

Students Without Mothers

2008 Annual Report



Founder's Letter



Dear Sponsors, Donors, and Supporters,

I am pleased to provide you with the first Annual Report on Students Without Mothers. It hardly seems like five years have gone by since we awarded scholarships to our first group of students after founding the organization in 2004.

I will be forever grateful to my daughter, Melanie, who observed the needs of a classmate who had lost her mother to breast cancer and found a way to get me to listen to this student's story and take action. I was well into the process of starting SWM before realizing that I was actually keeping a promise I made over 25 years earlier. You see it was the helping hand of strangers that helped me reach my goal of going to college after losing my mother when I was 14. I promised that I would reach back to help others. I'm so glad I was able to keep that promise.

This report is designed to provide information on some of the accomplishments of SWM including feedback from some of the 38 students who have each received \$4,000 scholarships. Also included is a list of foundations, corporations, and other donors who provide funding to the organization and how these funds are used.

I would also like to introduce you to our Board of Directors who donate their time and talent to make the work we do possible. Our board is comprised of a diverse group of individuals who, in addition to governing the organization, spends time raising money and providing additional guidance to the students we serve.

I cannot say enough about the volunteer team we have assembled. This team gives unselfishly and enables the organization to reach accomplishments far outside the scope of our budget limitations. Our volunteers help with fundraising, event planning, data entry, marketing and communication, corporate sponsorship development, working as Life Coaches – just to name a few.

This report will also give you some information on our future plans which include further developing our Life Coaching For Tomorrow's Leaders program. Our future goals also include raising the additional funds needed to provide more scholarships.

Thanks so much for all you have done and will continue to do to help empower students and provide HOPE!

Sincerely,

Mary Torrence
Founder/Executive Director



Our Story

Mary Torrence, who knows all about the challenges of growing up without a mother, founded Students Without Mothers. Mary lost her mother when she was just 14 years old. As Mary cleaned her high school principal's home to earn money for her class ring, she made a promise to herself: when she became successful, she would work hard to help other young people in similar situations.

In 2004 Mary was reminded of that promise when her own daughter made her aware of a student in a similar situation. This student, whose mother had also passed away, was cooking meals at home and selling them to other students to fund her college application fees. Mary was inspired to do something about it--an founded Students Without Mothers.

Our Vision

It's about reaching out to others and giving something back. This life-affirming program is designed to be self-sustaining. Ultimately, Students Without Mothers college graduates will be asked to keep it going by providing peer counseling themselves. They will help others in the same way that they were once helped. Later, they might provide internships and financial contributions to help the next generation of Students Without Mothers.

Our Mission

"Helping students help themselves."

Student Voices



The SWM scholarship helped make my entire first year of college run smoothly. In addition to the financial support, it is the support and communication received from the organization throughout the year that is very helpful. This support has made my transition into college much easier and less stressful. I think the program overall is wonderful and the staff has done a great job of reaching out to the recipients.

Juliette Collins, '08 Scholarship Recipient

Graduate of Creekside High School, Plans to attend University of Georgia



Without the SWM scholarship, it would have been nearly impossible to pay for books which rise in cost each year. I spent about \$1,000 alone in books this year. The Hope Scholarship helps but the SWM scholarship has helped me to make ends meet. I am grateful for the support of the organization in helping me to reach my goals!

Dawn Davenport, '08 Scholarship Recipient

Graduate of Landmark Christian High School, Plans to attend LaGrange College

Scholarship Program

Students Without Mothers is dedicated to helping high school students without mothers help themselves by empowering them to continue their education. The organization's main purpose is to provide scholarships for college bound high school seniors who are without their mothers due to death or other unfortunate circumstances. Each student receives a \$4,000 scholarship (disbursed in annual payments of \$1,000). The organization has awarded scholarships to 38 students since its inception in 2004.

The Scholarship Program focuses on students in Metro Atlanta who have lost their mothers due to death or other unfortunate circumstances. Applicants must intend to attend an institution of higher learning and are required to complete an application and write an essay explaining the hardship associated with the loss of their mother. Priority is given to students from households where the guardian earns less than \$50,000 annually.

The program's success is measured by a combination of factors: the number of applications received, the number of scholarships awarded, the number of students who remain in the program to receive all four scholarship disbursements and ultimately the number of students who graduate from college. In future years we hope to have the resources to add a tracking system that provides feedback on the students accomplishments a year or two after completing college.

We are pleased to report that of the 38 students who have received \$4,000 scholarships, 80% are still active in the program or have graduated. (The scholarship began in 2004 and since most students are now taking 5 years to earn a bachelor's degree, we expect to begin to have some measurable graduation numbers at the end of 2009).



