



Executive Director, Marama Bayles



Administrative Assistant, Kristin Towns



Annual Report 2014

**Academic Excellence
Campus Visits
Dental Program
Finance For Your Future
Page Program
Quarterly Meetings
Quarterly Volunteer Activities
Real Life/Real Choices
Summer Camps**

Message from our Chairman

I cannot proceed without first mentioning the loss to the community, to this program, and to me, personally, of my dear partner and husband, Barry W. Lowe, who passed away on December 4, 2014, as a result of Parkinson's Disease. In his brilliant mind the seed for this program sprouted. Through his vision, determination, and initial personal funding, the program became a reality.

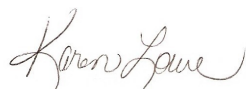
Barry often spoke about his own struggles as a student who grew up in the poorest community in the United States at the time, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Yet, even though he has departed from this world, his legacy continues through the successes of the LFYS students. Similar to Barry's experience, the LFYS students are overcoming obstacles and receiving college degrees. These students are also learning about finances, life choices, and giving back to their communities. They will carry on the hope that began as a seed in one man's mind . . . A seed that grew into wanting to help others and to make a difference by offering a hand up.

The program has grown from seven students (in 2006) to seventeen in the mentoring program. We have two college graduates, seven attending college with six more who will be joining them next fall. Barry didn't live long enough to see the twenty students in college, which was the program's goal, but he was able to see two graduate, which thrilled him. Through the professional and competent Lowe Family Young Scholars Board of Directors, Barry's vision will continue. We will see many more graduate, and at some time in the near future, we will have twenty students in college. The thought of that day thrills me.

Thanks to the mentors; without them, many of our students would not continue to be on the college track. Thanks to our donors, who have faith and confidence that we take our fiduciary responsibilities seriously.

We are excited about what the future holds for the LFYS students.

Sincerely,



Our Mission

The mission of the LFYS Program is to assist academically promising, yet economically disadvantaged students in the BPS system to earn a college degree.

Mentoring Program Donors

With the funds of our donors, the LFYS Program continues to thrive. This list reflects gifts from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Donations may be sent to: LFYS Program, P. O. Box 33, Bartlesville, OK 74005

Doctorate

(\$5,000 and up)

Bartlesville Community Foundation
Kaiser Foundation
Oklahoma Wesleyan University

ONE Award
Jack Presnell
Terry & Cheri Spears

Master's

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

KS Adams Foundation
Bill & Vicki Beierschmitt
ConocoPhillips
DSR
Hood & Associates
Deborah Langley

Barry W. & Karen Lowe
OSU Foundation
Truity
Wal-Mart Corporation
Wilbur Fund

Bachelor's

(\$500 - \$999)

Arvest Bank
Bartlesville Rotary
Roberto & Dana Ceconi
Tim & Laurie Collins
Doenges Ford

JP Sorority
Keleher Outdoor Advertising, Inc.
Musselman Abstract Company
Phillips 66 Company
Rotary #2476

Associates

(\$100 - \$499)

Amazon
Brewer, Worton, Robinett
Del Clark & Malinda Brown
Theresa Bosack
Charles & Julie Daniels
Dan & Melinda Droege
Janice Dreiling
Ford & Vanessa Drummond
Anita Eden
Warren & Joleen Ewert
Jim & Ada Grillot
Ronald & Gerri Hoehn

Gene & Rhonda Kesselhuth
Christopher & Stephanie Kroodsmma
Don & Susan Lauffer
RSU Foundation
Charles Sauber
Earl & Jane Sears
Brenda Shopshire
Lee Stone
Bettye Williams
Wal-Mart Distribution Center
Dan & Pam Schultes
Brenda Shopshire

Johnnye Faye Bradshaw Presnell

Johnnye was born in a Phillips Company (her father was a Phillips employee) house at Shidler, Oklahoma, in July 1925. She passed away in August 2012 at the age of 87 of what Jack describes “a bad heart,” but as you read further, I believe you’ll agree she actually had a very good heart. Soon after she graduated from high school, her family was transferred to Borger, TX during WWII. By coincidence, that very same month, Johnnye’s husband-to-be, Jack, a Phillips employee, was transferred from Bartlesville to Borger. Jack, a shy young man, noticed Johnnye at parties, dances, and picnics they both attended. He assessed that she was the young lady he wanted to settle down with . . . even though he hadn’t asked her for a first date yet! Within a year after getting up enough nerve to ask Johnnye on that date, they were engaged and married at Borger. Jack and Johnnye had 66 years together as husband and wife and together, they had three daughters.

