



Required Reading

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

Volume II, Issue 6

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

Summer 2005

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collage

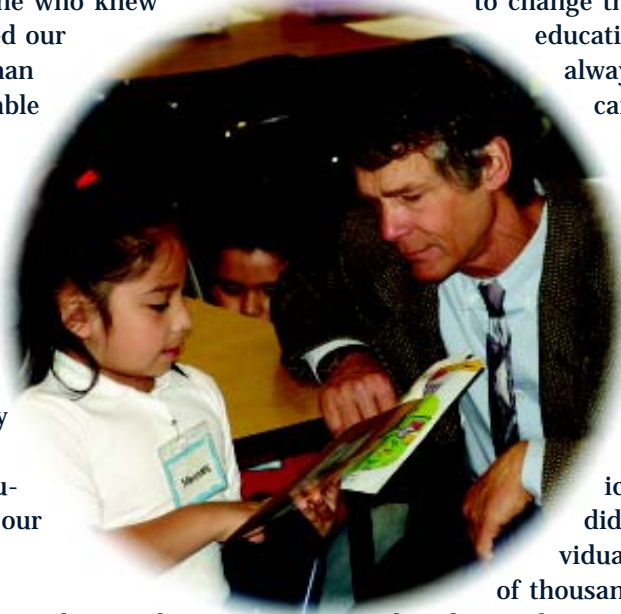
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A Tribute to John Walton: 1946-2005

On June 27, 2005 our Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO, John Walton was killed while flying an ultra light aircraft. Like everyone who knew John, we at CSF loved our leader. John was a man with a huge and humble heart, a strength of character and a passion for helping the least among us. He has visited many of our programs all over the country and knew and encouraged in a very personal way the people in the communities who join us in our work.



John affected everyone who met him. One of my fondest memories of John happened on a visit to Omaha, where we ate lunch in a school cafeteria. John was sitting at a small table surrounded by children. They didn't really comprehend how this man was changing their lives, but I know they have a memory of this warm and engaging man who sat right in the middle of them all and ate his lunch. He quietly talked to each child around him as if they were the most important person in the world. John made whoever he was talking to feel that way, and no one more so than a child.

John was tireless in his efforts and even with all the demands on his time and people vying for his attention, he always encour-

aged more communication and loved to hear the stories of individual children who were benefiting from the program. Even as he tried to change the policies to improve education on a grand scale, he always reminded me that we can never forget the importance of helping one person. He told me that if we ever did, we are in deep trouble. He often talked about one of the unexpected benefits that he had seen from helping a child, that we actually change family dynamics, as well. And John didn't just help one individual child. He helped tens of thousands of individual children have a better education. A little bit of John will live on in the people he has helped.

We have received many notes and emails from people who have been affected by John's life and work. Principals who had never met him but had experienced the miracle of his philanthropy through the children he helped at their schools wrote us some wonderful tributes. Many CSF families wrote to us, as well. In addition, people from all over the country have sent us memorials in John's name. While words cannot adequately capture all that John was and all that he did, we offer a sampling of them to you as a tribute to a truly good man. We will never forget you John. ■

-Darla Romfo, President

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::Board of Directors::

John T. Walton
CSF Co-Founder
In Memoriam
1946-2005

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Theodore J. Forstmann
CSF Co-Founder
Forstmann Little & Company

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Abuse, Columbia University

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Arthur Rock & Company

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Darla M. Romfo
Children's Scholarship Fund

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Brother John Walderman
Rice High School

Mailbag



Statement from the Board of Directors:

As members of the Board of Directors of the Children's Scholarship Fund, we would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Walton family upon the death of our friend and Board colleague, John Walton. We know John will be sorely missed by so many from the multitude of places where his life touched others, but it is hard for us to convey how deeply his loss will be felt at CSF.

John led CSF well. He was a man with a huge and humble heart, strength of character and a passion for helping the least among us. He was devoted not only to the larger principles that CSF tries to advance in the debate about education reform in America, he was especially devoted to the children—70,000 of them now and their families who have personally benefited from a CSF scholarship.

We want CSF to continue to give parents a choice in the education of their children. As board members, we are committed to doing our part to carry on this partnership with communities and families across the nation. We wanted you to know that for us, this will be a way to pay a lasting tribute to the memory of our dear friend.

It was an honor for all of us to serve with John on the board of CSF. We learned a lot from him. As sad as we are, we are also grateful to have served with him and gotten to know him. It was and is a special privilege to be part of something he cared deeply about.

Signed,

The Board of Directors of the Children's Scholarship Fund



"I am one of many single parents who because of this man was able to put my two boys through private grade school. He fulfilled his journey here with us, and will always be remembered. God Bless this angel."

- **Cindy Nerison**

"John Walton's generosity has allowed my son a quality Catholic education through Kids First Scholarship and also enabled me to become a licensed teacher without the worry of my son's schooling. I know I am a better parent because of his generosity."

- **Susan Zondlo**

"My husband and I would like to send our condolences. I would also like to thank you. Because of your Scholarship Fund, my two kids have not only excelled in their school, but I have seen a great improvement in them physically, mentally, and emotionally. Once again I am sorry for your loss, but you can bet that Mr. Walton will never be forgotten."

- **Mr. Antonio & Sandra Estrada**

"I cried when I read the news. The first thank you letter I wrote for my Kids First Scholarship was to Mr. Walton. I had no idea who he was but I was sure thankful for him. It saddens and grieves me so much to lose a man who cared about poor kids."

- **Kimberly Hawkins**

"Even though we had not met Mr. Walton personally we feel that we know him through his generosity and diligent efforts on our behalf. He will be missed."

