

Think Big!

Fall 2006

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter

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 scholarship awards. The Fund also promotes Dr. Ben Carson's THINK BIG philosophy to encourage people of all ages to strive for excellence.

Colts Celebrities...on a Roll!

The 2nd Annual Colts Celebrity Showdown was another smash hit! 31 members of the Indianapolis pro-football team were escorted into the event by the lovely Colts cheerleaders on the evening of June 7th at their beautiful training facility on the outskirts of Indianapolis! The program was emceed by Jeffery Gorman and Tom Zupancic, cohosts of "Colts Up Close" a local television program. Head Coach, Tony Dungy was the first speaker, followed by Dr. Ben Carson, Pediatric Neurosurgeon from Johns Hopkins Hospital, who is also co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, the designated charity of the event. Also on the program was Indianapolis Carson Scholar, Jaclyn Kreps, a freshman at Northwest High School.



Colts Tight End Bryan Fletcher and Defensive Tackle Raheem Brock face-off in a "showdown" at the 2006 Colts Celebrity Showdown hosted by Tony Dungy

Both Tony and Ben spoke about the Carson Scholars Fund, which was started 12 years ago to counteract the crisis in which our country has placed itself. An international survey that compared high

school students' abilities in math and science in 22 countries revealed that the United States, at least in this respect, was NOT number 1! We were not in the top five or ten either!! We ranked 21 out of 22 countries!!! To refocus our students, the Carson Scholars Fund was established, awarding

students from the 4-11 grades for high academic achievement and demonstration of humanitarian qualities. Their scholarship money is invested on their behalf, so they receive a statement each year showing how much it has grown. And teachers have commented that when they have a Carson Scholar in their class, over the course of the next year, the grade point average of the entire class goes up! So that

ripple effect is making a HUGE difference by helping all students focus more on what is really important!

What is so inspiring about the Colts is that although they make a living at excelling in sports, they take time out of their extremely busy schedules

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Teeing it up for our Scholars

One hundred golfers including twenty celebrities teed-it up for our scholars at the picturesque Caves Valley Golf Club in Maryland for the premiere Carson Scholars Celebrity Golf Tournament. Andrew Woods, of King & Spalding LLC was responsible for obtaining this wonderful venue designed by world-renowned Tom Fazio, which was the location of the 2002 Senior Open. The two-day event began with a Pairings Party and Auction on Sunday October 29th.



Winning 5-some- Stan Berkowitz, Frank Johnson, Jerome Bettis, Jack Rowe, and Pat Weis. 12th Hole

Sunday

Dr. Carson shared the important mission of the Carson Scholars Fund along with awe-inspiring life stories, after Committee Chair David Abramson opened the program. 6th grader Garic Cooper, of Roland Park Elementary/Middle discussed what being a two-time Carson Scholar winner meant to him. Garic's love of reading and vast interests exemplified the Carson Scholar. Gabriella Biondo, a junior at magnet school Carver Center for Arts and Technology, captivated the audience with her academic story and lessons learned from golf. Gabriella's accomplishments in music, acting, dance, piano and golf are unprecedented, all while still maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Guests bid on exclusive, one-of-a-kind items such as:

- A private family tour of the NASA Johnson Space Center and Kennedy Flight Centers hosted by former astronaut, Dr. Bernard Harris, with round trip air provided by American Airlines
- A complete Hootie and the Blowfish New Years Eve Package in Las Vegas
- Four nights for 2 couples in paradise at the Chateau Eze (of Conte Nast magazine) near the beautiful Cote d'Azur.

TEERING Continued on Page 3. . .

Reading Rooms

HOPE ACADEMY

On May 31st, an intense feeling of anticipation greeted us as we entered Hope Academy on Baltimore's east side. The walls of the chapel displayed historical figures and positive role models as an encouragement to all who would enter. Principal Mary McCrea emceed the program that included several songs by the entire student body, accompanied by hand and body motions! The haunting musical chant of "I am a promise, I am a poss-i-bil-i-ty, I am a promise, with a capital 'P'". Along with the next phrase, "I am a great, big, bundle of po-ten-ti-al-i-ty", could play a big part in helping our youth to be the best they can be, instilling the positive self-esteem and can-do attitude that is sorely lacking in many students!

