

REPORT FROM WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE.....1995.....PAT GAUNCE, Chair

We had 33 applicants who fulfilled all requirements as scholarship applicants. Our committee reviewed each application thoroughly and ranked their top five choices on a point scale with 5 being their first pick on down to a ranking of 1 for their last choice. The points were added together on each candidate and five applicants were chosen, with recommendation from the committee the following recommendations for four scholarship winners and two reserve recommendations either of whom would be eligible to receive an award, should one or more of the winners withdraw or become ineligible for some reason. The following is a short biographical sketch on each of our recommended scholarship winners and the amount of each award suggested:

Highest points: \$400 Helen M. Beashore

Helen is a 57 year old divorced mother of four children who were raised in Edwardsville. She took parenting and sewing classes through the Wyandotte Extension office so she could start a small sewing and fabric business in her home while her children were small. She was divorced in 1976 and she held 3 jobs to support her children...Singer Sewing Center, cleaning office buildings, and Municipal Court Clerk for Edwardsville, all the while maintaining her home business also. When she was offered the Edwardsville City Clerks position in 1978 she began her education career, taking classes (financed through city scholarships) that would enhance her skills in the clerk's position. She also began taking some classes at KCKCC, entered the PACE program and received her Associate of Arts degree in 1991. She has continued her pursuit of a higher degree by enrolling at St. Mary's to pursue a BS in Human Services. She is presently doing a practicum at Edwardsville Convalescent Center, a skilled nursing unit for the aging. She has four more classes after this semester which, because of the way they are offered, she can't complete until Spring of 1996. The tuition is \$171 a credit hour plus general and course fees, and of course textbooks. She currently helps with her daughter who has suffered from mental illness and her five grandchildren and feels she definitely can make a difference in the lives of many when she receives her degree and can work in her chosen profession full time.

Second Place: \$400 Pamela S. Hinkle Pamela is a 36 year old mother of 4 children. She was married at the age of 15 because she was pregnant. Five years later they had twins and soon after the marriage fell apart and they were divorced. The next three years were very difficult as she tried to support her 3 children without an education or employment. She met and married her present husband 5 years ago and three years later had another child. His work as a plumber has been sporadic and he hasn't worked a full year since their marriage. Although she began babysitting in her home, she wanted more for herself. Her minister asked her to supervise the Sunday school at her church and she developed the program from five classes with five teachers to ten classes with 20 teachers under her supervision. In February of 1995 she earned her GED and she is motivated to earn her Associates Degree in Child Care as her church plans to open a school and day care in the near future and she would like to be part of that project. She says "I hope my children can see me as a role model because education is important in our lives.

Even though I have waited, it is nice to know it's not too late to fulfill my dreams.....It is important to me that I make a difference in the lives of my children, the children of others, and my own life."

Third Place: \$400 Connie Sue Harvey

Connie is 33 and graduated from Schlagle High in 1980. She is a divorced mother of a 3 year old son and is receiving welfare benefits and a Pell Grant to enable her to pursue her Associate of Arts degree in Secondary Education at KCKCC in May 1996. She carries a grade point of 4.0, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and participates in the Honors courses. She hopes to transfer to UMKC in the fall of 1996 to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with a double major in Mathematics. She lives on \$271 a month for rent and utilities and \$200 a month in food stamps and keeps up her car insurance, taxes, and gasoline expense but doesn't ever allow for car upkeep, medical emergencies, or extras for her son. She says "It is difficult to concentrate on school work when you have financial worries and I try not to take out student loans". Instructors have written "Out of 6000 students, Connie is a part of the elite category of only 158 students who are chosen for honors classes. Her work is superb ...and she has a strong sense of purpose, being very task oriented and conscientious." Another writes "Connie is an exceptional undergraduate. She displays very high academic achievement and well-developed college study skills. Connie appears to manage the demands of a full-time course load and a full-time role of a mother as well, not an easy task to undertake. I believe that Connie has the personal management skills to successfully complete her certification as a teacher."

