MISSION STATEMENT

To end the cycle of poverty and transform our community by empowering families and youth to succeed in education and achieve life-long self-sufficiency.

GET SOCIAL

Instagram.com/familyscholarhouse
www.youtube.com/FamilyScholarHouse
www.twitter.com/FamilyScholars
www.Facebook.com/FamilyScholarHouse

BLOG www.FSHstories.wordpress.com

EBLAST To receive event updates and program information via email please call (502) 813-3085 or email FamilyScholarHouse@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly email blast.
IN THE CAREER ISSUE

3  UPCOMING EVENTS
Don’t miss out on exciting activities and ways to support Family Scholar House.

4  BEST FOOT FORWARD
Learn about Wine Women and Shoes. This spring event sells out every year, but this year, we sold out in December.

5  SCHOOL LESSONS
FSH graduate, Janine Hogan, shares how FSH helped her graduate and provide a better life for her children.

6  CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
Just a few of the projects that have kept us and our participants busy this fall.

8  ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION GALA
A recap of our Annual Celebration of Education Gala and what made it so special.

9  VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
How you, as an individual, a small group or a company, can get involved with FSH in the months ahead.

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PS. Let me know about your birthday and I’ll send you best wishes as well. There is always room for one more.

A Year of Birthdays
As a rule, I don’t make New Year resolutions; however, I will occasionally make a decision to do something different and it might coincidentally align with the beginning of a new calendar year. I know, it is all semantics; but, it somehow feels different to me.

Last year, I decided that for all of 2018, I would recognize and send best wishes to every Facebook friend on their birthday. A total of 1,132 birthdays, give or take a few that chose not to list their date of birth in their profile. I mention this to see which of my friends shared the same date or had birthdays on holidays. Second, and most importantly, I realized that in the simple act of saying “Happy Birthday” to my Facebook friends, I felt more connected to them. More like family.

For those of us who have experienced the warm embrace of family, the interconnectedness, the inside jokes, the shared physical attributes, and the love despite sometimes conflicting views and opinions, no further explanation is required. When you hear “it feels like family,” you know exactly what I mean. However, for those people for whom family brings up different emotions – distance, judgement, rejection, hostility, apathy, anger – there is nothing good about something that “feels like family.” We want to change that.

When we chose our name, we wanted to convey all of the positive feelings about being part of something in which you are loved, have purpose, and feel connected. When you hear “it feels like family,” you know exactly what I mean. However, for those people for whom family brings up different emotions – distance, judgement, rejection, hostility, apathy, anger – there is nothing good about something that “feels like family.” We want to change that.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

MAY FISCHER’S GIVE A DAY – WEEK OF SERVICE

April 13 – 21, 2019

Plan now for the Mayor’s Give a Day of Service in April. Choose from a variety of individual, group or workplace activities to support FSH’s mission and the special families and youth earning their education and preparing careers. Whether you enjoy reading with children, teaching cooking skills, landscaping or tutoring, plan now for Mayor’s Give-A-Day of Service Week in April. Contact Kate Brackett at Brackett@FamilyScholarHouse.org or 502.813.3086 for more information.

MAY

MOTHER’S DAY

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Each year, more than 3,000 single mothers seek help from FSH because they want a better life for their children. Mother’s Day is a very special time for us! Be on the lookout for volunteer activities to be posted on our Facebook page or in our e-blasts. You can also support FSH when you order flowers or gifts from Nanz and Kraft Florists at www.nanzandkraft.com. Through the Helping Hands program, you can select Family Scholar House to direct $2 for each online order to our program.
ON MARCH 1, 2019, GE APPLIANCES, A HAIER COMPANY, PRESENTS THE 5TH ANNUAL WINE WOMEN AND SHOES (WW&S) EVENT TO BENEFIT FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE.

While our parent scholars are determined to put their best foot forward, our Spring event provides an opportunity for our supporters to do so as well. On the first Friday in March, FSH celebrates with an evening of fabulous wines, fashionable footwear, girlfriends and fun, with 100% of proceeds benefiting the programs that empower our FSH families. By participating, you can help a single mother prepare for her future and provide a better life for her children.

