



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

Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume IX, Issue II

giving
parents
a choice
giving
children
a chance



As we come to the close of another year, I want to thank you, our donors and supporters, for the essential role you play in making CSF scholarships possible. Because of you, 25,700 children are on the road to a brighter future this year – and more than 130,000 children since CSF's inception.

CSF's work is needed now more than ever. Today, 43 percent of children born into poverty will stay in poverty as adults. But we know that one path to changing that outcome is the right education. You will read here about how CSF is helping to empower parents and pave the road for thousands of children across the nation to graduate high school, go to college, and secure a better future.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

Darla M. Romfo
President

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High Graduation Rates for CSF Alumni

This summer, CSF surveyed our New York City 8th grade class of 2008, which includes the group of CSF Scholars who entered Kindergarten in 1999 with CSF's first scholarships. The survey found that:

- **98.5 percent** of the CSF New York alumni who responded to the survey graduated from high school on time this June.
- Of those who graduated, **92 percent are now enrolled in college.**
- The remaining grads entered the workforce (3.4 percent) or the military (1 percent) or did not report their plans.
- Colleges where CSF New York alumni enrolled this fall include: NYU; Carnegie Mellon University; Seton Hall University; Rochester Institute of Technology; Villanova University; Fordham University; Hunter College, and Emory University.



Geanylyn Romero, a CSF Scholar since Kindergarten, graduated from Aquinas High School in the Bronx this June. Geanylyn's plans include studying criminal justice at Borough of Manhattan Community College and John Jay College and becoming a juvenile correctional counselor.

You can find more information on high school graduation rates of CSF Scholars throughout

the country on the Results page of our website, www.scholarshipfund.org.

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CSF's Post-Sandy Stay in School Fund

Many CSF families were adversely impacted by the effects of Hurricane Sandy earlier this fall. A number of CSF families lived in areas that were severely flooded and were forced to relocate. For many more struggling families, Sandy was a major disruption that continues to affect their finances and well-being – and threatens to prevent some from keeping their children in private school.

True to form, our CSF supporters have stepped up to the plate and asked what they can do to help. To make it easier for these

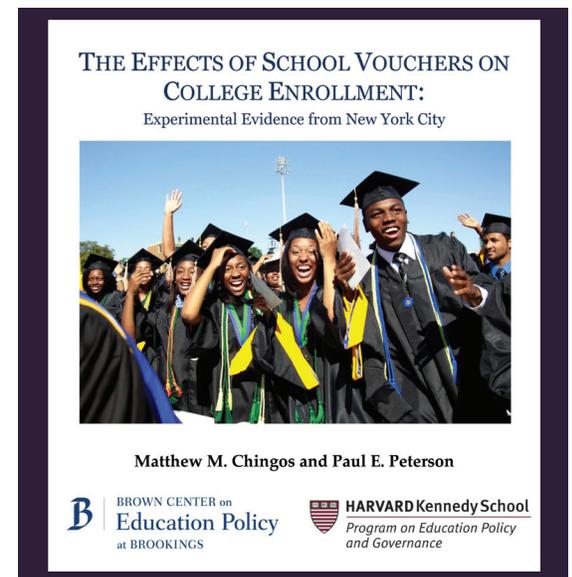
children to stay in school and benefit from the stability and support of their familiar school environments, CSF has reactivated our Stay in School Fund. Through the Fund, we will offer one-time supplemental assistance on top of our scholarships to families at risk of pulling their children out of private school due to financial difficulties caused by Sandy. If you would like to make a special gift to help these families, please mark your donation "Stay in School Fund." The affected families are extremely grateful for extra help during this challenging time. ●

Scholarships Increase College Enrollment...

A groundbreaking new study released this August by Matthew M. Chingos of the Brookings Institution and Harvard's Paul E. Peterson finds that African-American students in New York who won and used a scholarship to attend private school starting in Kindergarten were **24 percent more likely to attend college** than those who applied but did not receive a scholarship.

Underscoring its significance, this is the first study using data from a randomized trial (considered the "gold standard" in research methodology) to look at the effects of partial scholarships beginning in kindergarten on college enrollment.

