



CHARLOTTESVILLE Scholarship Program

Fulfilling Our Community's Promise

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A Scholarship Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Fall 2016

Scholar on path to success



My name is Shaniece Bradford, and I am a Victim Advocate with the City of Charlottesville Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. I am a 2015 graduate of Virginia State University, where I studied Criminal Justice, and currently I volunteer with two local non-profit organizations. What's more, this fall I began working toward a graduate degree in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. The Charlottesville Scholarship Program was instrumental in helping me get to where I am today.

When I first learned of the Charlottesville Scholarship Program, I was facing the greatest challenge of my life. It was the summer before my senior year of high school, and I was grieving the death of my mother. It was very difficult to focus on my future while mourning her loss, but I was determined that nothing was going to stop me from furthering my education.

That spring the Charlottesville Scholarship Program awarded me not only financial assistance that helped reduce the burden of college tuition, they surrounded me with people who wanted to help.

I met Juandiego Wade and Iris Luck through the Navigator Program, and we remain in touch today. Whenever I had a question about school or found myself in a new situation, Juan and Iris were there to offer me the advice and encouragement I needed to keep moving forward. I am grateful to have received a scholarship, but I am truly fortunate to have received mentoring from people who I now call my friends.

(continued on back)

Fast Facts

\$365,000+

The amount of assistance we have awarded since 2004, when we began making gifts

118

The number of scholarships we have awarded to date

\$9,000

How much a student can receive during a typical four-year undergraduate program

41

The number of young scholars currently supported

CSP Board honors donors with named scholarship

The Earl and Marian Olson Scholarship is named after the late parents of a local resident, and is endowed by a philanthropic fund they established. Earl Olson (1921-2003) owned a wholesale graphic products business in Minnesota, and Marian Olson (1921-2012) was a homemaker who was active in numerous volunteer causes. She was particularly proud of her involvement in establishing a local scholarship foundation in the 1960s, and well into her 80s she directed a scholarship fund for her retirement community's employees. The Olsons had a lifelong belief in the power of education and the importance of equal opportunity.

(Shaniece Bradford continued)

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program has provided me with opportunities that would not have been possible with the life I was born into, and I have learned that people do not have to be a product of their life circumstances. I am proud to tell my story, and I am proud to be associated with the Charlottesville Scholarship Program.

In the coming years, I plan to continue learning and growing, giving back to my community, and pursuing my graduate degree. In the coming weeks, I invite you to join me in supporting the Charlottesville Scholarship Program. They truly are fulfilling our community's promise.

Want to sponsor a scholar? We'll personalize your gift

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program will name a scholarship after your business or family. For more information contact scholars@cillescholarship.com or visit www.cillescholarship.com

Back to School Bash



(L-R) Board members Kristin Szakos and Linda Seaman representing CSP at the Back-to-School Bash, a local event that provided over 1,000 students with new school supplies.

Navigator Spotlight



Name: Juandiego R. Wade

Hobbies: Alabama football (Roll Tide!) and UNC basketball, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends.

Favorite Movie: *Caddyshack* (I'm a big fan of Rodney Dangerfield).

Why did you become a navigator? It is a way for me to stay engaged with the students, many of whom I have known for years. I play a

similar role at my church with our college students, and it is so rewarding.

How do you support your scholars? I keep in touch with my scholars by calling, texting, emailing, etc., and informing them of the various deadlines for CSP. I may also send care packages and hand written letters, and when they are home for break, I meet them for lunch or a cup of coffee just to catch up. Additionally, as a career counselor, I help them search for jobs, internships, refine their résumés, and offer general career advice.

How has being a navigator impacted you? Beyond measure. It is a wonderful way to give back and have a positive impact. I think that everyone should consider it.

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program would like to say a big thank you to Rick Seaman for all of his efforts. Not only does Rick serve as our resident photographer, providing us with wonderful photos of our scholars each year, he is also our webmaster and IT Department. Most recently, Rick was instrumental in the recovery and reconstruction of our website. Thank you, Rick, for all of your support.