

Think Big!

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter

April 2007

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.

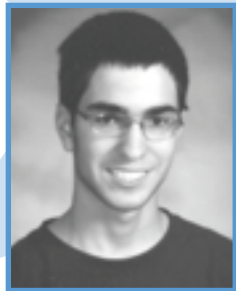
Grand Opening of 7 Reading Rooms Simultaneously...in St. Louis!

Many community leaders assembled in support of the Grand Opening of seven of the eight Ben Carson Reading Rooms in St. Louis, and East St. Louis, Missouri on January 22, 2007. Compton Drew Investigative Learning Center (Elementary-Middle School) was the stage for this incredible first... the entire program was simulcast via satellite!

The Ben Carson Reading Room Program is an extension of the Carson Scholars Fund and was established to encourage and inspire students to read independently and for enjoyment, thereby increasing comprehension and dedication to learning.

The program commenced in the school library with a welcome by Dr. George Rausch, Associate Dean for the School of Medicine of St. Louis University. Dr. Rausch wrote the grant proposals that resulted in the funding from St. Louis University (MIND) program for the 8 Reading Rooms that now provide new venues of educational opportunities for the students in the St. Louis Public School System.

Scholar Spotlight: Vincent Caniglio, III



Four-time Carson Scholar recipient, Vincent Caniglio III, is currently a senior at North Harford High School in Pylesville, Maryland. He is a member of the National

Honor Society and participates in the Harford County Forensic League. Vincent has been recognized as a Maryland Distinguished Scholar and a College Board AP Scholar with Honor. At school, Vincent has been a four year member of the North Harford High School Speech and Debate Team. He was honored as the 2005 Extemporaneous Speaking Champion. Vincent also enjoys performing in his high school theater productions, swimming, and chess.



Principal, Kenneth Blanton, Velois Rausch, Fred Hamilton and Candy Carson in new St. Louis Reading Room.

St. Louis University School of Medicine Dean, Dr. Patricia Monteleone followed with encouraging remarks. Candy Carson, co-founder of the fund gave a brief history of the Reading Room Program, which was followed by comments from Dr. Diana Bourisaw, Superintendent of St. Louis Public Schools, and Compton-Drew Middle School Principal Andrea Walker.

The eminent group then relocated to the actual site of the Reading Room where Dr. Benjamin Carson, co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, addressed the group on the "big screen" via live teleconference from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Several students were involved in the question and answer period with Dr. Carson to round out the teleconferencing session!

continued on back page

556 Student Stars Named Carson Scholars This Year!

Dr. Benjamin and Candy Carson are thrilled to announce that 556 students will be honored this year and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. These students are not only academic achievers; they are role models who are contributing to their communities in a substantial way. In addition to this year's record number of winning scholars, 16 states can now boast that they have Carson Scholar winners. To date, over 2,800 scholarship awards have been granted. Congratulations to the 92 multiple time winners who competed in our very competitive applicant pool and won.

Thank you for helping us impact the nation positively by cultivating future leaders who are intellectually talented and ethically sound. We could not do it without you.

Reading Rooms

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY

MARY E. RODMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Lafayette Elementary School library was packed on November 30th with enthusiastic student readers! Principal Mrs. Marilyn Jackson had challenged her 5th graders to pen their thoughts poetically on why reading is important and many of them rose to that challenge.

"Another Dimension", written and recited by Diamond Wise, took you there...to that other dimension where reading is the mode of travel! Mr. Halizka's 3rd graders read a unique acrostic using the letters of Dr. Carson's name to inspire others to do their best. The poem, "A Little Book" was recited and pantomimed by Ms. Jenkins' first grade class. After closing remarks by the principal, the ribbon cutting revealed an extremely cozy room, with multi-hued, cushiony bean bags, loads of fun books, and a circular city carpet complete with a police station, bank, duck pond, and even a carnival! Thanks to France-Merrick Foundation for their sponsorship.

"Children are our 1st priority" is the slogan that greets you as you walk into Mary E. Rodman Elementary School on Mulberry Street in Baltimore. Cardboard silhouettes of books hanging from the ceiling overshadowed our trek to the library.

Black linked-chain swung merrily from short black posts anchored in translucent pastel, cubic trash cans, blooming with colorful tissue wrap, separated the special reading area from the rest of the library, and a poster heralded "You are about to enter a Learning Zone!" Windows with pastel tissue silhouettes adorned the room like tiffany glass!

