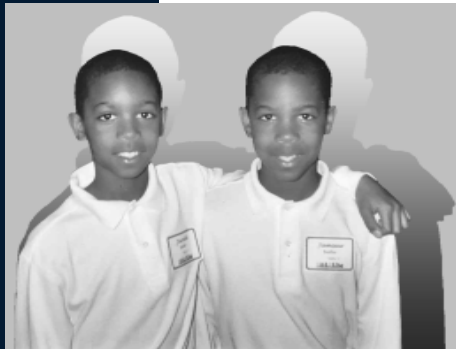


giving
parents
a choice
giving
children
a chance

CSF Around the Nation

Omaha Awards Luncheon

Twins Jarodd and Jamaur Butler, fourth-graders at Blessed Sacrament School in Omaha who lost their mother to cancer almost two years ago, were featured at an



Jarodd (left) and Jamaur Butler

awards lunch held by the Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha.

Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey presented Jarodd with a CSF Challenger Award for "his behavior and his willingness to be and do his best." He's also an honor roll student with

almost perfect attendance.

"Jarodd and Jamaur suffered the loss of their mother but have carried on. ...School is no country club. Sometimes it's very hard. It's great to see kids who are grateful for help – and willing to try hard, too." – *Omaha World-Herald*, April 1, 2004.

Anaheim scholarships

"I'm excited that we have this opportunity."

challenge grant from David and Diane Steffy, and have received the support of Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle.

Single mother Anabell Alfaro was interviewed about the chance her son will have to attend private school with CSF help.

"I'm excited that we have this

opportunity," Alfaro said. "To me, my son's education is basically the most important thing." – *Orange County Register*, March 13, 2004.

Walton Philanthropy

CSF was noted as a beneficiary of the Walton Family Foundation in *USA Today* recently. CSF Chairman

and co-founder John Walton told the paper that education is such a priority for his family because it can have the broadest impact on societal problems. Also interviewed was Genevieve Hernandez, of Queens, NY, whose daughter is a CSF recipient.

"I don't want her to be one of those statistics," she says. "I want her to be one of those leaders of tomorrow." – *USA Today*, March 11, 2004.

"I want her to be one of those leaders of tomorrow."

WSF and DC School Choice Program

CSF's partner in DC, the Washington Scholarship Fund, has been chosen to administer the D.C. School Choice Program, a \$14 million, five-year project which will allow 2,000 local children to attend private school.

"I look forward to the WSF taking on the task of operating this program and moving quickly to ensure a successful effort in the fall. I am confident that WSF will continue its good work of providing increased educational options for parents," said Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams. – U.S. Dept. of Education press release, March 24, 2004. ●

Summer 2004

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St. Nicholas School Anchors Area

Over the past five years, Brooklyn's formerly industrial Williamsburg neighborhood has become synonymous with urban renewal. But in 1865, long before developers started converting abandoned factories into loft apartments, St. Nicholas Church turned an adjacent building into a school that has been an educational mainstay for 139 years.

Since 1973, Sr. Joan Losson has served the school, first as a teacher, then, for the past 16 years, as Principal. Despite the rising cost of running the school, Sr. Joan has found ways to restore the historic building, add students, and continue the school's tradition of excellence, all while keeping tuition at a mere \$2,300 per child.

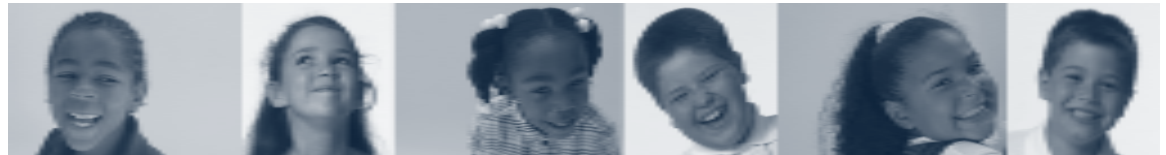
While many parochial schools are struggling to simply maintain their enroll-

ments, St. Nicholas is adding 5 new students each year, and is close to its capacity of 275. Sr. Joan credits the "dedicated faculty that encourages children to work hard" for attracting new students, and looks forward to continued expansion in the coming years.

**Sr. Joan credits
the "dedicated faculty
that encourages children to
work hard"**

A variety of fundraising efforts help to keep tuition low and raise broad-based support from the community. The students annually conduct a "parade of saints," where they dress up as saints, visit local merchants, and offer prayers for the success of local businesses. The St. Nicholas October "family night" consistently draws a capacity crowd, as children, their parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles come together to dress up, enjoy an evening of music and dancing, and raise money for the school.

Children's Scholarship Fund is proud to help the parents of seven children attending St. Nicholas this school year. ■



BASIC Solution for Bay Area Kids

The Children's Scholarship Fund aims to **maximize educational opportunity** for children from low-income families by offering them **partial tuition assistance to attend private and parochial schools.**

The Bay Area Scholarships for Inner City Children (BASIC) Fund is one of CSF's busiest partner programs. Launched just seven years ago by former Merrill Lynch Managing Director Jim McCarthy and financier Arthur Rock, the program has gone from 485 recipients to its current 3,328 children. And 1,200

more children will be attending their family's chosen school this year with new BASIC Fund awards.

