



# Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume IX, Issue I

## CSF Congratulates Class of 2012

As the 2011-2012 school year comes to an end, we are proud to congratulate more than 2,200 graduating 8th graders who are using CSF scholarships nationwide. On our school visits this spring, it has been especially heartwarming to hear the excitement in their voices as they talk about their plans for high school and college.



CSF Scholars from the 8th grade class at Incarnation School in Washington Heights are ready for high school!

We know that their private elementary school foundation will lead to success in high school and beyond. Studies have shown that CSF Scholars are much more likely to graduate high school than the average teenagers in their cities:

- Data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that students who attended private school in 8th grade were twice as likely as those who attended public school to have completed a bachelors or higher degree by

*continued on page 2*

## Broad Foundation Funds New Teddy Forstmann Scholarships

CSF's Co-Founder Ted Forstmann was a true visionary who along with John Walton helped thousands of low-income children and their families.

those who need it the most.

With this in mind, we are happy to announce the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation has made a generous \$1 million pledge to create a new scholarship program to honor Ted's legacy.

While we mourn Ted's loss, we will continue making Ted and John's vision a reality by providing educational opportunity to

The new Teddy Forstmann Scholarship Program will provide four-year scholarships for 130 children to attend private schools of all types in New York City beginning this fall. Working closely with the families and participating schools, we look forward to updating you on the Forstmann Scholars and their progress in the years to come. ●

giving  
parents  
a choice

giving  
children  
a chance

Spring 2012  
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8 West 38th Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10018

(p) 212.515.7100  
(f) 212.515.7111

www.scholarshipfund.org  
www.csfblog.wordpress.com  
www.facebook.com/ScholarshipFund

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*In Memoriam*

*1946-2005*

# Charity Navigator Awards Sixth Four-Star Rating to CSF

For the sixth consecutive year, Children's Scholarship Fund has earned a coveted four-star rating (the highest possible) by Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 3% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator earn the top rating six years running.

According to Charity Navigator, the nation's leading charity evaluator: "Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently



executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. . . . Children's Scholarship Fund outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Children's Scholarship Fund from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

You can view Charity Navigator's complete report on CSF by going to [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) and searching for "Children's Scholarship Fund." ●

## ***Class of 2012, continued from page 1***

- their mid-twenties (52% versus 26%).
- In Philadelphia, the high school graduation rate for CSF alumni was 96% versus just 62% for their public school counterparts.
- In San Francisco, a study found that 89-94% of CSF recipients graduated high school compared with a public school graduation rate of only 73% in San Francisco and only 46% in the Oakland.
- A CSF study in Charlotte found that 97% of CSF recipients graduated from high school in four years, compared to an overall graduation rate of 66.1% for Charlotte public schools.
- In New York, the inner-city high schools where more than 700 of our CSF alumni are attending have much higher four-year graduation rates than the NYC public high schools (80%\* vs. 59%).

And 96% of those graduating from CSF schools go on to college, compared with only 61% of NYC public school graduates.

Given the significant quality of life indicators associated with high school graduation (e.g. greater lifetime earnings, longer and healthier lifespan, reduced risk of incarceration), these are extremely important outcomes. CSF and CSF partners nationwide are continuing to track our alumni to measure their success and compare CSF alumni against local, state and national averages.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the CSF Class of 2012! ●

*(\*The 80% graduation rate would be even higher if private schools could track children who transfer from their school but graduate on time from a different high school.)*

*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.*

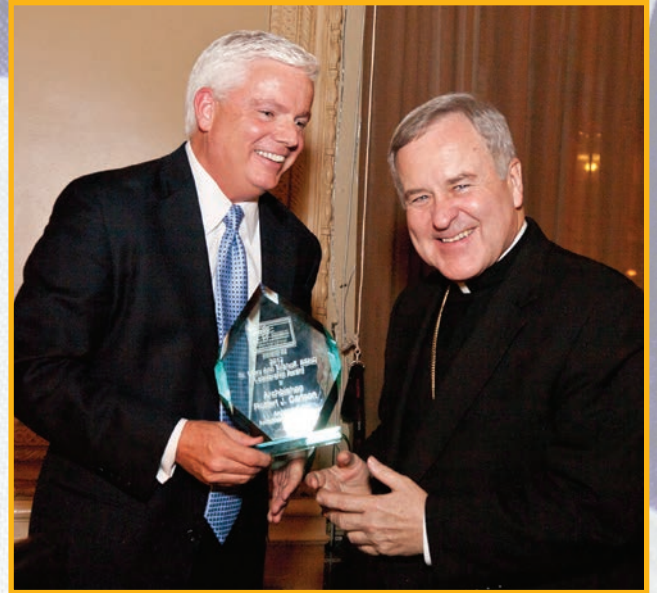


*Thomas Forbes, a CSF 8th grader at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School in East Harlem, will enter Xavier High School next fall. He's pictured here with his proud grandparents after winning a partial scholarship from Friends of Nick, a non-profit that provides character education.*

