

Think Big!

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter

November 2008

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc., aims to recognize and reward students in grades 4–11 who are outstanding academic achievers and role models with college scholar awards. The Fund also promotes Dr. Ben Carson's THINK BIG philosophy to encourage people of all ages to strive for excellence.

HITTING NEW HEIGHTS

2nd Annual Ben Carson Celebrity Classic is a Record Breaker!

The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Carson Scholars Fund was held at Hayfields Country Club in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Chairman of the Board, Lee Warner signed on as a Gold Sponsor and spearheaded the effort to support Dr. Carson's dream to promote academic excellence and student role models in our schools.

Sunday: The fun started with the Intel Pairings Party on Sunday, the evening of June 29th. Board member Jason Kimrey was responsible for securing Intel's premier sponsorship for the past two years. Guests mingled with celebrities and enjoyed a savory meal topped with a cake celebrating Dr. Carson's honor of receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The positive effects of being a Carson Scholar was the topic of the speeches given by 2008 Awardee Gerardo Camarena and 3-time Carson Scholar winner Gabriella Biondo as they addressed the enraptured audience. Dr. Carson shared remarks on the importance of education. Great silent auction items including exciting vacations, premium tickets and one-of-a-kind collectibles were enthusiastically bid on competitively. We are so grateful to everyone who donated items or purchased them in our auction. Next,



Dr. Ben Carson poses with Baltimore Orioles Legend, Brooks Robinson and Super Bowl XXII MVP, Doug Williams, of the Washington Redskins.

the exciting live auction items stole the show, including guest spots on several TV shows, and vacations in dreamy overseas locations including a 6-bedroom villa on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Sincere thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Al Costa and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Adolphe for taking the auction to new heights!

The party culminated as emcee, Gerry Sandusky, paired celebrities with their golf foursomes accompanied by a dazzling video-bio-sketch of each celebrity.

Monday: The next morning, 22 celebrities led the charge on the picturesque Hayfields Golf course. Our golfing guests enjoyed a round with these celebrities dedicated to supporting the

Continued on page 4

Scholar Spotlight:

Gerardo Camarena



Gerry is a 2008 Carson Scholar, and currently a 9th grader in the *Ingenuity Program* at The Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

This past year, he was honored as Arbutus Middle School's "Student of the Year" and received a recognition plaque. Gerry is fluent in Spanish and is beginning his third year of French. Gerry recently competed in the Le Grand Concours-An Annual

National French Contest sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. We are thrilled to report that Gerry placed 4th in the state and 5th in the nation! Gerry is in the All County Honors Orchestra and was First Chair in the Honors Orchestra for violin. This past June, Gerry was one of the honored speakers at the Pairings Party preceding the Ben Carson Celebrity Golf Tournament. In his spare time, he has participated in Project Clean Stream, served Thanksgiving Meals to the elderly, collected toys for Toys-for-Tots, participated in a food drive and is a Boy Scout. One day Gerry hopes to become an Aerospace Engineer.

Atlanta

For the first time, the site of the Atlanta Carson Scholars Awards Ceremony was the Bank of America auditorium on the campus of Morehouse College. Not only did President Dr. Robert Michael Franklin speak about the importance of education, he cited some of the notable graduates of Morehouse such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Samuel L. Jackson; former Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher; former head of US Dept of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis Sullivan; and movie director, Spike Lee. 2004 Carson Scholar Jordon Nesmith inspired the audience. When he mentioned that he was matriculating to Morehouse College, he received an ovation from the sizable contingency of Morehouse students in the audience. This ceremony revealed strong community support with the afore-mentioned delegation from Morehouse, administrators and educators from the Atlanta Public School System, Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon and several staff of the nearby community of Riverdale, Sheriff Ira Edwards from Athens, GA, long-time supporter Vernon Allwood, and Christopher Kunney and Mike Mosquito, business entrepreneurs who played in our golf tournament and have taken the initiative to help further expansion in this locale.

Awardees proudly marched in to Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Procession of the Nobles" amidst energetic applause! Emceed by Candy Carson, the program honored 38 students. Michael Pitts, Executive Director of School Reforms for the Atlanta Public Schools participated in the medal ceremony. Featured Speaker, Dr. Ben Carson regaled the audience with his views on the impact of education in our society.



