

making the DIFFERENCE

SPRING 2019

OVERCOMING THE ODDS AND FINDING HER CALLING

Chanci Henderson traveled the traditional path to a bachelor's degree. Following graduation from Canyon High School, she enrolled in West Texas A&M University, where she was involved in Greek life and other campus activities while pursuing her degree in biology. Following graduation with her bachelor's degree, she taught high school biology, but it seemed she was lacking something in her career.

Speech therapy intrigued her, and so she began determining what it would take to pursue that. However, it was personal experiences with her own children that sealed Chanci's determination to pursue a master's degree and become a speech therapist.

Chanci's daughter, Hailey, was born three months early and spent 98 days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit before going home with a feeding tube, which physicians suggested she might have until she was old enough to realize the importance of eating. Chanci and her husband, Aaron, were determined that would not be the case. Consulting online with physicians and speech therapists, they were able to wean Hailey off the feeding tube within four weeks. An opportunity for Chanci to learn more about speech therapy presented itself in her own life.

Soon after Hailey's feeding tube issue was resolved, Chanci's second pregnancy became problematic and their son, Kyle, suffered a stroke prior to delivery. Kyle was born by emergency C-section with severe brain damage,

resulting in cerebral palsy. Kyle, too, required a feeding tube, but Chanci and Aaron were able to wean him off the tube, just like Hailey. According to Chanci, "If Kyle can learn to eat with partial brain function, then there is great hope for many that think hope is lost. I want to help other families find that hope."



"I have no doubt that this is my true calling, and I believe God has given me these life lessons to help others in the same situation," Chanci said. "Receiving assistance from OPI has been an inspiration to continue pursuing my dream to better the lives of my family and others."

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The story of Opportunity Plan, Inc. is a story of helping people who then turn around and help more people.

Chanci Henderson is a great example of what a scholarship can do. Her very personal story is about finding her way to a helping career through what could only be described as providence, since she could not have known how her career would help her own

children, as well as others.

When you read her story in this newsletter, you'll be inspired by the way your contributions to OPI make a better world through people like Chanci.

Your gift of \$100 or more will help us continue to fund the education of people who go on to a helping career that will allow them to touch many lives.

Funding scholarships is the way to leave a legacy that will touch more people than you can ever imagine. Your donation of \$100 or more truly will have a ripple effect that extends well into the future.

Please make your gift today.

Thank you for your support of OPI. Empowering our best and brightest with quality education is a worthy goal that deserves everyone's gifts. With your help, we can touch generations to come.

With gratitude,

M. Keith Brown
Executive Director

P.S. Thank you for changing the lives of those who receive OPI scholarships. Your gift truly helps us reach our goal to make the world a better place.

PLAN

an intention or decision about
what one is going to do



It's in our name and at the core of how we help students navigate higher education opportunities. It is also one of the most significant ways that you can support Opportunity Plan. **DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?**

OPI accepts and encourages many kinds of planned or legacy gifts. Bequests and beneficiary designations of insurance or retirement accounts are the most common.

Have questions about planned giving? We'd love to visit with you - call Keith at 806-655-2528. Are we already part of your plan? Let us know so we can efficiently carry out your intentions.

Scholarships and
loans awarded
for Fall 2018:

\$866,843.97

With your gift, we can help even more students fulfill their dreams. Thank you for giving generously!

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

OPI is blessed to receive many gifts given as memorials and honorariums. The following gifts were given as such between December 2018 and February 2019.

For a complete list of tributes in the last year, visit www.OpportunityPlan.com/memorials-and-honorariums.

