



For Immediate Release

## **ScholarCHIPS Surpasses \$300K Mark in Funds Given to Support College-Bound Youth with Incarcerated Parents**

*Since 2011, the organization has supported 76 scholars in earning their college degrees.*

**WASHINGTON, DC, September 8, 2021** – ScholarCHIPS, Inc., the black woman-owned non-profit dedicated to awarding college scholarships, mentoring, and a peer support network to children of incarcerated parents, announced a major milestone today with more than \$300K in total funds given to support scholars. The landmark achievement comes as the organization celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> year in serving children of incarcerated parents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

ScholarCHIPS (For Children of Incarcerated Parents) was founded by Washington, DC native Yasmine Arrington, who was just a high school junior at the time. As a child of an incarcerated parent for over 20 years, Yasmine started ScholarCHIPS to support students in her situation, providing scholarships, book awards, graduation gifts, and mentorship to inspire program recipients to complete a college education.

ScholarCHIPS awarded its first four \$2,500 scholarships and first four \$250 book awards to eligible students in fall of 2012. To date, ScholarCHIPS has supported 76 scholars in earning their college degrees at 53 different universities, including 21 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The organization, so far, has succeeded in assisting 30 scholars to graduate from college. In addition, over 1,000 hours of mentorship have been provided to scholars through the organization.

When asked about her motivation behind starting ScholarCHIPS, Arrington commented that “As a child of an incarcerated parent, I was very aware of stigma, taboo and burden of shame for students in my situation. Statistics show that a college education is one of the best ways that we can break the bonds of poverty as well as the cycle of incarceration, so I decided to start ScholarCHIPS to help other youth with incarcerated parents get to and through college. I am so proud to say that we have been supporting this often-forgotten population within the community for a decade now.”

Since the organization’s inception, 90% of ScholarCHIPS scholars have graduated from college or are on track to graduate within 4-6 years. Arrington and ScholarCHIPS board and staff continue to raise funds for scholarships through community events such as half marathons, ticketed theaters events, auctions, and wine tastings, but have also recently introduced new program partners including Enterprise Holdings (Rent-A-Car) and Amazon Smile. Through Amazon Smile, shoppers can designate ScholarCHIPS as their favorite charitable organization and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase total to the organization.

Individuals interested in donating to ScholarCHIPS can also do so through the organization’s website at [www.scholarchipsfund.org](http://www.scholarchipsfund.org). Anyone interested in applying to be a mentor or applying for a scholarship is also encouraged to visit the website as well as to follow ScholarCHIPS on social media for the latest updates.



### **About Yasmine Arrington**

In 2011, while in high school, Yasmine founded the 501c3 non-profit ScholarCHIPS, Inc. ([www.scholarchipsfund.org](http://www.scholarchipsfund.org)), an organization that provides college scholarships, mentoring and a peer support network to children of incarcerated parents. She is also the Founder of IncarciCare, LLC, an online platform that allows people to purchase care packages for incarcerated loved ones, returning citizens, and those on home confinement. Yasmine's work toward breaking the cycles of poverty and incarceration through supporting and uplifting children of incarcerated parents has been featured in on major television news networks such as BET, NBC4, WJLA, as well as publications such as TeenVogue, Essence, Black Enterprise, Forbes Magazine, The Washington Post, and the Baltimore Times.

Arrington is a 2015 graduate from Elon University with a Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications and History. In May 2018, she earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity. Yasmine is the author of *Daily Reflections for Social Entrepreneurs Journal*.

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