

REQUIRED READING

Children's Scholarship Fund Newsletter



Message from the President

Spending time with CSF Scholars often reminds me of one of my favorite Van Morrison songs, "A Sense of Wonder."

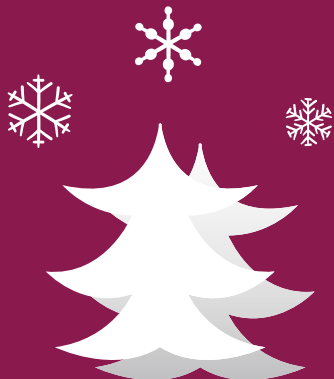
The cynicism that can creep into our souls through years of living makes us hesitant to hope and makes it harder for us to feel wonder.

It is my sincere wish for you this Christmas and holiday season that you may see the world through the wonder of a child's eyes and with the sweetness of a child's heart.

Thank you for your support.

With all best wishes,

Darla M. Romfo
President



CSF By the Numbers, 2016-17 Edition



CSF Scholars at Sacred Heart School in the Bronx are ready and excited to learn! These bright and cheery faces represent the almost 24,000 children using CSF scholarships nationwide this school year.

Almost 24,000 children across the country began the new school year using scholarships jointly funded by CSF and the CSF partner programs. And since 1998, CSF and its 23 partners nationwide have awarded \$695 million in scholarships to 158,000 children, allowing their families to choose the schools that best meet their needs.

The outcomes for these students are impressive. A CSF survey found that 95 percent of CSF New York's eighth grade class of 2012 graduated from high school on time. Other CSF partner programs report similarly high graduation rates.

Earlier this year, a new college persistence study found New York and Omaha CSF alumni were much more likely to enroll in and graduate from college than students from similar socio-economic backgrounds and even the general population. Out of CSF alumni who enrolled in college, 42.5 percent have graduated. To put this number in perspective, only nine percent of all low-income students typically earn a college degree by age 24.

We are proud of all our Scholars and alumni and very grateful to all of our supporters who offer opportunity and hope to so many children and their families!

24,000 CSF Scholars in 16-17

158,000 CSF Scholars since 1998

\$695 million in CSF scholarships since 1998

95% 2016 high school graduation rate for CSF New York alumni



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.

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CSF in the News



Earlier this fall, *The Week* magazine profiled CSF as its Charity of the Week. In the October 21st issue, the magazine noted that CSF “works to expand educational opportunities for children in need, helping them attend the elementary school that best fits their requirements, regardless of their family’s ability to pay or where they live.” Thank you to readers who made a gift to CSF after seeing the piece.

CSF Earns Four Stars and Top-Rated Status



Recently, CSF was awarded a four-star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only a quarter of all rated charities achieve four stars.

According to Charity Navigator, CSF’s top rating “indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a four-star rating verifies that CSF exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work.”

CSF also earned a spot on GreatNonprofits’ 2016 Top-Rated Nonprofit List, due to positive online reviews from scholarship families, donors, volunteers, and others.

One CSF mom expressed her gratitude this way in her review: “Miracles do happen. I cannot thank Children’s Scholarship Fund enough for helping me give my sons the opportunity of a lifetime.”

If you would like to read more reviews, or write your own, please visit the Great-Nonprofits website: bit.ly/CSFgreatnonprofits. We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to share their feedback.

Holiday Shopping with CSF — Use AmazonSmile!



Looking for new gift ideas this season? A tribute gift to CSF can be an excellent way to honor a friend or family member while investing in a deserving child’s future. You can decide on the best way to let your loved one know of the contribution made in their name; CSF can send them an acknowledgement or we can send it to you so you can present it yourself. Make a donation at bit.ly/givetocsf.

If you are shopping on Amazon, please begin your purchase at AmazonSmile; you can select CSF as your designated charity and Amazon will donate a percentage of your payment to CSF. Just visit bit.ly/CSFSmile to begin shopping!

CSF Partner Programs Around the Nation



BUFFALO

Among the more than 1,000 people who attended BISON Children's Scholarship Fund's Annual Luncheon this October were former Buffalo Bill Thurman Thomas and his wife, Patti, (center) pictured here with BISON scholarship alumni and family members.



PHILADELPHIA

Students, as well as families and school administrators, gathered at the Please Touch Museum for CSF Philadelphia's (CSFP) Application Launch this November. CSFP is offering 2,000 new scholarships for 2017-18.



CHARLOTTE

The Grabowski family were guests of honor at the recent CSF-Charlotte reception at the Duke Mansion. Seventh grader Paul (second from left) and his mother, Priscilla, both spoke about how CSF scholarships are making a big difference for the whole family.



BALTIMORE

Speakers at the recent NextGen Investing Event in Baltimore were (l-r): David J. Eiswert of T. Rowe Price Group; Kathleen Collins of Honeybee Capital; William H. Miller of LMM, Inc., and Austin G. Root of D.F. Dent. The event raised funds for CSF Baltimore and other local education charities.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the Celebrate Success event in New Hampshire, CSF Scholar Joseph Orlowski told guests he is very grateful for his scholarship. See p. 4 for more event details.



NEW YORK

CSF Scholars and families from three private schools were special guests at the American Federation for Children gala in New York this September. Pictured here are: (l-r) Ethan Rich, Caleb Norman, Ajene Thompson, Janaa Chestnut, and Frangelis Ramos, all CSF Scholars at Trey Whitfield School in Brooklyn.

