

## **THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION**

### *Excerpts from letters of 2012-13 Charlotte W. Newcombe scholars*

“On behalf of my family, especially my son, thank you for the funding that I have received. I am a single mother and we live with my mother because I can’t afford my own place. I get some financial help from welfare and know that finishing my education will help me with my future. I want my son to have a stable home in a safe area so he does not become a statistic of troubled youth. This scholarship is heaven sent and gives me the confidence to carry on as a nursing major.

I sometimes get angry at myself for the mistakes I have made in my past. I have vowed to put that aside and look at my education as a new start, a new beginning. Thank you.”

*- Bloomfield College*

“Thank you, again, for granting me the opportunity to pursue my academic and career goals. I was thrilled last year when I received my first Newcombe Scholarship and I am more thrilled now to receive this wonderful honor once again. Without your support it would have been very difficult to accomplish my aspirations. I am grateful beyond words.

In August 2013 I will receive my Bachelor’s degree in Social Work. I can’t wait to walk across that stage, receive my diploma, and see my family proudly cheer me on. I am in disbelief that after more than fourteen years of struggle, this journey will come to fruition. My eyes fill with tears at the very thought that I will graduate from such a prestigious institution as Fordham. ‘Thank you’ seems like such a small gesture for such a profound gift.”

*- Fordham University*

“I grew up in a working class family and I watched my father juggle three jobs at a time to support our family. I knew I wanted to end the cycle of poverty, so I enrolled at La Salle in 2003. I took some time off from school to care for my children while their father was deployed to Iraq. Subsequently, I endured an extremely violent marriage. Without education, I would not have had the confidence that I am strong enough or capable enough to leave violence and poverty. I am even more determined than before. I want to assist other women who experience domestic abuse. I know that leaving violent situations is a difficult road; there is much healing that needs to be done.

Being a single mother of two makes being a student particularly challenging. However, the long term benefits will make these short term hardships worthwhile. Thank you for assisting me in achieving my dreams.”

*- La Salle University*

“Receiving the Newcombe Scholarship has been an amazing gift and an inspiration for me to continue my studies. I am so proud to be the recipient of such a prestigious award! Not only has the scholarship made finishing my degree in English/Secondary Education possible, it has motivated me to be the best student I can be. I look forward to attaining the high goals that the committee expects and those I have set for myself....One day in the not so distant future, I hope to be able to give back to students the gift of quality education which I have been so lucky to receive.”

*-Towson University*

“I am a Native American woman from the Wampanoag tribal nation in Massachusetts. I am writing to express my deepest appreciation for being selected by the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation to be a scholarship recipient. My dream of a college education was not realized after high school, but my desire to become a graduate never faded. Through your generous support, I will finally realize my dream of receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in the spring of 2014 and I will become the first in my family to have a college degree.

My studies through the Center for Continuing Education and Distance Learning at Elizabethtown have been very rewarding. The strategies I developed from the challenges of being a single parent of three children have helped me manage my academic schedule and work life simultaneously. These experiences have increased my commitment to helping others in my position. I plan to use my degree to begin a nonprofit organization designed to help Native American families living outside their tribal communities to stay connected with valuable resources in areas of health, education and well being. My minor in Human Services has already provided me with volunteer opportunities at my local domestic abuse shelter, and I am currently participating in a collection drive for back-to-school supplies to be distributed to Native American school districts at several locations.

...My desire is to give back in measure of what I have been given, and I plan to do this by helping many communities at a time.

In my Native American culture when we want to honor a special person, we initiate the act of gifting. A person is chosen and the gift is carefully selected for its high value. The gift must always be worthy of the giver. I will carry the honor of this valuable award with me as I journey through the remainder of my studies and as I continue on throughout my career.”  
*- Elizabethtown College*

“I am so very grateful for being chosen as a recipient of the Newcombe Scholarship for the past two years. This scholarship opened many doors and opportunities for me. I started attending Gannon University with two courses each semester and even took summer classes. After several semesters of nonstop schoolwork, I was exhausted. My advisor told me that I would have to change my schedule and attend classes during the day in order to get my degree. I told him that I couldn’t do it because I was working two jobs to support my family and taking whatever courses were available. I took classes on the internet and in the evening and just didn’t have the time or money to do anything else.

There were times when I could only get two or three hours sleep and I didn’t know if I was coming or going. I literally slept with my books, pens and paper on my lap at nights. Every moment was put to use by reading my school books. But my family was starting to suffer because I didn’t have time for them and I was leaving my girls home a great deal to care for themselves. You see, I am an African American female. I am the parent of four children; two of them still live with me. I was and still am bound and determined to make a better life for my children and me.

When I heard about the scholarship, I jumped at the opportunity. I thought how nice to consider me but I wasn’t very confident to be able to write a paper about myself. After I submitted the application and letter I forgot about the scholarship until I received the award letter in the mail. Many opportunities opened up for me because of it. I was able to adjust my schedule, leave my second job and devote my structured time to my studies and my family. Most importantly, I was able to enroll at Gannon University as a full-time student and then my stress level was cut in half.

I am proud to say that I am graduating a year early and have made the Dean’s List. This would not have been possible if it were not for the assistance of the Newcombe Scholarship. I, as well as my family, would like to thank those that found me to be worthy to have been chosen for this award.”  
*- Gannon University*

“In my family, college was not expected or even encouraged. Far more value was placed on going into the workforce right away. That was what I did – but as good as I was at any job, I always found myself passed over for advancement because I lacked a college education.

As a non-traditional student, I have unique challenges in my attempt to earn my college degree. The responsibilities you have as an adult are not always conducive to achieving your goal of a college education, and your financial obligations outside of school often make it seem like perhaps you are reaching too high. I am so fortunate that my husband has been incredibly supportive in helping me earn my degree. As a couple we have made many sacrifices to keep me on the path of higher education, but when I receive my diploma in May, it will all be worth it.

I am so excited for the opportunities that await me after graduation. I cannot thank you enough for the help you have given me in making my dreams a reality. It is only with the financial support of foundations like yours that women in my position have the opportunity to make a change for the better in their lives.”  
*- Arcadia University*

“I am a recent recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. I consider it a great honor for having been selected. So far, we are only a week into the semester and I have spent a great deal of time in the library. Usually, I have to rush straight from class to work and try to fit in study time in the evening after I put my children to sleep. Often times I operate under a great deal of stress because of the financial hardships that I experience as a single parent. I can not begin to express how it feels to have help. I was in tears when I received the letter stating that I had gotten the scholarship. Honestly, I knew that I was embarking on my most difficult semester since I have been here at West Chester, but I did not know how I was going to juggle all my responsibilities. This help came at just the right time. I have already used the money to buy my textbooks for the semester and my course materials. I have been able to pay my rent for the next few months. This semester I will not have to worry about keeping a roof over my children’s heads. I feel at peace in knowing that there are wonderful people like Charlotte Newcombe who care about others so much that they are willing to offer much needed help to people like me. You will never regret having chosen me as a Newcombe Scholar. I know that this will be the best year I have ever had in my college career. I can focus on my school work without the distractions of my lack of finances to care for my family.”  
*- West Chester University*