

making the DIFFERENCE

WINTER 2017

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Thanks!

Greetings,

Thank you, somehow just does not seem to be enough for the generous gift that I have been given.

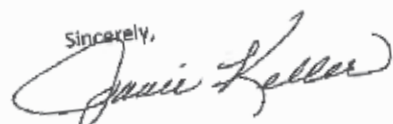
I am very grateful to Opportunity Plan, and the Board of Directors, for choosing me to be the recipient of the Milton "Buff" Morris scholarship. My plans are to use this scholarship to continue pursuing my Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Business Administration.

I am currently a 3rd year junior at Wayland Baptist University, taking one class each semester, due to working full time in the Office of the University Registrar here at Wayland Baptist University.

My educational goals are to continue to take classes to obtain my degree. I am in the process of completing a business plan for opening a Teacher Supply & Gift store here in Plainview. I am now taking the last class in my field of Major, but have several remaining elective classes of which will be Marketing. I will complete my degree in May 2020.

Again, thank you for helping me move toward my goals and dreams.

Sincerely,


Janie Keller

Opportunity Plan,
I want to thank y'all for awarding me with a scholarship. I am so honored to have had the privilege of working with OPI during my 4 years at WT. Thank y'all for your kindness and hospitality over the years.
Sincerely, Lorin Barnes

NOAH AND 657 OTHER HARDWORKING COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE FULFILLING THEIR EDUCATIONAL DREAMS

Thanks to You

Thanks to you, our faithful donors, 658 hardworking college students had the chance to make their educational dreams come true this year. On behalf of them, thank you for helping young people who are willing to work for a successful future.

I recently met Noah Kendall, an engineering student at Amarillo College. Noah's father is deceased which requires him to help his mom and brothers. We worked together on a college funding package that allowed him to focus on his challenging coursework while still working part-time to help with expenses.

Without your help, Noah would be shouldering a large burden of student debt or more likely, continuing to try to afford college on a part-time basis and not maintaining the focus he needs to obtain his engineering degree.

Every day, your support makes stories like Noah's possible.

Opportunity Plan Inc. has a 2017 year-end goal to **HELP AN ADDITIONAL 100 HARDWORKING STUDENTS** realize their dreams to become teachers, veterinarians, bankers, nurses and much more. You see, even though we helped over 650 students last year, there are still thousands more who are struggling to find a way to afford college.

That's why our goal for this campaign is to raise \$75,000. If we raise that amount, we'll be able to provide financial resources to those students in 2018. We need your help to make it happen.

Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help us meet our goal and help 100 more students dream big as they start their college careers?

We simply can't do it without you. Your support will make a real, lasting impact in the lives of those who will work hard for their education and then go out and make the world a better place.

Please, use the enclosed envelope to make your donation now or go to OpportunityPlan.com to donate online. **THE FUTURE OF MANY OTHERS LIKE NOAH IS AT STAKE.**

Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

With gratitude,



M. Keith Brown
Executive Director, Opportunity Plan Inc.



To hear Noah's aspirations in his own words, log in to OPI's website at

OpportunityPlan.com/OPI-Success

OPI Nominated for Prestigious Lamar Medal

Dr. Walter V. Wendler, president of West Texas A&M University, nominated Opportunity Plan, Inc. to receive the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award presented by the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors, Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas and Texas Association of Community Colleges. The award recognizes distinguished service to Texas higher education above and beyond service to a single institution or system, to include outstanding support of two or more higher education sectors.

In his nomination, Dr. Wendler said OPI's "model of working to individually attend to the needs of each student and provide the means available to attain postsecondary educational objectives ... is truly a Texan plan that blends the abilities of individuals with the resources and support of public and private funding. This kind of innovation is exactly what Texas higher education should pursue statewide. The holistic view of student need as an opportunity to study should be a national model."

The 2018 award will be presented in January. Past Lamar Medal recipients include former WTAMU president and Texas A&M System Chancellor Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock and U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.



During this joyful time, we hope you will pause to reflect on the blessing of a bright future you have given to students this year.

Thank You

Learning To Make Wise Investments in Education

Financial aid education is important for students and families preparing for postsecondary education. OPI is on a mission to provide more education throughout the region.

"It is vital for students and their families to view higher education as a wise investment," M. Keith Brown, OPI executive director, said. "Wise investments include a healthy return, and borrowing too much money for an education doesn't provide that."

