

REQUIRED READING

Spring Semester 2022 Newsletter

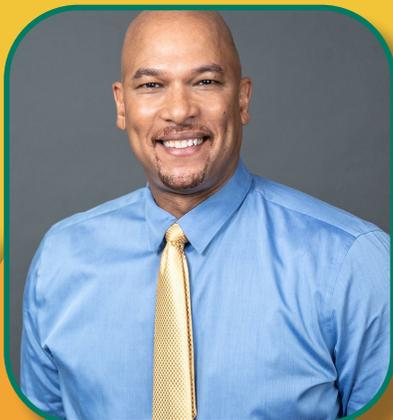


Xavier James Joins CSF Board of Directors

CSF is proud to announce Xavier D. James has joined its Board of Directors.

Mr. James is currently the Chief Operating Officer of The Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA). In this role, he oversees organizational infrastructure, human resources, finance, communications, information technology, budgeting, philanthropy, as well as providing support for the business department of the Association. Prior to joining MLBPA, Xavier was the Founder and President of The James Group, a company that specialized in general contract negotiations including business matters in the sports and entertainment industries, and served in various roles at MasterCard Worldwide, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, Simon & Schuster, and HBO.

Mr. James grew up in the South Bronx and received a scholarship to attend boarding school in Massachusetts from the age of thirteen. "At an early age, the connection between school and possible success in life was relatively clear to me. When I realized there was a world outside of the Bronx and school was the conduit to that world, it really motivated me," he has said.



CSF Salutes the Class of 2022!

CSF would like to congratulate the 2,575 CSF Scholars nationwide (including 676 students in New York City) who recently graduated from eighth grade and are heading to high school this fall. Thousands more CSF alumni also earned their high school diplomas and college degrees this graduation season.

Based on research and our own surveys, we are confident that this year's CSF eighth graders will go on to graduate from high school and college, or pursue other worthy paths. For example, last year we surveyed CSF New York alumni who graduated eighth grade in 2017 and found that 98.8 percent of CSF alumni in New York graduated high school on time, compared to the average New York City public school graduation rate of 81 percent. Considering that high school graduates go on to enjoy higher lifetime earnings, better health, and a longer life, that's worth celebrating!

In addition, studies have shown that CSF alumni are four times more likely than their peers to enroll in and graduate from college. Of course, college is not the only route for CSF alumni, who also enroll in vocational school, join the military, enter the workforce, and otherwise pursue their dreams.



CSF Scholar Beatrice Brown graduated from The Learning Tree Cultural Preparatory School this June and will head to Chicopee High School in Massachusetts. Her mother, Miriam, told us that her daughter flourished academically after moving to The Learning Tree in third grade.

CSF Scholar Kyle Blowe, a new graduate of St. Raymond Elementary School in the Bronx, will soon be a freshman at St. Raymond High School for Boys. He told us, "I would like to thank CSF for giving me this opportunity to attend private school. It is a proud and happy moment for me as I continue my education onward."



CSF Scholar Gianna Almonte recently graduated from Immaculate Conception School in the Bronx, where she earned recognition for leading fellow classmates in a positive communications exercise to ease the stress of Covid challenges.

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.

Board of Directors

CO-CHAIRS

MATTHEW W. BONANNO
General Atlantic

MARGOT MCGINNESS

JEFFREY S. CHANG
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

STEPHEN FRAIDIN
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

MICHAEL GERSTNER
RS Access

CHRISTOPHER P. HALPIN
IAC

XAVIER D. JAMES, SR.
The Major League Baseball Players Association

DAVID E. JOHNSON
Caligan Partners

MIKE MCCURRY
Wesley Theological Seminary

DARLA M. ROMFO
Children's Scholarship Fund

KEVIN M. SHORT
Clayton Capital Partners

REMY W. TRAFLET
Traflet & Company, LLC.

HEATHER VRATTOS

JUAN WILLIAMS
Fox News

CHRISTY WALTON
Board Member Emeritus

THEODORE J. FORSTMANN
CSF Co-Founder
In Memoriam
1940-2011

JOHN T. WALTON
CSF Co-Founder
In Memoriam
1946-2005

CSF in the News



"If you look at all kids across the country, only a little over a third are proficient in math and reading, and that's been going on for a long time. So I'm kind of glad that everybody's seeing that now and understanding what's happening. It's waking people up. Last year, 50% of parents said they were either thinking about changing or going to change their child's school. And now we have over 74% of all voters and 80% of parents who believe in school choice - money following the child. That's a huge jump." - CSF President Darla Romfo, *Fox Business Tonight*, 1/11/22, <https://bit.ly/DMRCSF011122>



