



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume XI, Issue 1

New Book Chronicles CSF Alumni Success

The stories of 10 scholarship alumni, and through them the story of CSF, are eloquently told in the new book *Opportunity and Hope: Transforming Children's Lives through Scholarships* by Naomi Schaefer Riley, a *New York Post* columnist, former *Wall Street Journal* editor, and author of several books.

In *Opportunity and Hope*, Ms. Riley profiles young men and women from across America whose lives were put on the path to success at an early age through receiving scholarships to attend private elementary schools. Eight of the featured scholarship alumni used scholarships funded by CSF and its partner programs in New York,



CSF alumni Aleysha Taveras (left), Silas Farley, and Jason Tejada with author Naomi Schaefer Riley at a recent CSF event in New York City.

Newark, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Omaha, Denver, and San Francisco. The remaining two students received publicly funded scholarships from programs in Florida and Washington, DC that started out as CSF affiliates.

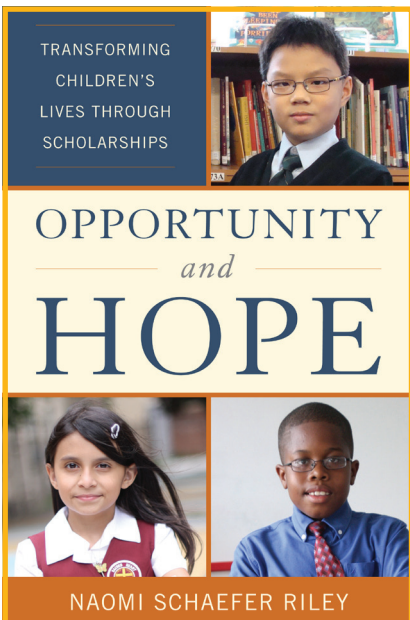
Buy Opportunity and Hope on Amazon.com:

<http://bit.ly/OppHopeAmazon>

CSF celebrated the book's launch with a panel discussion in New York City featuring Ms. Riley, Christine Healey, Chair of CSF's Camden partner program, and three of the profiled alumni: Aleysha Taveras, Silas Farley, and Jason Tejada. Ms. Riley, Silas, and Jason also spoke at a recent Manhattan Institute luncheon. CSF partner programs are planning more book events over the next six months.

The scholarship alumni included in *Opportunity and Hope* represent well the 139,000 children who have benefited from CSF scholarships since our inception in 1998.

Thank you to all our generous donors who make their stories possible! ●



Opportunity and Hope by Naomi Schaefer Riley is now available in hardcover and e-book from Amazon.com and other booksellers.

giving
parents
a choice
giving
children
a chance

Spring 2014
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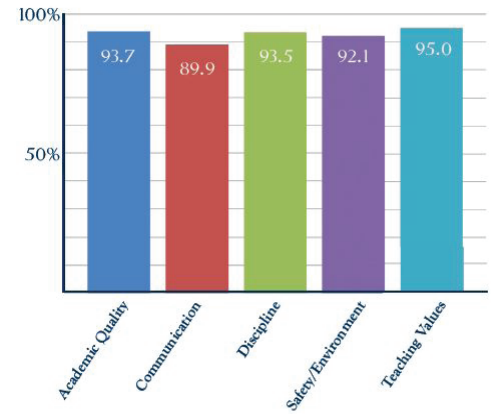
1946-2005

CSF Parent Survey Findings

Recently, CSF surveyed scholarship families in New York about their experience with their schools and CSF as well as their involvement in their children's education. More than 770 parents and guardians completed the survey online and on paper. Notable findings include:

- 98.5 percent said their CSF scholarships help them make the best educational choices for their child;
- 73.1 percent reported they could not afford to send their child to their chosen school without a CSF scholarship. Another 24 percent said they were not sure if they could afford to do so on their own;
- 70.3 percent noticed an improvement in their child's academic performance and/or engagement since enrolling in their current school;

Total percent of parents who gave the school an A or B grade



The graph above shows the percentage of parents who gave their child's school an A or B in academic quality, communication with families, discipline, safety, and teaching values.

- 84 percent reported touring their child's school before selecting it, and
- 88.1 percent said they help their child with homework all the time or frequently. ●

CSF in the News

Over the past few months, CSF has been highlighted in several media outlets:

- In a *New York Post* letter to the editor, CSF President Darla Romfo wrote about the benefits of the Education Investment Tax Credit legislation being considered in Albany;
- Reviews of Naomi Schaefer Riley's *Opportunity and Hope* have appeared in *City Journal* (<http://www.city-journal.org/2014/bc062ogs.html>) and on redefinED (<http://bit.ly/redefinED>);
- Mary Kissel interviewed Ms. Riley on *Wall Street Journal Live*'s Opinion Journal show (<http://bit.ly/WSJOppHopebook>), and
- CSF New York alum Jason Tejada, a Columbia University graduate now working at JPMorgan Chase, was featured in a *New York Post* article by Ms. Riley (<http://bit.ly/1gW41vu>).

Watch for more media coverage in the months to come! ●



Naomi Schaefer Riley and Mary Kissel discussing *Opportunity and Hope* on Wall Street Journal Live.

The Children's Scholarship Fund aims to maximize educational opportunity for all children: for those in need by offering tuition assistance in grades K-8 for alternatives to faltering conventional schools, and for all children by supporting and cultivating education reform and parental choice efforts.

CSF Around the Nation

New York



At CSF's Champions for Children event in New York City, honorees A.B. Whitfield and former New York Giant Ottis "O.J." Anderson posed with CSF President's Council member Alex Rovira. See p. 4 to read more about the event.

