



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume VI, Issue II

CSF Hosts Author Interview



Author Patrick McCloskey with CSF President Darla Romfo and Aleysha Taveras.

CSF supporters recently gathered at the English-Speaking Union in midtown Manhattan for a conversation with Patrick McCloskey, author of *The Street Stops Here: A Year at a Catholic High School in Harlem*.

The Street Stops Here chronicles Patrick's year spent at Rice High School on W. 124th Street, one of the inner-city Catholic schools that many of our New York CSF recipients go on to attend after 8th grade. Called "required reading for anyone who is interested in the welfare of our kids" by the *Wall Street Journal*, the book underscores the struggle and effort required by both students and staff to meet the challenges that high-risk teenagers face in a low-income, urban environment.

Our supporters were also privileged to hear from ninth grader Aleysha Taveras, who personifies what CSF is all about. Aleysha's scholarship allowed her to receive her elementary education at St. John Chrysostom School in the Bronx. Now she is the recipient of a high school scholarship funded by CSF partner The Endowment for Inner-City Education to attend the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. After hearing her speak so confidently, it is easy to picture her reaching her goal of becoming a philosophy professor.

Aleysha's younger brother, Gabriel, a CSF sixth grader, is also on the pathway of success. He has been chosen for the selective Reach for Regis program. Their mother, Gloria, told us, "The opportunity given to my children has opened doors and given them a chance to grow into productive young adults."

Another welcome guest was Rice High School graduate Kawone Williams, whose teenage struggles are featured in the book. Now an administrator at a Brooklyn charter school, Kawone reflected on how far he has come and how much Rice shaped and prepared him.

Please enjoy these photos, and we hope to see you at our next event in the fall! ●



Manhattan Institute fellows Sol Stern (l) and Heather Mac Donald with Dr. Timothy McNiff, Superintendent for Schools, Archdiocese of New York.

For more photos, see page 5.

giving
parents
a choice

giving
children
a chance

Summer 2009
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The Last Word

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O.A.R. Essay Contest

“Math, math, math... With other teachers, math is like a stomach pain you can’t handle, but Mrs. Diaz is the ‘pain killer’ of the situation.” So says Nancy Avila, a CSF recipient who’s an 8th grader at Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School.

Nancy is one of the hundreds of students who recently entered a “Best Teacher Award” essay contest sponsored by the rock band O.A.R. The three winning students will receive \$5,000 for their school, and their essays will be featured on O.A.R.’s charity website, www.heardtheworld.org.

“O.A.R. created Heard The World in order to help support education and youth programs, which are extremely important to us,” said O.A.R. bassist Benj Gershman. “The CSF contest is a way for us to help identify those teachers who are making day-to-day learning meaningful, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to New York City schools that have such teachers.”

In our next issue, we’ll update you on the winning essayists and their teachers. ●



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In Memoriam

1946-2005

Social Media and CSF

CSF is branching out into Web 2.0.



You can find us on Facebook by doing a quick search for Children’s Scholarship Fund. While you’re there, consider officially becoming a fan.

You can also visit our new blog, www.csfblog.wordpress.com for the latest news on CSF, education issues, and updates about our students and families. Feel free to comment and add your questions and suggestions so we can be truly interactive.

Of course, you can still visit our main website, www.scholarshipfund.org, to catch up on newsletters and annual reports, find contact information for all our partner programs, make an on-line donation, and read more about our history, supporters, and much more. ●



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**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.

