

Spring 2006

# Think Big!

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc., aims to recognize and reward students in grades 4–12 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.

## More than 20 Steelers make a Touchdown!

The "playing field" for these Steelers was the Level Club Lounge on the Strip in Pittsburgh. Their "touchdown" was a highly successful fundraiser for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund, a scholarship program that recognizes and rewards stellar academic achievement in students from grades 4 through 11 who also are involved in community service above and beyond school requirements. With more than 400 in attendance, the evening brought in over \$200,000 for scholarships! Jerome Bettis, affectionately known by football fans as "The Bus", co-chaired the event with Pittsburgh Carson Scholars President, Dr. Alfonso Costa of the Costa Land Development Company. More than 20 players from the Pittsburgh Steelers pro-football team came to lend their support to encourage youth to THINK BIG! When sports superstars focus their efforts on encouraging academic achievement, it impresses and inspires our youth in a great way! We want to heartily thank these Steelers for making a difference and encouraging others to be the best they can be:

### STEELERS

- Jerome Bettis
- Charlie Batch
- Alan Faneca
- James Farrior
- Chris Gardocki
- Clark Haggans
- Casey Hampton
- Jeff Hartings
- Chris Hope
- Dan Kreider
- Clint Kriewaldt
- Mike Logan
- Tommy Maddox
- Heath Miller
- Sean Morey
- Joey Porter
- Jeff Reed
- Kendall Simmons
- Duce Staley
- Deshea Townsend
- Hines Ward
- Cedrick Wilson

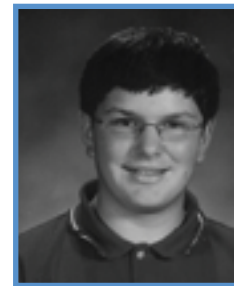
We wish to thank these sponsors for their generosity:

### SPONSORS

- Todd Brice — *President & Chief Executive Officer, S&T Bank*
- Fran and Tom Donahue — *Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer, Federated Investors Inc.*
- Dr. Gerald Loyacona — *Orthodontic Smile Academy*
- Christine Olson — *Chief Executive Office & Chairman, S.W. Jack Drilling*
- Carl Hilbert — *President, Colucci Tile & Marble*
- Steve Lamfrom — *Owner, A&L Motors*
- Mark Pasquerilla — *Chief Executive Officer & President, Crown American Realty Trust*
- Ruth Grant — *President, Louis A. Grant Inc.*
- Ben Viloski — *President, Shopping Center Real Estate Inc.*
- Bob McGurk — *Regional Development Director, Forest City Enterprises*
- Francis Muracca II — *Chief Operating Officer, Buchanan Ingersoll*
- Henry & Elsie Hillman
- Robert Queale D.D.S.

STEELERS Continued on Back Page. . .

## Scholar Spotlight: Andrew Greene



While other students were playing and going to camp, 13-year old Andrew Greene's summer project was learning an hour's worth of piano music. He took it upon himself

to learn classical and ragtime music and write script to tie the musical numbers together in a program that would be held at his church, Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, in Arnold, MD. This young visionary memorized the entire program, music and script, not to benefit himself, or for his own acclaim, but to raise money for the Carson Scholars Fund endowment for his school. The tally at the end of the program on November 21 was \$2,200! Great job, Andrew!

# Reading Rooms

## Rognel Heights Elementary/Middle

Several Carson Scholars led the program at the opening of the Ben Carson Reading Room at radiant Rognel Heights Elementary/Middle School on March 29th. Thomas Crawford, SVP of Commercial Banking, Cheryl Yuille, and Chris Rahl from Provident Bank, the sponsor, attended the opening to show their support. Provident Bank also participates in a program called Project Hope. Rognel Heights was a target elementary school for this program which teaches students about money and the basics of banking. Also on hand were members of the community including Pam Goins, from the MTA along with parents and grandparents.

## William H. Lemmel Middle

On February 17th, 3 young ladies sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" a cappella and a young man from 6th grade presented a dramatic reading by Frederick Douglass. A tour of the school revealed an 8th grade level that needed no administrator, and one math class that met in the gym! The students there were measuring perimeters and areas, checking the hypotenuse, taking averages of jump shots, and performing other mathematical calculations!

## Patapsco Elementary/Middle

Upon entering the lovely muraled halls of Patapsco Elementary/Middle School, we were greeted by student ambassadors and personally escorted to the event on February 24th, 2006. During the program, we were regaled with individualized thank-yous, authored and read by several students of the upper grades. The 2nd graders stole the show, however, with their THINK BIG presentation! Each child sported a letter of the THINK BIG acronym, and recited from memory the meaning behind his or her letter. This Reading Room was funded by Ober, Kaler Attorneys At Law. John Baldwin, Joe Kovars, Elissa Borges and Neil Duke took time out of a busy day to attend and show their support.

