



Florida State University
ARF News Special Feature
February 2020



Southern Scholarship Foundation
Residents Thankful for ARF

Southern Scholarship Foundation (Continued)

Since 1955, the Southern Scholarship Foundation (SSF) has helped thousands of students with outstanding academic abilities, good character, and financial need realize their dream of a college education. Students receive scholarships in the form of rent-free cooperative-living housing valued at \$13,000 a year. SSF residents live in furnished scholarship houses that are adjacent to their college campus where they share chores, meals, and rooms. Officers within the house learn financial management, leadership, and collaboration. Currently, SSF serves 470 students in the state of Florida.

SSF began in Tallahassee with the help of Dr. Mode Stone, former Dean of the FSU College of Education. Dr. Stone and his associates witnessed hundreds of top high school graduates who did not consider college an option due to a lack of financial resources. Many, like Dr. Stone, came from rural, hardworking, farming families. Dean Stone and other FSU professors and local business leaders banded together to acquire the first scholarship house. Currently rent-free housing is available to students who attend Florida State University, Florida A&M University, University of Florida, Tallahassee Community College, Santa Fe College, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Flagler College Tallahassee.

The Association of Retired Faculty have partnered with SSF since 2005. Last fall, the association's members donated cleaning products, paper products and nonperishable food items. After the meeting, SSF President Shawn Woodin and Director of Development Kristie Teal each left with a packed car!

SSF holds a Thanksgiving Potluck in which residents cook turkeys, hams, and all the trimmings! This event also recognized graduating residents. To keep the event lively, SSF packaged all ARF members' donated goods into six baskets and awarded the goodies during the Thanksgiving potluck, just the perfect addition to the celebration. SSF and its residents have much to be thankful for.

SSF makes college affordable. In 2019, 70% of residents who left SSF graduated or continued their education elsewhere, 43% reported they would not be able to attend college without SSF, and 61% graduated with \$0 student debt. While 90% of Southern Scholarship recipients are Floridians, some come from all parts of the country and abroad. SSF students are between 18-25, 46% are first generation colleges students, 75% are minorities, and over 50% are women.

Most recently in Tallahassee, SSF welcomed 17 students to the new Bill and Nancy Malthouse Scholarship House thanks to a substantial gift made by SSF alum Bill Malthouse. The twenty-sixth SSF house in the State of Florida, the construction marks a significant milestone

for the organization since it is the first house fully funded by an alumnus. "SSF creates a community and family," said Roberto Vasquez, House Manager for the Malthouse Scholarship House, and an SSF resident since 2017. "Living at SSF has made my education at FSU possible by saving me thousands of dollars and helped me grow as a leader. Without SSF, I could not have gone to college.

For more information contact Kristie Teal, Development Director kteal@southern scholarship.org.



Thanksgiving at the Southern Scholarship Foundation



The new Bill and Nancy Malthouse Scholarship House built for the Southern Scholarship Foundation



Florida State University President, John Thrasher greeting a Southern Scholarship Foundation Student.