OPI has conducted **Paying for College workshops to more than 600 individuals this fall.** The seminar includes information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship availability. The presentation also includes tips and pointers for what scholarship committees seek when determining scholarship recipients.

"OPI reviews close to 1,000 scholarship applications each year, and I sit on other scholarship committees as well," Brown said. "If these students hear what we look for in an outstanding application, their chances of securing funding are even better."

Most of the presentations have been to seniors at high schools, such as Texline, Canyon and Palo Duro. OPI has also begun partnering with organizations outside schools, such as Olive's Door in Canadian and the Education Credit Union in Amarillo, to spread the message.

"Education Credit Union is committed to providing practical money management lessons to our members," Roman Fox, ECU educator, said. "We felt teaming with OPI just reinforced both missions and encouraged our members to think more comprehensively about financing higher education."

Contact the OPI office at 806-655-2528 to learn more about bringing this educational opportunity to your community or organization.

OPI appreciates the Amarillo Area Foundation, First United Bank and United Supermarkets for organizing #GivingTuesday efforts on Tuesday, Nov. 28. You can still support OPI students this holiday season with an online gift by clicking the donate button at OpportunityPlan.com.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

OPI is blessed to receive many gifts given as memorials and honorariums. The following gifts were given as such in September and October 2017. For a complete list of tributes in the last year, visit www.OpportunityPlan.com/memorials-and-honorariums.

SEPTEMBER 2017

In Memory of Margaret Bell
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Gerald Boehning
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Anne Campbell
Donna and Ronald Brauchi
Susan and Harold Cree
Hilda and Ray Duncan
Mary Fatheree
Sue and Tim Fatheree
Col. and Mrs. James Fitzgerald
Gaye Nell Fraser
Maxine and John Howell
Jan Lockhart
Koell McKay
Gertie Mills
Janyce and David Osborne
Ida Ruth Price
Martha Price
Joy and Ronnie Rice
Julia Elice Hobbs Sailor
Betty and Kenneth Winters
Gail Woodington

In Memory of Charlie Cox
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Jerome Clyde Craddock
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Billie Erwin
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Jim Fletcher
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Benjamin Hopper
Trina Caldwell

In Memory of Mary Jo Lampson Broussard Ford
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Wannie Frazier
Jennyslippers, Muleshoe, Texas

In Memory of Don Heathington
B McMeans Construction Services, Inc.
Frances Baker
Susan Cardinal
Judy and Raymond Davenport
DeShazo Elementary Staff
Charlotte and Terry Fields
First United Methodist Church,
Burkburnett, Texas
Gil Lamb Advertising
Kathleen and John Hayes
Hereford Feed Ingredients, Inc.
Susie and Danny Nix
Matt Patterson Insurance

R & S Barrett Farms
Marilyn and Mike Riley
Lora and Veldon Wallace
Melody and Gene Sheets
Charles L. Smith, Jr.
The Nix Law Firm

In Memory of Phyllis Hendrick
Paul Engler

In Memory of Bill Kindle
Koell McKay

In Memory of Mike Miller
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Jo Ann Odom
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Pete Odom
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Loyd Junior Sorrells
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

OCTOBER 2017

In Memory of Margaret Bell
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Helen Bigham
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Ken Brown
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Anne Campbell
Renee and Stewart Garrison
Pat and Carl Kennedy
Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club
Betty White

In Memory of Betty Craig
Carmaleta Barnett
Stacy and Ross Glenn
John Sudduth

In Memory of Rev. Royce Denton
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of James Donnell
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Dick Gaither
M. Keith Brown
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Gipper
Jim and Marilyn Childers

In Memory of Don Heathington
Pat Angeley
Tona and Michael Cornelius
Juanita and Marion Heathington
Charles Koulovatos
Jeffrey Scott

In Memory of Benjamin Hopper
Julie and Brian Sims

In Memory of James Horton
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Mary Elizabeth McCormick
M. Keith Brown
Cathy and Carroll Wright
Jill and Marie Zimmer

In Memory of Jimmy Don Mitchell
Stacey Kelly
Kyrrha and Steven Walker
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Honor of Brandie and Todd Morgan
Rala and Jason Underwood

In Memory of Barney Myers
Lynn Singleton

In Memory of Donald Olson
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Jackie Pyle
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Nick Rogers
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Maurice Schooler
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Keith Waters
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Shelly Willeford
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson



OPI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
2015 | 571 2016 | 611 **2017 / 658**