Reading Room total by the end of the school year will be 27!



William H. Lemmel Middle School

# School Showcase: Magothy River Middle School

Kids can make a difference!

Magothy River Middle School made history by being the first school to have a student-led fundraising effort which resulted in not only one, but two full scholarship endowments!

Because the students believed in high academic achievement and doing their best, they decided to raise money on their own to ensure that there would always be a Carson Scholar at their school. So, under the capable direction of educator Dee McCreary, the students became creative fundraisers, utilizing any means they could think of to achieve their goal. In less than 5 years they had endowed their school, raising over \$20,000!

However, they didn't stop there! They figured if they could do it once, they could repeat their success, and believe it or not, they raised enough money for a second endowment in 2005!

Congratulations BIG TIME to Magothy River Middle School, as a forward-thinking trailblazer!



# TENTH Banquet for Carson Scholars!!!

Here we are at our 10th Annual Awards Banquet, celebrating with over 500 student scholars! The scene is Martin's West, with many of our former awardees participating! Carson Scholars started awarding scholarships in 1996, with 25 scholars in Maryland. We are now in 12 states and Washington DC, and will have a total of over 2200 scholarships! We have come a long way!!!

The Carson Scholars Fund also recognizes adult role models in several ways.

**The Sonya Award** was established in honor of the mother of Dr. Ben Carson and honors someone who demonstrates the drive, determination, commitment and perseverance of Sonya Carson.

Former honorees are:

Sonya Carson

Shirley Howard, President of the Children's Cancer Foundation

Priest Holmes, then Running Back for the Baltimore Ravens, and his mother, Norma Morris

Nancy Grasmick, Superintendent of Schools for the State of Maryland

Catherine Reynolds, Founder, Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation  
Marina Harrison, Miss Maryland in both the Miss USA and Miss America pageants

**The Generous Heart Award** was established to honor a person (or persons) who demonstrate their generosity in giving back to their community. Our first recipients of this award were Jennifer and Brandon Speace, a school teacher and businessman, who in lieu of wedding gifts, directed the monies to the scholarship fund to encourage young people to do their best academically. This year's awardees are Henry and Dorothy Rosenberg of the Henry A. and Dorothy L. Rosenberg Foundation

**The Par-Excellence Award** is being awarded to Mrs. Laura Bush, the First Lady of the United States.

**The Power of Excellence Award** is given to a person who has excelled in his/her career, becoming a positive role model for our youth as well as the populace at large. Carlos Gutierrez, the Secretary of Commerce for the United States, was the first person to receive this award. This year's honoree is Stephen Geppi, founder of Diamond Comics, the largest distributor of comic books in the world!

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Atlanta

Atlanta will be changing its format this year to have their awards ceremony in the fall.

Last year's ceremony was held at the Georgia-Pacific Corporation Auditorium, in downtown Atlanta. Ms. Sachi Koto, Anchor for CNN Headline News in Atlanta, was the Emcee. An impressive 46 scholars marched in on each side of the stage into the audience. The pre-program entertainment was composed of students from the Atlanta public school system and included the Hand Bell Players, led by Mr. Richard Griffin. Special dignitaries attending were:

Mr. Greg Pridgeon, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin's Chief of Staff,  
Dr. Beverly Hall, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools,  
Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church,  
Mr. John Grant, Executive Director/CEO 100 Black Men of Atlanta,  
Ms. Harriette Watkins, Vice President of Community Affairs for AGL Resources, and  
Mr. Milton Clipper, President/CEO of Public Broadcasting of Atlanta.

## Baltimore

We are thrilled to announce the addition of our new executive director, Amy Warner. Although she has only been on board since November, she has made major advances for us in our quest to expand throughout the country. She comes with a phenomenal background, having dedicated her efforts at local radio station WLIF, as General Sales Manager for several years.

## Quotes & Quips

The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called failure, a loop called confusion, speed bumps called friends, red lights called enemies, and caution lights called family. You will have flats called jobs. But if you have a spare called determination, an engine called perseverance, insurance called faith, and a driver called God, you will make it to a place called success!

*Author unknown*

*Contributed by Alex Santiago, Horatio Alger Scholar*

## Battle Creek

Battle Creek's 3rd annual banquet was held at McCamly Plaza on Friday, April 29 at 5pm. 23 scholarships were awarded, two of whom were repeat scholars! The guest speaker for the event was Jim McHale, Assistant Vice President of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Several dignitaries from Kellogg, the local sponsor came and showed their support.

