

LEGACIES

WINTER 2021

Foundation Announces \$600,000 Scholarship for Arkansas Undergraduates

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas recently announced a \$200,000 planned gift to establish **The Hope Scholarship** to benefit low-income undergraduate students in Arkansas. This gift, along with The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas' commitment of an additional \$100,000 a year for the next four years, brings the total scholarship award to \$600,000.

While the donors prefer to remain anonymous, they expressed their desire to uphold the Wesleyan cornerstone of "doing all the good you can, by all the means you can, for as long as you can" while inspiring others to do the same. The Hope Scholarship will award \$150,000 for the next four years to incoming and current undergraduate students. Four Arkansas organizations will administer the scholarship- Hendrix College in Conway, Philander Smith College, the Dr. Charles W. Donaldson Scholars Academy, and the Oscar Washington, Jr., Educational Fund, all based out of Little Rock- starting the Fall 2022 semester.

Hendrix College and Philander Smith College are traditional four-year institutions, while the Dr. Charles W. Donaldson Scholars Academy is a year-round program open to high school students in the Pulaski County Special School District and Jacksonville North Pulaski School District. The program provides academic support and mentoring for underrepresented and first-generation students. "I am appreciative of The Methodist Foundation for providing this life-changing support. This makes me so proud to be a United Methodist," said Dr. Donaldson, the Academy's namesake.

The Oscar Washington, Jr. Educational Fund provides scholarships to college-bound high school seniors based on demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and community service, the hallmark of the fund's namesake. "We were humbled and profoundly thankful to hear of donors who shared our desire to help youth and chose to make a significant financial

investment with anonymity," said The Honorable Mark Leverett, chair of the fund. "Further, that the Grant Committee of The Foundation voted to match the donor's generous offer and doubled the already generous gift! We are grateful to the Lord for knitting us together with like-minded people and organizations for the benefit of Arkansas' youth." According to the College Board, the average published cost of a four-year public university, including in-state tuition, fees, room, and board, is now about \$22,000 a year. Average annual costs at four-year private, nonprofit colleges can be well over twice that amount. "As college affordability continues to skyrocket, funding initiatives like The Hope Scholarship allow promising scholars to pursue - and afford - their dreams of being college graduates," said Philander Smith College President Roderick Smothers, Sr.

"The goal of this scholarship is to help those students with high potential for success in college who might not be able to afford it otherwise," said Rev. J. Wayne Clark, President & CEO of The

continued on next page

Grant Funds Refrigerated Truck for Ministry



The Foundation joined partners in purchasing a refrigerated truck for The Manna Center, a non-profit organization located in Siloam Springs, whose ministry is to distribute food to at-need families in the region. Tyson Foods, Cobb-Vantress, the Arvest Foundation and 200,000 More Reasons of the Arkansas Annual Conference partnered in this purchase.

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Rev. J. Wayne Clark
President & CEO

A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

Trust Takes Time

During Seminary, I served as a Chaplain at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, and met a five-year-old boy named Carlos who had leukemia. The first time I walked into his room, he quickly put his sheet over his head. His mother Cindy laughed a little, so I introduced myself to her (and Carlos through the sheet). Cindy and I had a pleasant conversation, and when I got ready to leave, I asked her if I could return tomorrow. She said yes, so I turned to the sheet-covered Carlos and told him I'd be back tomorrow. The sheet didn't stir.

I returned the next day, and the sheet-covered Carlos sat in silence as I visited with his mother. This routine continued for several days as Carlos completed treatment- walk in the room, sheet over his head, and my conversation with Cindy. Each time I left, I always turned to the bed and told Carlos I would see him the next day.

After many days of visiting, I went over to give Carlos my usual goodbye when a small hand reached for me. The sheet still covering his head, I gently held his hand and said in a softer voice, "I'll see you tomorrow, Carlos." I couldn't wait to go back to his room to see what would happen.

Our next visit began as usual, but he slowly lowered the sheet to reveal his precious face once Carlos realized it was me. We talked more on this visit and during his next eighteen months in and out of the hospital. Our relationship developed into one where we laughed together, played games, and even rode in the hallway with him standing on his IV pole and me pushing him around (doctor and nurse approved, of course!). By the end of my time at seminary, Carlos had gone into remission, but we continued to laugh together, play games, and ride the IV pole.

It took a long time before Carlos would trust me and come out from under the covers. Even then, it was a relationship that evolved, and the trust had to deepen. I hope The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has gained your confidence. Please let us know what we can do for you or your church and how we can further strengthen your trust in us.

