



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume II, Issue 7

giving
parents
a **choice**
giving
children
a **chance**

Fall 2005

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Forstmann Becomes CSF Chair; 24,000 Children Using Awards

The Children's Scholarship Fund has two pieces of good news to share with you.

First of all, Ted Forstmann, who co-founded CSF with the late John Walton, has agreed to again serve as its Chairman and



CSF President Darla Romfo with the kindergarten class of St. Paul School in East Harlem. Read more about the school on p. 2.

CEO. Ted is senior partner of Forstmann Little & Co., a private investment firm in New York, and a long-time champion of expanding educational and economic opportunities. With Ted leading the board, CSF's commitment to expanding educational opportunities to low-income families can continue to be met.

Our second piece of good news is the 24,000 children in private schools this fall with scholarship assistance from the CSF and its partner programs.

Silvia Martinez, whose two children attend Blessed Sacrament School in Los Angeles with help from CSF, is indicative of many of the thankful parents we hear from.

"I'm so grateful there are people like you. Thanks a lot to all of you that make dreams come true," Silvia wrote.

This year, we were fortunate enough to award more than 2,600 new scholarships in New York City with matching grants from the Endowment for Inner-City Education, Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the Simon Foundation, Patrons Program, and the Diocese of Brooklyn. And in Los Angeles, 650 new scholarships were awarded to low-income families with support from the Broad Foundation and many others.

More than 7,000 children in 22 partner programs have also entered private school for the first time with brand new CSF awards, and 1,000 siblings of children already in the program are starting school as well.

You can be proud to be part of an organization that has helped more than 70,000 children get a quality education. We look forward to sharing our stories of success over the coming school year and to making the CSF dream come true for as many families as possible. ■



*CSF
Co-Founder
Ted
Forstmann
was recently
elected
Chairman.*

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Straight from the Schoolyard:

St. Paul School: An East Harlem Gem

On 118th Street in Manhattan's East Harlem, St. Paul School is a bright and warm safe haven for more than 340 children in grades K-8. A total of 65 children are attending with CSF scholarship assistance.

The moment you step inside St Paul, there is a feeling of orderliness, calm, and respect.

commissioned a Broadway designer to plan colors for the classrooms, even coordinating the walls with matching accents in the floor tiles.

The jewel in the crown of St. Paul is its well-stocked library, with a monthly circulation of about 3,000 books. According to the school librarian, the library is never quiet, with children popping in before and after school, and even in between classes. The Accelerated Reader program accounts for much of the library traffic. Students are tested for comprehension after they finish a book, and they earn rewards for the number of books read.

On a recent visit, second-grader Luis Moran, a new scholarship recipient, proudly jumped up to announce to the principal that he has read 17 books and has perfect scores on all his tests.



Luis Moran, 2nd grader at St. Paul, shows off his perfect reading scores. Luis and his two older brothers started at St. Paul's this fall with their new CSF scholarships.

Nearly all of the student body qualify for the federal free and reduced school lunch program. Many children have faced difficult family situations and are being raised by a single parent or by their grandparents. Yet from the moment you step inside St. Paul, there is a feeling of orderliness, calm, and respect.

Agnes Sayaman has been St. Paul's principal for seven years, and taught there for thirteen years before that. She has overseen a major renovation, and has also made improvements to the curriculum and teaching, with new Accelerated Reader and Math programs. Much of the funding for the renovation came from the school's late

patron, financier William Ruane. Mr. Ruane



CSF's summer interns provided invaluable assistance processing new scholarship applications. Standing: Amy Escobosa, Lehman College; Andrea Szewchuk, Princeton University; Maia Alejandro, Vassar College; Sylvia Pogorzelska, Dominican Academy, and Monika Pogorzelska, Columbia University. Seated: Gabriela Torres, SUNY-New Paltz and Zayneb Al-Shibib, Fordham University.

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In Memoriam
1946-2005

**THE CHILDREN'S
SCHOLARSHIP FUND AIMS TO
MAXIMIZE EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY AT ALL
INCOME LEVELS BY OFFERING
TUITION ASSISTANCE IN GRADES
K-8 FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.**

CSF Around the Nation

Philadelphia, PA



St. Francis de Sales School in Philadelphia has 43 children who are attending the school with scholarships from CSF Philadelphia. This year, CSF students at this inner-city school are known as "John's Kids," in honor of the late John Walton.



Washington, D.C.



U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, pictured here with WSF Treasurer Lawrence C. Nussdorf and WSF Board Vice Chair C. Boyden Gray, was the guest speaker at Washington Scholarship Fund's (WSF) Graduation this June.

Spellings told the graduates how important their scholarships will be to their future.

"You are here today because the people in this room know that education is the ticket to achievement," she said.

Spellings also noted the passing of CSF co-founder John Walton, saying "John was a humble person who saw education as the key to solving America's most pressing problems. He thought the best way to improve the system was to inject a little competition into it, so he worked tirelessly—and without fanfare—to create educational options like charter schools and scholarships."

The Washington Scholarship Fund has provided tuition assistance for low-income Washington DC families since 1993. Currently, WSF administers scholarships for 2,450 children, including 1,700 children participating in the first federally-funded scholarship program.

Nationwide



CSF was featured on the national Spanish-language cable channel, Telemundo, on May 10. Thor Halvorsen provided Telemundo's morning news show, Hoy En El Mundo, with details on CSF's new scholarships.

The Last Word:

“The Children’s Scholarship Fund is truly and opportunity for poor people. I saw the work of the Children’s Scholarship Fund as a real continuation of work that my father began. Now, there is nothing more powerful in all the world, Victor Hugo used to say, then an idea whose time has come. The time has come - we must change, we must create the best quality of education for all of the children.”

- **Martin Luther King III**



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