Presenting our 2012 Fresh Start Graduates

Frances Aronson
Wilmington University
Psychology
Bachelor of Science

Sheila Boyer
Wilmington University
Behavioral Science
Bachelor of Science

Jennifer DeHoff
Wilmington University
Elementary Education
Bachelor of Science

Vickie Farrell
Delaware Technical & Community College
Human Services
Associate in Applied Science

Brandy Galvan
Delaware Technical & Community College
Dental Hygiene
Associate in Applied Science

Daphene Jacobs
Wilmington University
Behavioral Science
Bachelor of Science

Annette Jernejcic
Wilmington University
General Studies
Bachelor of Science

Deborah Kinsey
Delaware Technical & Community College
Accounting
Associate in Applied Science

Deanna Lunn
Delaware State University
Nursing
Bachelor of Science

Juanita Taylor
Wilmington University
Psychology
Bachelor of Science

Sara Toussaint-Moody
Wilmington University
Middle School Math
Bachelor of Science

Gina Waithe
Delaware Technical & Community College
Nursing
Associate in Applied Science
President's Letter

In June, we gathered to celebrate the graduation of twelve Fresh Start scholars. Some reached this defining moment in their quest for a fresh start in just four years, while for others it was a long arduous journey of more than seven years. Most are mothers and most hold full or part-time jobs. They are each unique in terms of their goals, skills and dreams; what they have in common are financial, personal and/or family challenges and the determination to create better lifestyles and opportunities for themselves and their families through education. What a joy it was to share this occasion with them!

For them, success is landing a dream job, a home in a safe neighborhood, a safe yard for their children to play in or being the first in their family to graduate from college.

For us, success is:
- A graduation rate over 70% — two to four times the rate reported by colleges and programs for similar students.
- An average scholar GPA of 3.4.
- A one-to-one mentoring program highly valued by Fresh Start scholars.
- More than 120 fresh starts and over $425,000 in scholarships.
- Being good stewards of your money. Approximately 97 cents of every Fresh Start dollar is designated for the Fresh Start Scholarship Program.

Yes, it is a story we tell with pride. It is their story. It is our story. And it is your story.

For without you, there would be no story to tell.

Thank you for making their dreams a reality!

Mary E. Maloney

Spotlight on Mentoring

Fresh Start graduate Juanita Taylor joined her mentor Terry Fresconi at our graduation celebration on June 7. Juanita completed her studies at Wilmington University with a degree in psychology. Expressing her gratitude, she commented, “I can’t begin to tell you how thankful I am for the assistance in completing my BS degree. My children — both Delaware State University students — are so very proud of me. It’s important as a single parent to be an example, and I see how my persistence is paying off in their drive to achieve.”

Juanita’s mentor is Terry Fresconi, who recently retired from AstraZeneca and is working as an IT consultant, primarily in the pharmaceutical and aerospace industries. “Juanita and I have a great (and ongoing) relationship. We were in touch regularly via email and, at times, we would get together for lunch. I really enjoyed working with her, because she made the pairing a success. Juanita is appreciative of every blessing that comes her way. She was proactive about the relationship and didn’t wait for me to initiate contact. Like her children, I find her inspiring and wish her the best of luck in the future.”

Celebrating 15 Years of Fresh Starts

In October 2011, more than 200 guests helped celebrate 15 years of fresh starts at an anniversary luncheon held at the DuPont Country Club. Many of the 2011 - 2012 Fresh Start Scholars attended and were honored at a special pre-event reception. The luncheon program included the presentation of the following awards: Inspiration Award: Genevieve Burke Marino, CEO, YWCA Delaware; Achievement Award: Brenné M. Shepperson, Fresh Start Scholar Graduate and Adult Educator, Christina School District; Muriel E. Gilman Champion Award: Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, President, Wilmington University.
Driving the Road to Success
by Brenné Shepperson

My path has taken many twists and turns, hit dead ends, and eventually encountered a serious breakdown — literally. As a commercial truck driver, I hauled goods up and down the highways in the truck I owned and operated until, one day, my truck broke down miles from my home in Michigan. I was in Delaware — a state I knew little about and in which I had no connections. I was alone and petrified. But then I began to think of my unexpected situation as serendipitous. I had reached a crossroad. I could go straight ahead, find the money to fix my truck and continue with truck driving — a source of income, but never fulfilling — or hang a right and start in a new direction that involved education, a passion I'd held for all those years of being on the road to support my two children, the younger of whom had just graduated from high school. The decision was suddenly obvious. I sold the possessions I had and decided to take the new road to earn my college degree.

