



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume III, Issue 3

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

Fall 2006

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New Scholarships

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24,000 Children Using CSF Awards for 2006-07 School Year

We are gearing up for an exciting 2006-07 school year at the Children's Scholarship Fund. Thanks to our generous donors and all our partner programs across the country, CSF will once again be helping more than 24,000 children attend the school of their choice.

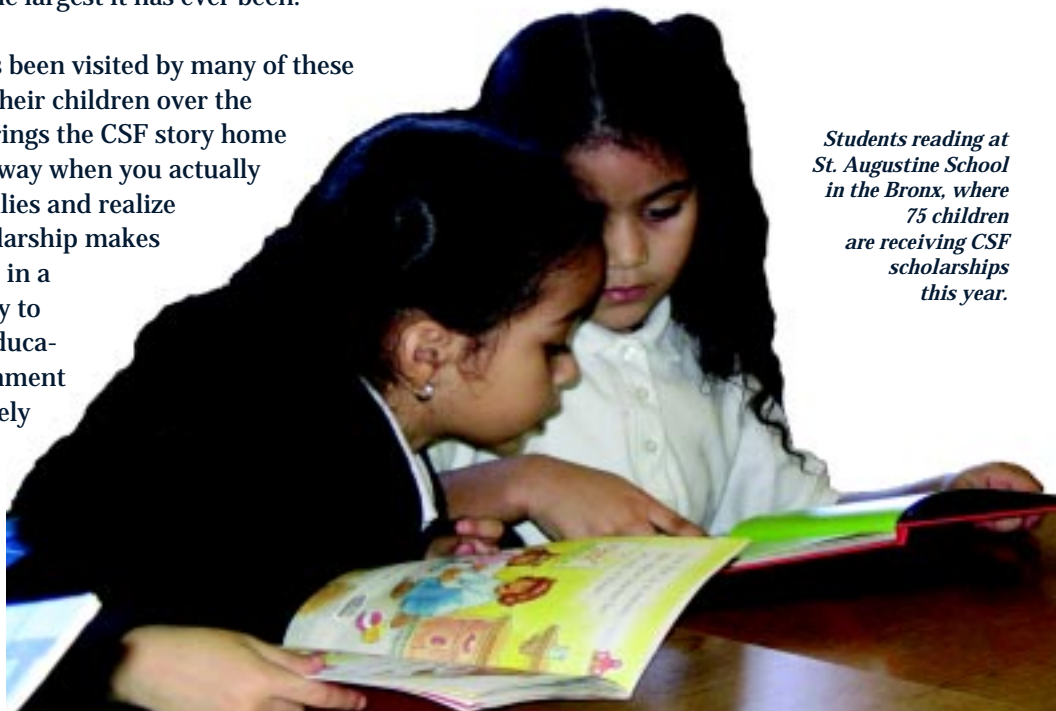
It is a particularly exciting time for us in New York City. This year, thanks to our partnership with the Endowment for Inner-City Education, the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the Patrons Program, Futures in Education, and many other generous donors, we have awarded more than 2,000 new scholarships for children to enter private school for the first time. As we enter our 8th year of providing tuition assistance, our program in New York City is the largest it has ever been.

Our office has been visited by many of these families and their children over the summer. It brings the CSF story home in a very real way when you actually meet the families and realize that this scholarship makes the difference in a family's ability to provide the educational environment they desperately want for their children.

In addition to New York City, several other cities

across the country are adding new scholarships and experiencing this same excitement. In Bridgeport (CT), Colorado Springs, Minneapolis, Omaha, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Utah, hundreds of children and their families are having this same wonderful experience and receiving the gift of hope.

Our families all pay a minimum of \$500 towards tuition but most pay far more than that on an average family income of \$27,000. As our founder John Walton often said when meeting with families, they are the true heroes as they make real sacrifices to provide a better educational choice for their children. We are so grateful for our faithful donors who make it possible for our parents to be their child's hero. ●



Students reading at St. Augustine School in the Bronx, where 75 children are receiving CSF scholarships this year.

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Private Schools Performing Well

You may have read about a study released by the Department of Education this summer that found little difference in standardized test scores between public school and private school students. The results are not consistent with the CSF experience, but have also been called into question by other researchers.

Paul Peterson and Elena Llaudet of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government analyzed the data used in the study but made adjustments for student background characteristics (something the original study did not do). The Harvard researchers then found that private

school students scored higher than public school students in 11 out of 12 comparisons, and the difference between private and public scores was statistically significant. The researchers also pointed out that the study measured students at only one point in time, limiting its usefulness.

Time and time again, studies have shown that private school students have a significant advantage over public school students in test scores, college attendance, and graduation rates. Here are some interesting facts about private schools from the Council for American Private Education:

- Private school students are **twice** as likely to graduate from college.
- Private school students from families in the lowest quartile of socio-economic status are almost **four times** as likely to graduate from college as their public school counterparts.
- In 2003, the Dept. of Education released National Assessment of Education Progress results showing that **53%** of private school 8th graders read at or above the "proficient" level, compared with only **30%** of public school students.
- The same year, **43%** of private school 8th graders scored at the "proficient" level in math, while only **27%** of the public school children did so.

Best of all, studies of CSF and our partner programs have shown very positive progress in our students' performance and high levels of satisfaction among parents! ●



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

CSF Around the Nation

Washington, D.C.



Washington Scholarship Fund (WSF) recipient Lauren Gaston-Hawkins spoke at WSF's graduation ceremony in May. Gaston-Hawkins was chosen as one of 50 winners in Oprah Winfrey's National Essay Contest earlier this year. Also an AP Scholar, a Coca-Cola Scholar, and a Bill Gates Millennium Scholar, Lauren is a freshman at Yale University.



Philadelphia

Geoffrey Canada, President & CEO of Harlem Children's Zone was honored at a Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) award ceremony this June.



A CSFP student and her mother peruse the program for the Philly event.

Baltimore



Minneapolis



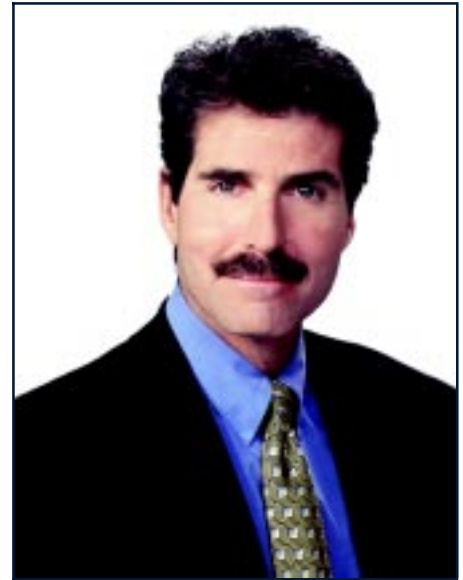
John Stossel, anchor of ABC's 20/20 program, addressed the KidsFirst Minneapolis Annual Dinner this September.

More than 75 guests joined hosts John and Nancy Erickson aboard their yacht, "The Andrea Cay," to celebrate Children's Scholarship Fund Baltimore on June 21st.

The Last Word:

“Kids deserve a quality education. Shouldn't every child have the chance to succeed? Shouldn't every parent have the right to choose the school they want their child to attend regardless of how much money they have?”

- **John Stossel, anchor of ABC's 20/20 program**



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