

REQUIRED READING



Children's Scholarship Fund

Spring Semester 2019 Newsletter

CSF Honors Three 2019 Champions for Children

This May, CSF rolled out the red carpet (literally) to honor its 2019 Champions for Children. CSF Alumnus Jason Tejada, education reform advocate Derrell Bradford, and investor and philanthropist Arthur Rock were feted old-Hollywood style at New York's Roosevelt Hotel.

Arthur Rock is a former board member of CSF and co-founder of The BASIC Fund, CSF's Bay Area partner program. Sisters and BASIC Fund alumnae Lorena and Sofia Ortega-Guerrero accepted the award on Arthur's behalf, with Lorena noting, "Arthur Rock...is famous for being one of the earliest investors in many of today's most successful tech companies, including Intel and Apple. He also invested in my family. Because of Arthur Rock, [Sofia and I] got scholarships from The BASIC Fund and that investment led us both to Yale University."

In his tribute video, 50CAN Executive Vice President Derrell Bradford, shared the story of how a scholarship to private school changed his life. Derrell told the guests, "Education really is the thing. It really does flip your life from the on position into something that is epically different. It positions you to be something that as a child you might imagine and then one day as an adult you hopefully live."

After becoming a CSF Scholar in fourth grade, Jason Tejada graduated valedictorian of All Hallows High School and earned a full scholarship to Columbia University. Today, he's a Vice President at Morgan Stanley, as well as a board member at All Hallows and a member of CSF's President's Council.

"This award isn't just for me," Jason said accepting his award. "It's for all 174,000 students who through generous donations you all have helped gain access to a better life."

Proceeds from the event will support CSF scholarships in New York City. Thank you to our honorees, sponsors, in-kind donors, and all our guests for a wonderful evening. A special thanks to our master of ceremonies, Fox News host and veteran political journalist Juan Williams, and the students and staff of Incarnation School, Manhattan Christian Academy, and The Learning Tree Cultural Preparatory School for their starring roles.



CSF Champion for Children Derrell Bradford with CSF President Darla Romfo and Ed Kirby, who presented Derrell with his award after a warm and witty introduction about Derrell's early days in education reform.



CSF Scholar Angelina Payano, an eighth grader at Incarnation School, presented CSF Alumnus and Morgan Stanley VP Jason Tejada with his Champion for Children award. Jason and his sisters attended Incarnation using CSF scholarships.



Emcee Juan Williams with Lorena and Sofia Ortega-Guerrero, sisters who are both scholarship alumnae of CSF's Bay Area partner, The BASIC Fund, and students at Yale University. Lorena and Sofia accepted Mr. Rock's award on his behalf.

CSF would like to acknowledge our Directors Level Champions for Children sponsors, Michael Gerstner and Mitchell Howell, and Michael and Jenny Messner of The Speedwell Foundation. CSF is grateful to PSAV for providing audio-visual services for this year's event, and to all the evening's sponsors and in-kind donors.

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND provides children of low-income families with tuition assistance in grades K-8, and supports expanding educational opportunities for all children.

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Making Her Parents Proud: Shaiann Frazier, College Grad and Journalist

Recently we caught up with CSF Alumna and former intern Shaiann Frazier, who first used a CSF scholarship as a fifth-grader at Immaculate Conception School in the Bronx. Last month, Shaiann graduated magna cum laude from Lehman College with a journalism degree. At Lehman, she made the Dean's List all four years and served as Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. She also interned at NBC News and BronxNet, a public access channel. Currently, she's interviewing for her first full-time position in broadcast journalism.



CSF Alumna Shaiann Frazier recently graduated magna cum laude from Lehman College and is interviewing for her first full-time journalism position.

Motivation to work hard at school:

"My father. He would be very proud of me now. Even though he's not here*, he motivates me. My mom always told me he wanted my siblings and me to do well in school. I always wanted to make him and my mom proud."

Her internship at NBC News and future career goals:

"It was a really friendly work environment. I worked mainly with the breaking news team. I like crime stories and investigative pieces. Eventually, I want to have my own show for solving murders and cold cases to give people closure."

Advice for younger students:

"Always try to get involved and meet people - build strong friendships and relationships. Explore what you're good at. Be open to different things."

Shaiann's message to CSF donors:

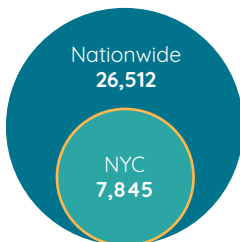
"Thank you to the Children's Scholarship Fund. I'm really thankful and hope scholarships continue to help people like myself. It's a great way for students to develop their potential and flourish."

*Sadly, Shaiann's father passed away from colon cancer when she was only three years old.

CSF Celebrates Graduation Season

Number of CSF Scholars in 2018-19 school year

Number of CSF Scholars graduating from 8th grade in 2019



CSF Partners and Speakers Gather for Annual CSF Partner Summit

CSF partners from around the country gathered in New York City this June for our annual CSF Partner Summit to hear from expert speakers, share best practices, and learn from one another.



CSF Partner Programs Around the Nation



MEMPHIS

Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) honored graduating high school seniors at their 2019 Senior Reception. All 23 of these MOST alumni are heading to college this fall.