Toledo



CSF's Toledo partner program, Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, recently hosted its second Raise the Cap fundraiser, bringing supporters and scholarship families out to Fifth Third Field for a Toledo Mud Hens game.

Memphis



Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) Executive Director Mandy Rough with MOST Scholar Rachel Tsuna and her mom, Talya Tsuna, at a recent graduation celebration for MOST Scholars. Rachel will attend New York's Barnard College in the fall.

Charlotte



CSF-Charlotte alum Mariah Clarke spoke at the program's Spring Investment Speaker Series at the Duke Mansion in April. Mariah is valedictorian of her high school class and will attend Davidson College this fall with a full scholarship.

Philadelphia



In April, CSF Philadelphia supporters gathered at the program's Annual Lottery Day Celebration and made calls to families letting them know they had been chosen to receive new scholarships for the upcoming school year.

New Jersey



Cathiana Vital (left) and her family attended the annual dinner for the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City, CSF's partner program in Newark, Jersey City, and Elizabeth. Cathiana is one of 10 scholarship alumni featured in Opportunity and Hope.

CSF Scores with Champions for Children

On a chilly January night just before the Super Bowl, more than 200 CSF supporters gathered at the New York Athletic Club for our first Champions for Children event.

New York sports legends Ottis “O.J.” Anderson (Super Bowl MVP & former New York Giant) and Earl “The Pearl” Monroe (NBA Hall of Famer and former New York Knick) were honored with CSF’s Champions for Children Awards along with A.B. Whitfield, former Dallas Cowboy and co-founder of the Trey Whitfield School in Brooklyn.

Thank you to our honorees, the Trey Whitfield School choir, all who donated items for our live and silent auctions, Egel Sports Promotions, and everyone who supported the event and made it such a success. And a special thank you to our event sponsors: The Speedwell Foundation, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, and Sequential Brands Group. ●



NBA Hall of Famer and former New York Knick Earl “The Pearl” Monroe addressed the attendees after receiving his Champions for Children Award.



CSF Board Member Remy Trafelet with former CSF Scholar Jason Tejada at the Champions for Children event.



The choir from Trey Whitfield School in Brooklyn (a great academic environment for several CSF Scholars) performed “Over the Rainbow” and “Just the Way You Are.”

CSF Scholars Celebrate Eighth Grade Graduation

Across the country, almost 2,300 CSF Scholars graduated from eighth grade this spring. With the solid elementary school foundation they have received, we can predict the vast majority of the Class of 2014 will graduate from high school on time and go on to college.

Last summer, a survey of CSF New York Scholars found that 95.4 percent graduated high school on time in 2013 and 90 percent enrolled in colleges and universities last fall. These survey results are consistent with research on CSF and our partner programs as well as other scholarship programs, which demonstrates that children in this demographic group who attend private elementary schools



CSF Scholar Lixely Tejada graduated from Incarnation School in Washington Heights this June.

are more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014! ●

CSF Team Runs in NYC Half-Marathon

This spring, a team of 10 runners ran on behalf of CSF in the NYC Half-Marathon.

Running for CSF were: Christina Bauer; Jonathan Brand; Joey Dussich; Erin Feeney; Julia Graham; Katharine Hallock; Mary Hyland; Shari Novick; Shelby Shulz, and Julianne Voll. We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy each of them invested in helping us not only to build awareness about CSF but also fundraise for scholarships so that more low-income children have access to a quality education!

Proceeds from the Half-Marathon will fund scholarships for six children in New York City. If you are interested in joining next year's team, please contact Margot Pfohl at mpfohl@scholarshipfund.org. ●



The scene in downtown Manhattan as CSF's Half-Marathon team approached the finish line.

CSF Scholars Join O.A.R. on TODAY Show



CSF Scholars from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School posed with Hoda Kotb, Kathie Lee Gifford, and the members of O.A.R. after their TODAY Show performance.

Some lucky CSF Scholars from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School in East Harlem recently sang on NBC's TODAY Show with O.A.R. as the band performed their new hit, "Peace" (<http://on.today.com/i1PCwo6>).

After the appearance, O.A.R.'s lead singer Marc Roberge told the *Huffington Post* the CSF Scholars' presence elevated the band's performance. "I honestly think that they were the difference maker between just a regular performance on TV in the morning and something that made us all feel tingly and it made us all feel like we were doing something special," he said.

O.A.R.'s band members have been long-time supporters of CSF and we are so grateful they offered these students such an unforgettable experience! ●

CSF Young Leaders Hosts Wine Tasting

The CSF Young Leaders, a dynamic group of young New York City professionals, hosts fundraising events, student field trips, and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. This spring, the group held a wine tasting at Moore Brothers Wine Company, raising funds for more scholarships and introducing CSF to many new friends. Thank you to Moore Brothers and our raffle sponsors: CitiBike; Juliska; Knot by Tiffa; Moleskine; Nutcase Helmets; Soundview Millworks, and The Winey Neighbor. ●



CSF Young Leaders Co-Chairs Don Castle, Russell Read, and Jonathan Brand at the recent wine tasting.



Young Leaders Board member Erin Feeney (left) with friends at the wine tasting.



Children's Scholarship Fund

8 West 38th Street, 9th Floor
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“I can’t imagine being who I am apart from the Children’s Scholarship Fund because CSF put me in the settings where a whole village of nurturers trained me to be the person I am.”

– **CSF-Charlotte alumnus and New York City Ballet dancer Silas Farley in Naomi Riley’s *Opportunity and Hope*.**



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