Rekita



Dennis



Breanna



Joseph

2008 Scholarship Recipients

Avram Graduate of Avondale High School
Plans to attend University of West Georgia

Chaundra Graduate of GW Carver High School
Plans to attend Alabama State University

Cherlyndria Graduate of Lowndes High School
Plans to attend Kennesaw State University

Courtney Graduate of Cedar Grove High School
Plans to attend Georgia Southern University

Darrika Graduate of MLK Jr. High School
Plans to attend Albany State University

Dawn Graduate of Landmark Christian High School
Plans to attend LaGrange College

Eric Graduate of Southside Comprehensive High
Plans to attend Georgia State University

Evaristo Graduate of Woodland High School
Plans to attend Kennesaw State University

Jared Graduate of Newton High School
Plans to attend West Georgia University

Juliette Graduate of Creekside High School
Plans to attend University of Georgia

Mohamed Graduate of D.M. Therrell High School
Plans to attend Washington University

Pamela Graduate of Lithonia High School
Plans to attend Georgia Perimeter College

Rocquel Graduate of North Clayton High School
Plans to attend Tuskegee University

Shanise Graduate of D.M. Therrell High School
Plans to attend Hampton University

Sheldane Graduate of Benjamin E. Mays High School
Plans to attend Clayton State University

Simone Graduate of Carver School of Entrepreneurship
Plans to attend Georgia Southern University

Zikia Graduate of Mercedes Madison High School
Plans to attend Howard University

2008 Annual Scholarship Awards Reception



1st Row :(L to R) Mohamed, Simone, Chaundra, Pamela, Avram
2nd Row: (L to R) Darrika, Courtney, Eric, Jared, Dawn
3rd Row: (L to R) Cherlyndria, Evaristo, Sheldane
(Four students are not pictured: Rocquel, Shanise, Zikia, Juliette)

Life Coaching for Tomorrow's Leaders

SWM's Life Coaching for Tomorrow's Leaders Program (LCTL) is designed to provide both advocacy and support to students who may be struggling to consistently make the best choices in a constantly changing world. The program is managed by Kathryn Kenith, member of SWM Board of Directors and a certified Life Coach.

The objectives of LCTL are to help students:

1. Make connections between their strengths and other important areas of life.
2. Become conscious of the role different choices can make when planning for the future and how a better outcome begins with better choices.
3. Formulate a plan of commitment by taking appropriate actions to reach their goals and objectives.
4. Set and accomplish goals and dreams at their own pace.
5. Facilitate their ability to find a clear perspective in their everyday life..

Board of Directors



Mary Torrence
Founder/Executive Director
(Independent Marketing Consultant)



Susan Henderson
Secretary
(Volunteer, Court Appointed Special Advocates)



Renee Alston
Board Member
(Account Manager, CBS Radio)



Kathryn Kenith
Life Coach Director
(Co-Owner, Flooring Design Group, Inc.)



Tricia Anbinder
Board Member
(Psychotherapist, Private Practice)



Reggie Prime
Board Chair
(Director of Environmental Affairs, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.)



Cheryl Bobbit
Board Member
(Manager – Publishing & Design Services, AT&T)



Marc Rawls
Vice Chair Executive Committee
(Attorney, Sutherland)



Tiffany Cochran Edwards
Board Member
(Communications Director, The Cochran Firm)



Susan Stine
Chair Scholarship Selection Committee
(Director of Development, Georgia State Univ. College of Health and Human Services)

2008 Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

INCOME	
Contributions/Misc. Donations	\$ 8,704.15
Silent Auction	6,058.16
Sponsorships/Donations	42,875.00
Other Fundraising Income - Other	6,304.64
Grants	27,500.00
Quarterly Donors	4,726.00
Total Income	\$ 96,167.95
EXPENSES	
Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$ -184.83
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Student Intern	\$ 2,600.00
Program Development/Awards	9,509.26
Memberships	500.00
Supplies/Materials/Postage	3,136.02
Program Administration	23,216.00
Students Special Needs	75.81
Scholarship Disbursements	29,000.00
Other Program Expenses	146.48
Total Program Expenses	\$ 68,183.57
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	
Printing/Marketing/Postage	\$ 4,176.46
Supplies	426.07
Silent Auction Fees	769.50
Contract Labor	875.00
Other Expenses	627.76
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$ 6,874.79

Statement of Income and Expenses (Continued)

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Memberships	\$ 447.00
Automobile Expense	6.39
Website Maintenance	300.00
Miscellaneous	339.92
Licenses and Permits	309.92
Contract Labor	6,310.00
Bank Service Charges	945.00
Insurance	486.00
Office Equipment	155.14
Office Maintenance & Repairs	1,829.11
Office Supplies & Printing	1,887.38
Postage and Delivery	1,100.73
Rent	16,351.96
Security System	509.88
Telephone	5,169.09
Other Operating Expenses	1,281.15
Total Operating Expense	\$ 37,428.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 112,302.20
Net Ordinary Income	\$ -16,134.25
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSES	
Other Income	\$ 2.03
Other Expenses	12.00
Net Other Income	\$ -9.97
NET INCOME	\$ -16,144.22

Consolidated Profit and Loss Statement

ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	\$ 6,955.32
Other Current Assets	1,339.80
Office Equipment	7,192.34
Accumulated Depreciation	-1,079.57
Total Assets	\$ 14,407.89
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,000.00
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	\$ 26,552.31
Net Income	-16,144.22
Total Equity	\$ 10,408.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 14,408.09

2008 Sponsors and Donors

Grants

Anbinder Family Foundation
Robert & Polly Dunn Foundation
Tenet Healthcare Foundation
The LINKS (Atlanta Chapter)

Inkind Donors

AT&T
Beauti Control
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Nia Women's Ministry Group
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