The 2nd and 3rd graders did a THINK BIG presentation each holding a placard with one of the letters. And several pre-K and 1st grade students demonstrated their advanced capabilities with their live readings of 3rd and 4th grade-level stories!

Dr. Delores Harvey, a friend of the school and the Ben Carson Reading Room Project, was the keynote speaker. A huge poster on stage proclaimed, "In Books, We Discover Others and Ourselves... Our Past-Our Present-Our Future"

Several board members, parents and local clergy were present as well. Sincere thanks to our Reading Room funder, The Allegis Group for making the dream a reality.

HAVRE DE GRACE ELEMENTARY

June 6, 2006 is a day to be remembered at Havre de Grace Elementary School! Mind-boggling is the best description for the amount of effort, creativity, and ingenuity that the teachers, parents, and students put into this Reading Room! The theme of the room is their waterfront community, which is very aptly illustrated by Catherine Holmes (teacher) in the seascape wall murals that draw the viewer out to sea. Donald Warfield, husband of Special Education Instructional Assistant, Shirley Warfield, built a 20-foot dock, complete with piers topped with rope and a 5' extension all at just the right height for students to comfortably read while sitting on this

'dock of the bay'! Even the floor is nautical, with beige carpet representing sand, edged in dark blue carpet for water. Michael Duke, husband of the 4th grade teacher, personally carved miniature sailboats with each sail sporting a letter of the THINK BIG acrostic. Sounds of the sea emanate from the glass heron wall fountain and the crashing waves and sea sounds continuously played through the sound system! Nautical flags at the top of each boat spell something special as well.

The program was equally as moving as the Reading Room! Each grade had prepared a special and cleverly designed presentation in celebration of the power of reading. The fifth graders read testimonials on reading, 4th graders enacted an original skit on the life of Ben Carson, and the 3rd graders sang an original song entitled "Reading Rules". A unique acrostic poem on "Dr Ben Carson" was recited by the 2nd grade class, all of the 1st graders chanted their original poem entitled, "Books, Books, Books", and the kindergartners thrilled us as they put on their paper plate "happy-face masks" at the appropriate times during their presentation on "Feelings" about reading!

HAVRE DE GRACE Continued on Back Page. . .

CSF Friend-Raiser, A Night to Remember!

The Friend-Raiser at the Hopkins Club on Johns Hopkins University campus was a huge success! More than 60 people attended, many of whom signed up to further the cause in one of the various opportunities that were set forth during the program.

It began with heavenly violin music by two-time scholar Pervinca Rista, a product of Baltimore School of the Arts who currently attends Peabody Conservatory (she was admitted at age 16) and is taking exams to obtain a violin diploma from the State Conservatory in Italy with Maestro Paolo Pessina.

Dr. William Brody, President of Johns Hopkins University and his lovely wife, Wendy were in attendance, even though they had just entertained over 100 people at their home on campus that evening!

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Nancy Grasmick shared encouraging words about the effectiveness of the scholarship fund and pledged another sizeable contribution, challenging attendees to follow suit!

Two other scholars spoke on their experiences and reflections on Carson Scholarship. Michael Atlas, a new scholar from Howard County who has given over 200 hours of volunteer service in 3 years at Lehigh Valley Hospital, related his perspective as a Carson Scholar, and Antar Tichavakunda, a 4-time winner reflected on the prestige being a Carson Scholar brings. He then completed his discourse with an introduction of Dr. Ben Carson, co-founder of the Fund.

Starting with the history, Ben reflected on the reasons the scholarship fund is necessary and how it is making a difference in the 12 states and Washington DC where it is currently available. He cited a particularly startling statistic involving the number of engineers trained last year. In the US, 60,000 engineers graduated from college, with 40% of them from other countries. However, in comparison,

China produced 392,000 engineers. He concluded that if the US wants to maintain its place as the world power and not become a source of cheap, ignorant labor, we must find ways to encourage our young people to develop themselves academically, when the media and populace at large send the message that sports and entertainment have the best paid and most honored occupations. After the THINK BIG acronym, attendees were encouraged to sign up for various opportunities to help the scholarship fund refocus our youth.

Several Carson Scholars Fund Board Members were on hand to help further the organizations mission: Wes Guckert, Lee Warner, Lee DiPietro, Audrey Jones, David Bower and Graylin Smith.

