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West Memphis Recycling Establishes MSCC Scholarship

With a goal of emphasizing the importance of higher education and the benefits of recycling, Dannie Gatewood of West Memphis Recycling has established a scholarship at Mid-South Community College.

“Our best resources are our kids, and we can’t afford to have them sitting around and being idle when they could be getting an education and improving their lives,” said Gatewood, a native of West Memphis who earned a GED certificate at MSCC and is now enrolled in college-level classes. “I have always wanted to give back to the community, and my recycling business has allowed me that opportunity.”

“Dannie Gatewood is an inspiration to us all,” said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter. “This young man could have let circumstances dictate a much different outcome, but he has channeled his energy into something very positive.”



Dannie Gatewood, second from right, presents a check to Mid-South Community College President Dr. Glen Fenter to create the West Memphis Recycling Scholarship. Also pictured, from left, are Patti Coleman, MSCC Director of Advancement, Judy and David Moose, and Doresa Gatewood.

Based on his relatively new purpose and direction, Dannie describes his change as “a life recycled.” Inspired by meetings with Judy and David Moose and two other couples, Gatewood decided to begin a recycling business in 2009 as a way to provide for his family. He also made a commitment to donate a portion of his proceeds to MSCC for scholarships. Mrs. Moose serves as treasurer for the business.

Gatewood has collected nearly 50,000 pounds of cardboard, and he also collects metal, aluminum, paper, plastic, cans, and glass. He frequently checks area dumpsters for recyclable materials and often finds much that can be sold for reuse. In addition, Gatewood works with local businesses, including MSCC, to pick up recyclables at specific times.

To contribute recyclable items to Gatewood’s effort, call him at 901-864-2432 (cell) or 870-735-5519 (business phone).

“We all throw away thousands of dollars of recyclable material, and that costs the city and county money,” Gatewood said. “We can greatly reduce the amount of trash in our landfills, create jobs, save money, protect and improve the environment, and raise additional funds for MSCC scholarships by reusing some of the items that are being discarded.”

Because Crittenden County does not have a recycling center, Gatewood takes the materials to Memphis. He would like to see West Memphis, Marion, or Crittenden County build a facility for processing reusable items.

Gatewood and his wife, Doresa, have a 13-year-old son, Dannie Jr., who attends East Junior High School in West Memphis. The senior Gatewood serves as a volunteer coach for an AAU basketball team for teenage boys.

The West Memphis Recycling Scholarship fund will support the awarding of at least one \$250 scholarship each semester to a Crittenden County graduating senior planning to attend MSCC. The award, administered by the Mid-South Community



Dannie Gatewood uses an old pickup truck and a trailer to collect recyclables. To contribute to his efforts, call him at 901-864-2432 or 870-735-5519.

College Foundation, is designed to help meet the educational expenses of students who demonstrate financial need.

To contribute to the West Memphis Recycling Scholarship or to establish a named scholarship, call MSCC Director of Advancement Patti Coleman at (870) 733-6764 or email her at pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu. The Foundation is also offering direct on-line giving through the College's website, www.midsouthcc.edu (point to the MSCC Foundation link, and click on Give Now).

The Mid-South Community College Foundation, Inc., is an independent charitable organization created to raise and oversee funds donated to MSCC in support of the college's efforts to meet the needs of Crittenden County. The Foundation operates under a tax exempt 501(c)(3) status.