# CSF Around the Nation



*Seeds of Hope, a CSF partner program in Denver, held its Hope Springs Eternal luncheon this April. Student Luz Garcia (above) provided a heartfelt testimonial about her experiences using a Seeds of Hope scholarship.*



*CSF's partner program in St. Louis, the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation (TTEF), recently celebrated its third annual gala luncheon. Pictured here, TTEF board chair and CSF board member Kevin M. Short presents Archbishop Robert Carlson with the Sr. Mary Ann Eckhoff Leadership Award.*



*CSF partner program Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) board members pictured with twelve graduating MOST scholarship recipients who were honored at a dinner this May. CSF partnered with MOST to provide more than 400 scholarships to Memphis students this year.*



*This March, Newsmax interviewed CSF President Darla Romfo, featuring a video as well as an article on the Newsmax website. You can watch the full 12-minute video by visiting CSF's website ([www.scholarshipfund.org](http://www.scholarshipfund.org)) and going to the News and Events page.*

# A CSF Success Story

Graduation season gives us lots of reasons to celebrate at the Children's Scholarship Fund. One of the graduates we're especially looking forward to celebrating with this year is Aleysha Taveras, a 12th grader at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx. We've followed Aleysha's progress since she became a CSF Scholar as a third-grader in 2002, and now that she's heading off to college, we couldn't be prouder!

Aleysha's mother, Gloria, told us she applied to CSF because she wanted a disciplined, safe, and smaller setting for Aleysha and her younger brother, Gabriel. Working as a parent coordinator at a public high school, Gloria said she noticed some students struggled in large classes, and many teachers were dissatisfied with their jobs. She also worried about gangs and violence. Gloria is very grateful for and happy with the private schools her children have attended with CSF scholarships.



*Aleysha with her brother Gabriel, and mom Gloria at a CSF event in 2009.*

Aleysha is highly accomplished and poised and has taken full advantage of the educational and extracurricular opportunities her school has offered. As well as being elected to her high school's Student Council each year, she served as Sophomore Class President and Treasurer of the Student Body. She's played leading and supporting roles in school musicals (*Aida*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *Grease*) and was a member of the school's performance choir and dance club. Gloria told us, "All these positive experiences



***"Thank you very much for all the opportunities you've given me."***

would not have been possible if I didn't have the financial support from the Children's Scholarship Fund."

Like all CSF parents, Gloria had to pay part of her children's tuition from her own pocket. And also like many parents we hear from, Gloria considers her payments a worthwhile investment in her children's future. Now she's really seeing her investment paying off.

Just a few weeks ago, Aleysha found out she had been accepted at four of the five colleges she applied to: Seton Hall University; American University; Fordham University, and Iona College. Not only was she accepted, but she was also offered a combined \$114,000 in academic scholarships! Aleysha has chosen Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, where she'll be a Diplomacy and International Relations Major participating in the Honors Program.

"Without my Catholic school education, I wouldn't be the well rounded and focused individual I am today," Aleysha told us recently. "Thank you very much for all the opportunities you've given me. Without you all, I wouldn't be as capable of following my dreams."

Congratulations to Aleysha and all the CSF Scholars who are graduating this year! ●

# Taproot Foundation Grant “Brands” CSF

CSF has been working with a team of pro bono professionals on updating our key messaging and branding, thanks to a Taproot Foundation grant worth \$55,000.

***For all who believe that every child has a right to a quality education, Children’s Scholarship Fund provides children today with the opportunity for a better future by giving parents a choice on where to educate them.***

*– CSF Brand Positioning Statement, developed by the Taproot team.*

The positioning statement above is one piece of the work developed as a result of the Taproot Foundation’s grant.

The Taproot team’s work will be integrated into CSF’s communications moving forward, helping to build and strengthen CSF’s national awareness, industry footprint, and impact.



CSF’s Taproot team included: (front left) Ilyne Germaise (Brand Strategist); James Murphy (Copywriter); (back left) Arnold Stovell (Project Manager), and Renee Simons (Account Director). Not pictured: Dorothy Plechaty (Marketing Manager).

Our heartfelt thanks go to our Taproot team, as well as to the Taproot Foundation staff. ●

## CSF Partners Meet in Jersey City



At a recent gathering of CSF partner programs in Jersey City, CSF CFO Tom Finnerty is pictured with Vicki Puchi of ACE Scholarships (Denver), Maribeth Hanzlik of Seeds of Hope (Denver), and CSF President Darla Romfo.



Enjoying the CSF partner program conference are: Kathleen Christy of the BISON Scholarship Fund (Buffalo); Ina Lipman of CSF Philadelphia, and Rachel ElginSmith of the BASIC Fund (Bay Area).

# The Last Word:

“Today, the sad fact is that, for the children who have the fewest options, the educational system is not delivering. If I can look at your zip code and I can tell whether you’re going to get a good education, we’ve got a real problem.”

- **Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State**



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