Many high level community leaders responded, including:

Federal Judge Janice Brown
Robert Embry, President of the Abell Foundation
Vivek Balulja, M.D.
David Smith, President & CEO of Sinclair Broadcast Group
Armstrong Williams, TV and radio news commentator
Glen Elseroad, President of Hanover Community Association
Ed Libby, Co-Owner of Libby Brothers, Inc
Kevin McNulty, SVP, Resource Enterprises, Inc.
Victor Broccolino, President of Howard County General Hospital
and former board member
Thomas Crawford & Cheryl Yuille, Provident Bank representatives SVP
Commercial Banking
James West, PhD., Professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering
at Johns Hopkins

COLTS *cont'd*

to encourage youth to make a difference by maximizing their intellectual development. With more high academic achievers, we will get to the solution of so many problems that plague society much quicker, like the cure to cancer, world hunger, world peace, etc.!

One of the highlights of the program was the announcement made by Mrs. Lauren Dungy of this year's Youth Links Indiana Pathfinder Award, which is going to none other than her beloved husband, Coach Tony Dungy.

The Indiana Pathfinder Award recognizes local and national individuals who put community and servicing the needs of others before themselves. Pathfinder recipients understand the importance of developing character in the individual and working at the grassroots level to build programs to better lives and communities. Recipients invest of themselves to set examples for others.

With this honor comes a monetary award of \$25,000 which can be directed to the charity of his choice. Coach Dungy's choice for the designated charity is the Carson Scholars Fund! This is a FIRST for Carson Scholars, because no other satellite Carson Scholars organization has received such an honor in its entire 12-year history! Thank YOU, Tony for your unselfish generosity and for being a forward-thinking trailblazer!!!

After dinner, players autographed football



Peyton Manning autographs a ball for a fan

paraphernalia while the enthusiastic crowd of more than 250 were cajoled out of \$71,000+ during the silent and live auctions by auctioneer, Tom Zupancic.

Another highlight of the program was an ingenious set up of a game similar to the TV game "Family Feud" with Jefferey Gorman egging on the contestants. Five members of the Colts' offensive line were pitted against five of their counterparts from the defensive line, and they all amazed us with their wit and wisdom in matching answers to citywide surveys! Now, some of those polled answers were startlingly surprising! The survey question "Describe common items found in a beach bag" did not include the answer of 'sunglasses', but included an answer as bland and unsuspected as 'sand'!

Others who attended include:

Mary Louise Bewley, Director of Office of School and Community Relations

Representatives from key sponsors including: Central Indiana Chevy Dealers, Union Federal Bank, O'Charleys, Budweiser and Coca-Cola

Media: Anthony Calhoun, WISH-TV Lead Sports Anchor; Dave Calabro, WTHR Eyewitness Sports Director; Mike Chappell, Indianapolis Star Colts Reporter; Chuck Lofton, WTHR Skytrack Weather Reporter

Jaclyn Kreps, Northwest High School—Indianapolis Colts Carson Scholar

And last, but not least, the **Colts Celebrities:**

Josh Betts	Tyjuan Hagler	Keith O'Neil
Gary Brackett	Ben Hartsock	Montae Reagor
Raheem Brock	Cato June	Darrell Reid
Dallas Clark	Kyle Killion	Bob Sanders
Ryan Diem	Shawn King	Gerome Sapp
Mike Doss	Ryan Lilja	Jeff Saturday
Bryan Fletcher	Peyton Manning	Dan Sheldon
Dwight Freeneey	Robert Mathis	Justin Snow
Gilbert Gardner	Mike McGann	Ben Utecht
Matt Giordano	Aaron Moorehead	
Tarik Glenn	James Mungro	

Teeing it up *cont'd*

Special thanks to so many generous people who donated fantastic items and those who bid on them.

Pairings Party attendees mingled amongst the celebrities including:

Darius Rucker
(lead singer of Hootie and the Blowfish),

Charlie Rymer (ESPN Commentator),

Dwight Clark
(Football great, known for "The Catch")

Dr. Francis Collins (Head of the Human Genome Project at the National Institutes of Health)

Chris Doleman (8 time pro-bowler, and member of NFL's 1990s All-Decade Team)

After pairings were dramatically portrayed on the screens, the tamers of the course disassembled to return to conquer the course the following day!