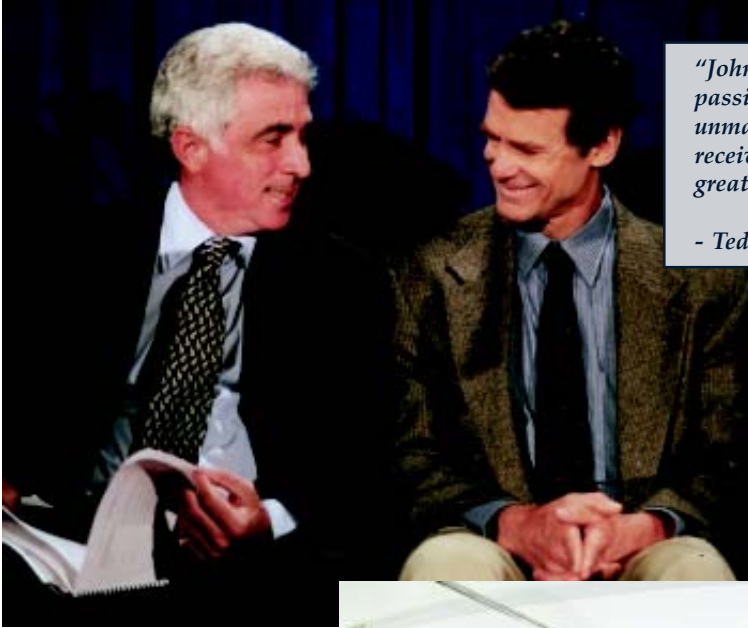
- **Carol Steddom**

"We on letter to u child in o Keny othe shar othe

- Sr
Jea
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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.

“You’re the folks that really deserve the credit and respect for reaching as far and trying as hard as you do to do the right things for your kids.”
-John Walton



“John Walton was one of the greatest philanthropists of all time. His passion for creating equal opportunity in education for all children was unmatched. Through his generosity, tens of thousands of children are receiving a quality education. He was also my partner, my friend, and a great guy.”
- Ted Forstmann, CSF Co-Founder

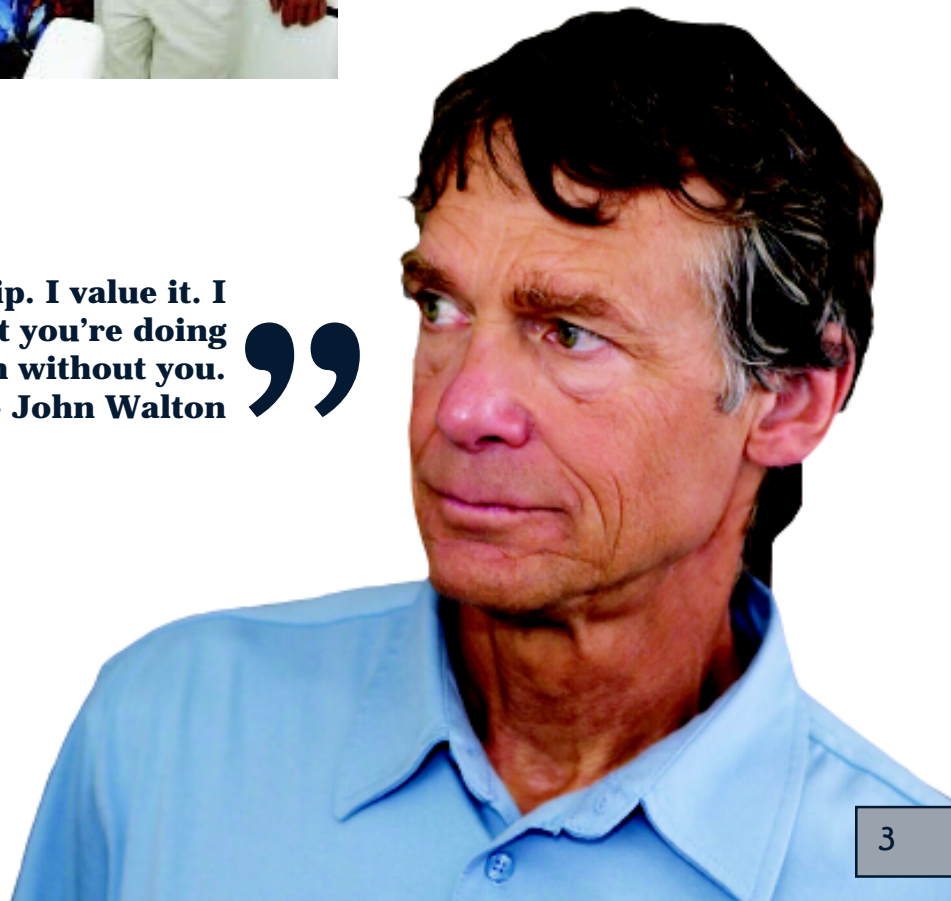


“When you see your kids doing well, there’s nothing like it.”
-John Walton

“It’s a real partnership. I value it. I totally respect what you’re doing and it wouldn’t happen without you.”
- John Walton

...were planning this fall to have the 45 students
 CSF Philadelphia scholarships write thank you
 ers to Mr. Walton. We want all who know John
 understand what this program means to our
 dren. For example, the K family has 7 children
 our school. They came from a refugee camp in
 ya 3 years ago. These children and many
 ers are here because Mr. Walton was willing to
 re from the blessings he received and to inspire
 ers to join him in this effort.”

**... Constance Marie, Principal and Sr.
 ...nette Lucey, Teacher, St. Francis de
 ...es School, Philadelphia**



The Last Word:

“I don’t address this very often, but I will tell you I consider these scholarships to be the most important investment I’ve ever made in my life. My commitment is to do everything that I can to see as many kids as we can get the opportunity for a good education.”

– **John T. Walton**, speaking at a CSF of Omaha luncheon, April 5, 2005.



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