

Required Reading

Season's Greetings
from all of us at CSF,
and a heartfelt thank you!

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

giving
parents
a choice

giving
children
a chance

Fall 2011
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"No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child." - Abraham Lincoln, as quoted at the memorial service for Ted Forstmann.

A Tribute to Our Co-Founder Ted Forstmann

In the midst of the sadness, I have loved reading all that has been written about our friend and co-founder Ted Forstmann since his passing on November 20th. His contributions to the world of finance, philanthropy and education reform are well known by now. I feel very fortunate to have known him on a slightly more personal level through my work at the Children's Scholarship Fund. As one friend summed it up for me, "Ted cared about education and philanthropy way before all the stars started making pledges. He was a true pioneer with some steadfast values. And he had such clarity about what was fundamentally right."

Perhaps that is the character trait that is most admired—his clarity and conviction about what was fundamentally right. He taught me that you have to get the first things right or things will eventually fall apart. From that conviction was born the Children's Scholarship Fund. He wanted to change what wasn't fundamentally right in education. Ted knew that parents are the first educators of their children and that if you empower them they will try to do the best that they can for their children. If you don't honor that truth, things will break down. Of course he was right. He touched a chord with parents who overwhelmingly responded by applying for partial scholarships and telling him they were eternally grateful for the opportunity.

I often wrote Ted notes to pass along something that a child or a parent had said or something that had happened on a visit to a school. I remember writing to Ted in a note at one point telling him that he would not know on this side of heaven all the good he has done. Well, my mentor and friend, now you and John both know all the good you have done. Please watch over us, our work and all our kids. We love you and we will miss you.

Darla M. Romfo
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CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam

1940-2011

::

John T. Walton

CSF Co-Founder

In Memoriam

1946-2005

CSF Gets Top Ratings Across the Board

For the fifth consecutive year, CSF has earned a coveted four-star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator, the premier charity evaluator. Only 6% of the 5,500 charities rated by Charity Navigator earn the top rating five years running.

But that's not all! This year, Charity Navigator introduced a new rating for transparency and accountability – and CSF earned a perfect score in this new section as well as a four-star rating for financial efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

According to Charity Navigator: "Children's Scholarship Fund consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and 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."

GuideStar has also recognized CSF with its GuideStar Exchange Seal for transparency. CSF is one of the most popular education charities among visitors to GuideStar's website.



In addition, CSF has received Independent Charities of America's (ICA) Seal of Excellence, awarded to charities participating in the Combined Federal Campaign that "meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness." Less than 2,000 out of more than a million U.S. charities have been awarded the ICA Seal. ●

Pamella Roland Online Auction

Want to do good and look good at the same time? This Christmas season, you can bid on a custom-made Pamella Roland design and help a low-income child receive a quality education.

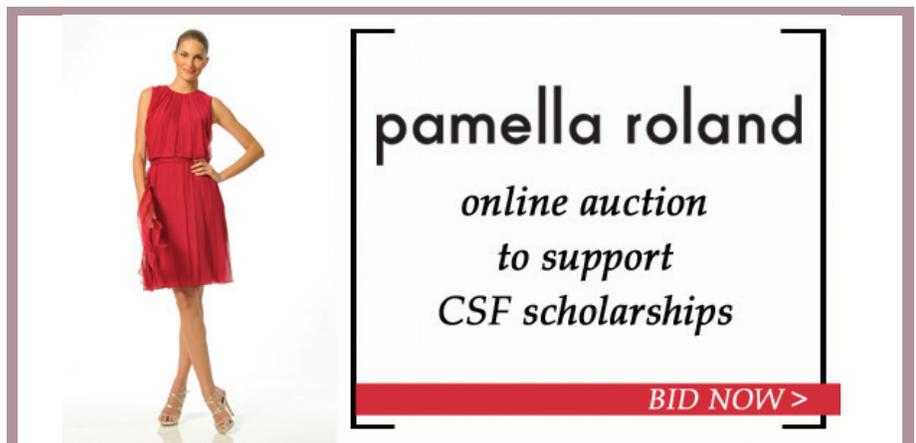
Thanks to a generous donation from CSF board member Pamella DeVos, President and Creative Director of Pamella Roland, CSF is hosting an online auction. The auction winner will choose between a Pamella Roland sleeveless chiffon paneled full-length gown or knee-length dress with a bateau neckline. The

gown or dress will also be tailor-made in the size and color of the winner's choice.