Fourth Place: \$300

Debbie Rebelskey is a 36 year old mother of 2 who hopes to receive her Associates Degree in Elementary Education in the Spring of 1997. She returned to school in 1993 after a hiatus of 17 years. She has been involved in caring for children in one way or another since she was 11 but it wasn't until after her own children were born that she realized teaching was her true desire. For the past six years she has been involved in the Parents as Teachers program and has been working in a day care center as a teachers aide in the latch-key children's dept. since fall of 93. Her goal after completing her education is to be a teacher in one of the deprived areas of the city. Being a child of a broken home she feels she can relate to economically underprivileged children and help them discover alternative ways to deal with their situations. She writes "After living in an orphanage for 2 1/2 years and sharing the homes of two foster families, I have personal experience to draw from when confronted with a child living in a similar environment. I believe I am equipped to truly understand the insecurities and lack of self-esteem these situations produce and want to help youngsters in these situations work toward becoming a responsible, productive individuals."

REPORT FROM KCK WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.....1996.....Pat Gaunce, Chair

We had eighteen applicants who fulfilled all requirements as scholarship applicants. Our committee reviewed each application thoroughly and ranked their top five choices based on a point scale with 5 being their first pick down to a ranking of 1 for their final choice. The points were added for each candidate and the three highest point getters were selected as the committee's recommendations for scholarship awards. The following is a short biographical sketch on each of our winners. They were awarded scholarships of \$500 each.

Patricia Johnson: Pat is a 35 year old who is the sole support of her three children and who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at St. Mary's College in Leavenworth. She has been working full-time as a unit secretary at Children's Mercy Hospital for the past ten years and in addition, has held a part time job as a unit secretary at Shawnee Mission Medical Center for the past five years. She says "my pursuit for a BS in Elementary Ed stems from my family values, love of children, fondness of learning and teaching, and my need to possess a career that is rewarding and essential in the world today as well as tomorrow". As she enters her year of student teaching she will no longer be able to hold down her two jobs and it is essential that she receives financial assistance to obtain the goal she has so tenaciously pursued.

Elaine Luster: Elaine is the single parent of a 7 yr old child who has Down's Syndrome. Elaine's interest in pursuing a degree in the nursing field stems from her work in caring for her daughter. She lacks four science courses and one humanities course that are needed to qualify for acceptance in the Nursing Program offered at KCKCC. She can earn these credits through Donnelly College. One of her references states "she does the very best she can at whatever she does. I'm proud of her for the way she handles her life and she deserves nothing but the best." Elaine says she has chosen Donnelly because "of their sincere concern in motivating students to succeed and the one-on-one attention they give their students."

Johnola Anderson: Johnola is a single parent with four dependents and is pursuing a degree in psychology. The Dean of students at Donnelly writes that "Johnola is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has demonstrated commitment to academic excellence. She is committed to mastering the material not just making a grade." While she has worked diligently at being a mother, teacher, friend and counselor to her three school-aged children and her toddler son, she managed to maintain no less than a 3.9 GPA. A classmate is quoted as saying about Johnola, "She has an inner drive that says, 'I can and I will". She is an asset to any and all institutions that will and have already come in contact with her graceful presence."

Report to the WCC Board of Directors from the Scholarship Committee:

After confirming with Betty Amos that we had raised over \$1700 in our scholarship fund, our committee elected to give four scholarships in the amount of \$400 each to our top vote getters this year since the third and fourth place applicants were so close in points.

Our winners are as follows:

Linda Shepherd who will be attending KCKCC working toward a degree in Mid-Management Marketing and Business. Linda's dream is to create and coordinate a Parent Resource Center in Wyandotte County to assist families raising children with special needs. She is 42 years old, divorced, and raising a 15 year old son who has developmental disabilities. In 1994 she voluntarily organized Parent to Parent of Wyandotte County, a support program for families that include a child with special needs. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at KCKCC, the local Inter-agency Coordinating Council, Child Care Committee, Speakers Committee for Parents' University, and a member of the Wyandotte County Respite Care Task Force.

Tina Harris who will be attending KCKCC in the PreNursing program. Her background began very tragically. She was abandoned by her mother and left in the care of a father who was both physically and emotionally abusive. By the time she graduated from high school she found herself in the role of a single mother. She moved from Kansas City to get away from the abuse and to make a life for herself and her son. Unfortunately she met and married a man who mirrored the problems she experienced with her father. She stayed with him for eleven years and had another child. Two years ago he abandoned her, leaving her penniless with two children to raise. She said that "even though this was the low point in my life, it also marked the beginning of my healing". By seeking mental health counseling she discovered she was a worthwhile person and enrolled in the KCKCC in 1996. She is currently carrying a 4.0 grade average. She knows now that "regardless of what happens I will continue in school and reach my career and life goals."

