



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume I, Issue 3

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

Fall 2004

In This Issue:

SS ScholarSHIP

::1::

CSF Spotlight

::2::

Straight from
the Schoolyard

::3::

Back to School

::3::

Escada & CSF

::4::

Thumbs Up

::4::

SS Scholarship
Pictures

::5::

Letter from
John T. Walton

::6::

Last Word

::6::

All Aboard the SS ScholarSHIP!

September 2nd dawned as a beautiful summer day in New York City. It was an especially good day for the SS Scholarship luncheon aboard a boat at



John T. Walton and Moses Dillehay (above), Dick and Betsy DeVos, SS ScholarSHIP co-chairs (below, right)

Chelsea Piers. With the help of many wonderful people, we were successful in raising enough money to support 140 scholarships. We extend a special thanks to our co-chairs Betsy and Dick DeVos for providing the wonderful venue, and to our other hosts including John Walton, Ted Forstmann, Roger Hertog, Julian Robertson, and Lt. Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller. We were also privileged to have Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH), Judd Gregg (R-NH), Rick Santorum (R-PA), and Gordon Smith (R-OR) as our honorary co-chairs.

Our special guests that day were Ruth Holland and her son, Moses, who is using a CSF scholarship to begin 7th grade at Grace

Lutheran School in the Bronx. Ruth and Moses, who has been a scholarship recipient since 3rd grade, shared their story of hope and commitment to education with our guests (see p. 2 for more on the family).

CSF is grateful to our corporate sponsors, Fidelity Investments, BellSouth Corporation, and Cushman & Wakefield, as well as our host committee (Douglas Dewey, Bill Hartman, Margot McGinness, Noelle Nikpour, and Venn Strategies,) and all the other donors and guests who made the event such a success. ■



Moses Dillehay, CSF recipient



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CSF Spotlight: Ruth Holland

A week after Ruth Holland was evicted from her apartment in Queens in April 1999, she returned to pick up mail that had accumulated and found a letter from the Children's Scholarship Fund saying her son, Moses, had won a scholarship. Although it was a horrible time for Ruth and Moses, the scholar-

ship provided the ray of hope that kept them going. In spite of their circumstances, Ruth managed to get Moses enrolled in a private school in her old neighborhood in Queens so that Moses would have the continuity of his friends and neighborhood during this difficult time. Living in homeless shelters in Manhattan while she tried to get back on her feet, Ruth would wake Moses up at 5:30 every morning and ride with him on the bus to school. Ruth would often wait for Moses and ride the bus back with him in the afternoon, spending her days at the neighborhood church near her old apartment.

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After a year in shelters, the family qualified for an apartment in the East Tremont section of the Bronx. Ruth remembers the day they first saw the apartment as a very happy one. She took Moses to the Bronx Zoo, a few blocks away, and they were able to relax for the first time in a year, knowing they once again had a

home. Now in their Bronx apartment more than four years, Moses is beginning 7th grade at Grace Lutheran School in the Bronx this September, while Ruth is studying for her masters degree. Every day is still a struggle, but they are deeply grateful for the scholarship. ■



*Ruth Holland
CSF Parent of
Moses Dillehay*

**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.**

Straight from the Schoolyard

Evangel Christian



Located in Long Island City, Queens, Evangel Christian School is a private non-denominational Christian school that was founded in 1985. The goal of the school, which serves almost 500 students in pre-K through 12th grade, is to “provide an environment where students can be educated in the highest principles of character, Christian leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship.”

Most of the school is housed in a former public school, but a large modern wing has been added to create a gym, cafeteria, meeting space, and outdoor play areas. The school also has good science and computer labs. Boy’s and girl’s volleyball, basketball, and track teams compete with other Christian schools in the tri-state area. Students

have weekly classes in art, music, library, phys. ed., and all classes attend weekly chapel service on Fridays. Students are encouraged to do ministry and community service, and some of the high school students have traveled to West Virginia to work on constructing houses for the homeless.

Principal Marilyn Johannsen says the school is very ethnically diverse, reflecting its immigrant neighborhood.

About 45% of the students are Latino, 25% African American, 20% Asian American, and 10% Caucasian. About a quarter of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. Seven children are using CSF scholarships to attend Evangel Christian School.

Father Izzy Flores, whose children Alexa and Caleb are entering 5th and 3rd grades respectively, tells CSF, “You guys have been a real S.O.S. for us.” ■