"The benefit of school choice was again underscored for me when I received a Valentine's Day 'Thank you' card from a woman whose daughters are recipients of Children's Scholarship Fund tuition in New York City. ...'Nissa' wrote: 'Both my daughters and myself have promised to work hard and support one another towards reaching their goals so that they can continue to be the best students they can be. This has brought great joy and gratitude, as well as inspiration to continue to be bright lights during what some may consider a dark time. It's truly a blessing and we cannot thank you enough.'" - Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist, *New York Post*, 2/14/22, <https://bit.ly/ThomasCSF22>



"Now in education with the Education Freedom Account, the parent is in the driver's seat and we at CSF are really the guardrails - the guardrails and the gas - making it so the family can ride down the education road, and helping them figure out how to do it and what to do and keeping them in those guardrails." - CSF New Hampshire Executive Director Kate Baker Demers, *NH Talk Radio*, 7/6/22, <https://bit.ly/CSFNHTR070622>

AFC's Tommy Schultz Joins CSF for Lunch and Learn

This spring, CSF hosted a Lunch and Learn webinar with Tommy Schultz, President of the American Federation for Children, offering insight into the school choice landscape and prospects for more progress in 2022. Watch a replay of the event here: bit.ly/CSFAFC22.



CSF Partner Programs Around the Nation



DENVER

Condoleezza Rice, 66th United States Secretary of State, gave the keynote address at ACE Scholarships' Annual Luncheon this May in Denver.



PHILADELPHIA

CSF Philadelphia (CSFP) Executive Director Keisha Jordan and Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Ekram Ibrahim, a University of Pennsylvania student, celebrated at CSFP's 20th Anniversary Gala this June.



BUFFALO

Members of the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund's President's Council visited Catholic Academy of West Buffalo in May for a reading day.



OMAHA

Antonio Chavez, now a student at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was the Inspiring Alumnus Award winner at CSF of Omaha's CHANCE Luncheon this June. Antonio is pictured here with his family.



NEW JERSEY

Ana Madan (center), owner/operator of nine New Jersey McDonald's franchises, was one of four honorees at Tri-County Scholarship Fund's 2022 Women of Achievement Awards Celebration in May. She is pictured here with students from Mary Help of Christians Academy.



ST. LOUIS

Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation's (TEF) outgoing Board Chair (and CSF board member) Kevin M. Short (left) and Executive Director Julie Scott Soffner (right) were at St. Cecilia School in St. Louis recently to promote the Show-Me State's new empowerment scholarship accounts program, MOScholars, with Missouri State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick (second from right). TEF will be one of six organizations administering MOScholars accounts this fall.

Donor Spotlight: Barbara Schwartz and Jerry Flum



Barbara Schwartz and Jerry Flum began giving to CSF through the B. Robert Schwartz Memorial Scholarship, named for Barbara's late father. As well as being loyal supporters, they are members of CSF's Founders' Legacy Society and recently shared with us their motivation for supporting CSF.

Inspiration for supporting scholarships: We had heard about Ted Forstmann's support of school choice—an idea we also value—so we looked into [CSF] after my father died in April, 2008. My husband and I wanted to memorialize my dad with an educational scholarship since his family rose from uneducated immigrants to successful professionals via education. Success is the result of hard work, street smarts, and perseverance. These qualities personify my dad—whether it was business, tennis, bridge, whatever—he loved to win! We hope that my dad's story (which we have CSF distribute to anyone who gets money from our donation) will inspire "our" students to work hard and persevere.

Why CSF?: Once we started supporting CSF, we were impressed with the educational outcomes—nearly all students finishing high school and most heading on to college and graduating or doing other thrilling things like the young woman who builds Nascars! We have enjoyed the occasional heartfelt thank you note we receive from parents or the Valentines we get from students who thank us for our aid!

We also appreciate that the funds CSF distributes are "a helping hand" so the families must also participate in meaningful ways. Finally, we love that the money raised goes 100% to the scholarships and not fundraising mailings with address labels!

On the concept of school choice: We believe parents know their children better than anyone else and should be empowered to select the type of education that would work best for their kids. [During the pandemic], the closed public schools wreaked havoc with working parents as well as the students, and happily that has moved the school choice issue front and center in the national discussion. It's a great moment for CSF. My hope is that as the country tries to recover from the Covid nightmares of these recent few years of missed education, that innovative people will continue to seed more experiments in the education world to find alternatives to failing public schools.