The 2008 Atlanta Carson Scholars pose with Dr. and Mrs. Ben Carson, Dr. Robert Michael Franklin President of Morehouse College and Michael Pitts, APS

Battle Creek

Battle Creek Public Schools are working to permanently endow one scholarship per school for all 14 district schools with assistance from the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Two endowments have been established by generous donors associated with the Kellogg Company, and a commitment has been made by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to endow an additional five scholarships. District leaders are committed to continue efforts to find endowment funding for the remaining seven schools. Long-term goals include funding multiple scholarships within each school.

For six years the Carson Scholars reception for scholars has taken place at McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan. Superintendent Charles Coleman and his staff, Sandra Bolden, Annette Rowan and Dr. Kathy Griffey have worked tirelessly with the organization to plan and carry out the Carson Scholars program. More than 400 people converged at the reception and ceremony on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Remarks from Dr. G. Edward Haring, President of Kellogg Community College and Dr. Coleman, Superintendent, began the program. Local TV personality, Colleen Chen, emceed the program and introduced two three-time Carson winners, Amalia Miralrio and Whittney Fields, who shared what the Carson Scholars award means to them and their future. Ms. Kathleen Wilson-Thompson, Senior Vice President Global Human Resources of the Kellogg Company, introduced Dr. Ben Carson who spoke regarding the need for encouraging our youth to be the best they can be academically. Two interpretative dancers from a local middle school were accompanied by the intricate rhythms of Mpatapo W.K. Kellogg West African Drum Ensemble.

Twenty-two awardees received first-time scholarships, four awardees received their second scholarships, and one awardee received his third scholarship! All awardees accepted the Carson medallion, certificate given by Mrs. Candy Carson and her famous congratulatory hug along with a picture with Dr. & Mrs. Carson, Dr. Coleman and Ms. Wilson-Thompson.

Other community leaders witnessing this event were Sterling Sperin, CEO & President of W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Erik Stewart, President of Stewart Industries and son of Clara and Joseph Stewart, retired Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs and Chief Ethics Officer, Kellogg Company and Tim Knowlton, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility, Kellogg Company. Battle Creek Carson Scholars has been funded from inception due to the tremendous generosity of the Kellogg Company Corporate Social Responsibility Fund. Thank you again, Kellogg Company, for investing in our future leaders!



New Haven students being honored are, l. to r., Darcy Yankowich (grade 10); Nyghel Byrd (grade 10); Dimas Brown (grade 5); and Cody Barlow (grade 4). Back row, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reginald Mayo; Candy Carson, Dr. Ben Carson; Chris Alexander and Bruce Alexander

Connecticut

Connecticut is in its 2nd year of award-giving, where the Yale connection is still prominent. Bruce Alexander, of Yale's Office of New Haven and State Affairs, and his wife Chris played a huge part in the realization of this chapter. The Mayor of New Haven, Mr. John De Stefano, Jr. and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Reginald Mayo were present for the honoree breakfast at the Dixwell-Yale University Community Learning Center. The reception in the multipurpose room on the main level followed, overlooking the "no-longer mean" but "clean" streets of New Haven. Remarks from Dr. Mayo and Dr. Carson rounded out the program, with a photography session commemorating the event at the end.

The four awardees had created special projects, including a partnership with a group in an African country to provide a means for refining and distributing some of that country's natural resources. Special thanks to Claudia Merson and the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs, Christine Alexander and the Yale College Class of 1951 for supporting the rising stars in New Haven.

Delaware Match

The "match" is lit and flaming brightly! The \$500,000 match that was unanimously voted on by the state legislature is approximately half way complete, with the remainder of the challenge to be addressed with a February fundraiser tied into "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," a TNT original movie. Visit our website for more information. Donations to help realize this dream of the 1st state to be completely endowed are welcomed with open hands!

Southwest Florida

Largest Single Gift Ever!

Southwest Florida is known for its tropical weather, pristine beaches and its rich history. Now, Southwest Florida will also be known for its pursuit of academic excellence starting with some of the area's youngest and brightest students. Through the determination of Sanibel Island resident Dr. Bill Frey, 2009 Carson Scholars will be recognized and rewarded this year in each of Lee County, Florida's 47 elementary schools through a \$500,000 donation, the largest gift in the Carson Scholars program since its inception in 1994.