The study also confirms and complements earlier research showing improved test scores



and higher graduation rates for CSF Scholars compared to their peers at public schools. ●

...And Private School Grads Earn More

A new study released by the St. Louis Federal Reserve in October finds that private school graduates, particularly Catholic school graduates, are likely to have higher salaries than public school graduates.

The study, using data from National Education Longitudinal Study

participants who graduated high school and are now working, found that while independent private school graduates earned about 2.6 percent more than their public school peers, Catholic school grads earn a statistically significant 13.6 percent more than public school grads.

Considering that 80 percent of all CSF Scholars attend Catholic schools because they are often the most accessible and affordable private school options in inner-city neighborhoods, this is very good news for CSF Scholars! ●

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

Omaha



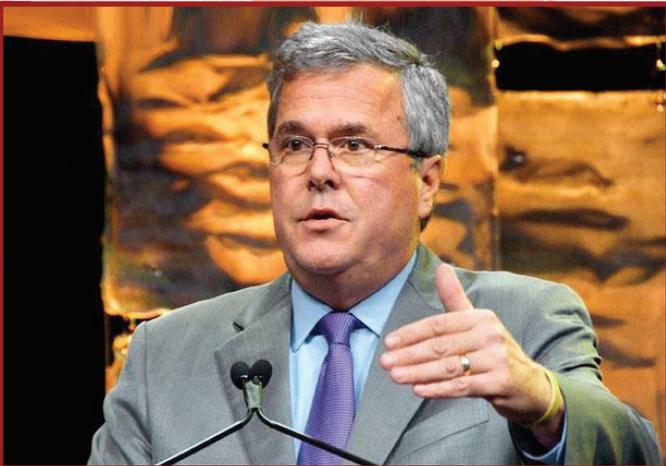
Former Notre Dame football coach Dr. Lou Holtz was the guest of honor at CSF Omaha's luncheon this June, which also honored six outstanding CSF Omaha Scholars.

Buffalo



A BISON Fund alum spoke about how her scholarship has changed her life at the annual BISON Celebration Luncheon this October.

Denver



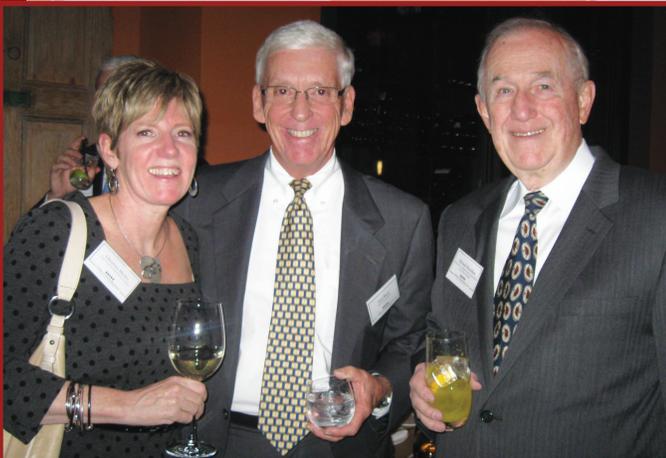
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush headlined the ACE Scholarships luncheon this spring in Denver. More than 1,500 people attended the luncheon.

Philadelphia



CSF Philadelphia Scholars were on hand to help spread the word at the Annual New Application Kick-off Event at Citizens Bank Park.

Partner Meeting



CSF partner chairs recently gathered in Philadelphia to strategize and share best practices. Pictured here (l-r): Christine Healey, Catholic Schools Partnership (Camden); Paul Bauer, BISON Fund (Buffalo), and CSF Board Member Mike Monahan, Education for a Brighter Future (Detroit).

Partner Meeting



At the CSF partner chair meeting (l-r): Tom Finnerty, Children's Scholarship Fund; Joe Oakes, Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties, NJ), and Jonathan Vogel, CSF-Charlotte.

