



Children's Scholarship Fund

REQUIRED READING

Fall Semester 2022 Newsletter



2022-23: CSF by the Numbers

28,418

CSF Scholars nationwide

6,345

CSF Scholars in NYC this year

200,750

CSF Scholars since inception

\$989 million

in CSF scholarships since inception

More than 11,100

new scholarships nationwide this year

Almost 1,400

new scholarships in NYC this year



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

November and December give us several days designated for reflection on stories bigger than our own lives. If you are reading this, you are part of the CSF family and part of our much larger story every day of the year.

It is the story of parents seeking a better education for their children and having faith and hope that if they succeed, their child will be set on the path to a better life. It is the story of school communities doing so much for the children and families they serve, often with very limited resources.

It is the story of generosity coming from all kinds of people across our CSF community and touching the lives of our families at just the right moment. It is a big story with all kinds of people playing a part—some larger and some smaller, but all important.

So as I take a moment to reflect during this season of thanksgiving and wonder, I will be offering a prayer of thanks for each of you, wherever you fit into this story. Thank you and may the blessings of this season touch your life in unexpected ways.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Darla M. Romfo
President

Major Milestone: More than 200,000 CSF Scholars Served Since 1999

This school year, the families of more than 28,400 children are using CSF scholarships to choose the educational paths that best meet their children's needs. The total includes more than 11,000 children who are brand new to CSF.

All told, since CSF's first scholarships were awarded in 1999, more than 200,750 children have benefitted from access to the education their parents have chosen for them.

Year after year, we hear from families who are grateful for the opportunity to place their children in environments where they are guided by mentors and offered exposure to new worlds. For example, this summer, our annual survey of CSF New York parents found:

- 98.4%** reported their CSF scholarship helps them make the best educational choices for their child;
- 96.2%** rated their experience with CSF a 4 (10.6%) or 5 (85.6%) on a scale of 1-5, and
- 94.37%** feel they would not be able to afford private school tuition (61.84%) or they were "not sure" (32.53%) if they could without a CSF scholarship.

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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CSF in the News

"Whatever school fits your needs is where your kid deserves to be."

- CSF New Hampshire parent Abbey Clegg, interviewed in *The Hechinger Report*, 9/7/22, <https://bit.ly/HechRep22>



"The way we've designed our program is really responsive. It's completely parent-centric and parent-driven... We said the families are going to drive this program. So all of the providers have been onboarded because of the families saying, 'I want to use this tutor. I want to use that school. I want to use this online provider. I want to buy this curriculum.' Yes, it's a lot of work to do that vetting and onboarding process, but we thought that methodology was correct. That was the spirit of this law and program - that the parent is the driver and we are at their service."

- CSF New Hampshire Executive Director Kate Baker Demers speaking about the NH Education Freedom Account program with Kerry McDonald on her *LiberatED* podcast, 9/13/22, <https://bit.ly/LiberatED0922>

"Right now, we have a system where the money goes directly to the system; it doesn't follow the child. We all pay taxes and the only option is for parents to send their children to a government-run school with those tax dollars. We need to get to a system that's transparent, that's accountable to parents, that gets back to the academics."

- CSF President Darla Romfo speaking with Ainsley Earhardt on *Fox & Friends*, 8/15/22, <https://bit.ly/RomfoFF22>



CSF New Hampshire Featured at ExceInEd Summit

CSF New Hampshire Executive Director Kate Baker Demers (far left) discussed the implementation of the Granite State's Education Freedom Account (EFA) program at ExceInEd's 2022 National Summit on Education in Salt Lake City this November. Fellow panelists included (from second to left): Dr. Albert Cheng of the University of Arkansas, Sarah Raybon of Arizona's Department of Education, Doug Tuthill of Step Up for Students in Florida, and moderator Shaka Mitchell of the American Federation for Children. Also this fall, Kate spoke about the NH EFA program at the State Policy Network Annual Meeting in Atlanta.



CSF Recognized by Charity Navigator and GreatNonprofits

Recently, CSF was awarded four stars by Charity Navigator for strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency, again achieving the highest rating possible. According to the charity watchdog, their four-star rating means a charity "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause."