The Fund has awarded \$16 million in scholarships since its inception. Like other scholarship programs that receive funds from CSF, the BASIC Fund provides up to 75% of tuition—for a maximum of \$1,500—for low-income families to use at

any private or parochial school. BASIC Fund recipients are attending more than 200 schools all over the San Francisco Bay Area,

including Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and independent schools.

Four schools have more than 100 BASIC Fund recipients in attendance. One of these, St. Peter's School in the Mission District, has more than 190 recipients this school year. Principal Victoria Butler told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "It's a program that's actually changed a lot of people's lives. A lot of these hard-working families simply couldn't afford to send their kids to our school. ...For them it's making a huge difference." ■



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Julian Robertson Takes a Trip to Charlotte

Children's Scholarship Fund-Charlotte founder Julian Robertson and his wife Josie came to Charlotte on April 27 for a full day of fundraising and "friendraising" for CSF-Charlotte. Mr. Robertson, founder of Wall Street's Tiger Management Fund and a friend of CSF founders John Walton and Ted Forstmann, made an initial gift of \$1.5 million to fund the Charlotte operation in 1999.

"I thought the idea of the Fund was good and I wanted to support a friend's effort," he said. "And I believe it is how we treat our children that says the most about a society. It is education, above all other things, that most affects whether children grow up to be successful in their personal lives and productive citizens of society."

Mr. Robertson, who serves on CSF's Board of Advisors, addressed members of the Charlotte invest-



Julian and Josie Robertson (2nd & 4th from l) with CSF-Charlotte board and staff members

ment community on such varied topics as the tech bubble, the qualities of a successful broker, and the immediate financial outlook for the US economy.

Following the luncheon, Headmaster Smokey Oats, a CSF-Charlotte Board Member, gave the Robertsons a tour of Trinity Episcopal School where they met several CSF-Charlotte students.

That evening, the Robertsons were honored for their commitment to education in North Carolina at a Duke Mansion reception. Mr. Robertson, a Salisbury, NC native, credits his own phenomenal success to the education his parents provided. He encouraged those attending to join him in making the same advantages accessible to all children in the Charlotte community.

CSF-Charlotte provides scholarships for more than 400 local children. ■

Test Scores Soar at St. Columba's School

About seven blocks from Madison Square Garden, St. Columba's School is providing a solid education for about 180 elementary students. The schools' students come from all over New York, some commuting to nearby Penn Station with their parents.

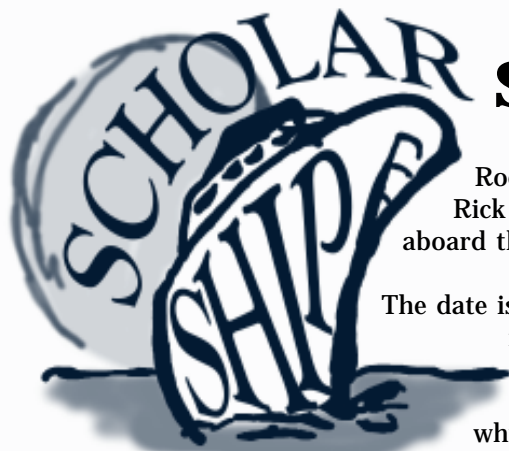
The story of what happened when the school absorbed students from another Catholic school that closed due to low enrollment illustrates the success of St. Columba's. According to Principal Cynthia Gargano, the new students took a while to adjust, and early test scores reflected that. But when you look at the schools' New York State test scores for the past three years, it is apparent that St. Columba's is a special place.

In just two years, the percentage of 8th graders passing in Math has gone from 50% to 86%. The English

Language Arts scores are even more amazing—they've risen from 50% to **100%**.

The 4th grade scores have followed a similar pattern. In 2001, the scores were 48% for Math and 24% in English Language Arts. By 2003, the scores had risen to 88% in Math and 76% in English Language Arts.

St. Columba's students are mostly Latino and African-American, and the majority qualify for free and reduced school lunches. ■



Come Aboard the S.S. ScholarSHIP!

Rockefeller along with honorary co-chairs Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH), Rick Santorum (R-PA), and Gordon Smith (R-OR) for a fundraising luncheon aboard the motor yacht *Seaquest*. *

The date is Thursday, September 2 (the last day of the Republican Convention), from 11:30am to 2pm at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

Details to follow. We don't want you to miss this opportunity to have fun while supporting CSF! ■

*Generously provided by the DeVos family

Crunching the Numbers: Catholic Schools

In many cities, Catholic schools are the schools of choice for a majority of our recipients. Among the reasons for their popularity: Catholic schools are plentiful; tuitions are lower than many other types of private schools, and many parents feel Catholic schools provide a safe, disciplined atmosphere where learning and values are nurtured.

- Of the 16,530 private elementary schools in the U.S., 6,785 are Catholic.
- 48.6% of all non-public school students in the U.S. are attending Catholic schools.
- The average tuition at Catholic elementary schools is \$2,178.
- 84% of Catholic elementary schools provide tuition assistance.
- 99.2% of Catholic school students graduate from high school, compared with 74% of public school students.

- In urban areas, the gap between Catholic and public school graduation can be much greater. For example, in New York City, only 38% of public school students graduate in four years, compared with 98% of those in Catholic high schools.
- 97% of Catholic high school graduates go on to colleges and technical schools.
- Catholic schools are not just for Catholics. In New York, 20-25% of all students are non-Catholics. At some schools, more than 50% are non-Catholics.

At many inner-city Catholic schools, ethnic minorities represent more than 60% of the student population. ■

Sources:

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