BLESSINGS,
Wayne

Hope Scholarship continued

Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. "We are so excited to receive the news of this tremendous gift, and we are deeply grateful to the donor and The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas," said Hendrix College President Ellis Arnold. "Not only does this scholarship recognize our proud heritage as a Methodist Church-related college, but it also provides the opportunity for future students to have life-changing opportunities at Hendrix." "These donors recognize that a college degree can make all the difference," said Clark. "For the Foundation to double the donors' gift only adds to this excitement."

MFA Northwest Arkansas Office Opens in Rogers

New faces and partnerships create Methodist working space at The Village on the Creeks

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is excited to announce that it recently opened an office in Northwest Arkansas to allow more access to The Foundation for those churches in the region. Last spring, the Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously voted to open this office, recognizing the importance, as well as the growing need of having a permanent presence in this part of the state. On August 15, Amy Anderson assumed the role as the Northwest Arkansas Development Officer and officially opened the Rogers office on September 1.

Amy grew up in Fayetteville and was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. She sang in the children's choir and then joined the chancel choir once she was in high school. She became a local leader in the United Methodist Youth group then assumed leadership roles in the Fayetteville District Youth Ministries serving as its President for three years. Additionally, she continued her passion for youth ministry by being a member of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) for three years and was the Vice-President of CCYM during her junior and



Amy Anderson
Northwest Arkansas
Development Officer

senior years of high school. After graduating Fayetteville High School, she attended and graduated from Hendrix College where she worked an additional seven years there in its Office of Admission, while earning a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Amy recently moved back to the area after spending 10 years serving overseas with the Foreign Service. She is excited to be back home working for The Foundation and looks forward to visiting each of the churches within her area.

The Foundation's office is located in The Village on the Creeks right off of the Pinnacle Hills exit in Rogers. Additionally, The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas teamed up with other Methodist organizations that wanted to open up an office location in Northwest Arkansas. Those organizations include Hendrix College Office of Admission, Ozark Mission Project (OMP), and Camp Aldersgate.

If you would like to reach out to Amy, you can stop by the office at 5306 W. Village Parkway, Suite 1 in Rogers, give her a call at 479-957-3089 or email at aanderson@methodistfoundationar.org.

Open for Business in NWA



The Foundation's Amy Anderson (center) with Jules Anderson of Ozark Mission Project (left), and William Roberts, of the Hendrix College Office of Admissions, in their new Northwest Arkansas office. Visit them at 5306 W. Village Parkway, Suite 1, Rogers, AR 72758.

Foundation Bishops' Club Luncheon Canceled

After much prayer and discussion, the Foundation's Development team has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Bishops' Club luncheon again this year, due to the pandemic. As much as we would love to gather in fellowship to share all the exciting Foundation news, we feel that is not the responsible thing to do at this time.

Although we are not able to gather and express our appreciation to our Bishops' Club members, we want them to know how much we value their support. Initially, the Bishops' Club supported The Foundation's daily operations, but we are blessed that we can now dedicate all of these funds toward our discretionary grant work. This support allows The Foundation to fulfill our mission of strengthening and expanding Methodist ministry in Arkansas.

If you are interested in becoming a Bishops' Club member, please visit our website.



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Foundation Welcomes Kilbourne as new Director of Development



Rev. Lynn Kilbourne
Director of Development

Rev. Lynn Kilbourne was recently introduced as the new Director of Development for The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. Lynn's relationship to The Foundation began in 2006 when she was awarded the Foundation's Seminary Scholarship. She answered a call into ministry as an undergraduate at Henderson State University and student in the HSU/OBU Wesley Foundation in Arkadelphia. Lynn's ministry has focused on Arkansas Methodism and the scholarship began her covenant to serve in the Arkansas Annual Conference.

She received her Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC and was ordained as a United Methodist Elder. For the past twelve years, Lynn served in ministry as the Associate Pastor of Bryant FUMC and Conway FUMC, and the Senior Pastor of North Little Rock FUMC. Lynn also serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Episcopacy Committee of the Arkansas Annual Conference. She is a past chairperson of the United Methodist Clergywomen of Arkansas and has taught at the Hendrix Course of Study. In 2019, she was elected as a clergy delegate to the 2020 General Conference.

When Lynn answered her call into ministry as a college student she knew that God was calling her to serve Methodist churches in Arkansas. For the past five years she has served on our Board of Directors which allowed her to learn how The Foundation is partnering with local churches to enrich their ministries through endowments and leadership development. As the Director of Development, she will continue to live out her calling to serve the Methodist Church by partnering with churches to create and administer permanent charitable endowment funds to strengthen and expand Methodist ministry across Arkansas. Lynn can be reached at (501) 664-8632 or lkilbourne@methodistfoundationAR.org.