



# CHICKASAW FOUNDATION

..... Est. 1971 .....

## FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

*The Chickasaw Foundation newsletter is an annual publication  
keeping you informed of all Chickasaw Foundation updates and news.*

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*To promote the general welfare and culture of the  
Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health,  
historical and community activities and programs*



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## A LETTER FROM THE CEO

JOHNNA R. WALKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As the world turns the corner from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chickasaw Foundation continues to put its best foot forward, knowing there are countless people who are still in need. People who need help paying for college; people who need assistance dealing with the loss of a loved one; people who need immediate service while they recover from a natural disaster.

Because of the generosity of our donors, we've continued providing life-changing services to Chickasaw citizens and surrounding communities.

Whatever program it is—scholarships, benevolence fund, Inchokkaalaali (I'm Visiting) Assistance Request or disaster relief and recovery—we have been able to affect the lives of numerous people for the better—all because of you.

Our mission began in 1971 and remains true today: promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs. We want you to know we're thankful for your partnership and generosity. Without you, we wouldn't exist.

Chickasaw Foundation's vision is "to instill hope and foster resilience in Chickasaw families and friends." That's exactly what we are doing as we look forward to the future and all that it brings.

Have a blessed and safe Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

*Johnna R. Walker*

## FAMILY HELPED THROUGH OKLAHOMA TORNADO



On behalf of my family,” Courtney Williamson said, “we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Chickasaw Foundation for their assistance during our difficult time of loss.” The Williamsons were one of many families impacted by the Kingston tornado last year.

For them, the help was much needed. “The assistance provided in the forms of funds allowed us to replace clothing and secure a temporary apartment,” she mentioned. Courtney, a Chickasaw citizen, and her husband, Cameron, worked at the Chickasaw Children’s Village.

“At the time of the Kingston tornado, we were house parents at the Chickasaw Children’s Village,” she said. “They are still a second family to us, and we think of them often.”

Chickasaw Foundation is proud to support the Williamsons and many more families through the disaster relief and recovery fund program.

## CHICKASAW NATION EMPLOYEE ASSISTED DURING ACCIDENT



Chrishan Cooley

“In May 2022, my father was in a farming explosion which required extensive care. The expected stay in the hospital was to be a couple months with an additional undetermined amount of time for in-patient therapy. The Chickasaw Foundation assisted my family through the benevolence fund which assisted us with transportation, food and accommodations our family needed to provide around the clock care for our father as well as follow up care once he was released. We are so grateful to the Chickasaw Foundation for the assistance provided to employees in their time of need.”



# 2ND ANNUAL CHICKASAW FOUNDATION GOLF SCRAMBLE

WinStar Golf Club ● Redbud Course ● May 12, 2023

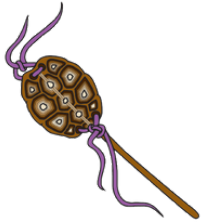
The 2nd annual Chickasaw Foundation Golf Scramble was a tremendous success! We had wonderful weather, a great course and incredible competition! Thank you again to the participants, volunteers and our many sponsors for making this a successful event! We had a total of 22 teams and 88 players.

Congratulations to the top two teams!

## FIRST PLACE

(by scorecard playoff)

Nevada Cole, Chad McCage, Brandon Laxton  
and Cole Meeks  
(Representing American Gaming Systems)



## SECOND PLACE

(by scorecard playoff)

Carsen Young, Ryan Lenihan, Spencer Barry  
and Preston Pearce  
(Representing LDWW Group)



*Please see the next page for more photos from the golf scramble.*







# 16TH ANNUAL CHICKASAW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Chickasaw Foundation was glad to host our scholarship reception for the first time in several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were thrilled with the support received and thankful for recipients and their families who travelled to take part in this event.

The ceremony and reception wouldn't have been a success without many who volunteered their time, effort and expertise, including the Chickasaw Princesses, Mr. Chandler Elliott, Mr. Mitch Sasseen and Ms. Gwen Carney and her team. Additionally, we are grateful for those who volunteered to review scholarship applications. We also express our appreciation to Governor Bill Anoatubby and the Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees for their leadership and support of our scholarship program.