All proceeds go towards funding CSF scholarships. Now that's what we call guilt-free shopping!

Visit the online auction at: <http://www.32auctions.com/organizations/2165/auctions/2753>. You can also find the auction on CSF's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ScholarshipFund. ●

***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.***



CSF Around the Nation

Philadelphia



CSF Philadelphia (CSFP) recently launched its Campaign for 10,000 Children, offering 10,000 new scholarships over the next five years. CSFP Executive Director Ina Lipman and Evie McNiff (right), CSFP Board President, pose with the Phillies Phanatic and two CSFP students at the launch event in Citizens Bank Park, home of the Phillies.

Toledo



Ann Riddle (right), Executive Director of Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NWSF) in Toledo, traveled to Columbus with three scholarship parents to give testimony to the Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee in favor of House Bill 242, the Ohio Tax Credit Scholarship Bill. If passed, the bill will provide up to \$20 million in tax credits for taxpayers who donate to scholarship organizations. More than 700 children are using NWSF scholarships this year.

Buffalo



Victoria Hong (center), news anchor at Buffalo's WVIB-TV, celebrates with BISON Fund scholarship recipients at the fund's annual luncheon this November. More than 1,200 students in Buffalo are using scholarships funded by the BISON Fund and CSF to attend private school this year.

Denver



Michelle Rhee, Founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, addresses an audience of more than 1,000 at the annual ACE Scholarships luncheon in Denver. ACE Scholarships partners with CSF to fund more than 500 scholarships for Denver children.

A Banner Year for Parental Choice

2011 has been a banner year for parental choice in education, with the introduction of new tuition tax credits and vouchers as well as the expansion of existing choice programs in many states. Here's an update:

Indiana: A significant new voucher program began this year in Indiana, with more than 4,000 students now attending private schools with vouchers. In 2012-13, up to 15,000 children can avail of the state-wide voucher program. Indiana also allows parents with children already enrolled in private school to deduct \$1,000 per child for educational expenses.

North Carolina: A new tax credit program allows parents of special needs children to deduct up to \$6,000 in educational expenses including private school tuition and tutoring.

Ohio: The Buckeye State voted into law the Jon Peterson Special Scholarship Program, which will provide scholarships

for special needs children to attend private school beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

Oklahoma: Low-income children are eligible for private school scholarships of up to \$5,000 under a new \$5 million tax credit program.

Washington, DC: More than 1,600 low-income children (a 60% increase over last year) are enrolled in private schools through the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, which was saved from elimination by Congress earlier this year.

Wisconsin: A new program was launched in Racine, offering low-income children vouchers to attend private schools, and the existing program in Milwaukee was expanded.

Pending legislation: New parental choice programs are still under debate in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and many other states. ●

CSF Alumni Gather in NYC

On a warm August night in Manhattan, several CSF Alumni and their families gathered for dinner at Toscano's restaurant. All in all, it was a great night for CSF Alumni to meet and share their plans for the future. Here are some of the highlights:



Jason Tejada, currently attending Columbia University, gave some pointers to Lionel Ferreira, a ninth grader who's already got his sights set on Columbia.



Meanwhile, Jason's sister, Joroelyn, got inside information about her new high school, Notre Dame, from CSF Alum and Notre Dame grad, Tiffany Williams.



CSF Alums Denasia Watts and Tiffany Williams compare notes.



Siblings Diana and Dennis Rosa discussed college plans. He wants to go to California. She wants to stay in New York!