Lara Dillman who will be attending Donnelly College with a major in computer sciences. She is the single mother of three children and the first of her family to attend college. She was encouraged to attend Donnelly College to better prepare herself for earning enough money to "keep the lights on". Her goal is to complete the Webmaster Certificate program and enter the computer science field. She too is carrying a 4.0 GPA. Her references were glowing.

Lisa Gaume-Jones who will be attending KCKCC seeking a degree in elementary education. Lisa is a single parent of a three year old son, works thirty hours a week, and carries a full load at KCKCC while achieving a 4.0 each semester and being selected for the Presidential Honor Roll. Lisa is an energetic young woman who has a strong commitment to the community, working as a volunteer for various community endeavors. Most recently she volunteered her services to the Chamber of Commerce to assist with their auction during the Flower, Home, and Garden Show. A reference from her Composition II and Modern American Literature professor, Thomas Weis, states "Ms. Gaume-Jones is a gifted and highly motivated student. Despite a full-time job and

raising a child alone, she has continually submitted high quality work and demonstrated a thorough mastery of content in my classes. She holds the highest point total of a student in any of my classes at the college." Our committee agreed that Lisa undoubtedly has set a goal for herself to become one of the lifetime residents in the county that will stay and "make a positive difference".

Letters and checks made payable jointly to the winners and the college of their choice have been sent and letters encouraging those not winning this year to reapply next year were also mailed out.

1996-97 Women's Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee
Pat Gaunce, Chair

ELAINE LUSTER

Elaine is the single parent of a 7 year old child who has Down's syndrome. Elaine's interest in pursuing a degree in the nursing field stems from her work in caring for her daughter. She lacks four science courses and one humanities course that are needed to qualify for acceptance in the Nursing Program offered at KCKCC. She can earn these credits through Donnelly College. One of her references states "she does the very best she can at whatever she does. I'm proud of her for the way she handles her life and she deserves nothing but the best." Elaine says she has chosen Donnelly because "of their sincere concern in motivating students to succeed and the one-on-one attention they give their students."

JOHNOLA ANDERSON

Johnola is a single parent with four dependents and is pursuing a degree in psychology. The Dean of Students at Donnelly writes that "Johnola is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has demonstrated commitment to academic excellence. She is committed to mastering the material not just making a grade." While she has worked diligently at being a mother, teacher, friend, and counselor to her three school-aged children her toddler son, she manager to maintain no less than a 3.9 GPA. A classmate is quoted as saying about Johnola, "She has an inner drive that says, 'I can and I will'". She is an asset to any and all institutions that will and have already come in contact with her graceful presence."

1995

Report from KCK Women's Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee, Pat Gaunce Chair

We had 33 applicants who fulfilled all requirements as scholarship applicants. Our committee reviewed each application thoroughly and ranked their top five choices on a point scale with 5 being their first pick on down to a ranking of 1 for their last choice. The points were added together on each candidate and four scholarship winners are recommended. The following is a short biographical sketch on each of our recommended scholarship winners.

HELEN M. BEASHORE

Helen is a 57 year old divorced mother of four children who were raised in Edwardsville. She took parenting and sewing classes through the Wyandotte Extension office so she could start a small sewing and fabric business in her home while her children were small. She was divorced in 1976 and she held 3 jobs to support her children; Singer Sewing Center, cleaning office building, and Municipal Court Clerk for Edwardsville, all while maintaining her home business also. When she was offered the Edwardsville City Clerks position in 1978 she began her educational career, taking classes (financed through city scholarships) that would enhance her skills in the Clerk's position. She also began taking some classes at KCKCC, entered the PACE program and received her Associate of Arts degree in 1991. She has continued her pursuit of a higher degree by enrolling at St. Mary's to pursue a B.S. in Human Services. She is presently doing a

practicum at Edwardsville Convalescent Center, a skilled nursing unit for the aging. She has four more classes after this semester which, because of the way they are offered, she cannot complete until Spring of 1996. The tuition is \$171 a credit hour plus general and course fees, and of course, textbooks. She currently helps with her daughter who has suffered from mental illness and her five grandchildren and feel she definitely can make a difference in the lives of many when she received her degree and can work in her chosen profession full time.