DECEMBER 2018

In Honor of Ronnie Altman at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Honor of Ronnie Barrett at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Honor of Alberta Batchelor at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Honor of Carolyn and Waldo Baxter at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Honor of Sarah and Bob Bettinger at Christmas
Sammie Saulsbury

In Honor of Lesley Bettis at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Honor of Pam Brackett at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Honor of M. Keith Brown
Martha Campbell
Leesa Wood Calvi
Pat and Tom Whitacre

In Memory of Trevor Burrell
Marilyn and Jim Childers

In Honor of Martha Campbell at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Honor of Larry Clawson at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Memory of Jim Cleavinger
Wayne Pierson

In Honor of Alan and Mollie Clemson at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Memory of Susan Cooper
Carmaleta Barnett
Paula Joiner
Marilyn King
Tricia Young

In Memory of Pete Curtis
Wayne Pierson

In Honor of Janie Dickey at Christmas
Annette & Dr. Byron Skinner

In Memory of Nell Foust
Gayla Graham

In Honor of Kathie and John Fowler at Christmas
Sarah and Robert Bettinger
Sammie Saulsbury

In Memory of Pat Graham
Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Memory of Gene Ann Grant
Lisa Wilson

In Memory of Gatlin Guthrie
Marilyn and Jim Childers

In Honor of Marci Hand at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Honor of Keith Hicks at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Honor of Jane Phillips and Mark Lawless
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brian, Jr.

In Honor of Keith Layton at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Memory of Wales H. Madden, Jr.
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Honor of David Marricle at Christmas
Bailey County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

In Memory of G. C. Martin
Carolyn and Waldo Baxter

In Honor of Charley and Jack McKay
Mary Ann and Joe McKay

In Memory of David McKay
Marshall Clark
Nancy Dorn
Carol and Don Douglass
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Howard
Kay and Charles Key
Lori McClure
Mary Ann and Joe McKay
Dr. Richard McKay
Margaret Piper
Sheryl and Mark Piper
Stacy and Joseph Rapier

In Honor of Gerry and Dick McKay at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Honor of Susan McKay
Mary Ann and Joe McKay

In Memory of Buff Morris
Donna Warrick

In Memory of Gene Morrison
M. Keith Brown
Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Honor of Annette and Garry Nall at Christmas
Sarah and Robert Bettinger
Sammie Saulsbury

In Honor of Pam Nease
Martha Campbell
Pat and Tom Whitacre

In Honor of Jerry Nichols at Christmas
Terry and David Marricle

In Honor of Wayne Osteen
Linda Brian

In Honor of The Piehl Family at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Honor of Robyn Rhodes at Christmas
Lisa Wilson

In Memory of Kaysee River
Korkye Purviance

In Honor of Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Suzanne Rogers
Gina and Henry Popp

In Honor of Sammie Saulsbury and Jim Stroud at Christmas
Sarah and Robert Bettinger

In Honor of The Schaeffer Family at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Nancy Shehan
Marilyn and Jim Childers

In Memory of Gayland "Butch" Simpson
Marilyn and Jim Childers

In Memory of Wayne Sims
Elaine and Ray Dickerson

In Honor of Dr. Byron and Annette Skinner at Christmas
Joy Skinner
Lynn Skinner

In Honor of Christi and Michael Skinner at Christmas
Annette and Dr. Byron Skinner

