



REQUIRED READING

-Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund-

Season's Greeting from all of us at CSF, and a heartfelt thank you!

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



When launching CSF in 1998, Teddy Forstmann and John Walton hoped that in addition to helping 40,000 children with the initial four-year scholarships, they would expose a pent-up demand by parents for better educational options for their children. Their hunch was right; CSF received 1,250,000 applications.

This astonishing proof point helped support efforts for increased parental choice around the nation and new laws were enacted providing for tax credit scholarships, vouchers, and charter schools.

As you will see in these pages, CSF and our partners nationwide continue to create vital communities of support for parental empowerment. At this time of year, we are especially mindful of family and all of our blessings. If you are reading this, you are part of our CSF family and we are thankful for you and what you do to help us put parents back in charge of their children's education. Have a blessed and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Darla
Darla M. Romfo

High Graduation Rates for CSF Grads

High school graduation is a key predictor of many quality of life indicators including future employment and lifetime earning potential. Given this knowledge, CSF is tracking scholarship alumni as they progress from eighth grade through high school and beyond.

- All told, we heard back from more than 62 percent of the alumni surveyed, which is a significant increase over last year's response rate of 54 percent.



CSF New York alum Jaime Martinez, a 2014 graduate from Cardinal Hayes High School, is now a freshman at Nyack College. He is one of many CSF alums who are the first in their family to attend college.

We recently surveyed CSF New York alumni who were due to graduate high school in 2014 and found:

- 94 percent graduated from high school on time.**
- And of the graduates responding, **90.2 percent are now college freshmen.**
- Colleges where CSF New York alumni are enrolled include: Columbia University; Cornell University; Culinary Institute of America; Fordham University; New York University, and Villanova University.
- Another three percent of the graduates entered the workforce or military and 6.8 percent did not report their plans.

Quick Numbers

94
percent
of CSF NY
alumni



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90.2
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Save the Date

School Choice Week
January 25-31, 2015

**CSF Champions
for Children**
March 3, 2015

CSF in NYC Half-Marathon
March 15, 2015



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In Memoriam

1940-2011

JOHN T. WALTON

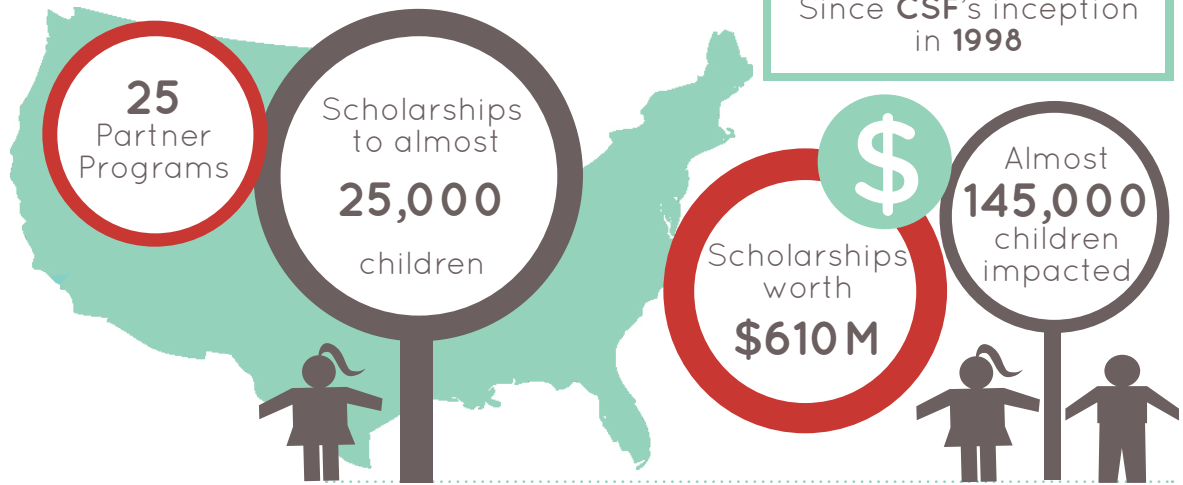
CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam

1946-2005

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 by the Numbers, 2014-15



CSF on GreatNonprofits Top-Rated List

GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations, has honored CSF with one of its 2014 Top-Rated Awards.

Our Top-Rated Nonprofit Award was earned by the high number of positive reviews received from volunteers, donors, and the families we serve. One CSF parent wrote, "The Children's Scholarship Fund was an amazing gift for my family. Without this organization, my son would not be in a happy, thriving learning environment. A million thanks



from a single mom who couldn't have done this without you."

Read all of CSF's reviews on the GreatNonprofits website here: <http://bit.ly/CSFgreatnonprofits>.

CSF Makes Holiday Shopping Easy!

Do you dread hitting the stores this season? Stumped about what to get that person who has everything? Why not consider making a gift to CSF in honor of someone on your list?

Customize one of several CSF tribute cards with a special message and we can print and send your card to either you or your recipient. If you are on a tight schedule, download a card design from our website, print your own card, and present it to your friend or loved one in minutes!

Please visit www.scholarshipfund.org/tributecard for details.

Another gift idea is a copy of *Opportunity and Hope: Transforming Children's Lives Through Scholarships* by Naomi Schaefer Riley. The book profiles ten young men and women who are on the path to success thanks to scholarships they received at an early age.

Copies are available for sale on Amazon.com at <http://bit.ly/OppHopeAmazon>.



CSF tribute cards come in several attractive designs and are an excellent gift idea!

