High Graduation Rates for CSF Grads

High school graduation is a key predictor of many quality of life indicators including future employment and lifetime earning potential. Given this knowledge, CSF is tracking scholarship alumni as they progress from eighth grade through high school and beyond.

We recently surveyed CSF New York alumni who were due to graduate high school in 2014 and found:

- 94 percent graduated from high school on time.
- And of the graduates responding, 90.2 percent are now college freshmen.
- Colleges where CSF New York alumni are enrolled include: Columbia University; Cornell University; Culinary Institute of America; Fordham University; New York University; and Villanova University.
- Another three percent of the graduates entered the workforce or military and 6.8 percent did not report their plans.

• All told, we heard back from more than 62 percent of the alumni surveyed, which is a significant increase over last year’s response rate of 54 percent.
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 by the Numbers, 2014-15

- 25 Partner Programs
- Scholarships to almost 25,000 children
- Scholarships worth $610M
- Almost 145,000 children impacted
- Since CSF’s inception in 1998

CSF on GreatNonprofits Top-Rated List

GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations, has honored CSF with one of its 2014 Top-Rated Awards.

Our Top-Rated Nonprofit Award was earned by the high number of positive reviews received from volunteers, donors, and the families we serve. One CSF parent wrote, “The Children’s Scholarship Fund was an amazing gift for my family. Without this organization, my son would not be in a happy, thriving learning environment. A million thanks from a single mom who couldn’t have done this without you.”


CSF Makes Holiday Shopping Easy!

Do you dread hitting the stores this season? Stumped about what to get that person who has everything? Why not consider making a gift to CSF in honor of someone on your list?

Customize one of several CSF tribute cards with a special message and we can print and send your card to either you or your recipient. If you are on a tight schedule, download a card design from our website, print your own card, and present it to your friend or loved one in minutes!

Please visit www.scholarshipfund.org/tributecard for details.

Another gift idea is a copy of Opportunity and Hope: Transforming Children’s Lives Through Scholarships by Naomi Schaefer Riley. The book profiles ten young men and women who are on the path to success thanks to scholarships they received at an early age.

Tri-County Scholarship Fund students Genesis Peña and Manny Lopez posed with honoree Bill O’Reilly at Tri-County’s annual dinner this fall. Tri-County Scholarship Fund serves children in New Jersey’s Morris, Passaic, and Sussex counties.


BISON Children’s Scholarship Fund Co-Founders Chris Jacobs, Tom Beecher, and Paul Bauer recently took to the stage at the Buffalo group’s 20th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon.

This September, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered the keynote address to more than 1,700 guests at the annual luncheon for ACE Scholarships.

New York Times bestselling author Wes Moore (center) met CSF Philadelphia alums Donald McGhee (left) and Anthony Samuels at the recent Sowing the Seeds of Future Success Benefit Party.

The BASIC Fund recently held a community fair at San Francisco’s Children’s Creativity Museum. As well as enjoying the photo booth and other activities, BASIC Fund families gathered information on high schools, summer enrichment programs and high school scholarship organizations.

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Ascension School’s Ben Carson Reading Room Opens

This fall, Ascension School in Manhattan became the first school in New York State to have a Ben Carson Reading Room thanks to the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.

Planning began more than a year ago, when CSF worked with the foundation, which also generously supports CSF, to identify a school and apply to the Carson Scholars Fund. Once Ascension was selected, CSF teamed up with Trulia to spruce up the old school library, repainting the room and creating a large and colorful mural. The room was then furnished with comfortable bean bags, and more than 2,000 new books were purchased to supplement the original library collection.

The official opening in October featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks from Andrew Sabin and Carson Scholars Fund Co-Founder Candy Carson. CSF was grateful to be part of this worthy project thanks to President’s Council member Shawn Sabin, Andrew Sabin, and Nancy Wendell of the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation. Special thanks go to CSF’s friends at Trulia, especially President’s Council member Nicolle Austin, who coordinated the Trulia volunteer project.

CSF Alum Addresses Philanthropy Conference

CSF New York alum Jason Tejada addressed Philanthropy Roundtable’s annual meeting in Salt Lake City this October.

Jason was one of three presenters who spoke on the topic, “How Philanthropy Changed My Life.” He talked movingly about how his CSF scholarship changed the trajectory of his life, leading to other scholarships to attend high school and, later, Columbia University.

“I am proof that philanthropy in the form of a scholarship can easily transform a student’s life,” Jason told more than 350 philanthropists in attendance.
CSF Spins for Scholarships
On a chilly Saturday in November, CSF supporters put the pedal to the metal at CSF’s first charity ride at Flywheel Sports in Manhattan. All proceeds from the event will be used for CSF New York scholarships. Big thank yous to Flywheel Sports and instructor Wendy Wolfson, raffle sponsors ClassPass and Fly Barre, and all the attendees, especially Sarah Miller and other CSF Young Leaders who recruited riders.

Heelys and Sean John Celebrate with CSF Families
On December 6th, a group of lucky CSF New York families enjoyed a festive holiday event sponsored by Heelys and Sean John. The celebration featured brunch, giveaways for CSF Scholars, and a live performance by recording artist Jacob Latimore, backed up by CSF Scholars from Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School’s gospel choir.

Many thanks to Heelys and Sean John for giving CSF families this opportunity, and to Sequential Brands Group and Young Leader Julia Graham, who made the opportunity possible. Check out CSF’s social media for photos from this special event!

#GivingTuesday: A Day of Giving Back
On Tuesday, December 2nd, CSF supporters helped celebrate #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back, by encouraging donations and raising awareness of our work. We invite everyone in the CSF family to participate in our “UnSelfie” campaign and share why you support CSF even after #GivingTuesday. See www.scholarshipfund.org/givingtuesday for more details.
LAST WORD

“I am eternally grateful for how CSF changed my life. I know that the parents of the hundreds of thousands of low-income Florida families are grateful for how CSF changed theirs through the scholarships.”

John Kirtley, founder of CSF Tampa Bay and Step Up For Students