Wine Women and Shoes continues to be one of Louisville’s most exclusive events. In its sixth year, we will be taking it up a notch, expect new and innovative spins on what attendees have come to love about this event. Wine Women and Shoes features tastings of world-class wines and signature bourbons, a live auction including rare experiences and excursions, fun silent auction items, blind pulls from Walls of Wine and Bourbon and so much more. Last year, a few of the shoe guys even graced the stage for a performance that set the tone for a night of fun. The evening continues with a designer fashion show presented by Von Maur showcasing the hottest trends in shoes, handbags, hats, accessories and more! Awards will be presented for Best in Shoe, so plan to wear your favorite sexy heels. The Key-to-the-Closet Raffle, sponsored by Churchill Downs, will provide one lucky winner with a $10,000 shopping spree at Von Maur. Raffle tickets are $100 and 200 tickets will be sold.

You will also want to check out our “Shoe Guys” who will be working the crowd and showing off the hottest footwear of the season, all on silver platters of course. For a preview, visit our Instagram page at @FamilyScholarHouse.

While the 2019 event is already sold out, you can be first to buy tickets for WW&S 2020 by purchasing a Churchill Downs Key-to-the-Closet Raffle ticket now. Remember $100 gets you a 1 in 200 chance at $10,000 shopping spree. This is our kind of math. You don’t have to be present to win! To purchase your Key-to-the-Closet tickets, please visit: www.WineWomenandShoes.com/Louisville

Last year, 2,121 volunteers shared their time, treasure and talents with our families. The support of community partners is vital in making it possible for us to serve almost 4,000 families with over 5,000 children annually. We offer volunteer opportunities for people of all ages and groups of all sizes — you can find a few of them listed below. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact us at GetInvolved@FamilyScholarHouse.org or 502.813.3086.

Speed Mentoring
Family Scholar House participants are eager to learn from community members and cultivate the skills necessary to land career-track employment. Speed Mentoring gives individuals from the community a chance to meet several of our scholars to answer questions and provide guidance on career related topics. Further, volunteers provide guidance for participants, assisting with resume review, interviewing skills, work life balance, and entering and navigating the workforce. Individuals can come alone or make a group activity with colleagues.

Job Shadowing
73% of our parent scholars are the first in their families to go to college and, even more, the first to have professional careers. While some have an idea of what careers are of interest to them, many do not. Job-shadowing provides a peek into the workplaces and an introduction to workplace behaviors. By providing a full or half-day of job shadowing, our volunteers have a chance to show-off their companies and skills while helping our students refine their own goals for the future.

Donate to Linda’s Closet
Do you have gently-used business casual clothing, shoes and accessories you no longer wear? We would love to have them for our scholars. Linda’s Closet was created by Michael Buckman and his family in loving memory of Linda G. Medley-Duke. Located on our Downtown and Riverport Scholar House campuses, these two boutiques allow our scholars to pick out clothes for job interviews, scholarship meetings, and student teaching. Your gently used donations ensure our scholars look the part and can walk confidently into new opportunities.

Toddler Book Club
Volunteer Groups lead book club sessions for our youngest scholars and their parents, to instill a love for learning in the children of Family Scholar House. Interested volunteer groups are encouraged to bring their own children as well. This event typically consists of story time, an activity that goes along with the book and a healthy snack together. Children then receive a copy of the book to build their personal libraries. Is there anything more heart warming than seeing a parent and child bond through a storybook? Toddler Book Club was created to promote reading, bonding and a love for good stories.

Snow Day Kits
What does your family do when there is a snow day and school is out? For low-income families, the options are few. So, to make this a fun family time. FSH collects snow day kits that include the following: a board game or puzzle, cookie or brownie mix, hot cocoa mix, a coloring book and a box of crayons. This gives our parents and children activities to do together to make the day special. This is a fun and easy set of items for volunteers to collect and assemble with 435 children, we need as many as we can get.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Project
New or gently used hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are a big help to scholars of all ages that regularly wait at the bus stop or walk in the cold. All sizes are needed and any items that you can share will be put to good use.

