



January Quarterly Meeting Brings Announcement of New Program Benefits

OWU Campus, January 10, 2009— My, how time flies! Not only have two holidays already passed us by this year, but it has also been several weeks since the announcement at the January 10th quarterly meeting of new Low Family Young Scholar Program benefits. At this meeting, where approximately 60 parents, mentors, students, and guests were present, it was announced that there would now be a benefit of dental services provided to students and parents, home improvements offered through the CARD program, and an investment program for students called “Real Life Real Choices.” Let’s take a closer look at each of these programs.



The **Dental Program** is a program that partners the LFYS Program with two other entities, Dr. J. Reed Butler, and the Bartlesville Community Foundation (through a grant to the LFYS Program). Those students who enter the LFYS Program – as well as their parents – are immediately eligible to receive a free dental exam if they so choose. If

after one year in the LFYS program, the student and parent have perfect attendance at the quarterly meetings as well as four volunteer activity meetings, they will be eligible for additional dental services. A priority list will be established on an annual basis so those with the most need will be addressed first.



Barry W. Lowe for the past year had been seeking a way to assist LFYS families by offering assistance to improve their homes. He ran into several dead ends before sharing his vision with the executive director of the Bartlesville Community Foundation, Julia Crouch. She coordinated a meeting between the Lowes and CARD representatives, Karol May, Executive Director, and Dennis McCollum, Associate Housing Director. The services CARD provides were just what the Lowes had been seeking for Program members. CARD offers a **Weatherization Assistance Program** that includes caulking, weather stripping, replacing inefficient windows, tuning up and replacement of heating systems, minor repairs

to stop air infiltration, installation of insulation, and the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Both home owners and renters may be considered for this program.

During Saturday’s meeting, Dennis McCollum was on hand to answer questions about the CARD Weatherization Assistance Program.



Real Life Real Choices was the final program benefit announced at

Saturday’s meeting. Its main goal is to equip students to make sound financial decisions and choices with the income they shall receive from their post-college careers. The Real Life Real Choices Program will take place over several years and will include a classroom instructional aspect and an aspect involving a donation by the participant of manual labor.

The program is an extension of a class which is taught by Jane Phillips Elementary teacher, Rachel Hough, entitled “Hough City.” Hough developed Real
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Life Real Choices with assistance from LFYS mentors Laurie Collins, Ron Snyder, and Deborah Langley; LFYS Founder, Barry W. Lowe; Jane Phillips Elementary Principal, Ken Copeland; and Arvest Investment Counselor, Susan Rhodes. The Real Life Real Choices Program offers an additional incentive by providing credits when students complete Real Life Real Choices tasks. Upon successful completion of the Lowe Family Young Scholars Mentoring Program and the Real Life Real Choices Program, these credits will be converted to cash and the student will receive 90% of this cash as a scholarship (in addition to the potential of receiving \$4,000/year to one of our partner universities—if the student qualifies at these universities). The student will have the right to direct LFYS to distribute the remaining 10% of converted credits (into cash) to a charitable organization selected by the student.

Students may perform a maximum of 16 hours a month of tasks (manual labor) in order to receive the above mentioned credits.

Susan Rhodes will develop and teach the investment portion of the Real Life/Real Choices program while Rachel Hough will teach the life choices portion of the program.

The last item discussed during the meeting was attendance. It was noted that only one student had perfect attendance at both the quarterly meetings and volunteer activities from June 2007 through the January 10th meeting. The student, Kaylee Cole, was rewarded with a “family vacation” to the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas

City, Kansas. Another student, Aaliyah Rogers, was awarded \$40 in Chamber Bucks, for missing only one quarterly meeting and no quarterly volunteer activities during the same timeframe.

It was noted that we have not had perfect attendance at either the quarterly meetings or the volunteer activities. To encourage student participation, which is a requirement of the program, specific guidelines were shared with all present.

Quarterly Activities. **Quarterly Meetings** are a part of the LFYS Program to allow a channel through which the donors, students, and parents could have a formal way of communicating. It also allows for group teambuilding and reinforcement of academic enrollment schedules and expectations for Program members.

Quarterly volunteer activities are a way parents, students and mentors can give back to the community. It also develops a team spirit where our participants can better get to know each other. Lastly, these activities educate our students on the many other charitable organizations in our community.

Because of the importance the Lowes place on the quarterly activities, they outlined a reward/penalty system that will be enforced beginning January 10, 2009.

When a parent and a student attend four volunteer ac-

tivities in a calendar year, the student will receive \$100. The same \$100 is available for attending four quarterly meetings in a calendar year. Conversely, if a student misses a volunteer activity, the student must make up the activity within 2 weeks or they will not receive “credit” for the activity. Volunteer activities missed and not made up within 2 weeks will result in a loss of scholarship money. The total loss could be up to \$600/year or \$2,400 over the 4 year scholarship period. If the student is in the program a total of 8 years, they would be removed from the program if they miss over 6 activities. The same scenario is true for quarterly meetings.

All parents received information on all the programs and including the reward/penalty system works regarding the quarterly required activities who were in attendance at the meeting. In addition, others were mailed this information who were not in attendance. If we have overlooked any parent on receiving this material, please contact Karen at 336-5678 to request a copy.



