“The tassel is worth the hassle.”—

Yasmine Arrington, Founder of ScholarCHIPS
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Mission Statement

ScholarCHIPS provides college scholarships and a support network for children of incarcerated parents, inspiring them to complete their college education.
Program Overview

ScholarCHIPS (Scholarships For Children of Incarcerated Parents) raises scholarship funds for graduating high school seniors from the Washington, DC Metropolitan area who have an incarcerated parent(s) and who have plans to pursue a college education. The program’s founder, Yasmine Arrington, who was the child of an incarcerated parent for 16 of her 20 years, recognized the needs of students in her situation and decided to establish this program while in her junior year of high school. She is currently a junior at Elon University in North Carolina.

ScholarCHIPS awarded its first four $2,500 scholarships and first four $250 book awards to eligible students in fall 2012. Those awards were renewed and ScholarCHIPS awarded three new scholarships and three new book awards to additional eligible applicants for the 2013-2014 academic year. The award winners are a mixture of students from Washington, DC and Maryland. Brief biographies and photographs of the awardees are presented on the ScholarCHIPS website (www.scholarchipsfund.com).

Our scholarship application deadline (February 15, 2014) is quickly approaching, and we are always looking to increase the number of eligible applicants to our program by contacting organizations that work with this segment of youth to let them know of our existence and our mission.

As we gear up to continue the program into its third program year, we are diligently working to submit an application to become a bona fide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and we have engaged a law firm, DLA Piper, to provide pro bono services to ScholarCHIPS to accomplish this goal. We have also recently added two very dynamic Advisory Board members, who each bring a unique set of skills and passion to our cause.

Our first fundraiser for this program year was the DC Half and Half Marathon that took place on Saturday, November 2, 2013 (go to www.halfandhalfmarathon.com for information about this marvelous event to benefit ScholarCHIPS). We are also busy selling tickets for our theater fundraisers at Arena Stage and planning a February wine tasting and a spring auction.

Please refer potential scholarship applicants to our website, and stay tuned for more details about our upcoming events and fundraisers. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm!
Statistics on Incarceration

- The United States is home to 5% of the world’s people and 25% of the world’s prisoners. NAACP.org/smartandsafe
- In D.C., 50% of high school students graduate, but only 15% of those students attend college. U.S. Department of Education
- More than one in every 100 adults in America are in jail or prison. The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Between 1995 and 2005, the number of incarcerated women in the U.S. increased by 57% in 2005. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Sixty-three percent of federal prisoners and 55 percent of state prisoners are parents of children under age 18. U.S. Department of Justice
- The average stay in a foster care for a child with an incarcerated parent is 3.9 years. U.S. Department of Education
- There is a disparate impact on families of color, with African American children nine times more likely and Hispanic children three times more likely than white children to have a parent in prison. U.S. Department of Justice
- Parental incarceration creates additional challenges for children and families often resulting in financial instability and material hardship, with financial problems the most severe for already vulnerable families and caregivers who support contact between the incarcerated parent and his or her child. Parental Incarceration in Fragile Families: Summary of Three Year Findings
If you look at her humble beginnings, Washington D.C. native, Yasmine Arrington was not supposed to succeed. She and her two younger brothers lived with their grandmother most of their lives, even when their mother passed away during Yasmine’s freshman year of high school.

Both her mother and grandmother were single parents, often struggling to make ends meet. Yasmine’s father was absent from her life, as he was in and out of prison. She missed having the opportunity to develop a relationship with him growing up, but while in prison, he reached out to her and they began developing a relationship through letter correspondence. Yasmine was fortunate in that way, as many young people in similar situations never have the opportunity to start or reconcile relationships with a parent behind bars.

Yasmine understood that because of her socio-economic background she would be marginalized by some and thought unable to succeed. However, with the respect for education that her mother instilled in her, encouragement from her grandmother, support and love from her teachers, church and the community, Yasmine rose above her circumstances and continued to set the bar high for herself, with far-reaching goals, including going to college.

At 18, she was accepted to Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, with $30,000 worth of scholarships in-hand, from multiple organizations. Now at 20-years-old, Yasmine is a junior at Elon University, majoring in Strategic Communications and History.

In 2010, Yasmine founded her own non-profit organization, ScholarCHIPS, which awards college scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are children of incarcerated parents.

“An estimated 200,000 children in this country have an imprisoned mother and more than 1.6 million have an imprisoned father. With the nation’s incarcerated population growing by an average of 6.5% each year, the number of children with parents in prison will likely continue to increase. Parental incarceration — and the crimes and arrests that precede it — causes chaos in the lives of these children, including traumatic separations and erratic shifts from one caregiver to another. Most children with incarcerated parents live in poverty before, during, and after their parents’ incarceration.”— Johnston, D. The Care and Placement of Prisoners’ Children.

These facts coupled with Yasmine’s personal experiences as a child of an incarcerated parent are the reasons why ScholarCHIPS exists and the reason why we all have a stake in the success of the children of incarcerated parents.
Honors & Affiliations

BET Black Girls Rock — Making a Difference Award
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation – College Scholar, 2013 Matthew J. Quinn Prize
Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation — College Scholarship
LearnServe International — 2010 Youth Fellow
Youth Venture — Community Venture Seed Grant
Girl Scouts — Girl Scout Silver & Gold Awards
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region — Linowes Youth Leadership Award
The College Success Foundation — College Scholarship
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – College Scholarship
The Abramson Foundation – College Scholarship
Elon University – Iris Holt McEwen Community Service Award
Jefferson Awards for Public Service – Community Service Recognition
Dear Friend,

My grandmother and mother instilled in me a desire for education at a young age. Even after my mother passed, I remembered that she always wanted me to go as far as I could. That is why it was so important for me to attend college.

