

Los Angeles
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spotlight



Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for giving me a scholarship and helping my mother pay my tuition. I am doing very good in class. I will try to keep up the good work so I can go to a good high school.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Vincent Tidmore
Grade 8, Holy Angels School, Chicago

To the Children's Scholarship Fund,
The difference that the scholarship made for my children is that it gave them a chance to see what it's like to go to a school that has more control of the children and I like the change in them. What I like about the school I have chosen is that they have discipline and they teach the children about having responsibility. My children's grades and behavior have improved for the better, they have fewer fights, get into less trouble and get more homework to do. When we have any problems in or with the school there's always someone there who can solve the problem.
Annie Tramble (Vincent's mother)

Mikal Brown attends All Saints Catholic School in New Orleans, where she is on the cheerleading squad. Mikal, who has been on the principal's honor roll all year, hopes to continue her education and become a successful judge or doctor one day.



At his grade school, Jeremiah Ballard of Minneapolis was punched and beaten up by other students. His mother, Mary Ballard, worried that he was turning from an enthusiastic boy into a "moping, sad little one with no sparkle in his eyes."



"I hated being poor and having no choice about what kind of environment my child endured," she writes.

After the family was awarded a scholarship from KidsFirst (the CSF partner in Minneapolis), Jeremiah transferred to Pope John Paul II school, where he's now in 7th grade. Not only did he feel safer, he began to improve academically too.

"I was thrilled," Ms. Ballard says. "He developed confidence and the ability to do his school work. Without you, I don't know how my kids would have made it. Thank you KidsFirst!"



Lynn Carr decided she had to take action when school administrators told her that her son Lennell needed to be placed in Special Ed. and should be put on Ritalin. Her daughter, Latetha, was being teased and bullied, and both children dreaded going to school each day. Lynn was frustrated with the school academically, but she was also worried about her children's safety.

As she writes, "Just as I was about to lose hope, along came the blessing I had been praying for—the Children's Scholarship Fund."

After searching for a private school, Lynn, a social worker who attends New York Technical College at night, found Saint Rita's School in Brooklyn.

"Mr. Geasor, the principal, was made aware of my children's social issues and the fact that Lennell is asthmatic, and he was still willing to work with me and my children," Ms. Carr said.

"Latetha and Lennell's grades, their desire to learn and willingness to work have improved greatly," Lynn writes. "We are a much happier family and filled with hope for great things in our future."



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"We are...filled with hope for great things in our future."

*Dear Children's Scholarship Fund,
My name is Antonette Aragon and I am a 4th grader at La Academia at the Denver Inner City Parish. My family and I are very grateful to receive an ACE scholarship; thank you for your support. I wasn't doing very well in school before I came to La Academia. Now I have a 3.7 GPA and really enjoy going to school every day.*

*Thank you,
Antonette Aragon*