Advice for CSF Scholars and alumni: I would advise that one learns throughout one's lifetime and to keep the curiosity alive! It's hard for young people to appreciate how short life is, even if you're blessed with a long one. And, it's very hard to find time during those peak work years when we are often raising children and maybe helping with older parents, to take time for ourselves. So be thrilled that you learned how to read because a good book is a real cheap escape!!

Establish Your Legacy with CSF

Interested in establishing a meaningful legacy with CSF? Legacy gifts in your will cost nothing today, but ensure more children get a better education in the future.

To help make this process easier, CSF is sharing a **free estate-planning resource** that makes writing and updating a will simple and 100 percent free. This tool can be shared with friends, family, and colleagues to support their own estate planning and encourage them to create a legacy that stands alongside CSF's vision of every child reaching their full potential. **Visit <https://bit.ly/CSFFreeWill> to create your free plan**, and to learn more about CSF's Founders' Legacy Society, visit <https://scholarshipfund.org/planned-giving/> or call Michele Mitola at 212-515-7108.



School Choice Continues Growth Pattern, Helping More Children Nationwide

So far in 2022, there have been many encouraging signs that the country is moving closer to Ted Forstmann and John Walton's original vision of educational freedom. For example:

- CSF's New Hampshire program continues to grow at a brisk pace with the passage of the state's Education Freedom Accounts (EFA) program in 2021. CSF New Hampshire has gone from 600 students under the Education Tax Credit (ETC) program in 2020-21 to offering both EFA and ETC awards to families of more than 2,000 children in 2021-22. This September, we expect to help at least 3,000 Granite State children with continued potential for expansion.
- CSF's St. Louis partner, Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation, is one of six organizations selected to administer Missouri's new empowerment scholarship accounts beginning this fall. The program will allow qualified families to pay for tuition and other education expenses with the money that would have been spent by the state for their child's schooling (more than \$6,000 for 2022-23).
- This June, Arizona passed a universal education savings account program that will empower the families of 1.1 million children to customize their children's education.
- Also in June, the Supreme Court's *Carson v. Makin* decision ruled that families participating in Maine's voucher program should be free to choose religious schools as well as other types of non-government schools.
- At the federal level, the Educational Choice for Children Act, recently introduced in both the House and Senate, proposes a federal tax credit for donations to scholarship granting organizations. If enacted, such a tax credit program could be a pathway to educational freedom for families even in states that don't adopt their own taxpayer-funded choice programs.



CSF Young Leaders and President's Council Pay It Forward

Thank you to our young supporter groups for raising both scholarship dollars and awareness. So far this year:

- Five members of Team CSF trained for and completed the United Airlines NYC Half Marathon, exceeding their goal of raising \$14,000. Together, team members Graelin Mandel, Liam Nelson, Jackie Palma, Stephanie Palma, and Nicole Serrato's (pictured above) efforts will fund scholarships for six low-income New York City children in 2022-23;
- Young Leaders Board and President's Council members mentored CSF alumni in high school and advised them on career strategies in a series of webinars and networking sessions, and
- After a three-year hiatus, the Young Leaders Board's Party for a Purpose returned in-person to raise funds for CSF scholarships while introducing friends and colleagues to the cause.

To find out more about volunteering at future CSF alumni events or undertaking a fundraising challenge on behalf of CSF, please contact Kurt Faulhammer at kfaulhammer@scholarshipfund.org.



From l-r: Alex Olea, Shelby Denton, Shirley Hu, and Sylvie Chen enjoyed the Young Leaders Board's Party for a Purpose.



From l-r: Kevin Heller, Giancarlo Diaz, Kurt Faulhammer, and Young Leaders Board Co-Chair Samantha Zeiss were among the guests raising money and awareness of CSF scholarships at Party for a Purpose.



Sisters Jackie and Stephanie Palma celebrated at the finish line of the NYC Half this March.



Children's Scholarship Fund

8 West 38th Street, Suite 804
New York, NY 10018

The Last Word

"Parents are amazing. Parents are the rock of school choice. We are the ones that fight for our babies to have a better educational experience in this country. ...My fears of speaking just went away when I realized that my voice could make a difference. And that's what most of us don't know. We don't realize that our voices make changes, they make a difference."

- School choice advocate Virginia Walden Ford, at CSF's 2022 School Choice Week celebration



Children's Scholarship Fund
8 West 38th Street, Suite 804
New York, NY 10018
(212) 515-7100
www.scholarshipfund.org

 /ScholarshipFund

 @CSFNational

 @CSFNewYork