Monday

Monday dawned... an ideal autumn day in the high 60's and a perfect day for golf! The 10AM shotgun was abuzz with Jerome Bettis (The Bus), Ironman Cal Ripken, Jr., and United States Secretary of H.U.D., Alphonso Jackson teamed with Johnny Unitas, Jr.

It was like a day at Camden Yards with former Orioles Al Bumbry, Dave Johnson, Scott McGregor, Larry Sheets and BJ Surhoff joining in the challenge. Golfing celebrities Wayne DeFrancesco, Tommy Gainey, Steve Larick, Bernie Najar, Dennis Satysur and Chip Sullivan lit up the fairway and lead the charge to the winners circle.

Posting an impressive 58 gross score for the day was "two gloves" Tommy Gainey's group including Matt Tomlinson, Chris Cosgrove, Bob Petite and Ken Jarvis of Intel.

Low net of a mere 49 went to Jerome Bettis' team comprised of Frank Johnson, Pat Weis, Stan Berkowitz and Jack Rowe, also with Intel.

But we all know, our scholars were the real winners!!!

Thank you to our sponsors:

Intel, Continuum Pediatric Nursing, Costa Land Company, Martek Biosciences Corp, The Traffic Group and WebMD

And thanks also to our wonderful staff and committee for making this such a big success!

Scholar Spotlight:

Alexa Glau

Grade 8 – Battle Creek, MI



Alexa dreams of becoming a forensic pathologist. She is considered a natural leader among her peers. Alexa was recently chosen as part of an elite junior high delegation that will

travel to Takasaki, Japan in a cultural exchange where she will be staying with a Japanese host family. Alexa volunteers for community cleanup projects and enjoys playing the alto saxophone.

Alumni Corner

Karol Bloch (2004) Published a book of poetry "In a World of Deaf Ears" in December 2005

Vani Takiar (2003) Named National Deans List Scholar as a junior at Johns Hopkins University majoring in Neuroscience

Congratulations to CSF Alumni Coordinator Lisa Philipose (1999) on her recent engagement to Mat, a plastic surgery resident at Mass.General in Boston.

Havre de Grace *cont'd*

The Havre de Grace Elementary School Reading Room was sponsored by Stack and Store. Phyllis and Louis Friedman, of Friedmand & Friedman Law Firm in Towson, representing Stack and Store and CSF Board Members were on hand to celebrate the special day. This is the 4th Harford County Reading Room that the Friedman's have supported with Stack and Store and their 5th room in Maryland!

Attendees included: Harford County Executive David Craig (who attended Havre de Grace Elementary as a student), a representative from Md. House of Representatives, Dutch Ruppertsberger's office, Executive Director of Elementary Education Patricia Skebeck, Police Chief Teresa Walters, as well as representatives from the Rotary Club, local press, principals from other local schools, and the entire project committee and audio visual support personnel.

Support the Carson Scholars Fund when you do your holiday shopping – shop online!

MyCause.com is a service that lets Internet shoppers direct a portion of their purchase price to the *Carson Scholars Fund* when they go to **MyCause.com** before shopping with top retailers like Barnes and Noble, Travelocity, and other book, travel and software retailers. Go to **MyCause.com**, choose Carson Scholars Fund and you can donate while you shop. It costs you nothing **extra!**

Special Dates

December 14, 2006 3rd Annual Charity Auction and Cocktail Event, Pittsburgh Chapter, At Level Club Lounge

December 15, 2006 Applications distributed and received by schools

January 26, 2007 Application Deadline for 2007 Carson Scholarship Season

January 26-February 14, 2007 Volunteers needed

March 30, 2007 Notification of scholars and non-winners

April 22, 2007 11th Annual Carson Scholars Fund Awards Banquet, Maryland, At Martins West

April 27, 2007 The 5th Annual Carson Scholars Reception at 5:00 p.m., Battle Creek, Michigan

April 29, 2007 3rd Annual Awards Luncheon, Pittsburgh Chapter, At Omni William Penn

Quotes & Quips

The difference between good and great is just a little extra effort.

B.Munn (taken from Schuylers' Restaurants' Famous Sayings, Marshall, MI)



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

410-828-1005

Fax 410-828-1007

Toll Free 1-877-77DRBEN (37236)

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Thank you for your support.