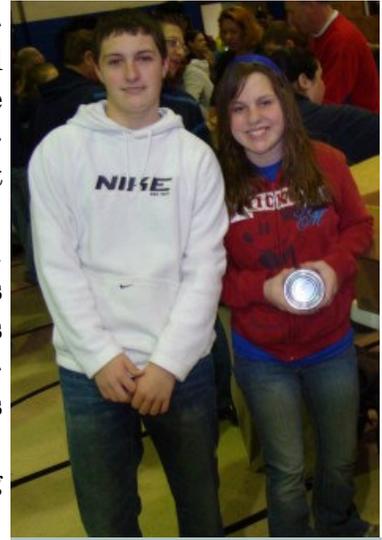
*Volunteering at the Salvation Army, December 2008.
Left to Right: Vanessa Carreno, Jerry Sanders, Chris Sanders, Melissa Cole*

Volunteer Project—Salvation Army

Salvation Army— On December 13, 2008, The LFYS volunteer activity was to assist in preparing food baskets. Many helpers showed up—parents, mentors and students to ensure that all baskets were filled and prepared to distribute by the Salvation Army. Don Seizinger, one of our volunteer program coordinators shared with all at the January 10th meeting that we were very much appreciated.

The Salvation Army’s ministry is motivated by the love of God. It’s mission is to preach the gospel and meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Salvation Army in Bartlesville is a United Way Agency. The United Way organization funds Salvation Army programs to build character and for social services (utility, housing, food, shelter assistance, prescriptions).

As always, thanks to Don & Shriley Seizinger for coordinating this project!



Thomas and Katy Bridges



L to R: Ron Snyder, Fran Stallings, Danielle McCarty, and Jessica Fugate



Sabina Turinetti & Cayleigh Hoover



L to R: David Turinetti, Rhonda & Gene Kesselhuth

L to R: Misty Bridges, Carol Sanders, Fran Stallings, Don Lauffer, Vanessa Carreno and Josh Carreno



Kaitlyn Phillips, Gene Kesselhuth

. . . And then there were 22!



Pictured are (counter-clockwise from lower left) Mariah Colbert, Karen Lowe, Kandace Duke, Barry W. Lowe, Ryan Kelley, Kelley's mother Angela Cummings, Jane Phillips principal Ken Copeland, Duke's sister Megan Cotton and Colbert's father Ben Colbert.

On January 30th, three new students were in psychology at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. These three students will soon be matched with mentors and will be joining us at our "Rise and Shine" morning assembly.

Program during the Jane Phillips Elementary "Rise and Shine" morning assembly. Mariah Colbert, Kandace Duke, and Ryan Kelley are all fifth graders at Jane Phillips. These three students will soon be matched with mentors and will be joining us at our next quarterly volunteer activity and quarterly meeting.

This now brings the total of 22 students in the mentoring program, and two students attending college: Kelsey Bridges, a sophomore majoring in elementary education at Oklahoma State University, and Dallas Lewis, a freshman majoring in chemistry with a minor

in psychology at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Welcome students and parents—we're so glad you've joined us!



Student Academic Probation Policy



GOOD NEWS! The LFYS Students, as a group, had an astounding 3.28 GPA this past semester. We are so proud of you. We had several 4.0 GPAs that helped boost this cumulative GPA.

To ensure that everyone understands, the Student Academic Probation Policy was again shared during the January 10, 2008 quarterly meeting. These were the items shared with parents, mentors and students:

1. Cumulative GPA must be 2.5 or higher (Two nine-weeks classes are combined to create a semester grade).
2. OHLAP requires a 2.5 as well.
3. If any semester GPA is lower than 2.5, the student is put on academic probation in the LFYS Program.
4. Notification of probation is a formal let-

ter delivered to the student and parent(s) by the donors.

5. The parent(s) will request a meeting with the school counselor, the student's teachers, the student's mentor, and the student. A mandatory support plan that may include tutoring will be required.
6. If the next semester GPA is lower than 2.5, the mentor and an objective Student Achievement Oversight Committee (comprised of representatives from our university partners) will make a formal recommendation to the Program donors as to whether the student should be dropped from the program or implement a new support plan.
7. Cumulative GPA will be considered for students being evaluated for removal from the LFYS program.

A handout was provided listing OHLAP required courses. It was noted that only one fine arts or speech course is allowed to compute OHLAP/LFYS GPA.

We look forward to working with all our students to ensure their academic success. Nevertheless, the final responsibility of academic achievement will be the weight of the student, no one else.



LOWEYOUNGSCHOLAR.ORG

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Next Quarterly Meeting

When? April 18th

Where? Oklahoma Wesleyan University
Upper floor—Gymnasium

Time? 8:00 a.m.—noon Meeting
7:30–8:00 a.m.—Refreshments

Sessions for students, parents and mentors.
Please call if you have transportation problems.
We'll help you get to the meeting! 336-5678

Spring Volunteer Project



April 4
9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Kiddie Park Cleanup

We will be cleaning the rides, tidying the grounds, and painting.

Refreshments served at the Kiddie Park.

- Wear old clothes (they may get dirty or painted)!
- If you have them, please bring work gloves, extra rakes and shop brooms (please mark so you can identify to take home).
- Also, we will have several extra pairs of work gloves.

Wear your LFYS blue T-shirts.

Low Family Young Scholars Program
2500 Mountain Road
Bartlesville, OK 74003