CSF Celebrates Success in New Hampshire

This September, CSF families and supporters gathered in Manchester to celebrate the difference scholarships are making in the lives of New Hampshire CSF Scholars. Several parents and students shared their positive experiences.

Shalimar Encarnacion, mother of CSF Alumnus Angel, told the group how Angel blossomed as a CSF Scholar, going from struggling with schoolwork and conduct to doing well academically and enjoying school.

As she said, "A positive environment opens not only doors, but the eyes of hope of children who once were hopeless. It is because of our story and other victories such as ours that I thank each and every one of you for your support in making a great education accessible for our children."

Today, Angel attends a STEM charter high school and his future ambitions include attending Harvard Law School.

Another CSF parent, Abi Cyr, spoke about how she and her husband have been able to choose the schools that best meet their children's needs thanks to CSF scholarships. In particular, her adopted son, Thadd, has benefited greatly from the extra attention and care he has received at his private school. This year marks the first time in his short academic career that Thadd is attending the same school for two consecutive years.

"Your gift was our miracle! I'm pleased to let you know that this year, Thadd is a thriving fifth grader. He has been stimulated scholastically, has developed self-confidence, and has built positive peer relationships," Ms. Cyr shared.

Very special thanks go to the evening's sponsors, The Roedel Companies/Falls Event Center and Maverick Integration/Maverick Technical Institute.

For the 2016-17 school year, CSF is providing scholarships for 122 New Hampshire children at private schools, out-of-district public schools, and homeschools. Donations to CSF for scholarships are eligible for a New Hampshire Education Tax Credit. Please see www.csfnewhampshire.org for more information.

Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors

VALEDICTORIAN SPONSORS



CUM LAUDE SPONSORS



CSF Scholars, families, and supporters gathered at the "Celebrate Success" event at the Falls Event Center in Manchester this fall.



CSF Mom Shalimar Encarnacion thanked CSF supporters and spoke about how her son, Angel, blossomed academically and socially as a CSF Scholar.

CSF Donor Raises Funds through Portfolios with Purpose

Jonathan Brand, a former co-chair of CSF's Young Leaders Board, has been active in philanthropic causes since his student days at the University of Richmond. After graduation, he moved to New York to begin his finance career and friends introduced him to CSF.

Jonathan tells us CSF appealed to him because he believes "the combination of education and environment are the true keys to unlocking potential. CSF addresses both of these things, and more importantly, it targets communities that need to foster better learning environments and provide better educational opportunities."

Currently an associate on the trading desk of Cohen & Steers, Jonathan recently became the volunteer CFO of Portfolios with Purpose (PwP), which he describes as "fantasy football for trading." PwP participants enter a year-long stock-picking competition on behalf of their favorite charities. All entry and trading fees become the "winnings" and those winnings are donated to the charities chosen by competitors with the most profitable stock picks.

Jonathan encourages CSF supporters to get involved and consider playing to benefit CSF. "What better way to foster a little competition through investing and supporting the charity you care most about. Go CSF!" he told us.

Interested individuals can sign up for the next competition by January 15th on PwP's website, <https://portfolioswithpurpose.org>.



Jonathan Brand is helping to raise awareness and funds for CSF through Portfolios with Purpose, a stock-selection competition in which all proceeds go to charity.

CSF Scholars Celebrate Reading with LitFest

This December, CSF Scholars from all over New York gathered at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem for a reading celebration called LitFest. The children enjoyed activities designed to enhance reading and literacy, including bookmark making and listening to stories read aloud. At the end of the event, each student got to choose a book to take home.

We are very grateful to CSF Young Leaders and CSF alumni and staff at St. Jean Baptiste High School for volunteering; our hosts at Our Lady Queen of Angels School; our partners at LitWorld, and everyone else who made the event a success!



CSF alumni from St. Jean Baptiste High School volunteered at the LitFest event, helping current CSF Scholars with bookmark-making and other activities encouraging literacy.



CSF Scholars at the LitFest event posed for photos after creating heart maps and designing superheroes, and everyone got to take home a book or two.



Children's Scholarship Fund

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CSF Alumni Kauribel and Maria Javier
Princeton & Columbia '19

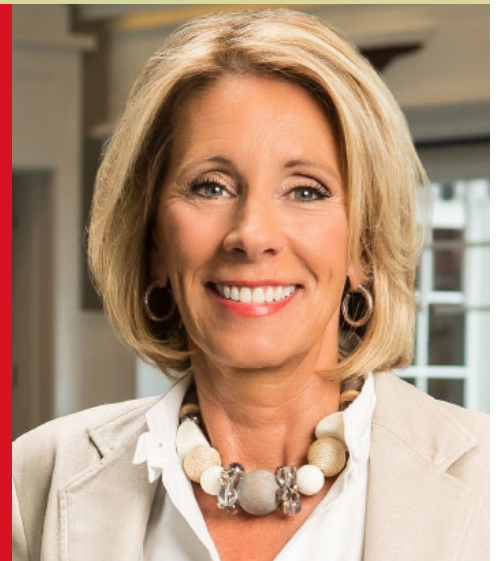
Hear CSF families and alumni discuss the impact of their scholarships in CSF's new video at bit.ly/CSFvideo2016.

Last Word

“Above all, I believe every child, no matter their zip code or their parents' jobs, deserves access to a quality education.”

– **Betsy DeVos**

CSF congratulates long-time education advocate Betsy DeVos on her nomination as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.



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