PAMELA S. HINKLE

Pamela is a 36 year old mother of 4 children. She was married at the age of 15 because she was pregnant. Five years later they had twins and soon after the marriage fell apart and they were divorced. The next three years were very difficult as she tried to support her 3 children without an education or employment. She met and married her present husband 5 years ago and three years later had another child. His work as a plumber has been sporadic and he hasn't worked a full year since their marriage. Although she began babysitting in her home, she wanted more for herself. Her minister asked her to supervise the Sunday School at her Church and she developed the program from five classes with five teachers to tn classes with 20 teachers under her supervision. In February of 1995 she earned her GED and she is motivated to earn her Associates Degree in Child Care as her Church plans to open a school and day care in the near future and she would like to be part of that project. She says "I hope my children can see me as a role model because education is important in our lives. Even though I have waited,

it is nice to know it's not too late to fulfill my dreams. It is important to me that I make a difference in the lives of my children, the children of others, and my own life."

CONNIE SUE HARVEY

Connie is 33 and graduated from Schlagle High in 1980. She is a divorced mother of a 3 year old son and is receiving welfare benefits and a Pell Grant to enable her to pursue her Associate of Arts Degree in Secondary Education at KCKCC. She carries a grade point of 4.0, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and participates in the Honors courses. She hopes to transfer to UMKC in the fall to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with a double major in Mathematics. She lives on \$271 a month for rent and utilities and \$200 a month in food stamps and keeps up her car insurance, taxes, and gasoline expense but this does not ever allow for car upkeep, medical emergencies, or extras for her son. She says "It is difficult to concentrate on school work when you have financial worries and I try not to take out student loans". Instructors have written "Out of 6000 students, Connie is a part of the elite category of only 158 students who are chosen for Honors classes. Her work is superb...and she has a strong sense of purpose, being very task oriented and conscientious." Another writes "Connie is an exceptional undergraduate. She displays very high academic achievement and well-developed college study skills. Connie appears to manage the demands of a full-time course load and a full-time role of a mother as well, not an easy task to undertake. I believe that Connie has the personal management skills to successfully complete her certification as a teacher."

DEBBIE REBELSKEY

Debbie is a 36 year old mother of 2 who hopes to receive her Associates Degree in Elementary Education in the Spring of 1997. She returned to school in 1993 after a hiatus of 17 years. She has been involved in caring for children in one way or another since she was 11 but it wasn't until after her own children were born that she realized teaching was her true desire. For the past six years she has been involved in the Parents as Teachers program and has been working in a day care center as a teachers aide in the latch-key children's department since fall of 1993. Her goal after completing her education is to be a teacher in one of the deprived areas of the city. Being a child of a broken home she feels she can relate to economically underprivileged children and help them discover alternative ways to deal with their situations. She writes "After living in an orphanage for 2 ½ years and sharing the homes of two foster families., I have personal experience to draw from when confronted with a child living in a similar environment. I believe I am equipped to truly understand the insecurities and lack of self-esteem these situations produce and want to help youngsters in these situations work toward becoming a responsible, productive individuals."

1996

Report from KCK Women's Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee, Pat Gaunce, Chair

We had 18 applicants who fulfilled all requirements as scholarship applicants. Our committee reviewed each application thoroughly and ranking their top five choices based on a point scale with 5 being their first pick down to a ranking of 1 for their final choice. The points were added for each candidate and the three highest point getters were selected as the committee's recommendations for scholarship awards. The following is a short biographical sketch on each of our winners.

PATRICIA JOHNSON

Pat is a 35 year old who is the sole support of her three children and who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at St. Mary's College in Leavenworth. She has been working full-time as a unit secretary at Children's Mercy Hospital for the past ten years and, in addition, has held a part time job as a unit secretary at Shawnee Mission Medical Center for the past five years. She says "my pursuit for a B.S. in Elementary Ed stems from my family values, love of children, fondness of learning and teaching, and my need to possess a career that is rewarding and essential in the work today as well as tomorrow". As she enters her year of student teaching she will not longer be able to hold down her two jobs and it is essential that she receives financial assistance to obtain the goal she has so tenaciously pursued.