With expanded community outreach as part of our HEROES (Health, Education, Resilience, Opportunity and Economic Success) program we are in need of some specific items that help us address food insecurity. Donations of the following are greatly appreciated: spaghetti, canned vegetables, fruit cups, small water bottles and individual bags of pretzels/gold fish.
When you walk onto one of our campuses, you feel a sense of community. When you talk with one of our participants, you can feel their gratitude and compassion. It is no surprise that the majority of our single-parent students pursue careers in a “helping profession”. They are eager to share their talents and give back to their community, the way their community has given back to them. Through their time with us, we watch our families transform their lives, graduate college and enter careers.

Olivia Pierce graduated from Spalding University in December 2018 with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. While completing her undergraduate degree, she was active in our residential program and took advantage of mentoring and networking opportunities to gain additional knowledge in her field. Upon graduating, she landed a job in the Intensive Care Unit – where she is able to utilize lessons from the classroom, hands-on experience from clinicals and the knowledge she gained through participation in Family Scholar House's speed mentoring workshops.

While Olivia and her daughter Lacy no longer live at Louisville Scholar House, they will forever be a part of the extended FSH family. We first met Lacy when she was just a few months old, and now she and Olivia are taking on the world, with a whole community cheering them on. But, it is not just that Olivia has support; FSH also has hers. By sharing her story and leveraging new relationships, Olivia has introduced new people to the FSH programs that helped her and Lacy. With Olivia and other December graduates, the total degrees earned by FSH participants is now 445. 81% of our graduates continue on to career track employment, while others choose to further their education and gain needed credentials in graduate school. Because of your support, these families have become self-sufficient contributing members of our community.

From Olivia and all of us at Family Scholar House, thank you for being the compassionate community that embraced and empowered her so that she can model that for her patients.

Plan Ahead: The 22nd Annual Celebration of Education Event

September 20, 2019

After the success of our 21st Annual Event, our Celebration of Education Gala will be held at the Omni Louisville Hotel on September 20, 2019. Mark your calendars now to join Family Scholar House’s participants, staff, board of Directors & Trustees, community service partners, and sponsors for this special annual evening.
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

With five Louisville campuses, a busy pre-residential program, and two outreach service locations, something is always happening at Family Scholar House.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Being busy full-time parents and full-time students, our families rely on public transportation to get them to the grocery, class and work. Thank you to Lamar Advertising for providing 60 of our participants with MyTARC cards with $5 in complimentary fare preloaded to each card. We are grateful to Ferdinand Risco Jr., Interim Director of TARC, and Leisja Coyle, Transit Market Manager, Lamar Advertising.

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

In November, we held a community Apprenticeship fair and joint press conference with the Humana Foundation to announce our new HEROES Program and their BIG investment in it. The Humana Foundation is providing Family Scholar House with $560,000 in year one to support our post-secondary education initiatives and address other needs that are often barriers to participation in education, apprenticeships and the workforce.

HEROES stands for Health, Education, Resilience, Opportunity, and Economic Success. This new program is helping us reach more people in need in our community. It is designed to assess and address individual, family and community issues that are clearly linked to the social determinants of health and, equally importantly, are often linked to each other.

HOLIDAY FUN

With the generous support of the community, our families experienced a joyous holiday season. Every family was “adopted” through the Adopt-A-Family program and received help providing “Santa” for their children. In addition each campus had its own celebration with every child receiving a new pair of pajamas and bedtime story from Mrs. Claus. (She is a practical gift-giver).

Thank you to everyone who made the holiday season so special for our families.

“DRIVE IN” MOVIE

Humana employees gathered together to make some especially creative box cars for our youngest scholars to enjoy during a recent “Drive In” movie night. Each child picked his/her own car, got a bag of popcorn and a juice box and lined up “drive in movie style” to watch Moana on the big screen at our Parkland Scholar House campus.