

REQUIRED READING

Children's Scholarship Fund **Newsletter**



Spring 2015

CSF Celebrates Graduation Season



As graduation season kicks into high gear, CSF would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the 2,250 CSF Scholars nationwide graduating from eighth grade and heading to high school this fall.

Based on past studies of CSF alumni, we can confidently predict this year's eighth graders have an excellent chance of graduating from high school and going on to college. For example, last year we found that 92 percent of CSF alumni in New York graduated high school on time, compared to the average New York City public school graduation rate of 64.2 percent. In addition, 90 percent of the graduating alumni enrolled in college. That's news worth celebrating!



Eighth grade CSF Scholars at Ascension School in Manhattan.

CSF Families Rally for Expanded Parental Choice



CSF Mom Valerie Bruno spoke movingly about her sons' scholarships at a tax credit rally in the Bronx in March.

CSF families in New York have shown their support for the education tax credit recently proposed by Governor Cuomo. The credit would offer incentives for donations to scholarship funds and a \$500 credit for low to middle-income families paying tuition, as well as encouraging donations for public schools and reimbursing teachers.

CSF parents spoke at rallies in the Bronx, Harlem, and Brooklyn in March, explaining how scholarships have made a positive difference for their children, and urging the legislature to enable more families to have the educational opportunities they enjoy.

"Passing the Education Tax Credit would allow more and more parents the same chance I got to send my kids to the school I think is best for them," said Valerie Bruno, whose younger son is a CSF Scholar at Santa Maria School in the Bronx. Her older son is a CSF alum.

Earlier this year, CSF alum Jorvelyn Tejada joined CSF President Darla Romfo and Amy Popadick of the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF's Buffalo partner) as part of a coalition testifying to Albany legislators about how the tax credit would benefit low-income children statewide.



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

MIKE MCCURRY

Public Strategies Group, LLC
Wesley Theological Seminary

PAMELLA DEVOS

Pamella Roland

STEPHEN FRAIDIN

Pershing Square
Capital Management L.P.

MARGOT MCGINNESS

DARLA M. ROMFO

Children's Scholarship Fund

KEVIN M. SHORT

Clayton Capital Partners

REMY W. TRAFELET

Trafelet Brokaw & Co., LLC

CHRISTY WALTON

Board Member Emeritus

THEODORE J. FORSTMANN

CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam

1940-2011

JOHN T. WALTON

CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam

1946-2005

CSF in the News

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT
A GANNETT COMPANY

"When I was President Clinton's press secretary, I saw the power of bipartisanship. I now see an emerging bipartisan consensus on a critical issue: educational choice for low income families."

- **CSF Chairman Mike McCurry in a Tallahassee Democrat op-ed: bit.ly/McCurryFL**

OmahaMAGAZINE.COM

"Every parent wants to make the best choice for their kids, and if the best for them is sending them to a private school, that's why we're here."

- **CSF Omaha Executive Director Sandra Reding in Omaha Magazine: bit.ly/OmahamagCSF**

Newsday

[T]he Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF)...takes students out of failing and underperforming New York schools and places them in private schools where, in addition to academics, they learn virtues that teach them not only how to make a living, but how to live a productive life."

- **Cal Thomas in a syndicated column: bit.ly/CalToped**

NEWYORKPOST

"This tax credit will empower more low-income and working families to provide the education that best meets their children's needs."

- **CSF President Darla Romfo in the New York Post: bit.ly/nypeditorial**

THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

"We are proud that over 95 percent of our alumni graduate high school prepared and on time, and 90 percent go on to higher education institutions. A much brighter future is possible for all of our children and we are honored to play a role in getting them there."

- **CSF Philadelphia Executive Director Ina Lipman in the Philadelphia Tribune: bit.ly/PhilTribCSFP**

CSF Baltimore Graduation Study

More good news about the positive effects scholarships have on the children and families who use them! A new Friedman Foundation study found that 97 percent of CSF Baltimore (CSFB) alumni graduated from high school, and 84 percent of CSFB alumni went on to enroll in college. The most recent high school graduation rate for Baltimore public school students was considerably lower at 69.7 percent.

The Baltimore study results are consistent with previous research on CSF and other scholarship programs, which tells us that low-income children who attend tuition-based elementary schools are much more likely to graduate from high school and go on to enroll in college. You can find the full report at: bit.ly/CSFBstudy2015.

CSF Partner Programs Around the Nation



Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) recently honored MOST Scholars who are graduating from high school this spring.



At the recent Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children benefit, Baltimore Raven (and former New York Giant) Chris Canty posed with students from St. Joseph Grammar School in Jersey City.



His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York was the honored guest at Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation's Archbishop's Gala in St. Louis this April. He is pictured here with CSF board member and Today and Tomorrow Chairman Kevin M. Short.



This May, CSF Baltimore supporters including Board Chair Kate Powell, and trustees Sean Bennett, Rick Corcoran, Sophia Marquez-Wallace, and Mark Terranova modeled for the group's fashion show benefit. Photo credit: Michael Stavrinos



Washington Post columnist George Will headlined the 2015 ACE Scholarships Luncheon in Denver this April.



Investors Alex Captain of Cat Rock Capital (left), Haitham Khouri of Hound Partners, and Amit Doshi of Harbor Spring Capital offered stock pitches at CSF-Charlotte's Spring Investment Speaker Series at the Duke Mansion in April.