Straight from the Schoolyard: St. George's Independent School, Memphis

For more than fifty years, St. George's Independent School has been one of the top independent schools in the Memphis area. But rather than rest on its reputation, ten years ago the school took on a major new initiative: bringing African-American students from low-income parts of the city together with the more traditionally suburban and white student body to offer all St. George's students opportunities to interact with others of different backgrounds as well as top-notch academics.

Memphis has long been a culturally divided city. A 2002 Harvard study cited local private schools as being the most segregated schools in the country. But St. George's model offers an exciting new path for integration that will pay off for the city as well as the students themselves.



Shynia Smith pictured with William W. Taylor, President of St. George's. Smith receives a scholarship from CSF's Memphis partner, MOST, and was awarded the St. George's Medal, the highest annual award for St. George's Independent School.

St. George's now has three campuses. The original Germantown elementary campus and the Memphis elementary school both feed into the Middle and Upper School on the Collierville campus. While the Germantown campus is 92% Caucasian, the Memphis campus is 89% African-American. But students in both campuses are matched with a "buddy" in the other school. The elementary campuses also come together for sports and community service events. When the children enter 6th grade, they move together to the Collierville campus.

The St. George's model has proven highly successful. Test scores at the Memphis campuses have risen consistently each year, and by the time the Memphis students are ready to move to middle school, the urban-suburban achievement gap has all but disappeared. Although tuition at both elementary campuses is about \$13,000, almost all the Memphis campus students attend with financial aid from the school or private scholarships.

CSF's partner program in Memphis, MOST (Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Fund), supports 18 St. George's students (13 at the Memphis campus and 5 at Collierville). One of those students, Shynia Smith, was the winner of the prestigious St. George's Medal in honor of her extraordinary service to the school community. As Shynia's mom, Shyronica, explained to our partners at MOST:

"Thanks so very much for aiding in giving my daughter, Shynia, the opportunity to attend St. George's Independent School. We're so very proud of her!"

We are proud of Shynia and all the MOST scholarship recipients at St. George's Independent School, and we look forward to hearing more about their successes in the future! ●

CSF By the Numbers

Almost 25,500 low-income children in 29 program areas nationwide are using CSF scholarships to attend the private or parochial school of their family's choice for the 2011-12 school year.

As always, CSF families are awarded scholarships based on their house size, family income, and tuition at their chosen school. Each scholarship covers 25%, 50% or 75% of the tuition.

Since our inception, CSF has awarded \$483 million in scholarships to almost 123,000 children. ●

2011-12 School Year

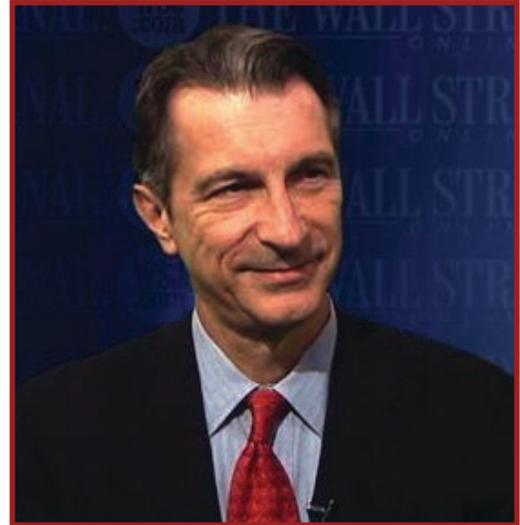
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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| CSF Scholars | 25,500 |
| Brand new awards | 5,600 |
| Average CSF scholarship | \$1,579 |
| Average tuition | \$4,020 |
| Average family income | \$29,489 |

**These statistics are national averages; actual amounts vary from city to city.*

The Last Word:

“It is somehow fitting that an idea Ted Forstmann and John Walton put in motion 12 years ago just had a breakout year. Sometimes, belief really does produce results.”

- Daniel Henninger, “Forstmann’s Not So Little Idea,” *Wall Street Journal*, November 10th, 2011.



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