This year, Battle Creek Public School's 4th Annual Carson Scholarship Awards Reception in the Bronson Ballroom at the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan, will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2006 from 5-7 pm. There will be a total of thirty-one scholarships, 23 of which are to first time winners and 8 are repeat winners! The guest speaker for the event is Dr. Donald E. Thompson, Acting Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation.

## Delaware

The Delaware State Legislature voted unanimously to provide matching funds up to \$500,000 for scholarship awards to students in Delaware Public Schools! To date we are over half-way there! So Delawarrians, get more bang for your buck by contributing now, because each dollar you give is doubled!!!

E.I. DuPont de Nemours Health and Prevention Services donated two large conference rooms for the awards ceremony held in Newark, Delaware on May 19, 2005. The unique layout employed a gourmet display in one room, with banquet seating in the other room where the program actually took place. It afforded a

rather cozy atmosphere for the 18 Scholarship recipients and their families. Governor Ruth Minner and Lieutenant Governor Carney spoke. Also in attendance were State Secretary of Finance Cordrey and State Senators Robert Venables and Thurman Adams.

## Indianapolis

Indianapolis Fundraiser: Under the direction of Tony Dungy, the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, the 1st fundraiser was a major success! Several of the Colts were in attendance to show their support of high academic achievement at the Colts Training Facilities. Between football sales and the silent and live auctions, quite a nice sum was raised for local scholarships!

The Colt's Celebrity Showdown, scheduled for June 7, 2006, will be held at the Colts Training Facilities from 6:30 - 9:30pm.

## Pittsburgh

As a result of the highly successful fundraiser in December of 2005, Pittsburgh will be awarding 70 scholarships this year! Although last year's 20 scholarships went to students in public schools, this year's scholarships will include students from Parochial and Private schools as well.

## Seattle

Costco, the major funder for the area, not only provides local scholarships, but has also provided scholarships for 34 other scholars across the nation! These scholars will be honored at the Baltimore banquet. Thank you Costco, for your unparalleled generosity!

## St. Louis

Through the diligent and persistent efforts of George and Velois Rausch, the funding has been awarded from St. Louis University for 8 Reading Rooms in the St. Louis area. The Reading Rooms are slated to open later this year. Unveiling is scheduled for June 16, 2006.

## Steelers cont'd

And we want to express our sincere and deep appreciation to the board members and others who helped to make this event so successful.

Other Notable Event Attendees were:

Bob Pompeani — *Sports Director/Anchor, KDKA-TV 2 News Team*

Sally Wiggan — *Anchor, WTAE 4 Action News Team*

SEEN Magazine

Dr. Ken Melani, *President & Chief Executive Officer, Highmark*

David L. Krieger, *Senior Executive Vice President, Commercial Lending, S&T Bank*

Ron Violi, *Former Chief Executive Officer, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh*

## Alumni Corner

Please contact the CSF office with suggestions and/or updated info. More good things are on the way! Phone 410 828-1005, or 1006, or fax 410 828-1007.



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

410-828-1005

Fax 410-828-1007

Toll Free 1-877-77DRBEN (37236)

**Want to donate?** Go to our website  
[www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org)

and click on "How Can I Make A Difference?"

Then, choose the "How to Give" link.

Thank you for your support.

## Endowments

Through the generosity of Walt Petrie, Chairman of Petrie Ross Ventures, and his lovely wife, Nancy, Freetown Elementary School of Glen Burnie is now endowed with a Carson Scholar. This is the first school to be individually endowed in all of Anne Arundel County! Wes Guckert, Chairman of the Board and long-time friend of the Petries, was instrumental in obtaining this endowment. All three were in attendance along with Candy Carson, at the unveiling of the endowment that was held at the school on May 18, 2005.

## CSF Wants You!

The Carson Scholars Fund is looking for motivated individuals to join our Ambassador Program. Help take us to the next level while meeting wonderful people. For more information contact Amy Warner at [awarner@carsonscholars.org](mailto:awarner@carsonscholars.org)

## Special Dates

April 23, 2006 Carson Scholars Fund's 10th Annual Awards Banquet

April 27, 2006 Battle Creek Awards Banquet

April 30, 2006 Pittsburgh Chapter Awards Banquet

May - TBD Ben Carson Reading Room Opening at Coldstream Park Elementary/Middle School

May 6, 2006 "An Evening with Tony Bennett" Cocktail Party and Auction at the Hippodrome Theater.

May 18, 2006 Ben Carson Reading Room Opening Hope Academy

June 6, 2006 Ben Carson Reading Room Opening Havre de Grace Elementary

June 7, 2006 Indianapolis Colts' Celebrity Showdown

June 16, 2006 St. Louis Reading Rooms Opening Press Conference

October 30, 2006 Celebrity Golf Tournament at Caves Valley Country Club