



Answer founder Susan Andersen with Shantell Kelty

## Answer Scholarship Fund: *The Gift of an Education*

By: Myers Park United Methodist minister of missions Rev. Kevin Wright

Katrina Mitchell had a difficult start in life. Her mother was only 14 when Mitchell was born. As a teenager, Mitchell had to work to help her family pay household bills. She attended college briefly, but without adequate support or guidance she wasn't a serious student and quit before earning a degree.



Katrina Mitchell

Mitchell went on to marry and have two children. When her grandmother, who helped raise her, passed away a few years ago, Mitchell realized it was time to re-think what she was going to do with the one life she had. While working full-time, she enrolled in college, determined to succeed this time.

Katrina Mitchell will receive her B.A. in Elementary Education from Belmont Abbey College in December. Her remarkable story was made possible

partly because of the Answer Scholarship Endowment, a non-profit organization that Myers Park United Methodist Church is proud to support this year with a \$3,000 grant.

Answer, founded by Charlottean Susan Andersen, provides scholarships to moms of school-age children in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties. Recipients must be raising school-age children, show demonstrated need for the scholarships, and be earning either their first four-year college degree or an associate's degree in nursing. Some past recipients are now studying for their master's degrees.

Andersen started Answer with her own funds but is now seeking additional donors so more women can receive scholarships. At Myers Park United Methodist, we believe our modest financial investment is yielding a tremendous return by providing an education for people who are working extremely hard to make a better life for themselves. We love Answer's focus on women who might not

otherwise have the opportunity to get an education.

Susan Andersen also believes that by educating moms, their children will be motivated to do better in school and go to college. In fact, that has happened – several children of Answer recipients are now enrolled in college themselves. Katrina Mitchell's pre-teen daughter, seeing her mom's example, made honor roll at school for the first time this year.

Along with Mitchell, Answer recipient Shantell Kelty will graduate with a B.S. in Business Administration from Pfeiffer University in December. Past recipient Marie Dingle will graduate from UNC Greensboro with her Masters in Library Information Studies and is already working in her field as a media specialist at Whitewater Middle School.

Answer is housed at Foundation for the Carolinas, which provides financial oversight. Inspired to find out more? Visit [www.answerscholarship.org](http://www.answerscholarship.org).