Jack describes Johnnye “as a wonderful partner, personable and hospitable. She loved people and often was found helping others, including frequently visiting the Owasso Baptist Children’s Home. As an example of her kind heart and desire to always look after others even when her own health was failing, Jack shared the following story. The evening before Johnnye collapsed and was taken to the hospital, she turned the television sound down and said: “Honey, if I do not survive my multiple health problems, I am okay with it. I’ve talked to God about it and He is going to take care of me. Honey, you stay right here. Don’t sit here in this apartment and watch TV. Mingle with people and keep living.”

Before Jack’s retirement, the couple discussed how they were not rich growing up, but they had their needs met. Then, through Jack’s success and career, they climbed up the ladder economically and decided they wanted to give back to society. This idea sprouted several memorial funds Jack has created honoring Johnnye, including this one in the Lowe Family Young Scholars Program.

Expectations

Students must comply with a 3.0 minimum GPA requirement. Other requirements involve attending quarterly meetings and volunteer events as well as attending work ethics (*W.E. Pro\$per*), *Finance For Your Future*, and *Real Life/Real Choices* classes. *LFYS Program* believes in supporting students not only by through mentoring and assisting with college preparedness, but in life preparedness.

Significant accomplishments in 2014 are:

- ◆ Four students maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout 2014.
- ◆ Eight students had a 3.5 to 3.9 GPA.
- ◆ The average LFYS GPA, including college students is 3.49.
- ◆ Grants awarded totaling \$27,000.
- ◆ George Kaiser grant received.
- ◆ Even with a loosened attendance policy, of all our students volunteered their time on a quarterly basis.
- ◆ The program donated 545 hours back to the community in 2014 for a total of 3,493 hours since program inception.
- ◆ Student retention rate remains at 45%.
- ◆ Students attended robotics and game generator camps during the summer.

Katy Bridges, left, with her mentor Joan Matthews at the state capital. Joan was being recognized as the LFYS mentor of the year.



Programs

The LFYS Program strives to not just get students in college, but to equip them with the life tools they will need to be successful. Our success is highly reliant upon the below Programs.

Real Life/Real Choices Program

Rachel Hough conducts biweekly classes after school. She works with 6th-8th grade students. They cover material such as: self-esteem, handling emotions correctly, personal values, responsibility, setting & achieving goals, and dealing with stress.



Finance For Your Future

Susan Rhodes meets with 11th and 12th grade students. She discusses financials and futures including: budgeting, banking, stocks & bonds (including following them), short and long-term savings, making decisions about futures, how to create a good resume' and the interview process.



Westside Community Center's W.E. Pro\$per Program

Students in either the 9th and 10th grades are required to attend the Westside Community Center W.E. Pro\$per Program. Students in this program are taught how to fill out a job application, create a resume', interview for a job, work ethics and etiquette. Upon successfully completing the program, they are provided with part-time summer employment.

Dental Program

Every year, The Wilbur Fund provides \$5,000 for students and parents in the LFYS Program to have necessary dental work. In order to receive dental benefits, a parent or student must have perfect attendance at all LFYS volunteer activities and quarterly meetings for one year.

Memorial Gifts

Wendy Spears Fitzpatrick

A special gift. One from the heart. One that will touch other young lives. Thanks to Terry and Cheri Spears, their gifts will live on through LFYS scholars. They provided memorial gifts in 2013 and 2014 in memory of their daughter, Wendy Spears Fitzpatrick.

Wendy was the oldest of their four daughters. She had boundless energy and enthusiasm. She was also very shy. Excited to get on with her life, she finished high school a semester early. Wendy did not go directly to college after high school, but took a special course to become a travel agent. She loved her career. While enjoying her career as a travel agent, she also began taking a few courses each year in college. Fellow employees described her as a "breath of fresh air." Wendy later moved to Norman, Oklahoma, and because she was learning to overcome her shyness, she assertively bargained for better pay with a Norman travel agency. She was very much like the Wendy in the song "Windy." Her stormy eyes flashed at the sound of lies and she had a ready smile for all.

Her love for her family was shown in a thousand different ways. One example of this was including her sisters on some of her FAM (familiarization) trips – mostly ski trips just before Christmas.

Through this memorial gift, other excited, ambitious young scholars will be able to look forward to their lives and futures as Wendy Spears Fitzpatrick so enthusiastically looked forward to her own.