CSF Champions for Children Honors O.A.R.'s Marc Roberge



At the CSF Champions for Children event at City Winery, CSF alumni Kauribel Javier, Jorvelyn Tejada, and Maria Javier posed with CSF President Darla Romfo (second from left) and honoree Marc Roberge of O.A.R. (right).

Those who braved wintry weather on March 3rd to join us for second annual CSF's Champions for Children event at New York's City Winery were well-rewarded!

Guests were serenaded by our 2015 Champion, O.A.R. lead singer Marc Roberge, fellow musician Jon Lampley, and the choir and violin ensemble from East Harlem's Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School. Beyond the terrific music, it was a pleasure to watch Marc interact with the student performers, underscoring his commitment to CSF's mission, work, and impact.



The choir and violin ensemble from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School were an incredible opening act, impressing guests with their talent and joyful energy.

All proceeds from the event will support CSF scholarships in New York City, where currently more than 8,300 CSF Scholars attend schools that help them reach their full potential. Thank you to our honoree Marc Roberge, musician Jon Lampley, the students and staff at Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School, and all our sponsors, in-kind donors, and guests for a wonderful evening.

Special Thanks to Our Champions for Children Sponsors

PLATINUM

Speedwell Foundation

GOLD

CoreMedia Systems
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

SILVER

Tony and Christie de Nicola
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield
Traflet Brokaw & Co.

BRONZE

American Federation for Children
Coalition for Opportunity in Education
The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
General Atlantic
Kleinberg, Kaplan, Wolff & Cohen, P.C.



After performing by themselves, the students were joined by honoree Marc Roberge and Jon Lampley for renditions of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me" and the O.A.R. hit, "Peace," before Marc and Jon performed a series of O.A.R. and other favorites.



Almost 200 guests enjoyed performances from our 2015 Champion Marc Roberge, musician Jon Lampley, and student performers from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School.

CSF Donor Scales Kilimanjaro to Raise Scholarship Dollars

A few weeks into the new year, CSF Young Leader Kevin Song and his friend, Rohini Kadle, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro as a fundraiser for CSF. Together, they raised more than \$20,000 – enough to fund ten scholarships for a year!

All told, the trip took eight days, seven of which were devoted to hiking up Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest point at more than 19,000 feet. Kevin and Rohini were part of an international group of eight climbers accompanied by five guides and numerous porters. After a challenging final stretch of climbing overnight in sub-zero temperatures, Kevin reached the iconic Uhuru Peak sign and proudly unfurled the CSF flag for a quick photo.

The day before they flew to Tanzania to begin their climb, Kevin and Rohini met with a group of CSF Scholars to discuss their trip. When one student asked him about the inspiration for this challenge, Kevin said he wanted to raise money for scholarships because, "I know I personally wouldn't be where I am today without the education that I received and to give other people the same opportunity is what drives me."



Kevin Song and Rohini Kadle (center) met with a group of CSF Scholars the day before they set off for Tanzania.

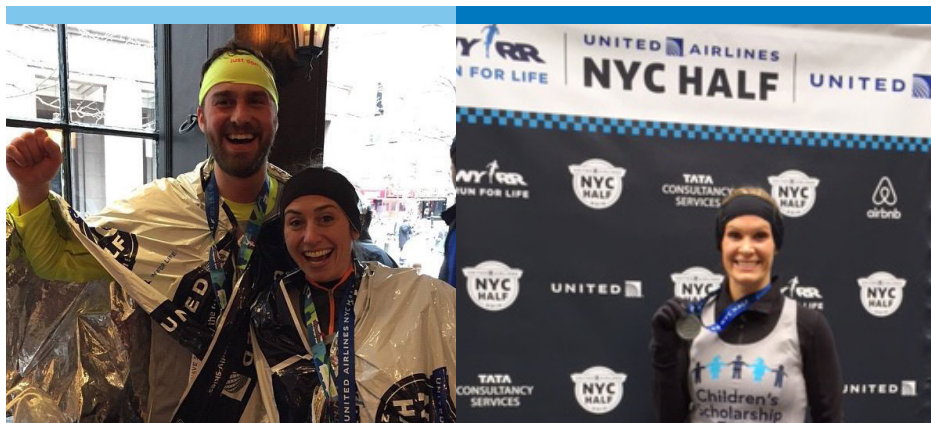


Kevin Song waves his CSF flag at Mt. Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak.

Team CSF runs NYC Half-Marathon

We're very grateful to the Team CSF runners who ran in the NYC Half-Marathon to raise funds for CSF scholarships this March. The team of ten raised enough money to fund scholarships for ten New York City children.

We would also like to thank Amanda Blumstein for raising money for CSF by running the Bridgehampton Half-Marathon this spring.



Team CSF members who ran the NYC Half-Marathon include (from left) Don Castle, Erica Leffler, and Julianne Voll. Thank you to all our runners!

If you are interested in running a marathon or undertaking another fundraising challenge on behalf of CSF, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Erica Bickhart at ebickhart@scholarshipfund.org.

Check out our Team CSF page at bit.ly/teamcsf!



Children's Scholarship Fund

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

Last Word

“I can't begin to thank the CSF family enough for everything you have done for my sister and me.”

CSF Alum Kauribel Javier, Princeton '19

“CSF has done so much for me and I wouldn't be the person I am today without that help.”

CSF Alum Maria Javier, Columbia '19



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

 /ScholarshipFund

 @CSFNational

 @CSFNewYork