



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume III, Issue 2

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

Spring 2006

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Los Angeles Donors Meet Families

Forty-two CSF scholarship recipients and their families from St. Patrick Catholic School in North Hollywood recently joined us for a luncheon tribute at their school. The families welcomed the chance to thank local donors including Gregory McGinity of the Broad Foundation and meet local dignitaries such as LA City Council member Alex Padilla. Mr. Padilla presented an award to a St. Patrick graduate, David Lopez, who is now a National Academic
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CSF has 1,500 scholarship recipients in Los Angeles. 42 of them attend St. Patrick Catholic School in North Hollywood, where we recently hosted a lunch for donors, guests, and scholarship families.

New CSF Awards for 2006-2007

This spring, we are pleased to announce that low-income families across the country are applying for 4,000 brand new scholarships that CSF partner programs will be awarding for the 2006-07 school year. Families of the 24,000 children currently receiving scholarships are also requalifying for next year and adding their younger brothers and sisters entering Kindergarten to the program.

In New York City, more than 1,000 scholarships will be awarded in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island, as part of the Cardinal's Scholarship Program (CSP), funded by CSF, the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the Endowment for Inner-City Education, and the Patrons Program. Also, more new scholarships will be awarded in Brooklyn and Queens under the

Bishop's Scholarship Program (BSP), a partnership between CSF and the Brooklyn Diocese.

CSF partners in Cincinnati, Colorado Springs, Minneapolis, Omaha, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Utah will also add new awards. We are happy to welcome a new Bridgeport, CT program which will offer scholarships to 100 local children this fall.

CSF recipients are attending a diverse range of more than 3,000 private and parochial schools across the country. As always, scholarships are determined by family size, income and tuition, so that the family pays what it can afford. But every family—and the average family income is less than \$27,000—pays part of their tuition. Obviously, education is a serious investment for these families. ●

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Straight from the Schoolyard:

St. Francis of Assisi in Brooklyn

In the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, St. Francis of Assisi School welcomes more than 400 children from the surrounding neighborhood every school day.

outcomes of the fight. This allows the children time to calm down and also to reflect on their actions and feelings. Also, a panel of 8th graders designated "Peace Mediators" are called upon to step in and broker agreements between their fellow students.



A group of CSF scholarship recipients at St. Francis of Assisi pose in the teacher's lounge.

Among the 25 St. Francis of Assisi children receiving help from CSF are Kimberly, Amanda and Lance Maximin, in 8th, 7th and 4th grades respectively. Their mother, Mary, works at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant, and has been known to ask customers there to buy candy to raise funds for the school. She and her husband are both very committed to their children's education.

At St. Francis of Assisi, the students have many opportunities to develop their talents in and out of the classroom. For example, solar panels installed on the school's roof educate students on environmental issues, as well as cutting the heating bill. Musically-inclined students can play in the school band, and plays and talent shows are regularly staged.

In a letter to CSF, Mrs. Maximin told us, "Growing up I never got the chance to receive anything so fortunate and so I am extremely grateful that my kids were able to experience this great gift." ●

Vernon Pickett, a 7th grader who receives funding from CSF, told us recently that he has organized several contests at the school. His latest project is a school-based version of *American Idol*; of course, he plans to be a judge.

Principal Sister Theresa Scanlon has a unique approach to discipline. When two children are quarrelling, they are asked to complete a worksheet detailing the reasons for their disagreement and the expected



Vernon Pickett, 7th grade, is planning an American Idol contest for his fellow students at St. Francis of Assisi School in Brooklyn.

**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.**

LA Donors Meet Parents at SCCSF Lunch

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Decathlon Champion, a wonderful testament to a school serving so many CSF children.

Julie Romo, a mother of four, told us as only a mother can about what the scholarships have meant for her three youngest children. Her daughter, Justina, is graduating from 8th grade after receiving a CSF scholarship for five years and will attend a private high school next year.

“I want to thank CSF for helping her get to where she is today,” Mrs. Romo said. “The scholarship has made a great difference in our lives.” ●



From l-r: Vice Principal Doug Nicol; SCCSF Development Director Erica Reiter; Principal Rosselle Azar; Gregory McGinity of the Broad Foundation, and St. Patrick's Marketing Director Angela Ordonez.



The Romo family (clockwise): Efraim; Justina; Julie; Michael, and Andrew.



Theresa Fragoso (l) and Kathleen Anderson of the Catholic Education Foundation with CSF President Darla Romfo.

Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha Hosts Annual Luncheon

More than 1,000 people attended CSF of Omaha's third annual luncheon recently.

Special guests included former White House press secretary Mike McCurry (who also serves of CSF's Board of Directors), CSF President Darla Romfo, Tal Anderson, a member of CSF's Board of Directors, and the Mayor of Omaha. Six scholarship recipients were awarded prizes for leadership, spirit and overcoming obstacles.

Currently, the CSF of Omaha program helps more than 1,800 low-income children to attend the private school of their family's choice. Next year, 75 new scholarships will be added. ●



Pictured in back (l to r): CSF of Omaha Chairman Jeff Schmid; CSF board member Tal Anderson; Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey, & CSF President Darla Romfo. Front: CSF students (l to r): Gabriella Reyes; Thai-Son Vu; NaCerra Eona; Jessica Zuniga; Mary Bencker, and Luke Minturn.

The Last Word:

“What brings me to this cause is the fight for justice and the opportunity for educational equality. This program is helping awaken America to the power of choice when it comes to improving the quality of schools.”

- **Mike McCurry, former White House press secretary & member of CSF's Board of Directors**



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