CSF at the Movies: *Won't Back Down*

This September, Children's Scholarship Fund brought together CSF parents, teachers, school administrators, supporters, and friends for a preview screening of *Won't Back Down* in New York. The new movie stars Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis as two determined mothers who struggle to give their children a better education by overhauling their failing school. What a great occasion to celebrate giving parents a choice and giving children a chance! ●



CSF parents Troy and Letisha Gethers with CSF President Darla Romfo before the movie screening.



From l-r: Sophia Mullen; Kerry Fitzgerald; Heather Viets; Blythe Daly; Dave Miller, and Margot Pfohl.



Administrators and faculty from Trey Whitfield School in Brooklyn (where several CSF Scholars are enrolled) came out to support CSF at the screening.

President's Council Cocktails and Conversation



CSF's President's Council hosted a cocktail party at the New York Yacht Club this summer. At the event were: Jennifer Cramer; Chris Cramer; Cory Hebenstreit; Katherine Hebenstreit, and Shawn Saparamadu.



CSF Chair Mike McCurry, the evening's speaker, with Adam Brenner, President's Council Co-Chair.

Teddy Forstmann Scholars Begin Private School

This September, 112 children entered twelve private schools throughout New York City as Teddy Forstmann Scholars, thanks to a gift from the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation in memory of Ted Forstmann, CSF's late co-founder.

Teddy Forstmann Scholars represent the city's rich ethnic mix and their schools are just as diverse, ranging from Catholic and Jewish to Independent and Christian schools all over the city. But no matter their differences, the Teddy Forstmann Scholars have in common parents who sought out the right educational choice for their children, and applied to CSF to help them send their children to private schools.

One mother, Mercedes Mercado, shared that when her daughter, Amanda, was at her neighborhood public school, she saw a big gap between the level of work Amanda did at school and what she was capable of doing. Now in the fifth grade at Saint Albans School (a small Episcopal school) as a Teddy Forstmann Scholar, Amanda is working hard and Mercedes appreciates the school's much more rigorous academics and disciplined atmosphere. "I mostly want to say thank you to the organization for helping to make my daughter's private education possible," Mercedes said.

Robin Pelitaris also contacted CSF to express gratitude that her son, Angelos, was able to start Kindergarten at St. Demetrios Greek-American School in Queens with a Teddy Forstmann Scholarship. "From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for making it possible for my son to go to private



Teddy Forstmann Scholars at Solomon Schechter School of Queens.

school," she writes. "My son, Angelos, had problems with speech delay and his Pre-K teacher expressed concern with him attending public school. She felt he needed more one-on-one attention. We chose St. Demetrios in Astoria because my husband is Greek and it would also allow our son to learn his father's language. We are very happy with this school and thrilled he received assistance from your scholarship fund. THANK YOU again. It means so much to us."

We look forward to sharing news of the Teddy Forstmann Scholars throughout the year and in the years to come. They truly embody Ted Forstmann's legacy of giving low-income children a quality education and the opportunity for a brighter future. ●

CSF Debuts New Video

This fall, CSF debuted our new motion graphic video, The Children's Scholarship Fund Solution.



Through a series of graphics, the video highlights how CSF is tackling the education crisis and how CSF scholarships are empowering parents to choose better schools for their children, putting them on the path to a brighter future. You can watch the video on CSF's website or here: <http://youtu.be/mSJ1dWAN4qo>. ●

Stephen Joseph & CSF Team Up

If you're looking for just the right gift for a little person in your life, you may want to consider a backpack from Stephen Joseph, a company partnering with CSF this fall through its "Eat-Learn-Play" program.



For every "Sidekick" backpack sold, Stephen Joseph will contribute \$1 to fund CSF scholarships. The Sidekick backpacks come in eight colorful designs (e.g. a monkey, ladybug, and giraffe, just to name three) and they have been a real hit with our youngest supporters! ●

The Last Word:

“We cannot guarantee equal results, but everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed. And the equal opportunity can only be available if people get an education.”

- **Dr. Lou Holtz, former Notre Dame football coach, at a Children’s Scholarship Fund of Omaha luncheon, June 7th, 2012.**



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