When I began to look for college scholarships, I discovered many alarming statistics and stories about children with parents in prison. On a personal level, I know that having a loved one who is incarcerated can often negatively impact your life, financially and emotionally.

Incarceration affects people from all races, genders, religions, national origins, sexual preferences and backgrounds, as the U.S. holds 25% of the world’s incarcerated.

Aside from my personal life experience, my primary motivation is to make people understand that we cannot blame a child or a young person for the things their parents did. We shouldn’t put them in a box and assume that, ‘Yes, they’re going to get pregnant by the time they’re 16’ or ‘They’re going to drop out of school’ or that ‘They’re going to go to jail themselves, so there’s no sense in even investing in them.’

If no one gave me a chance, if no one believed in me, I never would have made it to college. That is why I’m so very passionate about making sure the children of incarcerated parents get a fighting chance!

Americans know well that education is the key to having access to the American Dream, but what about those who cannot afford a college education?

The work I do with ScholarCHIPS is personal. We cannot ignore the youth who are potentially tomorrow’s most influential leaders. I’ve learned that if we all do our part to help other people, we will all benefit.

If anything, always remember, “The tassel is worth the hassle!” and it is!

Yasmine
Press


**THE PENDULUM**

“Freshman uses personal tragedy to help others”— by Edith Veremu, *The Pendulum Elon University Newspaper*, December 12, 2011

**The Washington Post**


**Teen Vogue**

“Yasmine Arrington on starting a college scholarship fund”— by Sierra Tishgart, *Teen Vogue*, October 12, 2012

**ESSENCE**

“Youth Activists: Meet Yasmine Arrington, Founder and Creator of ScholarCHIPS”— by Tomika Anderson, Essence.com, February 11, 2013
Testimonials

What is everyone saying about ScholarCHIPS?

"As Yasmine Arrington's Girl Scout leader, I was able to witness first-hand her passion and unwavering compassion for the students that she serves. I admire her courage and steadfast commitment to developing ScholarCHIPS into an organization with a mission that matters. When you think of Yasmine, you automatically think of ScholarCHIPS - they have become one entity that I predict will one day be a household name. I believe in ScholarCHIPS because Yasmine believes in ScholarCHIPS, and I believe in Yasmine! She knows that I will always support her and this very worthy cause.” — Vida Anderson - Realtor, Girl Scout Leader, ScholarCHIPS Board Chair

"After teaching in DC for over 10 years I know how having an incarcerated parent can have a significant impact on a student's achievement. I also know that Yasmine Arrington has proven how successful one can be in the same situation. Yasmine has turned her personal story into helping other students with incarcerated parents. This shows her dedication to making the world a better place and that she is a shining example for others. She is truly a caring inspirational figure who will make this world better!” — Chris Magnuson, former 7th grade social studies teacher of Yasmine and now Board Member of ScholarCHIPS

“The impact of Yasmine’s scholarship program on the lives of young people reflects the values we cherish in our community. Her commitment to service is the hallmark of an Elon education. We take pride in her work and know it is just the beginning of a wonderful career that will benefit many individuals and our society.” — Leo M. Lambert, Elon University President

“Simply put, Yasmine communicates and demonstrates her vision by ACTION and example. She has overcome much and now she is using her gifts to give back. Follow her lead and you are pretty much on the path to greatness.” — Tracy Chiles McGhee, Founder of WOMAnifesting

“The College Success Foundation invests in students like Yasmine Arrington because we know the future of our city depends on her success. Yasmine embodies the spirit of a College Success Foundation-DC scholar: innovative, hard-working, dedicated, smart, and committed to making the world around her a better place in which to live, work and flourish! We are already seeing the ripple effect of our investment through her success with ScholarCHIPS, which is changing the lives of young people, who with a little hope and opportunity will not only change their trajectory, but the trajectory of their families and the communities they serve.” — Herb Tillery, Executive Director of the College Success Foundation, Washington, D.C., a Washington Redskins partner
Yasmine Arrington on Video

- Washington Redskins Scholarship Interview With Larry Michael
- 2012 Linowes Youth Leadership Award
- True Life: Elon University
- News 14 Girl Scouts Feature
Yasmine Arrington on Video (Continued)

Black Girls Rock CREST 2012 Beauty Empowerment Suite

Black Girls Rock 2012
2013-2014 Activities

DC Half & Half Marathon
November 2, 2013

Arena Stage Play
“Maurice Hines is Tappin’ Through Life”
November 29, 2013

Professional Development Workshop
November 30, 2013

Arena Stage Play
“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”
December 27, 2013

Arena Stage Play
“The Tallest Tree in the Forest”
January 17, 2014

WineTasting Fundraiser
February 22, 2014

Benefit Concert at Elon University
April 2014

ScholarCHIPS Auction
May 15, 2014

ScholarCHIPS Awards Ceremony
June 2014
Contact

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