This unique gift will also allow for the creation of 15 endowments with a goal to have all Lee County elementary schools endowed by the end of next year. Administered through the Lee County Public Schools Foundation, additional donors to the fund include John W. Sheppard and his wife Ellen along with The John E. & Aliese Price Foundation, both of Fort Myers, who joined the initiative by establishing a single school named endowment bringing the total number of perpetual endowments in Lee County to 17.

This phenomenal gift of establishing scholarships for all the Lee County elementary schools was conceived and initiated by Frey after discussions with Dr. Carson and CSF staff and will be in partnership with the Foundation for Lee County Schools. Permanent and perpetual named endowments are open to interested persons, businesses and organizations for the remaining elementary schools.

Dr. and Mrs. Carson will attend the first recognition luncheon for the Lee County schools in March, 2009.

Thank you to Dr. Bill Frey for his passion for education, interest in our country's youth, and for his leadership and record-breaking donation. This will continue the ripple effect of placing our high academic achievers and future leaders (Carson Scholars) on the pedestal they deserve, so that as role models they can encourage their peers to strive harder for academic excellence.

Indiana

Can you believe it? The city schools are completely funded! Tony Dungy and the Colts have done it again! Not only are these guys stellar in the athletic arena, but they have managed in 3 short years to acquire funding for every public school in the city of Indianapolis!

The 2nd Annual Indianapolis Scholar Awards Dinner took place on September 29th at the Conrad Hotel. This year, 22 gifted young students



The 2008 Carson Scholars from Indiana!

from Indiana were recognized in the presence of their teachers, parents and community. The Indianapolis Public Schools delivered a strong showing of support spearheaded by Superintendent Dr. Eugene White. Dr. Carson's inspirational message was delivered via video recording. Head Coach Tony Dungy, who has been a stalwart supporter and cornerstone to this entire endeavor, delivered a memorable motivational speech to the audience.

St. Louis

N'Dea Collins-Whitfield was selected as the first Carson Scholars Fund scholarship recipient of the St. Louis Chapter.

N'Dea, an 8th grader at Carr Lane Visual and

Performing Arts Middle School, was recognized at a special program this past May at the St. Louis School of Medicine. Her family, teachers and principals from the eight schools in St. Louis with active Ben Carson Reading Rooms, also took part in this first of its kind ceremony. N'Dea is an active volunteer in her community and hopes to become an author/illustrator.

Pittsburgh

At the 3rd annual celebration of academic excellence at the Pittsburgh Carson Scholars luncheon, over 100 scholars were honored! It started with a pre-luncheon gathering of the students and their families, where they were prepped on logistics and had a chance to "rub elbows" with Steelers' great, Jerome Bettis "The Bus", who had taken time out of his grueling schedule just to encourage these future leaders! Jerome has been a staunch advocate and supporter of Carson Scholars since its inception along with Dr. and Mrs. Al Costa, garnering many Steelers' participation in all the fundraisers for scholarships. Again the luncheon was held at the Omni William Penn in downtown Pittsburgh. Scholars marched in from opposite sides of the gilded rococo balcony which encircled the room. The program was again enthusiastically emceed by Sally Wiggin of Channel 4.

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Sally Wiggin
Ron Richards Photography
Ms. Theresa Rooco
Michele Rosenthal
Kendall Simmons and Celesta Henry
Theresa Varley

HITTING NEW HEIGHTS continued from page 1

Carson Scholars Fund:

Joe Angel, Broadcaster, "Voice of the Orioles"
Maxie Baughan, Former NFL Pro-Bowler
and Coach