CSF AROUND THE NATION

BALTIMORE



CSF Baltimore recently co-hosted the Baltimore NextGen Investing Event, featuring insights from world-class investors (l-r): Robert W. Sharps of T. Rowe Price Group; William H. Miller of LMM, Inc.; R. Hutchings Vernon of Brown Advisory, and William V. Heaphy of Investment Counselors of Maryland.

BUFFALO



BISON Children's Scholarship Fund Co-Founders Chris Jacobs, Tom Beecher, and Paul Bauer recently took to the stage at the Buffalo group's 20th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon.

DENVER



This September, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered the keynote address to more than 1,700 guests at the annual luncheon for ACE Scholarships.

PHILADELPHIA



New York Times bestselling author Wes Moore (center) met CSF Philadelphia alums Donald McGhee (left) and Anthony Samuels at the recent Sowing the Seeds of Future Success Benefit Party.

SAN FRANCISCO



The BASIC Fund recently held a community fair at San Francisco's Children's Creativity Museum. As well as enjoying the photo booth and other activities, BASIC Fund families gathered information on high schools, summer enrichment programs and high school scholarship organizations.

NEW JERSEY



Tri-County Scholarship Fund students Genesis Peña and Manny Lopez posed with honoree Bill O'Reilly at Tri-County's annual dinner this fall. Tri-County Scholarship Fund serves children in New Jersey's Morris, Passaic, and Sussex counties.

Ascension School's Ben Carson Reading Room Opens

This fall, Ascension School in Manhattan became the first school in New York State to have a Ben Carson Reading Room thanks to the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.

Planning began more than a year ago, when CSF worked with the foundation, which also generously supports CSF, to identify a school and apply to the Carson Scholars Fund. Once Ascension was selected, CSF teamed up with Trulia to spruce up the old school library, repainting the room and creating a large and colorful mural. The room was then furnished with comfortable bean bags, and more than 2,000 new books were purchased to supplement the original library collection.

The official opening in October featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks from Andrew Sabin and Carson Scholars Fund Co-Founder Candy Carson. CSF was grateful to be part of this worthy project thanks to President's Council member Shawn Sabin, Andrew Sabin, and Nancy Wendell of the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation. Special thanks go to CSF's friends at Trulia, especially President's Council member Nicolle Austin, who coordinated the Trulia volunteer project.



CSF President's Council member Nicolle Austin and Alexa Battista of Trulia shared some laughs with Ascension students while painting.



The new Ben Carson Reading Room at Ascension, where more than 80 CSF Scholars attend, is a welcoming place for students to develop their love of reading.



Volunteers from Trulia worked with CSF to repaint Ascension's library in July.



At the reading room opening (l-r): Shawn Sabin and Andrew Sabin of the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation; Candy Carson of the Carson Scholars Fund, and Omar Ortiz, Ascension's Principal.

CSF Alum Addresses Philanthropy Conference

CSF New York alum Jason Tejada addressed Philanthropy Roundtable's annual meeting in Salt Lake City this October.

Jason was one of three presenters who spoke on the topic, "How Philanthropy Changed My Life." He talked movingly about how his CSF scholarship changed the trajectory of his life, leading to other scholarships to attend high school and, later, Columbia University.

"I am proof that philanthropy in the form of a scholarship can easily transform a student's life," Jason told more than 350 philanthropists in attendance.



CSF New York alum Jason Tejada spoke at Philanthropy Roundtable's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, addressing how philanthropy (and CSF) changed his life.

CSF Spins for Scholarships

On a chilly Saturday in November, CSF supporters put the pedal to the metal at CSF's first charity ride at Flywheel Sports in Manhattan. All proceeds from the event will be used for CSF New York scholarships. Big thank yous to Flywheel Sports and instructor Wendy Wolfson, raffle sponsors ClassPass and Fly Barre, and all the attendees, especially Sarah Miller and other CSF Young Leaders who recruited riders.



Sarah Johnson (left) and Elizabeth Bates ready to spin at CSF's first charity ride at Flywheel Sports.



Elizabeth Carson enjoyed CSF's charity ride, which raised money for CSF New York scholarships.

Heelys and Sean John Celebrate with CSF Families

On December 6th, a group of lucky CSF New York families enjoyed a festive holiday event sponsored by Heelys and Sean John. The celebration featured brunch, giveaways for CSF Scholars, and a live performance by recording artist Jacob Latimore, backed up by CSF Scholars from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School's gospel choir.

Many thanks to Heelys and Sean John for giving CSF families this opportunity, and to Sequential Brands Group and Young Leader Julia Graham, who made the opportunity possible. Check out CSF's social media for photos from this special event!



#GivingTuesday: A Day of Giving Back

On Tuesday, December 2nd, CSF supporters helped celebrate #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back, by encouraging donations and raising awareness of our work. We invite everyone in the CSF family to participate in our "UnSelfie" campaign and share why you support CSF even after #GivingTuesday. See www.scholarshipfund.org/givingtuesday for more details.



CSF President's Council member Dave Miller (left) shows his support. CSF alum Jorvelyn Tejada (right) shares why she appreciates CSF.



Children's Scholarship Fund

8 West 38th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10018

LAST WORD

“ I am eternally grateful for how CSF changed my life. I know that the parents of the hundreds of thousands of low-income Florida families are grateful for how CSF changed theirs through the scholarships. ”

**John Kirtley, founder of CSF Tampa Bay and
Step Up For Students**



Children's Scholarship Fund
8 West 38th Street
9th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Phone: 212-515-7100
www.scholarshipfund.org



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