*Top left: 2022-2023 Chickasaw Princesses (Sari Walker, Maggie Stick and Winter Wolfe)*

*Bottom left: Ms. Kaitlin Johnson receiving her certificate for the Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship*

*Middle: Mr. John Fryrear, Vice-Chairperson of the Chickasaw Foundation, providing the benediction*

*Top right: Mr. Chandler Elliott playing music before the ceremony*

*Bottom right: Ms. Leta Burwell, Chairperson of the Chickasaw Foundation, providing the welcome address.*





# 2023-2024 CHICKASAW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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Chickasaw Foundation is proud to announce the scholarship recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarship recipients display a passion to serve their communities, resilience in studies and a commitment to achieving their dreams. Our recipients are determined to be leaders in their respective fields and a willingness to always keep learning. Please join us in congratulating all of the deserving scholarship recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year!



2023-2024  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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DOCTORAL  
CANDIDATE



Alexis Walker-Bacon  
*Moonie Ogee  
Memorial Scholarship*

GRADUATE  
STUDENTS



Danielle Armelin  
*Governor Emeritus  
Overton James  
Memorial Scholarship*



Spencer Busick  
*Alicia Anne Wear  
Memorial Scholarship*



Meagan Cardinale  
*Ruth Oteka Oliphant Wyers  
Memorial Scholarship*



Abigail Chopp  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



Rosemary Durant  
*David & Carolyn Nimmo  
Graduate Business  
Scholarship*



Chandler Hawkins  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
Health Professions  
Scholarship*



Nikole Humphries  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



Cassandra Jackson  
*L. Jay and Oleta Keel  
Memorial Scholarship*



Sierra Hampton  
*Donald D. and J. Wenonah  
Gunning Memorial  
Scholarship*



Kiersten Key  
*Vinnie May Humes  
Memorial Scholarship*



Dalex Potts  
*Judicial Scholarship -  
Law Student Scholarship*



Deborah Ripley  
*Marcella Burke Family  
Flourishing Scholarship for  
Law Students with Children*



Brayden Robinson  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



Reese Siegle  
*Lillian Fowler  
Memorial Scholarship*



Tyler Southern  
*Robert Martin Cheadle  
Memorial Law Scholarship*



Malorie Stick  
*Jess Green Memorial  
Law Scholarship*



Lauren Tedder-Caunitz  
*Lancelot Minor, III  
Memorial Law Scholarship*



Ashley Vance  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



Payton Whitehead  
*The Hill Group Scholarship*

SENIORS



**Mason Biliske**  
*John Bennett Herrington  
Scholarship*



**Katyn Denson**  
*Janie Hardwick Benson  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Ryan Duncan**  
*Pauline Walker  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Caroline Dunn**  
*Computercraft Corporation  
Scholarship*



**Ellie Durgarian**  
*Dynamic Women of the  
Chickasaw Nation  
Scholarship*



**Andrew Erickson**  
*Special Agent Patrick  
Flickinger Memorial  
Scholarship*



**Brianna Glossbrenner**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
Fine Arts Scholarship*



**Bianca Hanly**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose Education  
Scholarship*



**Lauren John**  
*Ataloea Memorial  
Scholarship*



**Kaitlin Johnson**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
Fine Arts Scholarship*



**Rogelio Raymond**  
*Robert L. Walton  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Summer Skaggs**  
*Lynn C. Gibson  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Parker Wallace**  
*Homer "Dee" Wells  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Lori White Buffalo**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
Toksali' Scholarship*



**Allyson Bunch**  
*Aristocrat Gaming  
Scholarship*



**Kinlee Duck**  
*Colbert Scholarship*



**Misti Duhon**  
*Aristocrat Gaming  
Scholarship*



**Maggie Erdwurm**  
*Enel-North America  
Scholarship*



**Nolan Givens**  
*Mary Jo Green  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Mallorie Lovett**  
*The Chickasaw Nation  
Aging Division and  
Geriatric Navigator  
Scholarship*