COLORADO

ACE Scholarships alumnus Afriye Phillips with tennis champion Andre Agassi, who was the guest speaker at the 2019 ACE Annual Luncheon in Denver.



PHILADELPHIA

CSF Philadelphia welcomed 2,000 new scholarship recipients and honored students, alumni, teachers, parents, donors, and volunteers at their Student Award Ceremony this June. Special guests included the Phillie Phanatic, who helped distribute awards.



NEWARK

Students from Academy of Our Lady of Grace served as greeters at the recent Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Gala. SFIC partners with CSF to provide scholarships in northern New Jersey.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

CSF New Hampshire celebrated School Choice Week in Concord with student talent from schools of all types as well as enrichment programs including Youth Beatz, an after-school drumming program.



OMAHA

Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha celebrated its 20th anniversary and honored the family of its late founder, Tal Anderson, at their annual luncheon recently.

CSF Celebrates School Choice Week in NYC

This January, more than 500 children tumbled out of buses and vans on upper Fifth Avenue, filling the auditorium of the New York Academy of Medicine with their enthusiastic cheers. This diverse group of students, teachers, and principals from thirteen schools, parents, and other guests came together to shine a spotlight on the incredible work private and parochial schools are doing for their students each and every day.

The School Choice Week celebration kicked off with an energetic South African gumboot dance by Manhattan Christian Academy, and continued with choir performances by Saints Joachim and Anne School and Al-Ihsan Academy, and spirited African dancing and drumming by The Learning Tree Cultural Preparatory School.

After a welcome from CSF President Darla Romfo, CSF Los Angeles Alumna Nicole Serrato, who now works part-time for CSF while she's studying for a film degree, encouraged the students to recognize the investment their parents and others are making in them through their education and pay it back by working hard to fulfill their potential.

Master of Ceremonies Derrell Bradford, executive vice-president of 50CAN and CSF Champion for Children, inspired the students with his own story of how a scholarship put him on a path that led him to the Ivy League and a career in education reform. And New York State Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo of the Bronx appeared by video, sharing his support for choice in education.

The grand finale came when students from eight schools – including Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Catholic, and Independent schools – performed an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. You can watch excerpts from the event at <http://bit.ly/NYNCSW19>.



Kicking off the festivities, students from Manhattan Christian Academy performed a high-energy gumboot dance, which originated with gold miners in South Africa.



Students from The Learning Tree Cultural Preparatory School impressed the audience with their African dancing and drumming performance.



CSF Earns 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating

We are proud to share that Charity Navigator has awarded CSF four stars (its highest rating) for strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

According to Charity Navigator President & CEO Michael Thatcher, "This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Children's Scholarship Fund exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work."

CSF in the News



"Big fun last night as I hosted a dinner here in New York for the Children's Scholarship Fund. The group provides scholarships to children in Kindergarten to eighth grade. The idea? Let those kids find schools that work for them, that fit for them in the spirit of school choice. Life-saving work, hats off!"

- Juan Williams, *The Five*, Fox News, 5/9/2019: <http://bit.ly/JWChamps19>



educationpost

better conversation, better education

"If it wasn't for the Children's Scholarship Fund, as vulnerable as I was, I could have ended up on a very, very different path. I don't know exactly what my future would have been, but I wouldn't be who I am today if I had never received that scholarship."

- CSF Alumna Nicole Serrato, *Education Post*, 1/22/2019: bit.ly/EdPostNicole



"I want to see a world where every kid has a chance to reach their full potential and every parent has the ability to say, 'This is my child and I want them to be educated in this way.'"

- CSF President Darla Romfo, *Dan Henninger's Deep Dive* program on Fox Nation, 1/11/19: <http://bit.ly/DeepDive011119>

DAILY NEWS

"While all scholarship recipients are in economic need, [CSF] requires that their families cover a minimum of 25% of the tuition amount. This affirms that parents are full partners in their children's education."

- Ray Domanico, *NY Daily News*, 1/24/19: bit.ly/RDCSF0119

NYC Events Bring CSF Supporters and Alumni Together



Ray Domanico, the Manhattan Institute's Director of Education Policy, spoke with CSF's President's Council and Young Leaders Board members about the educational landscape in New York City this March.



CSF alumni and their families teamed up with CSF Young Leaders Board members for trivia, networking, and forging new friendships. Special thanks to St. Jean Baptiste High School in Manhattan for lending us their space.



Special thanks to Michael Berezny (above) and all the Team CSF members who ran the NYC Half this Spring to raise funds for CSF scholarships.

If you are interested in running a marathon, undertaking another fundraising challenge on behalf of CSF, or joining CSF's President's Council or Young Leaders Board, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Savannah Elam at selam@scholarshipfund.org.



Children's Scholarship Fund

8 West 38th Street, 9th Floor
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The Last Word

"For me, what you do here is so personal. You're looking at proof, living proof, that education is the most liberating force in the world. A good education, the kind of education that you all make possible, is truly a gift that keeps on giving – to me, to my family, to my community, to generations to come. And that's why I believe that learning should not be limited by anyone's zip code. It shouldn't be limited by your parents' income. It shouldn't be burdened by politics."

- **Juan Williams**, *political journalist and analyst*



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