In Honor of Joy and Lynn Skinner at Christmas
Annette and Dr. Byron Skinner

In Honor of Dr. Shannon Skinner at Christmas
Annette and Dr. Byron Skinner

In Memory of Carole Smith
Wayne Pierson

In Honor of Jussen and Currie Smith at Christmas
M. Keith Brown

In Memory of Tom Thatcher
Ruth Ellen Bryant

In Honor of Clayton Thorne

Kathy and Mike Connor

In Honor of Lynda and Michael Tinsley at Christmas

Pam Nease

Pat and Tom Whitacre

In Honor of Greg Welch at Christmas

Terry and David Marricle

In Honor of Rhonda and Brent Wheeler

Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

In Honor of Pat Whitacre

Martha Campbell

In Honor of Myrna Williamson at Christmas

Lisa Wilson

In Honor of Cathy Wright

Martha Campbell

In Honor of Cathy and Carroll Wright at Christmas

M. Keith Brown

Pam Nease

Pat and Tom Whitacre

JANUARY 2019**In Memory of Bill Ballew**

Zeta Chi Sorority

In Memory of Carroll Beaman

Jussen and Currie Smith

In Honor of Sarah and Bob Bettinger

Annette and Garry Nall

In Memory of Danielle Bradford

Andi and Ronnie Gordon

In Honor of M. Keith Brown

Dyann and Kirk Folkner

In Memory of Mozelle and C. V. Brown

Kevin and Kara Brown

M. Keith Brown

Sonya and Colin McCubbin

In Memory of Thomas Brown

Kathy and Jerral Allred

Polly and Frank Farrar

Dianne and Kevin Felix

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hagg

Tracy and Neal Hugg

Dana Kauk

Deborah and Victor Laramore

Lesa and Gary Noggle

Shelby Pond

Mary Ann and James Purser

Denzel and Shaun Tevis

Paige and Steven Waide

Velrick Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Young

In Memory of Anne Campbell

Janyth and Charles Bowers

In Memory of Mary Crockett

Janyth and Charles Bowers

In Memory of Fred Goldston

Zeta Chi Sorority

In Memory of Charles Faust

Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Bertie and Rayford Fowler

Annette and Garry Nall

In Honor of John and Kathie Fowler

Annette and Garry Nall

In Memory of Shirley Howard

Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Judy Jackson

Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Memory of Charles L. Jones

M. Keith Brown

Catherine Stargel

In Memory of Don Jones

M. Keith Brown

Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Memory of Brent Kinlund

Wayne Pierson

In Memory of David McKay

Sue Chambers

Paige and Mike McKay

The Kent Family

Katherine Paullus

In Honor of Joseph D. McKay on His Birthday

Sheryl and Mark Piper

In Memory of Wayne Phares

Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Honor of Sammie Saulsbury and Jim Stroud

Annette and Garry Nall

In Memory of Jo Stapp

Andi and Ronnie Gordon

Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Billy Schribner

Palo Duro Cutting Horse Association

Panhandle Cutting Horse Association

FEBRUARY 2019**In Memory of Thomas Brown**

Abernathy Public Schools

Debbie and Mike Arrington

Catherine Barney

Tiffany and Jeffrey Bietz

Kay and Terry Brown

Gayle and Tom Butler

Tina Clyburn

Don Cooper

Paula and Tim Cooper

Courson Family Oil & Gas Partnership

Julie and Bob Culver

Kay and Larry Dyess

Kathy and Mitchell Ehrlich

First Bank Southwest, Perryton

Five Star Equipment, Inc.

Eleanor Glazener

Lori and Rudy Godino

Lauren Haley

Lisa and Mark Hanbury

Barbara Hawkins

Carol and Van Hayden

Robin and Ken King

Susan Krehbiel

Jones Energy, Austin

Tracy Lenz

Mary Jo and Michael Leonard

Jan Lockhart

Kristen and Charlie Mann

Jesus Mendoza

Kay and Bill Merrell

Karen and Gary Minyen

Mr. and Mrs. Don Neufeld

Pat Popham

Bobbie Jo and Jim Ramp

Reydon Class of 1990

Carolyn Samuel

Aaron and Hunter Schilling

Frederica and John Seaman

Seeker Sunday School Class,

First United Methodist Church of Canadian

Patsy Unruh

Paula and Jeffrey Wagner

J'Lynn and Mark Wheeler

Suzanne and Barry Willis

Donna and Monte Wright

In Memory of Jolene Chitwood

Carmaleta Barnett

Kim and Pat Britton

Lori and Mark Craig

Stacy and Ross Glenn

In Memory of Dave Corley

Linda Kay Baker

In Memory of Gayle Cotton

Carolyn and Waldo Baxter

In Memory of Gary Cramblett

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Vincent Gerber

Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Thom Hicks

M. Keith Brown

Jackie and Stan Byrnes

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Maxine Johnson

Wayne Pierson

In Memory of David McKay

Randie and David Baumann

Helen Lou Conner

Shelley and Rick Dykes

Stacey Franklin

Sharesa McCartt

Kay and Tom McHorse

N & B Properties, Inc.

Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Paullus, Jr.

Judy and Sammy Ribble Family

Helen Taylor

In Memory of Kathleen Ragland

M. Keith Brown

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Elton Rikel

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Bob Sims

Carolyn and Waldo Baxter

In Memory of Cindy Stapleton

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Ron Thomason

M. Keith Brown

Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Honor of Joan and Carl Strafuss

Wayne Pierson



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PASSING THE TORCH

Meg O'Brien grew up in Amarillo, graduating from Tascosa High School before receiving a degree in biology from the University of Denver. Meg was elected to the OPI Board of Directors in 2017, maintaining her family's involvement with OPI that began with the establishment of the Madge Marmaduke Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund, named in honor of Meg's grandmother, was established to assist employees of the former Amarillo-based Hastings Entertainment, which was founded by Meg's grandfather, Sam. More than \$1 million was awarded to Hastings' employees, and when Meg's father, John, retired as Hastings CEO, he saw an opportunity to include the next generation of the family in working with the scholarship fund.

Meg, along with her siblings and cousins, decided to continue assisting local students with the endowment valued at more than \$800,000. Madge Marmaduke Scholarship recipients are now graduates of public, private or home school programs in Amarillo, Canyon, Bushland, Highland Park or River Road. Preference is given to students attending Amarillo College or West Texas A&M University.

"We were really interested in helping local students and believe the work being done by our local higher education institutions is important to the health of our region," Meg said. "We wanted to support that just as my grandparents did through Hastings."

Meg and her husband, Alex, president of BOC Bank in Amarillo, are the parents of two children, Laurel, 10, and Liam, 7.

SHOWING OFF THEIR SCHOLARSHIPS

OPI is honored to house the scholarships awarded annually to participants in the Randall County Junior Livestock Show. Recipients of more than \$2,500 in scholarship funds were announced this year at the Happy State Bank Event Center on Saturday, Jan. 19. A new scholarship this year, the Preston Hollis Memorial Scholarship, was presented by Preston's son, Dewayne, and wife Joann, to Morgan Niemiec. Other scholarships presented included the Walter Cranmer Top Hand Scholarship to Greysen Culwell, the Bill Dugan Memorial Scholarship to Jace Venhaus, Plains Land Bank Scholarship to Myles Cranmer, Randall County Farm Bureau Scholarship to Emily Thurman and the George Tirey Memorial Scholarship to Nathan Hoggatt. In addition to the scholarships awarded, show participants also received approximately \$300,000 at the premium auction held on Jan. 21 at West Texas A&M University.



MADGE MARMADUKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Endowment Valued at More Than

\$800,000

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

thank you!

As I near graduation, I simply wanted to tell you thank you. Thank you for introducing me to OPI and allowing me the opportunity to follow every single one of my dreams through your organization. The generosity and welcoming smiles each time I enter the building always gave me a sense of hope for my future. Pam Nease has been such an incredible help and a woman that I will remember forever. While at WTAMU, I learned more about myself and the future I wish for, and I appreciate everything your organization has done to make that happen for me.

Jessica Anderson

December 2018 graduate of
West Texas A&M University
with degree in secondary education

Thank you for allowing me to chase a bright future in academics. Your opportunity is more than a large-hearted loan; it is a life opportunity to achieve dreams. Not only did you encourage my school efforts, but you also comforted me in problems facing my health. Mrs. Pat is a joy to communicate with and was truly an angel at times. Please understand the immense amount of gratitude I have for you special people.

Sidney Barksdale

2016 graduate of Farwell High School who pursued a degree in occupational therapy at Texas Woman's University before transferring to Amarillo College for physical therapy assistant certification

Thanks!

 OPI