JUNIORS



CHICKASAW FOUNDATION



**Delanie Seals**  
*Mitch Sperry  
Memorial Law  
Scholarship*

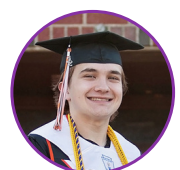


**Samantha Taylor**  
*John Bennett Herrington  
Scholarship*



**Mahlia Upchurch**  
*Colbert "Bud" Baker  
Memorial Scholarship*

SOPHOMORES



**Mason Burris**  
*Aristocrat Gaming  
Scholarship*



**Jeremy Coltharp**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



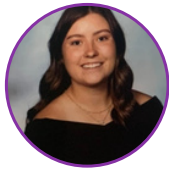
**Ethan Esparza**  
*The Chickasaw Nation  
Social Services Division  
General Purpose Educational  
Scholarship*



**Emily Griffith**  
*The Hill Group Scholarship*



**Jaxon Holland**  
*Chickasaw Foundation  
General Purpose  
Education Scholarship*



**Mackenzie Kent**  
*Overton M. "Buck" Cheadle  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Bailey Lollis**  
*Mary K. Moreland and  
Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship*



**Cydnee Miller**  
*Mitch Musgrove  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Rhyan Pogue**  
*Aristocrat Gaming  
Scholarship*



**Shellene Redhorse**  
*Centrion Systems, Inc.  
Scholarship*



**Rachel Scott**  
*Ann Eubank  
Health Scholarship*



**Anita Pahsetopah-Smith**  
*Wilson J. Brown  
Memorial Scholarship*

FRESHMEN



**Aden Carroll**  
*James Michael "Mike" Dunn  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Shayla Cluff**  
*Aristocrat Gaming  
Scholarship*



**Clayton Hayes**  
*Ambassador Neal McCaleb  
Scholarship*



**Nathaniel Hoyt**  
*Jamie Duane Ellis  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Samara Morgan**  
*Irene C. & Russell Howard  
Memorial Scholarship*



**Katherine Morgan**  
*William G. Paul  
 Scholarship*



**Kaycie Rattan**  
*Kenneth Comer  
 Scholarship*



**Charles Robison**  
*Janet Shaley James  
 Memorial Scholarship*



**Chaney Williams**  
*Computercraft Corporation  
 Scholarship*



**Cheyenne Wood**  
*James Aaron Ingram  
 Athletic Scholarship*

## FALL 2023 GRADUATES

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### NIKOLE HUMPHRIES

"I am excited to start my professional career, and, again, I am very grateful to the Chickasaw Foundation for helping me along the way."



### DEBORAH RIPLEY

"Receiving the Foundation Scholarship meant more than just financial support - it pushed me when I was tired and allowed me to be a role model for my children and peers."



### SUMMER SKAGGS

"It has been an honor to receive a scholarship from the Chickasaw Foundation. They have helped me get through school in ways that have relieved any financial burden I may have had. Thank you!"



# INCHOKKAALAALI (I'M VISITING) ASSISTANCE REQUEST REPORT

Through the Inchokkaalaali (I'm Visiting) Assistance Request Program, Chickasaw Foundation offers Oklahoma schools an educational, hands-on field trip to the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, OK. This opportunity provides students and faculty a fun and educational day learning about Chickasaw history and culture.



*Photos from Moore Public Schools trip to the  
Chickasaw Cultural Center, courtesy of Caryn  
Record, Native American Coordinator*

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant the Chickasaw Foundation received from Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment of Humanities (NEH). The Oklahoma City Community Foundation also awarded a grant to the Chickasaw Foundation to fund school groups from central Oklahoma. Through these grants—in addition to covering admission fees, sack lunches and fuel reimbursement—we were able to include horticultural or cultural art craft demonstration kits for students to use after the field trip to reinforce what they learned.

Forty-one Oklahoma schools visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center in 2023 with an additional 18 being approved to attend, totaling nearly 2,000 students and faculty.

“Many of my students are not in a situation in which they get to experience fun, educational, and culturally diverse environments,” a faculty member of Ardmore Public Schools explained. “I believe this was a positive, and memorable trip for my students.”

*Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.*

*Congratulations to the following schools...*

Antlers Public School (K-8th) - 60	Lincoln Elementary (Norman 4th) - 46
Allen Public Schools (3rd-4th) - 44	Lone Grove Public Schools (12th) - 10
Blanchard Public Schools (3rd-5th) - 42	Madison Elementary (4th) - 44
Blanchard Public Schools (6th-8th) - 35	Maysville Public Schools (1st-2nd) - 42
Bray-Doyle Public Schools (11th) - 33	Meeker Elementary (4th) - 44
Carl Albert Public Schools (8th) - 24	Milburn Public School (9th-11th) - 66
Casady Public Schools (11th) - 25	Milburn Public School (K-8th) - 26
Charles Evans Public Schools (3rd) - 76	Moore Public Schools (7th-8th JOM) - 32
Charles Evans Public Schools (4th) - 70	New Lima Elementary (3rd-5th) - 43
Charles Evans Public Schools (5th) - 76	Piedmont Public Schools (9th-12th) - 11
Chickasha Middle School (5th-8th) - 16	Plainview Elementary (1st) - 109
Colbert Public Schools (K-5th) - 27	Plainview Elementary (K) - 103
Crooked Oak High School (9th) - 93	Shawnee High School (6th-12th) - 46
Dickson Public Schools (3rd) - 108	Stratford Elementary (3rd-5th) - 36
Francis Elementary (K) - 36	Tishomingo Middle School (8th) - 60
Francis Elementary (1st) - 46	Tulsa Public Schools (Indian Educ.) - 29
Homer Elementary (2nd) - 97	U.S. Grant High School (9th) - 14
Jefferson Elementary (Ardmore 4th-5th) - 77	Vanoss Public Schools (6th-8th) - 45
Latta Public Schools (5th) - 63	Verden Public Schools (PK-12th) - 60
Latta Public Schools (6th) - 40	Washington Grade Center (Ada 3rd-4th) - 75
Lincoln Elementary (Ardmore 2nd-5th) - 13	Washington Middle School (8th) - 79

## PONTOTOC PURSUIT

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, 54 cyclists participated in the Pontotoc Pursuit. The routes included four options: 8 miles, 30 miles, 44 miles and 77 miles. These fun rides began at Wintersmith Park with routes traveling through the Chickasaw Nation Ada South Campus, Stonewall, Tupelo and Coalgate.



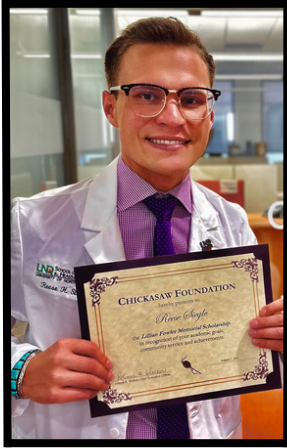
Ms. Holli Witherington, of Ada, won the grand prize.



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT HEADED TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

“

E ducation is exorbitantly expensive,” said Reese Siegle, a Chickasaw Foundation scholarship recipient. “But through scholarships like the Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship, I was able to significantly relieve the financial burden that comes with studying medicine.”



Siegle is currently a medical student at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. His plan is to eventually practice medicine and give back to the community he grew up in. “I am a product of a public health service physician dad and Indian health service nurse mom,” he noted, “both of their experiences in medicine have inspired me to pursue a career serving American Indian patients. I am presently attending medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences through the Indians into Medicine Program, and I plan to one day come back and serve Chickasaw Nation as a Medical Doctor.”

Reese was astonished to learn he received the Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship. “It was at my white coat ceremony that I received the letter stating I had been the recipient of the Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship,” he mentioned. “My nana, Sharon Leming, was ecstatic. She explained to me that Lillian Fowler had attended boarding school with my granny. Their friendship continued through adulthood when my granny would go to the senior site in Pauls Valley to cook.”

Siegle explained further: “Nana told me that Granny and Lillian spent lots of time laughing and telling stories together and that they were ‘pretty big buds.’ [She also] told me how happy my Granny would be knowing I had received a scholarship honoring her good friend. For me, receiving the Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship means honoring Lillian Fowler and my granny Rosalie Imotichey.

Reese credits the help of the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw Foundation for his road through education. “My path to medicine looks a little different than many people. I graduated my undergraduate school in three years and immediately matriculated into medical school,” he said. “A family member once told me ‘You only attended elementary, junior high, high school and college because you had to [in order to] go to medical school.’ In other words, the highest priority goal for me is becoming a doctor by attending medical school. Without the financial help of Chickasaw Nation, I never would have been able to devote as much of my time to my studies or take as many credit hours as I did and graduate early.”

