studies and projects. Last semester Lisa texted me a copy of her Honor Roll certificate and a thank you for her Finals Care package. It's a win/win relationship! ~Marcy Price



Interested in being a mentor?
Email admin@okspsp.org

Thank you so much for the scholarship. As a single mother, it can get very difficult to afford supplies for school. With this scholarship, I can purchase scrubs, a laptop needed for my classes, and supplies required for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. Thank you for all of your help and support! ~Kelli S



Endowment

CREATING LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

OSPSP is excited to announce the recent creation of a charitable organization endowment fund with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation! This is a crucial step to ensure long-term sustainability for OSPSP and will allow us to carry out our mission to help single parents complete their higher education goals. We are grateful to Chip and Lisa Taylor for donating the seed money to get us started with the endowment. Because of the Taylor's gift, our 7-year-old organization can complete a vision we thought impossible at this stage.

"Lisa and I were both very blessed to have had such loving and encouraging parents and we saw the endowment as a perfect way to honor them and hopefully help and encourage single parent families for generations to come. We are excited to see what the future has in store for OSPSP and look forward to continuing our support in any way we can."
~Chip and Lisa Taylor

We are also thankful to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund organization for helping us grow our endowment by providing matching funds for donations made to our fund. If you are interested in donating to the endowment, you may give directly to our endowment through Oklahoma City Community Foundation at www.occf.org/matches or access through the QR code. We invite you to contact us for any questions at (405) 261-9644 or admin@okspsp.org



Fall 2022 Graduates

Evie Bird Nursing OCCC
Sarah Clifford General Studies UCO
Mandy Coplen Community and Public Health OCCC
Mizarette Dobganga Nursing OCCC
Timber Hendrix Respiratory Therapy OCCC
Brooklyn Learned Journalism OU
Sarah Metcalf Nursing OCCC
Karime Molinar Nursing OCCC



I am incredibly grateful for this award and relieved for the support it will provide. I appreciate the flexibility of being able to use the funds for a range of expenses.

~Karla S.

Finals Survival Box

As scholarship recipients were approaching the end of the Fall semester, OSPSP provided a Finals Survival Box made possible through our generous donors. Finals along with the holiday season can be a stressful time for single parents. Mentors and Board Members prepared and distributed the boxes to students on November 30.

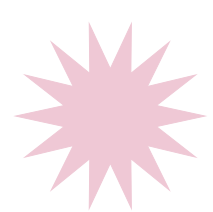




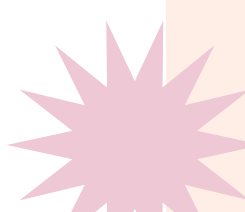
A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Dan and Barbara Batchelor have been supporters of the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program since its inception in 2016. Barbara was one of the original board members. Their children wanted to do something different last holiday season, so each gave funds to help support scholarships.

"We wanted to give our parents something especially meaningful this Christmas. We know how highly they value education and that they had worked hard to help make sure we all received a good education, so we thought the best way to show our appreciation was to help others pursue their education. The direct, personal impact that OSPSP makes in people's lives made it especially meaningful to our family." ~Leslie Batchelor



The Dan & Barbara Batchelor
scholarships will be
awarded Fall 2023



Community Connections

In February, members of our board had the opportunity to share OSPSP with the Downtown Exchange Club of Oklahoma City. Ensuring that the community knows about our organization is key to our mission in several ways. First, it allows us to let people know that we are here to serve. By spreading our message we are hopefully reaching potential applicants or people who can refer applicants to our program. Second, it allows us to share our heart for this work, and recruit others to contribute, whether through financial donations, mentorship, or in other ways.



Mother's Day Tributes

Go the extra mile this Mother's Day with a public tribute in honor or memory of a deserving mother, aunt, sister, or friend!

Your tax-deductible donation of \$25/tribute will support single parents and honor the special women in your life. With each tribute your honoree will receive a special card and will be published on OSPSP social media on Sunday, May 14th.

