Impact of the Schumacher Family Fund scholarships

College of Social Work students Amanda Poole and Elnora Stewart are the first two recipients of scholarships from the Schumacher Family Fund. As they finished the 2012 fall semester, Stewart and Poole provided updates on their studies and the work they can concentrate on, thanks to financial support from the fund.

Elnora Stewart

"I am so grateful for the scholarship I received from the Schumacher fund. I have recently completed my application process for the MSW graduate program. I have also completed the first semester of my field placement at Amethyst where I had a very educating and rewarding experience. I still volunteer with Rehab's Hideaway and Habitat Humanity. Additionally, I became a member of NASW and Phi Sigma Theta National Honors Society where I was elected secretary.

During winter break, I worked fulltime utilizing my marketing skills for a home improvement contractor but I will continue volunteering and being of service in any way I can. Again I thank Chris and Tara Schumacher for their wonderful generosity."

Amanda Poole

"I am headed back to Ghana; my focus is still on human trafficking. While there, I will volunteer at the Human Rights Advocacy Center, network with local leaders, start an awareness campaign, and tutor/engage economically disadvantage youth.

In Columbus, I'm currently placed with the Reynoldsburg School District as their homeless liaison. This position was of particular interest to me because research shows that homeless youth in the United States are highly at risk of being trafficked. I am also volunteering with the Salvation Army as a mentor for survivors of human trafficking and a speaker. At the college, I'm the president of the Mwanafunzi student organization. For Thanksgiving, our organization sponsored and served a meal at Ohio State's Star House.

Finally, I'm in the planning stages of possibly creating a scholarship in honor of my best friend who was a victim of trafficking."

Elnora (standing, second from right) and Amanda (seated, far left) are pictured with Christopher Schumacher (standing, center) and other guests during the college's annual Scholarship Luncheon.