With the help of Fresh Start, I was able to complete my bachelor's degree in business administration. My mentor, Christine Virsa, was with me every step of the way, either by email, phone, and occasionally in person. Since that time, my passion for education has driven me even further. I now have my MBA and am pursuing a doctorate at Wilmington University. I am teaching in the adult education program for the Christina School District in communities throughout the City of Wilmington, which has given me many opportunities to educate and influence a variety of young people. Now I wear the mentor hat and encourage my students to believe in themselves and gain the education they need to open doors in the future. My road has straightened and smoothed dramatically in the last few years, thanks to education. I wish the same for them.

2011-2012 Fresh Start Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimberlee Arnold</td>
<td>Newark, DE</td>
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<td>Frances Aronson</td>
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<td>Cynthia Basner</td>
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<td>Leah Brown</td>
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<td>Danielle Carrillo</td>
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<td>Heather Durham</td>
<td>Dover, DE</td>
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<td>Business Management</td>
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<td>Vickie Farrell</td>
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<td>Marletha Garber</td>
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<td>Dorothy Goyton</td>
<td>Newark, DE</td>
<td>University of Delaware</td>
<td>Dietetics</td>
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<td>Stella Harrison</td>
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<td>Drug &amp; Alcohol Couns.</td>
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<td>Jennifer Hasko</td>
<td>Bear, DE</td>
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<td>Margo Hicks</td>
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<td>Rebecca Johnson</td>
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<td>Deanna Lunn</td>
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<td>Jessica Miller</td>
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<td>Amber Owens</td>
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<td>Connie Patterson</td>
<td>Fruitland, MD</td>
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<td>Courtney Powell</td>
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<td>Carla Reynolds</td>
<td>Harley, DE</td>
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<td>Physical Therapy Asst.</td>
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<td>Andrea Richmond</td>
<td>Felton, DE</td>
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<td>Gina Wainhe</td>
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<td>Alexa Ward</td>
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<td>Shannon Watson</td>
<td>Middletown, DE</td>
<td>Wilmington University</td>
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Financial Statement
June 30, 2012

Income
Annual Campaign (net) $24,551
Signature Event (net) $14,524
Grants $24,300
Investment Income (net) $33
Other $833
Total $64,241

Expenses
Program Services (Scholarships/Mentoring) $61,199
General & Administrative $1,816
Total $63,015

Net Operating Income $1,226
Income (Loss) from restricted activities $5,866
Beginning Net Assets $199,480
Ending Net Assets $195,517

Net Assets
Unrestricted (3%) $5,866
Board Designated for Scholarships (97%) $189,651
Total Net Assets $195,517

Advisory Board
Tina Betz
Sandy Hammonds
Jan Jessup
Janis L. Julian
The Hon. Gregory E. Lovelle
Claire F. McElwee
Bonne T. Meszaros
Darelle Riabov
Claiburne Smith
Jack P. Varsalona
Peggy Vavalla

Mission
The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) organization, is the charitable arm of Wilmington Women in Business, Inc. Our mission is to provide incentive to adult women who face (or have faced) personal and economic challenges and are seeking to improve opportunities for themselves and their families through education. We award annual scholarships based on need and provide mentoring support through WWB members. Candidates must be enrolled in a two or four year degree undergraduate program at an accredited Delaware college or university.

Information about the Fresh Start Scholarship and applications may be obtained by contacting us at fsscholar@comcast.net or on the web at www.wwb.org.

How You Can Help
Scholarships are funded by corporate and individual contributions to the scholarship program, fundraising events, grants and bequests to our scholarship endowment fund with The Delaware Community Foundation. You can help by sharing information about this scholarship program with others, encouraging candidates to apply, attending fundraising events and making contributions to the scholarship fund.

Checks should be made payable to the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., and sent to:
Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 7784
Wilmington, DE 19803
All contributions are tax deductible.