Barry W. Lowe

Barry W. Lowe, co-founder of the Lowe Family Young Scholars Program had a desire to see Bartlesville students who had academic promise, yet financial challenges attend college. He initiated setting up endowment funds at Oklahoma State, Rogers State, and Oklahoma Wesleyan Universities. Barry also assisted in setting up a mentoring program partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters to encourage and support the students as they came up through their primary and secondary education levels. His vision, determination, drive, and personal financial commitments help make this program possible.

Barry passed away on December 4, 2014, as a result of Parkinson's Disease. Memorial donations were made in his honor.

Student & Financial Highlights

*T*here are currently 23 students being mentored and college students at OKWU and RSU.

| Student Statistics | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Student Retention (by pgm year) | 50% | 40% | 33% | 0% | 33% | 67% | 83% | 67% |
| Student GPA (by pgm year) | 3.44 | 3.83 | 3.14 | 3.43 | 3.42 | 3.73 | 3.73 | 3.59 |
| Cumulative GPA | | 3.16 | 3.16 | 3.51 | 3.32 | 3.49 | 3.49 | 3.49 |

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

| REVENUE | 2014 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Donations | \$75,933 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$76,062 |
| EXPENSES | |
| 5K | \$3,771 |
| ACT Tests | \$327 |
| Advertising | \$262 |
| AP Tests | \$192 |
| Board Retreat | \$154 |
| Camps/Field Trips | \$3,051 |
| Dental | \$2,000 |
| Equipment | \$786 |
| Finance For Your Future Program | \$138 |
| Gifts | \$88 |
| Hardware | \$45 |
| Insurance | \$1,891 |
| Legal | \$175 |
| Meals/Snacks | \$648 |
| Membership | \$125 |
| Mileage | \$389 |
| Payroll | \$37,443 |
| Perfect Attendance | \$1,600 |
| Postage | \$521 |
| Real Life Real Choices Program | \$240 |
| Software | \$491 |
| Supplies | \$2,962 |
| Telephone | \$77 |
| Tax Preparation | \$377 |
| Training | \$695 |
| Travel | \$175 |
| W.E. Pro\$per Program | \$35 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$58,658 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of 2014 | \$87,170 |
| Net Assets, 12/31/2014 | \$104,575 |

Page Program

Each year, Rep. Earl Sears reserves a slot for one or more of our students to serve as a page at the state capital for a week.



Katy Bridges serving as a page in 2014 to Representative Earl Sears.

Campus Tours

Students toured the OKWU campus as part of a scheduled quarterly meeting in 2014. They toured the campus grounds including cafeteria and classrooms and the new Chesapeake Energy School of Business Keating Center.

Community Service

Giving back to other nonprofits or community services is an important element of the LFYS Program. We do this through the volunteer hours of our program members, including students, parents, and mentors.



Our program members are generous with donating their time to give back to the community. Thus far, the LFYS program has volunteered 3,493 man-hours; this includes 545 hours for 2014.

Volunteer projects completed in 2014 were:

- ◆ Kiddie Park Clean Up
- ◆ Pack the Backpacks for Washington County School Supply Drive
- ◆ Dog Days 5K Run
- ◆ Good Turn Saturday (Food Baskets) for the Salvation Army



University Partners

Our University Partners are Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Rogers State University and Oklahoma State University. Each university was challenged to match within ten years various amounts of gifts given to them by Barry W. Lowe and others in the community. These gifts were to support students through endowments, which would provide scholarships indefinitely.

Our financial status at each university is as of 12/31/2014:

| | <u>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2014</u> |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OKWU | \$767,000 | \$773,743 | 779,402 | 799,403 |
| OSU | \$310,368 | \$301,535 | 309,000 | 371,710 |
| RSU | <u>\$275,000</u> | <u>\$311,130</u> | <u>520,562</u> | <u>574,808</u> |
| Totals | \$1,295,000 | \$1,386,408 | \$1,608,964 | \$1,745,921 |

The goal is to support a total of 20 students at any one time through these scholarships after they have been mentored from grades 6-12 with training and preparation for their financial, social, and most importantly, academic college life.

The goal of the Lowe Family Young Scholars Program is not only for a student to enter college, but a student to successfully exit college with a degree towards an employable career. Students are counseled and schooled in what college best suits their desired degree and what the job outlooks and pay scales are available for their particular career interest.