

The *Parents As Scholars* Program (PAS) allows select cash recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to attend an approved vocational/educational program for a period of time that is longer than the allowable limit under Federal Regulation (45 CFR 261.33). PAS allows participation in full-time classes to obtain a high school equivalency credential, high school diploma, or to continue their pursuit of an associate or bachelor degree or other postsecondary education.

SFY 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>47</b>
<i>Single Parent</i>	32	<i>Single Parent</i>	37	<i>Single Parent</i>	41
<i>two Parent</i>	4	<i>two Parent</i>	4	<i>two Parent</i>	6
<i>Average # of Children</i>	2	<i>Average # of Children</i>	2	<i>Average # of Children</i>	2
<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>graduated</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>graduated</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>graduated</b>	<b>14</b>
Diploma- GED	1	Diploma - HSE	3	Diploma - HSE	4
		certificates:		certificates:	
Certificates:		Cosmetology	8	Cosmetology	6
Cosmetology	1	Associates degree:		Associates degree:	
Associates degree:		Mental Health Direct Care	1	Nursing	1
Dental Hygiene	1	Information Technology	1	Bachelors:	
Dental Assistant	1	Bachelors:		Accounting	1
Bachelors:		Mechanics	1	Biology	1
Nursing	1	Nursing	1	Management Info Systems	1
		Psychology	1		
SFY 2017		SFY 2018		SFY 2019	
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Single Parent</i>	34	<i>Single Parent</i>	31	<i>Single Parent</i>	31
<i>two Parent</i>	8	<i>two Parent</i>	4	<i>two Parent</i>	1
<i>Average # of Children</i>	2	<i>Average # of Children</i>	2	<i>Average # of Children</i>	2
<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>graduated</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>graduated</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>graduated</b>	<b>17</b>
Diploma - HSE	3	certificates:		certificates:	
certificates:		Cosmetology	1	Cosmetology	4
Cosmetology	1			Licensed Practical Nurse	1
Diesel Technology	1	Associates degree:		Associates degree:	
Bachelors:		Business Management	1	Accounting	1
Education	1	Bachelors:		General Studies	2
Nursing	1	Education	3	Nursing & Pre-Nursing	2
Psychology	1			Social Work	1
English	1			Bachelors:	
				Crop Science	1
				Electrical Engineering	1
				Human Services	1
				Elementary & early childhood Ed	2

## CONTACT

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## Parents As Scholars Success Stories:

**Ashley** is a single parent, mother of three children and recently graduated from Great Falls College MSU with a Certificate of Applied Sciences in Licensed Practical Nursing.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ashley and with the assistance of Parents as Scholars, I have successfully completed the Licensed Practical Nurse Program through Great Falls College MSU and received my Certificate of Applied Sciences. Completing Nursing school was one of the most difficult things I have done. I feel very proud of my accomplishment. Parents as Scholars gave me the ability to take the time needed to focus on my studies relieving a lot of my worries and stress. I am the mother of three and trying to balance family life and school was challenging. Without this program I would have had to also obtain employment to pay my expenses. Money has been tight, but we were able to manage. My kids are my number one and thanks to this program, I was able to keep it that way. I did my school work while my kids were at school or their care centers. This allowed me to be mom in the evenings and weekends. If I would have had to be employed as well, it would have surely taken away from my time with my kids or time focus on my studies.

I struggled in my first year of nursing school as I had to retake my pharmacology class due to my test average. I wanted to give up many times. Money was tight, I watched my cohort move on without me, had to reapply to the nursing program, get accepted all over again, and wait nearly a year to retake the course. All I kept thinking was I can't be a failure to my kids, this was my motivation.

During this intermission, I gained employment through Blue Cross Blue Shield and made good wages. When it came time to put in my resignation I heard from my old cohort that jobs weren't paying much more than what I was currently making. Again, I wanted to give up on my dream of becoming a nurse. I continuously had to remind myself why I started down this path and how hard I had worked thus far. I couldn't give up.

My case worker met with me and advised me that I had been accepted in the Parents as Scholars Program which would allow me to go to school and really focus on my studies. I am truly grateful for this program and hope that many others can benefit from this program in the future. Without it, I may not have gone back to school or made it through successfully. My journey was tough and long with many tears along the way but walking at my graduation, and having my children see me through it all, made it all worthwhile. I am excited for what the future holds. Again, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Ashley

**Autumn** is a single parent, mother of four children and recently graduated from Montana State University - Billings with her Bachelor of Science in Human Services.

Autumn enrolled in the Pathways Program in January 2018 to finish her classes at Montana State University-Billings and obtain her bachelor's degree in Human Services. During her enrollment, Autumn continued to work with Child Protective Services and completed treatment. She eventually became a meeting leader and now has full custody of her children. Autumn gained employment experience by completing Work Study hours at TRI, maintained childcare at Little Rascals Daycare with assistance from a Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. Autumn completed her internship at Alternatives Incorporated and is in the interview process to gain employment with them. During her enrollment in the Parents As Scholars program, she was able to get assistance for car repairs through Harvest Church Car Care Ministry and TANF Supportive Services. Autumn is enrolled in the Families Saving for Tomorrow Program at The Home Center and is an inspiration of what hard work and determination can accomplish.

**Teal** is a single parent, mother of two children, ages 9 and 4. Teal graduated in November 2018 from Bold Beauty School with a certificate in Cosmetology.

Teal enrolled in the Parents as Scholars (PAS) program in June of 2018 after exhausting her 12 months of Vocational Education Activities. Teal utilized the PAS program for 5 months while she finished her full-time studies at cosmetology school. She attended school for 35 hours/week, Tuesday-Saturday. Teal graduated from Bold Beauty Academy on November 3, 2018. She passed the State Cosmetologist test for her Cosmetology License on January 24, 2019 and received her license February 12, 2019. Before passing her test and receiving her license, Teal gained employment at Regis Corporation (Cost Cutters) as a receptionist. She was able to pay for her own licensing test fees with the money she had earned from her employment. Now that she has passed the test and received her license, Teal is working as a Licensed Cosmetologist at Cost Cutters and is participating in the TANF Post Employment Program working 30 hours/week.

**Katharine** is a single parent, mother of two children ages 4 and 2. Katharine graduate in December 2018 from Missoula College with an Associates of Applied Science in Accounting.

I am a recovering addict, I have overcome a very abusive relationship, and felt like I was never going to go anywhere with my life. I went to Carol Graham Home and got on TANF to help pay the small amount of bills I had. Carol Graham is a rehab facility for pregnant women and women with children. It is an intense program but worth the struggle. When I was looking into going back to college I was grateful that I got a year of time when my school work counted as my volunteer time. At the time, both of my children were two and under, so time management was something I struggled with. Once leaving Carol Graham Home and being on my own I tried to get a job and go to school. It was very hard to get my kids to daycare, work and go to school. My job was in the fast food industry, so I did have a lot of time for studying. Coming up on my last semester I had already used my year of school time and applied for Parents as Scholars. Receiving the Parents as Scholars helped me to be able to focus on my school work and apply for an apprenticeship with an accounting firm. I finished school in December 2018 and walked across the stage May 4, 2019. I now have an Associates in Applied Science of Accounting Technology and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that I was given with Parents as Scholars because I don't think I would have made it without that help. I currently am still working in the accounting firm with the apprenticeship. After I complete 2000 hours, if they do not want me as a permanent employee then I will have a years' worth of experience to be able to continue to work in the accounting field.