Dara Brown-Anchor, MSNBC.com

Al Bumbry, Former Oriole Outfielder

Steve Davis, Sports Broadcaster

Rick Dempsey, 1983 World Series Oriole MVP

Chris Doleman, 8-Time Pro-Bowler

Michael Dreyer, Golf Professional Mt. Pleasant
Golf Course

Brad Jackson, Former Ravens Linebacker

Bruce Laird, Former Baltimore Colt Pro-Bowler

Tom Matte, Former Colt Running Back

Michael McCreary, Ravens Pro Bowler

Jayne Miller, Investigative Reporter, WBAL-TV

Kyle Richardson, Former Ravens Punter

Brooks Robinson, Oriole Hall of Famer

Tim Sanders, Golf Professional Forest Park
Golf Course

Peter Schmuck, Maryland Sportswriter
of the Year

Howard Stevens, Jr., Former NFL Running
Back

Chris Warren, NFL Pro-Bowler

Stan White, Broadcaster and former
Baltimore Colt

Doug Williams, MVP Redskin Quarterback

Rick Volk, NFL All-Pro and former Colt

Once scorecards were turned in, the Doctors
Community Hospital's team of Philip, Mary and
Phil Downs, Jr. prevailed with a low net of 45
under the energetic leadership of former Ravens
defensive end, Michael McCrary. Thanks to
Smyth Jewelers and Tom Smyth for the lovely
trophies

Congratulations also go out to:

- Rick Volk and Chris Warren for their performances on the course
- Longest drive winner, 8-time Pro Bowler, Chris Doleman
- Baseball Hall of Famer, Brooks Robinson, joined with Intel's foursome of Frank Johnson, Jack Rowe, Steve Vito and Stan Berkowitz for an impressive 61 low gross score

The tournament not only produced a fun day for all, but also a record \$300,000 was raised for promising young students. Please make plans to join us next year. To register to join us and/or to view our golf videos and photos, please visit our website at www.carsonscholars.org.

Thank you to these sponsors who made the event our largest fundraiser ever!

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Sonya Carson says, "Turn ON the TV"

This little lady, known for her radical strategy of turning off the TV so that her young sons could use that time more wisely studying, is advocating the opposite for the evening of February 7, 2009.

Gifted Hands, the first book published by her son, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson Sr. has been transformed into a TV movie, starring academy award winning Cuba Gooding, Jr., of *Jerry Maguire*, *Men of Honor*, *The Tuskegee Airmen*, *Daddy Day Camp*, *Radio*, and *Outbreak*, and Kimberly Elise, who won awards for her performances in *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, *Beloved*, *Close to Home*, *Bojangles*, and *Woman Thou Art Loosed*.

The 90-minute movie sponsored by Sony, will be aired on TNT. There's even talk of a fund-raising premiere, so stay tuned to www.carsonscholars.org for more info!

Quotes & Quips

People do not wander around and then find themselves at the top of Mt. Everest"
Zig Ziglar, motivational author.

"Don't let yesterday use up too much of today" *Will Rogers*

Here Comes the Judge!

With scholarship season just around the corner, one question always comes up. Who judges the applications? Well, we thought that we would introduce you to some of our volunteer judges.

Roberta is a retired educator whose travels have taken her to East and South Africa, China, and Australia. Roberta is active with the American Association of University Women, Baltimore City League of Women Voters and Hopkins Women's Journey.

Dorothy has over 26 years teaching experience in Catholic schools. She has taught students in both elementary and middle school and has served as the Director of Religious Education. Dorothy holds a Masters in Secondary Education with a major in Administration.

Diane is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and is an award-winning journalist. Her work has been published in numerous local and national magazines. Diane currently works for the Baltimore County Public School System tutoring students too ill to attend classes and writes articles for Baltimore magazine.

Raymond is an adjunct instructor in history at Stevenson University and Carroll Community College. Prior to that, he was a high school History teacher in Baltimore County for 31 years where he also served as the Forensics and Debate Coach. Raymond earned a Master of Science Degree in Education from Loyola College.

Judy has been a Paraeducator in Special Education in Harford County, Maryland for the past 14 years. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant in Geriatrics and also a mother of two.

Faith

Faith is currently a principal in a Baltimore City Public School. She holds a Doctorate degree in School Leadership and Supervision and is certified in Special Education. Prior to becoming a principal, Faith taught Language Arts and Mathematics to middle school students.

Peggy earned her PhD from Howard University with a concentration in formal education and social structure, and emphasis on youth education and empowerment. Peggy is currently an adjunct professor at Trinity College in Washington, DC and is in the process of writing a biography of E R Braithwaite, author of the classroom classic *To Sir, With Love*.

