

February 2004

Chickasaw Foundation serves Chickasaw people

It is a tremendous privilege for me to serve on the board of the Chickasaw Foundation. The foundation does so much to encourage Chickasaws to attain their goals.

The Chickasaw Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. The foundation's mission is to promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs.

The foundation sponsors several programs including Kid's Kafe, a meal program at Carter Seminary in Ardmore, Okla.; the training component of the Computer Literacy and Distribution program through a grant provided by the Microsoft Corporation; an emergency food distribution program by the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma; partial funding of the Chickasaw Nation Festival and Annual Meeting celebration by the Oklahoma Arts Council; and the ZOO FUNd grant that sponsors Chickasaw youth groups through the Oklahoma Zoological Society.

The Chickasaw Foundation is a great place to find an educational scholarship. The foundation is currently revising its scholarship application form and will be offering the following scholarships for fall 2004:

- Colbert "Bud" Baker Scholarship,
- Gene & Sonam Hill Computercraft Corporation Scholarship,
- Ann Eubank Health Scholarship,
- Janet Shaley James Memorial Scholarship,
- Edward L. Kruger Memorial *Ittish Asisha* Scholarship,
- Native American Fund Advisors Scholarship,
- Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship,
- Bank2 Banking Scholarship-*In Memory of Mr. Robert Walton*,
- Native American Women's Entrepreneurial Scholarship,
- Donald D. Gunning Memorial Scholarship,
- Chickasaw Foundation General Purpose Education Scholarship,
- Mary K. Moreland & Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship, and
- Robert L. Walton Memorial Scholarship.

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program provides a six-week, residential summer program at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla. Upward Bound students are much more likely to enroll in postsecondary education following Upward Bound.

The Chickasaw Foundation Educational Talent Search (ETS) program, also at Murray State College, offers students in sixth through 12th grades academic advisement, counseling and career exploration. One hundred percent of ETS seniors went on to attend college in 2003. This year, a high percentage of ETS seniors have already begun making college plans.

The Chickasaw Foundation hosts several special events throughout the year. These include a

scholarship reception, the Friends of the Foundation reception, an annual Open House and the Cultural Evening to honor individuals, organizations and the overall culture of the Chickasaw people.

The Chickasaw Foundation deeply appreciates the support it receives through volunteerism, donations and other resources made available by Chickasaw members, organizations and other individuals willing to share the vision of a strong Chickasaw Nation.

For more information about the Chickasaw Foundation's programs, please visit the foundation offices at 110 West 12th Street, Ada, Okla., or call (580) 421-9030.

As always, thank you for your interest in the Chickasaw Nation. Contact me anytime at jparker@mailclerk.ecok.edu