We're also happy to report that CSF is once again on the GreatNonprofits' Top-Rated Nonprofit List, thanks to positive reviews from scholarship families, donors, and volunteers.

In one review, a CSF parent shared, "Children's Scholarship Fund has proven to be an excellent resource for us in helping cover our tuition bills and providing our children with a wholesome, valuable education that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Kudos to this great organization!" Another parent wrote, "CSF has been a driving force in my family's life. My daughter has been performing well in school and CSF and their donors have made that possible for her. I am looking forward to contributing to the CSF."

Visit the GreatNonprofits website to read more reviews and share your own: <http://bit.ly/CSFgreatnonprofits>.



Four Star Charity



CSF Partner Programs Around the Nation



St. Louis

CSF's St. Louis partner, the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation (TTEF), announced the first group of recipients (pictured above) of Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (MOScholars) at the beginning of the school year. TTEF is one of six organizations in the state selected to administer the new accounts program, which is funded through tax credits.



New Hampshire

This September, CSF New Hampshire hosted a Donor Appreciation Event, allowing supporters to meet scholarship families and hear directly how much their help is appreciated. Pictured (left to right): Robert Cloutier, Louise Cloutier, CSF New Hampshire Executive Director Kate Baker Demers, Day Chauvette, and Dr. Kevin Chauvette.



Buffalo

BISON Children's Scholarship Fund Alumna Gloria spoke at BISON's Annual Celebration Luncheon in Buffalo in October. Gloria, now using a John R. Oishei Scholarship to attend a Catholic high school, told attendees how she and her siblings have benefitted from BISON scholarships: "It was a blessing and a game-changer for my family because we would never have had the opportunities we've had."



New Jersey

At its 41st Annual Awards Dinner on November 1, Tri-County Scholarship Fund was presented with a Ukrainian flag from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ, in gratitude for scholarships provided for Ukrainian refugee children now in New Jersey. The event was attended by 850 guests and raised \$2.4 million for scholarships.



Memphis

CSF's Memphis partner, Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (M.O.S.T.), recently gathered scholarship alumni for a networking event. The evening featured remarks from M.O.S.T. board member Keith McBride II (pictured at far right), who shared advice about the importance of believing in oneself and establishing routines to help achieve goals.



Houston

Students from The Imani School sang at the ACE Scholarships luncheon in Houston this fall. ACE Scholarships partners with CSF to offer scholarships in Colorado, Montana, Kansas, Texas, and Wyoming.

Team CSF Funds Scholarships by Running NYC Marathon

On Sunday, November 6th, the TCS New York City Marathon returned at full capacity for the first time since 2019, and among the more than 47,000 runners completing the course were four members of Team CSF!

We are incredibly grateful to Teddy Calligeros, Nick Lange, Ryan Marshall, and Sam Todd. Thank you also to CSF President's Council member Thomas Rivera-Patterson, who was sidelined by a runner's injury, but raised funds and also hopes to run for Team CSF in a future race. By taking on not only the marathon, but also the goal of raising money for scholarships, these Team CSF members demonstrated true determination, stamina, and generosity!

Together, the team exceeded its goal of raising \$12,500 for scholarships, and will fund at least six scholarships for low-income children in New York City.

If you are interested in volunteering at future CSF alumni events or running a marathon or half-marathon on behalf of CSF, please contact Kurt Faulhammer at (212) 515-7106.

Thank you to Sam Todd for raising scholarship funds by running in the TCS NYC Marathon as part of Team CSF.



Team CSF's Teddy Calligeros was greeted by CSF supporters cheering on the runners at Mile 19 of the TCS NYC Marathon course.

Make a Lasting Impact: Join the CSF Founders' Legacy Society

The founders of Children's Scholarship Fund, Ted Forstmann and John Walton, left a profound legacy when they established a program in 1998 enabling low-income parents to choose a better academic path for their children.

Though Ted and John are no longer with us, their legacy lives on thanks to their commitment and yours. The CSF Founders' Legacy Society was launched to honor those who have let us know they have included CSF in their estate plans. Legacy gifts cost nothing today, but ensure more children get a better education in the future.

