



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume V, Issue II

Summer Days with CSF

Giving away nearly 29,000 scholarships a year creates a lot of activity, and if you visit the New York City office during the summer months, you can experience it first-hand.

Telephones ring incessantly. Scholarship applications are processed. Sacks of mail are sorted and emails are answered. Four full-time staff members and three summer interns work one-on-one with families. Parents meet each other while dropping off forms. Scholarship recipients draw and color pictures, introduce themselves, and give hugs. The lazy days of summer do not happen at CSF, where the staff is all hustle and bustle.

Every day, staff members and summer interns are working to give thousands of children educational opportunities, and to make the application process as smooth as possible for families and schools. As intern Kelly Lynch, a Manhattan College student, says, "Knowing that these scholarships are going to better people's lives makes all the hard work worth it, and has truly made this internship a rewarding experience."

"I believe that every child deserves a good education and I'm glad that Children's



CSF staffers and interns include (clockwise): Camille Avena, Johana Toro, Frances Dewey, Kelly Lynch, Diana Escobosa, Kristina Nrecaj, and Pamela Peña.

Scholarship Fund is working to do that," Camille Avena, an intern from Fordham University, says.

The CSF internship can be demanding and hectic at times, but as Frances Dewey, a soon-to-be college freshman, puts it, "It really makes your day when a grateful mother thanks you on the phone, over and over again, for the opportunity we've given her son." ●

CSF Philadelphia Celebrates Awards

Christy Walton and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell were special guests of honor at a recent award ceremony held by the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) at the city's Kimmel Center. The event celebrated CSF Philadelphia's 10th anniversary, and welcomed 1,500 new scholarship winners who will begin using four-year scholarships at private schools this fall.



Christy Walton, CSF President Darla Romfo, and CSF Philadelphia Chairwoman Evie McNiff at the CSFP event at the Kimmel Center.

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giving
parents
a choice

giving
children
a chance

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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

CSF Success Stories: Lester Toribio and Geanylyn Romero

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CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam
1946-2005

All of the students who have graduated from 8th grade with CSF this year are worth celebrating. But two stories are especially noteworthy.

When Lester Toribio was entering Kindergarten, his mother, Francisca, wanted to send him to Ascension School near their apartment. But as a single parent, she simply could not afford it on her home health care attendant salary. The CSF scholarship made it possible for her to enroll Lester at Ascension.

Now Lester is beginning 9th grade at Cristo Rey High School in East Harlem. There, Lester will follow a rigorous academic schedule four days a week, while spending the fifth day working as part of a rotating student team that fulfills the job of one full-time employee. Lester hopes to become a civil engineer one day.

Geanylyn Romero just graduated from St. John Chrysostom School in the Bronx, where she attended with the help of CSF since Kindergarten. Shortly before Geanylyn started school, her mother passed away. Her grandmother, Carmen, told us she applied to CSF because her daughter had heard about the program and one of her last wishes was to send Geanylyn to private school.

According to Carmen, a part-time home health aide, Geanylyn has had her ups and downs since her mother's death. But Carmen's influence, her teachers' devotion, and her own hard work has paid off. This fall, Geanylyn will enter Aquinas High School with a full academic scholarship.

Right now, Geanylyn is considering a career in social work, law, or education. "College is definitely in her plans," her grandmother assures us. Geanylyn recently wrote CSF a letter of thanks, saying, "I have done very well here, academically, emotionally, and spiritually. You have been a big part of my success."

Best of luck to Lester, Geanylyn, and all the 8th grade graduates! ●



**THE CHILDREN'S
SCHOLARSHIP FUND AIMS TO
MAXIMIZE EDUCATIONAL
EDUCATION AT ALL INCOME
LEVELS BY OFFERING
TUITION ASSISTANCE IN GRADES
K-8 FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.**

"CSF Philadelphia Celebrates Awards," continued from page 1

Gov. Rendell presented Christy Walton with the "Citizen of the Year" award for the support she and her late husband, John Walton, have provided to Children's Scholarship Fund and its partners. Gov. Rendell also presented Wawa with the "Corporate Citizen of the Year" award for their long record of philanthropy. For each of the past seven years, Wawa has sponsored 100 four-year CSFP scholarships.

Several of the CSFP recipients also received awards, and their families enjoyed appearances by the Wawa

mascot, Wally Goose, and the Phillie Phanatic, the mascot of the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team.

CSF Philadelphia has assisted almost 2,000 children with scholarships during the 2007-08 school year, and the organization has provided tuition assistance to more than 5,800 low-income children over the past ten years. CSFP Chairwoman Evie McNiff said her goal is for CSFP to provide scholarships for 5,000 low-income children a year by 2011. ●



A CSF Philadelphia family enjoys the festivities at the recent Kimmel Center event. (See page 1 for the full story.)

CSF Around the Nation

CSF President Darla Romfo (pictured here with Gerard Robinson (l), President of BAEO and Jack Klenk (r), Director, Office of Non-Public Education, U.S. Dept. of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement) served as a panelist at the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives' National Conference in Washington, DC in late June.



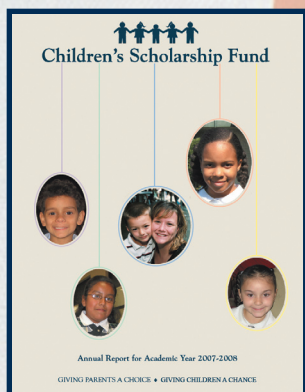
O.A.R. Tours School

Members of the popular music band O.A.R. recently made a visit to St. Brigid's School in the East Village of Manhattan to meet some of the children using CSF scholarships there. Bass player Benj Gershman, lead singer Marc Roberge, and Marc's wife, Nasim, toured the school and watched a 6th grade music lesson.

Roberge and Gershman answered questions from the 5th grade class about their appearances on MTV and trips to Iraq to play for the troops. When asked by a child why the band supports CSF, Roberge said education is the most important thing, noting that he and the other band members had all graduated from college before committing to their musical careers full-time. They were also treated to a solo from a budding singer and an impromptu karate demonstration from Kenneth Dickerson, a St. Brigid's CSF recipient!



Benj Gershman and Marc Roberge of O.A.R. with 5th graders at St. Brigid School.



First CSF Annual Report Released

CSF is proud to announce the publication of our Annual Report 2007-08. The report highlights CSF activities over the past year, provides financial information for Fiscal Year 2007, and gratefully acknowledges our generous contributors. You can download your copy of the annual report on our website, www.scholarshipfund.org, or email azamudio@scholarshipfund.org to request a copy through the mail.

The Last Word:

“I am a single parent and receiving the scholarship was the best thing that happened to me. My child has received such a great gift from people that do not even know him, basically strangers. Thank you.”

- Francisca Toribio

Mother of Lester, a recent CSF 8th grade graduate

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