

Woman supporting single moms

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Katie Bunnell, left, founder of the Provo non-profit, Live Your Dream Foundation, receives a grant from Lori Chillingworth, Executive VP of Zions Bank.

Courtesy

Provo woman supporting single mothers receives Smart Women Grant from Zions Bank.

Grant from Zions Bank

A Provo woman who started a scholarship program for single mothers called Live Your Dream Foundation was selected to receive a 2015 Smart Women Grant from Zions Bank. Katie Bunnell received a \$3,000 microgrant for her efforts in empowering women through her organization during an awards ceremony in Salt Lake City on Nov. 12.

Bunnell has provided 30 scholarships totaling to \$45,000 through her foundation to support education for single mothers who are overcoming various challenges. Bunnell plans on using the grant to provide three scholarships to single mothers.

Bunnell and her family were inspired to start the organization when she became a single mother after her husband suddenly passed away in 2005. As she rebuilt her life, she experienced challenges returning to school while taking care of her family, and had the desire to support other single mothers who were in similar situations.

"Each of the single mothers we've helped is working hard to further their education in order to give their family more opportunities," said Bunnell. "It's been rewarding to help other moms fulfill their dreams of a better future for themselves and their family."

Zions Bank's Women's Financial Group provides Smart Women Grants as part of its ongoing commitment to support women in achieving financial independence. The microgrants are awarded to those who promote the empowerment of women or directly benefit women of low-income and underserved populations in Utah and Idaho. Since 2004, 76 microgrants totaling more than \$217,000 have been awarded to projects supporting women. For more information, visit zionsbank.com/smartwomen.

Centro Hispano executive director to exit in December

After more than nine years with Centro Hispano, Executive Director Teresa Tavares will leave the organization in December. She is leaving to continue her work with Provo Adult Education's English for Speakers of Other Languages Program. Centro Hispano will seek a new director who will continue to build the strength and effectiveness of the organization.

"I have been personally blessed to work at Centro Hispano, an organization that strives to improve the lives of the immigrant population," said Tavares. "It has been an honor to serve with a group of talented individuals from the beginning. I am excited for the future of Centro Hispano as it moves forward in a new direction."

Tavares became the executive director of Centro Hispano in July 2006. During her time, the organization has grown to include programs that meet the needs of an ever-evolving community. Tavares has helped organize English classes, workplace safety workshops, a teen program to encourage higher education and lower teen pregnancy rates in Utah County, a low-income taxpayer clinic, and community health fairs.

"We are proud of the work Teresa has done during her time at Centro Hispano," said Benjamin Perez, president of the Centro Hispano board of directors. "Teresa has served as a strong, and trusted voice representing the Hispanic community in the both the local and State level."

For more information, visit www.centrohispanouc.org

Smith's offers way for customers to donate during holiday season

Smith's Food & Drug is offering customers a convenient way to reach out and help others during the holiday season. From now continuing through Dec. 28, customers may add a \$1, \$5 or \$10 donation to their grocery orders. One hundred percent of the contribution will then be converted into Smith's gift cards for the Utah Food Bank to then purchase meat, grocery items, dairy or other needed items at Smith's cost.

Smith's strives to support local food banks throughout its seven states of operation. In addition to cash support, each day stores donate nutritious but unsellable foods to local food banks. In 2014 enough food was contributed this way to create 8,000 more meals every day for families and individuals served through food bank and pantry networks.

"It only takes a few dollars to provide what may be the only meal a person receives in a day," said Marsha Gilford, Smith's vice president public affairs.

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