Members of the Founders' Legacy Society are making an inestimable contribution to the future success of CSF Scholars and alumni. As our expression of appreciation, members receive:

- ❄️ Special recognition in the CSF Annual Report and at events;
- ❄️ An annual mission update from CSF President Darla Romfo; and
- ❄️ Exclusive briefings from CSF alumni as they make their own mark on the world.

You can learn more about the Founders' Legacy Society and how to join by contacting Michele Mitola at 212-515-7108 or mmitola@scholarshipfund.org, or by visiting us at <https://scholarshipfund.org/planned-giving/>. We hope you will consider joining and continuing to make an impact for generations to come.

NH EFAs Allow Parents to Rethink Education

This school year, Children's Scholarship Fund is managing Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) for more than 3,000 New Hampshire children in grades K-12. This number, up from more than 2,000 children who used EFAs in 2021-22, underscores a growing demand from Granite State parents for educational alternatives.

EFAs are grants that allow parents to rethink education and empower New Hampshire families to direct a portion of their child's state education funding to create learning experiences that are as unique as their child. Under the program, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Chris Sununu in 2021, New Hampshire families with household incomes of up to 300% of the poverty index can use EFAs to pay for tuition at the school of their choice, tutoring, online learning programs, educational supplies, internet connectivity, and other educational expenses.

About half of the participating families use EFAs similarly to how CSF scholarships traditionally are used - to enroll their children in private schools of all types.

The remaining EFA families take an approach known as "unbundling," using their EFAs to create a customized learning plan for their children that could include curricula and supplies for homeschooling, private tutoring, or even classes at a community college or out-of-district public school.

In addition to EFAs, CSF also raises funds for scholarships from businesses and individuals through the Education Tax Credit (ETC) scholarship program, which has been helping New Hampshire families choose the best education path for their children since 2012. More than 1,350 New Hampshire children are using ETC scholarships this school year, including more than 1,100 students using both EFAs and ETC scholarships to fund the best educational fit.



At Bishop Brady High School in Concord, CSF New Hampshire Scholars Elizabeth McKinney, Briana Hanmer, and Danielle Lacourse pose with Principal Andrea Elliot. Many students attend the Catholic high school using NH ETC scholarships and EFAs.



At Latitude Learning in Derry, NH, families who homeschool can use EFAs and ETC scholarships to pay for supplemental classes such as Ancient Egypt, Improv, Dungeons and Dragons, and Ocean Discovery. Pictured (from l-r): CSF New Hampshire Executive Director Kate Baker Demers, Eowyn Osborne, and Latitude Learning Founder Sharon Osborne.

CSF Partners Gather for Summit in NYC

This August, CSF hosted its first in-person CSF Partner Summit since 2019, welcoming representatives from 12 CSF partner programs, and 15 other scholarship and education reform organizations to New York City. Summit attendees heard from speakers addressing the theme of "Parent Empowerment: How can our scholarship organizations help seize the moment to advance school choice?" After a day of hearing from experts, networking, and sharing best practices, CSF staff and partners left energized to continue advancing education freedom for families and children.



Representatives from several CSF partner programs asked questions after a presentation on the school choice landscape by American Federation for Children Senior Fellow Corey DeAngelis.



From l-r: Rachel Elgin Smith, Chief Executive Officer of The BASIC Fund, CSF's Bay Area partner, and Amy Popadick, Executive Director of the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund in Buffalo, speak with presenter Peter Murphy of the Invest in Education Foundation and Coalition.



From l-r: Jordan Zakery of EdChoice; David Hodges of the Institute for Justice; Sarah Scott of Americans for Prosperity-NH, and CSF New Hampshire's Kate Baker Demers discussed the passage and implementation of NH's Education Freedom Account program in 2021.



Children's Scholarship Fund



The Last Word

"We have a huge opportunity – I would say a golden opportunity – to expand educational freedom like we've never seen before. The Year of School Choice was 2021, but we're just getting started. The schools have opened up and the parents have woken up, and they're not going back to sleep ever again. They're not going to forget what they saw unfold in 2020, and they're going to make sure they never feel powerless again. Parents are the new special interest group, and politicians from all parties would be wise to listen to them going forward."

- Corey A. DeAngelis, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, American Federation for Children, at the 2022 CSF Partner Summit



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