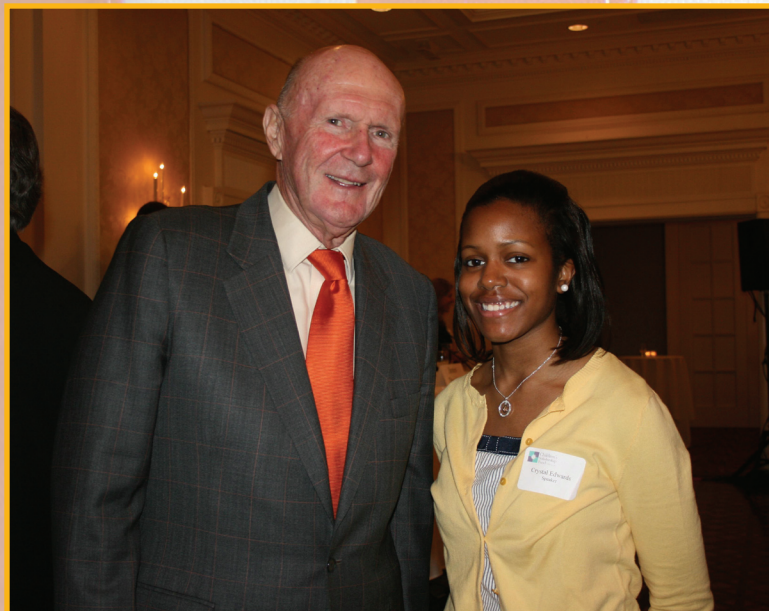
CSF Around the Nation



CSF of Omaha recently held an awards luncheon honoring scholarship recipients who have shown leadership and spirit in overcoming obstacles. This year's honorees are pictured here with CSF of Omaha Chairman J. Peter Ricketts.



Economist and entertainer Ben Stein was the guest of honor at a recent dinner co-hosted by the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust and the Friedman Foundation in Indianapolis. Here Ben Stein is pictured with Kathy and Al Hubbard, long-time supporters of CSF and the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust.



CSF-Charlotte Founder and Chairman & CEO of Tiger Management LLC, Julian H. Robertson, Jr. with CSF-C 11th grader Crystal Edwards, a mock trial state champion. The two are pictured at CSF-C's recent Spring Speaker Series event, which featured a discussion with Mr. Robertson and four other financial professionals who shared their insight on the current economy.



CSF-Charlotte Founder Julian H. Robertson, Jr. (middle) with (from l-r): James Davidson, Long Oar Global Investors LLC; Elena Pilipchak, Tiger Europe; Erez Kalir, Sabretooth Capital, and Craig Perry, Sabretooth Capital.

CSF 8th Grade Graduates Heading to High School



Denasia Watts.

Transitioning from elementary school to high school is a big step for most children, but for CSF 8th graders Denasia and Lou'Asia Watts, it will be an even bigger change.

The twin girls have always been inseparable. That will no longer be the case when they graduate from Sts. Peter and Paul School in the Bronx in June. Next year, Denasia will be a freshman at Cathedral High School on 56th Street, while Lou'Asia will enroll at St. Jean Baptiste High School, about a mile north on the Upper East Side. Both girls will be using scholarships funded by CSF partner The Endowment for Inner-City Education.

Denise, the girls' mother, is a city employee who chose to apply to CSF because she was unhappy with a charter school the twins attended through 4th grade. Her younger son was at Sts. Peter and Paul, and she preferred the classic teaching methods and strong foundation he was receiving there. Now four years after the family won CSF awards, she is very pleased with the results.

"Thank you for everything. I don't know where we'd be without this program," Denise told us.



Lou'Asia Watts.

In another part of the Bronx, Larissa Contreras is also anticipating graduation. This fall she will travel north to Westchester County to attend Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale.

Larissa has attended Our Lady of Refuge School since 1st grade, when her mother applied for CSF awards for her and her older sister, Danya, who was entering 5th grade. Mrs. Contreras, a daycare operator, was concerned about safety and a lack of discipline at Danya's public school, and thought private school would offer a better environment and better chances for her girls.

***"Thank you for everything.
I don't know where we'd
be without this program."***

"I want them to become professionals and to graduate from a respected institution," she told us. "You can take that recognition all around the world."

Larissa likes to draw and play volleyball, and has consistently been on the honor roll. She has a great role model in her elder sister, Danya, who's graduating from Riverdale Country School this year and deciding between Duke University and Cornell. Both girls benefit from the value their parents have placed on education.

"We are not rich," Mrs. Contreras said. "When I die, the only thing I can leave them with is an education." ●



Larissa Contreras.

CSF Hosts Author Interview

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Marianne and John Fouhey enjoy the event.



Robert Granieri with CSF President Darla Romfo and Rebecca Stewart.



Pictured here are (l-r) Trevor Butterworth, Robert Cornell, and Kawone Williams.



Proud mother Gloria Vargas with her children Gabriel and Aleysha.

“The opportunity given to my children has opened doors and given them a chance to grow into productive young adults.”

The Last Word:

“If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

- **Benjamin Franklin**



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