These are just a few of our impressive judges. We are proud to have such a diverse group of volunteers. Come join our illustrious ranks:

- Pack and Distribute Applications
November 3-8, 2008
- Prepare Applicant Folders
January 19-24, 2009
- Judging Applications
January 26-February 14, 2009
- Scholars Banquet (Maryland)
April 26, 2009

GADZOOKS! Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman, Howdy Doody, Betty Boop & Spiderman are all in one place!



3-time Carson Scholar & Washington and Lee student, Briana Gapsis, dazzles at the podium.

Annually in July, the Carson Scholars Fund hosts a reception for the Carson Scholars that will be going to college, as well as all alumni...i.e. scholarship recipients that have been out of high school who would like to attend and network.

This year through the generosity of the Steve Geppi family, we were all able to meet at the Geppi Entertainment Museum in downtown Baltimore by Camden Yards (Oriole Stadium). Scholars and their parents had the opportunity to view this very unique museum which hosts rare memorabilia on cartoons, comic strips, hobbies, entertainment, etc. as well as giving a history on their impact on American culture and historically how our culture has impacted them. A youth-oriented array of fun foods, including gourmet pizza, whetted appetites for the sumptuous desserts afforded by Innovative Gourmet. Two-time Carson Scholar and harpist, Juliana Biondo dazzled guests with a classical repertoire.

Afterwards, we all ascended the stairs to the gallery where 1st Vice President of the Board, Wes Guckert emceed the event. Two remarkably impressive alumni scholars Briana Gapsis and Tyler Krus shared colorful insight into college life and their positive philosophies. Dr. Ben Carson reminisced about his days in college and shed light on how to achieve success as a college student and beyond. Our college bound scholars won raffle prizes including a personal stereo system and microwave among other "neat" stuff!

Call the Carson Scholars Fund at 410.828.1005 or email Tammy@carsonscholars.org

Scholars Shine for Board of Education

At our second appearance at a Baltimore City Board of Education meeting last December, our scholars spoke to a standing room only crowd. Nine Carson Scholars from the public school system appeared as role models and excellent examples of the effectiveness of good parenting and high academic achievement, as a Power Point presentation on the Carson Scholars Fund was screened in the background.

Each scholar introduced themselves to the Board and 7th grader and 2-time winner Aaron Cary addressed the council officials eloquently, concerning his unique experience as a Carson Scholar. Principal Carolyne Cole of Roland Park Elementary/Middle School spoke on the positive influence the scholars have had on her school. Her passion was contagious. After Dr. Carson gave a brief history of the fund and reading room programs, Executive Director Amy Warner gave a comprehensive evaluation of the effect of scholars in Baltimore City, and the statistics on

participation and effectiveness in the city schools. Her pleas for more complete participation were met with very reassuring responses from Dr. Alonso and council members.

Here are some startling statistics from our surveys:

- 98% of the scholars who won once would apply again
- 98% of all scholar siblings wanted to become a Carson Scholar
- 97% of all scholars who won, attended the banquet

Once a scholar was named in the school:

- 94% of all the students were curious to learn more about the program
- 82% of all students wanted to see the school trophy
- 78% of scholar peers wanted to imitate the Carson Scholar

Now that's the Ripple Effect in action!

Save the Date

November 17, 2008

Ben Carson Reading Day • American Education Week starts

December 4, 2008

5th Annual Pittsburgh Charity Auction and Cocktail Event, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

December 11, 2008

8th Annual Sherry Shootout, An Evening with Dr. Ben Carson

January – February

be on the lookout for information on a *Gifted Hands* movie premiere near you!!

January 16, 2009

Scholarship Application deadline

February 7, 2009

Release of *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* on TNT

March 21, 2009

1st Annual Lee County Awards Banquet, Ft. Meyers, FL

April 19, 2009

5th Annual Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Awards Luncheon, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 24, 2009

7th Annual Carson Scholars Awards Reception Battle Creek, Michigan

April 26, 2009

13th Annual Carson Scholars Banquet, Baltimore, MD



305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite L-020
Towson, MD 21204

410-828-1005

Fax 410-828-1007

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www.carsonscholars.org

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Thank you for your support.