Visit www.okspsp.org/mothersday
to register your honoree



DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2023

2023 OSPSP Board of Directors

Lisa Edmonds, President
Halley Reeves, President Elect
Molly McBride, Treasurer
Jane Nelson, Secretary
Jill C Trauschke, Past President

Taylor Boyd*
Morgan Brammer
Laura Burdette
Evelyn Cardona*
Steven Charles
Ellen Ingram*

Randal Lewis*
Kelly Mirabile
Donna Mullins
Marcy Price
Shuntae Wallace*
Monica Weedn

*Denotes new member

Outgoing Members

It has been an honor to serve on the OSPSP board. The profound impact this organization has on parents furthering their education improves the lives of not only their families, but generations to come. The generosity and passion of our volunteers, donors, and scholarship recipients is truly compelling! I am grateful for the vision of the OSPSP founding board members and inspired by the ideas, work and leadership of our current and future board members! - *Nadine Rayan Davis*

I am so proud of my last six years on the Board! I can hardly believe how much the organization has grown. Keep up the good work everyone. Hopefully I will be back soon. - *Aleisha Karjala*

I really enjoyed my time serving on the OSPSP board. Serving on the Student Services Committee was a highlight. Meeting so many single parents who were juggling life and pursuing their education was truly inspiring. It is amazing to see the impact that our scholarship has on the lives of our recipients and their families. -*Andrea Horsch*

Meet Our Newest Board Members

Taylor Boyd

Asst Director of Graduation Persistence Support
The University of Oklahoma



My professional goal has always been to provide individualized support to students as they put in the hard work to obtain a college diploma. I recognize that a journey looks different for every student, especially our single parents, and I love that the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program helps to fill whatever gaps a student need in order to reach their educational & career goals. There is no greater reward that watching a student cross the finish line to their college degree!

Randal Lewis

Assistant City Treasurer
City of Oklahoma City



I first heard about OSPSP from a past board member and was immediately drawn to the prospect of getting involved. I want to contribute in any way I can to making a meaningful impact in the life of scholarship recipients and their families, on their paths toward a successful future. I am looking forward to helping the board establish the endowment, as it is a key piece to building a sustainable program.

Evelyn Cardona

Caring Van Specialist
Blue Cross and Blue Shield



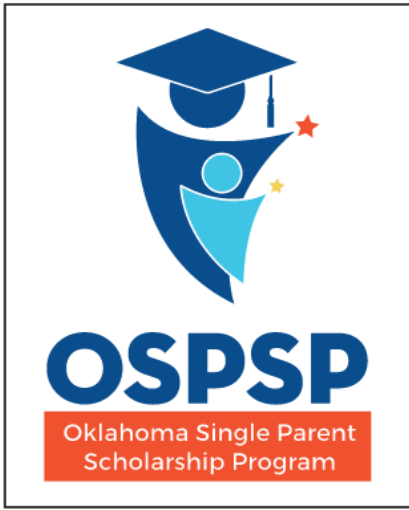
I learned about OSPSP through a board member Monica Ibarra. At first glance I did not know what I was getting myself into, until I started reading and getting educated about the program. In my single parent days, I wished I knew someone who looked and spoke like me, this would of have made it so much easier for me to get in the right path of higher education. We know that we have future doctors, nurses, lawyers and many other wonderful future professional who might not be able to take the lead in their future education due to low access to programs like OSPSP. One of my missions in life is to be that person I did not have when I was younger and provide them with tools and access to programs like just like OSPSP.

Ellen Ingram

Founder of OSPSP

Ellen Ingram, who with her friend Dr. Jean Warner established the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program in 2016, is returning to our board after a year of rotating off per our by-laws. She brings more than 20 years working and volunteering in non-profits to support and inspire single parents on their career path and life journey. "I am thrilled OSPSP has helped almost 50 Oklahoma single parents complete degrees - in just six years! They are nurses, teachers, respiratory therapists, social workers and more, demonstrating to their children the importance of education." Ellen lives in Stillwater with her husband Dale and their youngest son, a high school junior.





Learn More at
www.okspsp.org



Help us offer more
scholarships to deserving,
low-income single parents

Donate Now!

Scan the QR Code or
www.okspsp.org/donate



Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program
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