Gutsy first grader Meshay Clark started the program by warmly welcoming us without a script. First grade teacher, Mrs. Hillary Jones, emceed and photographed the event. Her class

enthusiastically recited and gestured to the poem, "Books to the Ceiling", after a lively recitation of an original poem, "Books, Books, Books", sibling Carlos and Daja Pearman of the 2nd and 5th grade classes respectively, spoke on how the reading room came about. An excerpt from a colorful book was read to the children by Candy Carson.

Mr. Robert Diggs and Mr. Howard Tucker from the 100 Black Men of Maryland promised their commitment to helping the children succeed by volunteering to read to them on a regular basis, and donating one of their favorite books. Ms. Christine Watson, Executive Assistant for Area 2 Elementary Baltimore City Public Schools added words of wisdom. Also on hand was Mrs. Harris, who designed and outfitted the room.

Principal Jerome Butler closed with his charge to the students to stay focused on what is really important.



Grants and Foundation Support

The Carson Scholars Fund would like recognize some of the foundations who have been critical to the success of our scholars program:

The Abell Foundation — is credited with helping to launch the Carson Scholars Fund by committing to fund a qualifying Carson Scholar in every school in the [Baltimore City](#) Public School System. It was the vision of the Abell Foundation that propelled CSF to the national stage.

The James Family Foundation — has generously supported our scholarship endeavors [across the country](#).

Eli Lilly and Company Foundation — has supplemented an active [Indianapolis Chapter](#) and helped fund some of the 17 scholarship awards.

The UPS Foundation — has been a mainstay of support for the [Atlanta Chapter](#) providing scholarships in the area for multiple years.

Konterra Development Endowment, Haugh Family Trust and Otto Haas Charitable Trust — each made a first time grant to the Carson Scholars Fund that funded a new endowment this year so their school(s) will have a scholar in perpetuity.

Dorothy L. & Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr. Foundation — has been a consistent underwriter of our scholars' banquet over the years. Thus, we are able to recognize scholars in the presence of their families, educators and community leaders.

The Rite Aid Foundation — has generously supported scholars in [Maryland, Delaware and DC](#) for the past 3 years.

The Julie Ann Robertson Cashour Memorial Fund — given in recognition of Dr. Benjamin Carson's work in neurological services, will finance scholarships for [Frederick County](#) Public School students.

The Gordon & Llura Gund Foundation — supports our banquet annually so scholars are revered for their accomplishments.

The Eddie and Sylvia Brown Foundation — has provided scholarships to repeat scholars in [Baltimore City](#).

Thanks to these corporate supporters:

Costco Wholesale — generously funds scholars annually, from [across the United States](#).

Kellogg Company — charitably finances a Carson Scholar in every public school in [Battle Creek, Michigan](#).

Indianapolis Colts — have launched their chapter by aggressively endowing [Indianapolis](#) Public Schools.

Stack and Store/Louis and Phyllis Friedman — regularly support our banquet and scholarship program in [Harford County](#).

Celebrity 9-Ball Challenge to Benefit our Scholars

The Carson Scholars Fund is looking for sponsors and participants for our Celebrity 9-Ball Pool Challenge to take place on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at Valley Mansion in Hunt Valley from 7PM-12MID. Enjoy 9-Ball with your favorite celebrity, a buffet, silent auction and more, all to benefit our scholars. Don't miss this opportunity to break with national celebrities and your favorite Baltimore heroes. For more information contact Lori Phelan at 410-828-1005 or at lphelan@carsonscholars.org.

Internship and Scholarship Opportunities for Carson Scholars

The Carson Scholars Fund is pleased to announce that we have secured exceptional summer internship opportunities with local businesses. Opportunities available to Carson Scholars only, will be posted on our website beginning May 1st. To access the information, go to our website www.carsonscholars.org and select the Students, Parents & Educators tab at the top of our Home Page.

Pittsburgh Steelers do it again!!

The 3rd annual Pittsburgh fundraiser was even bigger and better than ever before! A crowd of approximately 300 converged at Level Club Lounge for another once-in-a-lifetime experience with the Pittsburgh Steelers! At 7pm the autograph session began with many Steelers generously donating their time to interact with fans and sign sports memorabilia.

The program opened with meaningful remarks from the President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund, Dr. Alfonso Costa, followed by inspiring comments from "the Bus" Jerome Bettis. Dr. Ben Carson, the co-founder of Carson Scholars Fund gave a brief history and expressed his gratitude on behalf of himself and his wife, the national board, and all the young people who would be affected by the generosity of the Steelers, the Pittsburgh board and all the other supporters that were present.