Chickasaw Foundation congratulates Reese on his educational success and wishes him the best in his studies!



# EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION PLAN SPOTLIGHT



JARED BUCKALOO

Chickasaw Foundation is pleased to feature Jared Buckaloo as the 2023 Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP) Champion.

Buckaloo, who has served with the Chickasaw Lighthouse Police since 2020, considers it a blessing to give back. “I’m very thankful to have the opportunity to serve the Chickasaw Nation and all of the citizens within the tribal boundaries [through the ECCP program].”

Jared went on to say how much he loves working for the Chickasaw Nation. “The Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police Department is full of great officers,” he said, “and I am thankful I can wear the patch that says, ‘Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police.’”

Chickasaw Foundation appreciates Jared not only for his selfless service to the community but also for his generosity!

Chickasaw Foundation participates in the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP) as one of the designees selected to receive funds from Chickasaw Nation employees.

By giving through the ECCP, donors know exactly where their funds are going. Those who sign up for the ECCP can elect to have their donations directed to the area of greatest need, scholarship fund, disaster relief and recovery fund or any combination of the three. The ECCP is a fantastic avenue for employees to express our compassion to others.

The Chickasaw Foundation is greatly appreciative to employees who donate to the Foundation through the ECCP. These donations play a special role in helping the Chickasaw Foundation change so many lives and extend hope to surrounding communities.

Receipts are mailed to participants who annually contribute more than \$250. Upon request, receipts will be issued for those who make a contribution of any amount. When sending your request, please include your current contact information so we can make certain your file is updated.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Chickasaw Foundation is on social media! We would love to connect with you on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. The usernames for each are listed below. Follow us on social media to stay up to date on the latest news, stories and other information about the Chickasaw Foundation.

# GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2023

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## 4IMPRINT

The 4imprint OnebyOne Promotional Products Grant enabled us to purchase promotional items for the *Friends of the Foundation* event.



## ARISTOCRAT GAMING SCHOLARSHIP

This was a \$50,000 grant to provide five (5) scholarships for \$10,000 each during the 2023-2024 academic year. It is for Chickasaw undergraduate students enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university and is open to all majors, but preference for those pursuing a career in Gaming or STEM.



## CALEB'S CAUSE FOUNDATION

Thirty-six new moms will receive a package of diapers upon being discharged from the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center thanks to this grant from Caleb's Cause Foundation.



## COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

Chickasaw Foundation received a \$15,000 grant from Communities Foundation of Oklahoma to purchase 4,846 age-appropriate books for children 5 years old and under at each well-child visit at the tribal health clinics in Ada, Ardmore, Purcell and Tishomingo. This initiative is led by the Chickasaw Nation's Division of Public Health and pediatric clinics to support the tribal youth literacy project.



## WALMART COMMUNITY

Chickasaw Foundation received a Walmart Community Grant to help support the Hofanti Chokma "To Grow Well" program within the Chickasaw Nation Division of Research and Public Health. This initiative collaborates with child-serving programs, communities and families to help children thrive through a number of activities including workshops, parents groups and more.



# CHICKASAW FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back row from left to right: Leta Burwell, Debra Gee, Wayne Scribner, Jerry Jones, Nicole Schultz, Joshua Bess.

Front row from left to right: John Fryrear, Jenny Trett, Matt Chesnut.

Not pictured: Jalinda Kelley and Jay Keel.

## STAFF



**JOHNNA R. WALKER**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**CATHERINE ROBERSON**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



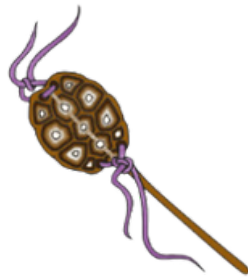
**EMERY RUTHERFORD**  
TOKSALI' SMART PARTICIPANT



**BLAKE LONG**  
PROGRAM ASSISTANT



**LORI RICO**  
FOUNDATION & CORPORATE  
GRANTS MANAGER



# CHICKASAW FOUNDATION

..... Est. 1971 .....

*To promote the general welfare and culture of the  
Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health,  
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