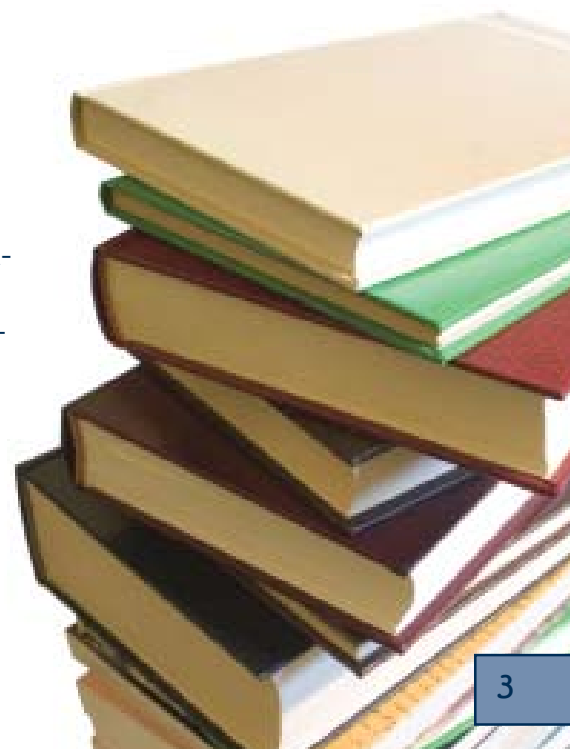


Principal Marilyn Johannsen with Jessica Winburn (above), Evangel Christian School (above, left), Alexa Flores (below, left)

Back to School with New Scholarships

More than 2,000 children will enter the private school of their family’s choice for the first time this fall with new Children’s Scholarship Fund scholarships. Eleven of our local partners are adding new scholarship winners with a combination of locally raised funds and matching funds from CSF. Programs adding brand new awards this year include: Baton Rouge;

Dallas; Denver; Indianapolis; Memphis; Michigan; New Mexico; New Orleans; New York City; San Francisco Bay Area, and Toledo. Also, the majority of our 38 partner programs are offering new scholarships to siblings of current recipients who are starting school this fall, in keeping with our policy of awarding scholarships to families rather than individual students. ■



Escada Women - Fashionable Philanthropists

Escada, the prestige international fashion house founded by Margaretha and Wolfgang Ley has chosen to partner with CSF in helping women and families by investing in their children.

The inaugural CSF luncheon sponsored by Escada at their Costa Mesa store generated contributions of \$4,000 for CSF's Los Angeles program. The contributions were based on a percentage of sales. This generous gift coming through Escada's very best customers will facilitate the creation of



three "Escada scholarships." These Escada Scholars will have the opportunity to attend the private or parochial school of their families' choice.

"We are profoundly grateful to the visionaries of Escada. They join a growing number of individuals united in the belief that every child in America should have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education. By partnering with CSF, Escada is making dreams a reality," said CSF President Darla Romfo.

"We are thrilled that as a result of this event, three children will now be able to enjoy four years of a superior learning environment that will positively impact their lives forever," said Samantha Walker, Escada's Director of Special Events.

Escada's commitment to making a difference will extend beyond this successful luncheon. CSF and Escada are in the process of developing new ways of reaching other concerned individuals who may wish to invest in quality education. Stay tuned. ■

“By partnering with CSF, Escada is making dreams a reality.”

Thumbs Up - Ian Peralta

When nine-year-old Ian Peralta enters fourth grade at St. Simon Stock School in the Bronx this month, he will be one of 100 students in New York who are entering private school with a new scholarship from CSF this fall.

An honor student who participates in many after-school activities, Ian already has a good track record at school. But his mother, Ingrid Cabrera is looking forward to her son's academic progress at his new school.

"I am more than confident that when my son receives this scholarship and attends private school he will not

only be a much more improved student than he is now, but will teach and show others around him that you can achieve anything you set your mind to," she wrote to us.

Although Ms. Cabrera works in the public school system, she was anxious for Ian to attend a private school, where he will be in a safer environment with more individual attention, and she will have more opportunities to be involved in the school.

"I hope that when my son is enrolled in [private] school I can have an active role in his education," Ms. Cabrera told us. ■

Ian Peralta and his mother, Ingrid Cabrera



All Aboard!

*More pictures
from the SS
ScholarSHIP*



Paul Bauer and Darla Romfo



*Darla Romfo (middle left),
Rosemary Becchi, and represen-
tatives of Fidelity Investments*



*Heather Higgins, Dick DeVos,
Roger Hertog*



*Douglas Dewey (left), Noelle
Nikpour, Darla Romfo, Sandra
Swirski of Venn Strategies*



*Ray Chambers (left), Margot
McGinness, Stanley F. Druckenmiller*



“CSF is offering valuable opportunities to children who have a lot of promise but few opportunities. I can relate to that.”

-Sammy Sosa, Chicago Cubs

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

Dear Friends of CSF,

This September marks the 6th year of living out the CSF mission. We want to give you, our friends and donors, our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. You help us fulfill our goal of giving parents a choice and children a chance.

The parents of more than 64,000 children have been able to choose the education they believed was right for their child because of your partnership with our families and us. We look to the day when every parent in America will have the opportunity to choose the right educational situation for their child, but with your help we will continue to help as many children as we can until that day comes.

Our newsletter can tell you only a few of the stories. There are literally thousands more stories of hopes ignited and dreams fulfilled. There are also many more parents who would take advantage of better educational options for their children if the means were available. We will continue to work to make these options a reality.

Sincerely,

John T. Walton
Chairman

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