The live auction was EXTREMELY lively, due to the creative wit and humorous antics of

Connecticut Chapter Receives Fundraising Match Challenge from Board Member

Enthusiasm sparkled throughout the auditorium of Lewis Fox Middle School in Hartford, Connecticut as the Inaugural Carson Scholars Fund Awards Ceremony began at 3pm on March 29. In a city where the high school drop out rate is over 70% and 7 out of 8 adults are functionally illiterate, it was inspiring to see academic role models honored and encouraged. Twelve intellectual superstars from various schools in the Hartford area were awarded during the program. Janice Castle (a Hartford Public School Graduate), and coordinator and chairman of the event, emceed and Tim Goodwin from the mayor's office and Dr. LaVerne Terry of the city superintendent's office offered their congratulations during the program. A very generous surprise was announced by Carson Scholars Fund Treasurer, Lee DiPietro, when he said that he was issuing a challenge to the schools. Lee promised to match all funds raised by the Connecticut chapter up to \$10,000!!!! Thank you, Lee, for encouraging our students to be the best they can be!!! Special thanks to the Hartford Insurance Company and the newly organized CSF Connecticut board and volunteers for being so generous with their time, efforts, and resources.

The inaugural awardees for Connecticut are:

Elma Acosta — 10th Grade - Weaver High School
Justin Barros — 8th Grade - Kinsella Magnet School
Brian Carvalho — 11th Grade - Bulkeley High School
Amily Colon — 7th Grade - Quirk Middle School
Julia DeJesus — 4th Grade - Kinsella Magnet School
Josee Dobson — 4th Grade - Martin Luther King Elementary School

Nicole George — 5th Grade - West Middle Elementary School
Linnea Ionno — 10th Grade - Hartford Public High School
Melina Korkutovic — 8th Grade - Hartford Magnet Middle School — In Absentia
Nordia Meggie — 8th Grade - Lewis Fox Middle School
Louis Pinnock III — 5th Grade - Annie Fisher Magnet School
Aubrey Smith, Jr. — 7th Grade - L.W. Batchelder School
Miguel Vazquez — 11th Grade - Pathways to Technology

auctioneers, Bob Pompeani and Joey Porter! This year the auction items were even more incredible, with a Golf Outing with Jerome Bettis, a Joey Porter Game Day Package, and even a 2006 Range Rover HSE! The total tally was over \$131,000 generating another successful year for the Pittsburgh Chapter.

Special thanks to these sponsors:

S & T Bank
Costa Land Company
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S.W. Jack Drilling Company
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
A & L Motors
Barbara F. Caroff
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Song Kehoe
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Charles P. and Allison C. Tucker Family Fund

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Grand Opening of 7 Reading Rooms *cont'd*

The eight schools receiving reading rooms include Mullanphy Investigative Learning Center, Shaw Visual and Performing Arts, Kennard Classical Junior Academy, Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts, Busch AAA, Gateway Middle, Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center, and Gateway Elementary. The reading rooms will consist of books and other educational materials designed to enhance the school's curriculum.

Also in attendance were Ms. Robby Wahby, from the Mayor's office, and the following principals:

Deborah Leto, Shaw VPA

Angie Bossi & Sheria Hughley, Carr Lane VPA

Barbara Huddleston, Kennard Classical Junior Academy

Linda Favre, Mullanhy ILC

Audrey DeShields, Gateway Elementary and Middle Schools

Special thanks to Dr. George and Velois Rausch, Mr. Fred Hamilton, the St. Louis Advisory Committee and the caring educators and volunteers who made the historic event possible.

Senior Send-Off

On July 10, 2007 Carson Scholars Fund will host its Third Annual Senior Send-Off Reception at the Mount Washington Conference Center in Baltimore. Our 2007 high school graduates will be celebrated as they embark on the next step of their journey as they head off for college. Carson Scholar Alumni return to network with our matriculating scholars. The evening will feature guest speakers including Carson Scholars Fund Alumni and a special message from Dr. Carson.



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Donate Now! Go to our website

www.carsonscholars.org

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

Then, choose the "How to Give" link.

Thank you for your support.

Save the Date

April 27, 2007

5th Annual Scholars Reception, Battle Creek
LeVar Burton hosts.

April 29, 2007

3rd Annual Awards Luncheon, Pittsburgh

May 9, 2007

2007 Scholar Reception, Atlanta

June 6, 2007

First Annual Scholar Recognition Ceremony and
Colt Celebrity Showdown, Indianapolis

July 10, 2007

Senior Send-off and Alumni Reception, Baltimore

October 2, 2007

Celebrity 9-Ball Fundraiser, Baltimore

December 1, 2007

Mad Hatter's Ball to
benefit Carson
Scholars Fund

