

NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

January 6, 2017

Application deadline for new and previous scholars (including report cards and teacher recommendations)

January 13, 2017

Principal verification deadline

March 2017

Notifications mailed to winners/non-winners

April 2, 2017

Lee County, FL Banquet

April 8, 2017

Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

April 19, 2017

Chicago, IL Banquet

April 30, 2017

Maryland Banquet

May 7, 2017

West Coast Banquet

TBD

North Carolina Banquet

Reading Room Openings

January 13, 2017

Esperanza Elementary
Phoenix, AZ

Spring 2017

Cowan Elementary
Cowan, TN

Francis B. McCord Elementary
Burbank, IL

Harry E. Fry Elementary
Burbank, IL

Palm Harbor Academy
Palm Coast, FL

2017 Scholarship Season

The 2017 Scholarship Season is in full swing! During this busy time of year, it's important to keep our deadlines in mind. While the weather and life may be unpredictable, our deadlines are not. We will not accept any late applications regardless of weather, school closings, technical difficulties, or any other issue....[continue reading](#)

New Year Approaching

There is just one week left of 2016! Make it count by giving the gift of education before the year is over! Any gift, no matter how large or small, can help make a difference for students across the nation. Just as compassionate Carson Scholar Fund supporter Ms. Karyn Jackson has, YOU TOO can help guide and encourage young people to excel and reach for the stars....[continue reading](#)

Announcing Five New Hall of Fame Members!

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Fundraisers Galore!

Our Carson Scholars Fund Chapters have been busy raising funds to support education. Take a look to see the amazing work they've been doing! Our friends in Pittsburgh are doing a **double take**. After 11 successful years of fundraising, the Pittsburgh Chapter has transitioned to a new way of providing scholarships to local students and it's **twice as nice**....[continue reading](#)



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The 2017 Scholarship Season is in full swing! During this busy time of year, it's important to keep our deadlines in mind. While the weather and life may be unpredictable, our deadlines are not. We will not accept any late applications regardless of weather, school closings, technical difficulties, or any other issue.



- **Friday, January 6, 2017** at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time is the deadline for students (both new students and previous scholars applying for recognition) to complete their online application. This is also the postmark deadline for any student completing a hard copy application.
- **Friday, January 13, 2017** at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time is the deadline for principal verification. On or around **January 10, 2017**, an email will be sent to the school principal asking him or her to review the application, and verify that the materials are correct and that the student truly is the school's nominee. Previous scholars applying for recognition still need principal verification for their application to be considered complete.
- All applicants will be notified of the status of their application – either winner or non-winner – via regular mail in **March 2017**.

We receive a lot of inquiries during the scholarship season. In an effort to minimize calls to the CSF office, please visit these pages on our website to find the answers to frequently asked questions.

- GPA Calculation Rules and Policies: <http://carsonscholars.org/gpa-calculation-rules-and-policies/> (Be sure to click on the link within the page to download the full version)
- Essay questions: <http://carsonscholars.org/nomination-tips-and-essay-questions/>
- Information for Educators: <http://carsonscholars.org/scholarships/educators/>
- Overall Process (including teacher recommendation requirements): <http://carsonscholars.org/overall-process/>





- Information for Carson Scholars applying for Previous Scholar Recognition: <http://caronscholars.org/scholarships/current-scholars/>
- Previous Scholar Recognition Application: Email **Katie** providing your name and date of birth
- Videos explaining online application and teacher recommendations: <http://caronscholars.org/application-videos/>

If you have additional questions you can email Katie at katie@caronscholars.org or call 410.828.1005 to speak with a CSF staff member.

New Year Approaching



There is just one week left of 2016! Make it count by giving the gift of education before the year is over!

Any gift, no matter how large or small, can help make a difference for students across the nation. Just as compassionate Carson Scholar Fund supporter Ms. Karyn Jackson has, YOU TOO can help guide and encourage young people to excel and reach for the stars!

Read Carson Scholar **Kaylene Zamudio** and her CSF donor **Ms. Karyn Jackson's** story here!

The **Carson Scholars Program** not only fosters a college-going culture beginning at the early age of just ten years old, this program identifies our next generation of leaders. The **Ben Carson Reading Project** is designed to unlock a child's full potential by providing literacy-enriched environments and promoting leisure reading.

Make your tax deductible year-end gift and help our young students become our inspiring leaders of tomorrow!

**To ensure your gift makes the 2016 tax deductible deadline, please read the following instructions:

Mailing a gift:

- The date on the check must be before or on 12/31/2016.
- The post mark date must be before or on 12/31/2016.

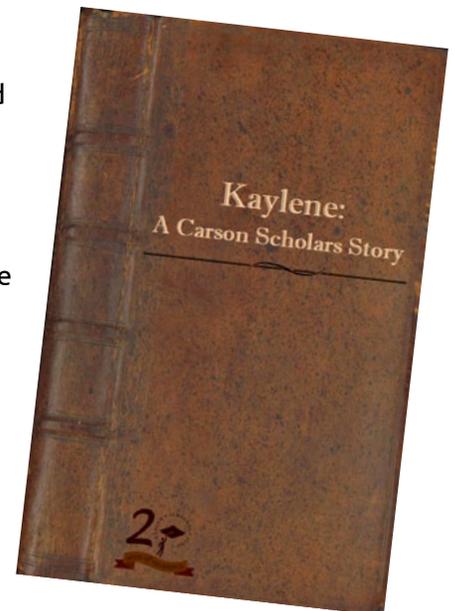
Credit Card Gifts Online:

- 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on 12/31/2016.

Donating Stock:

- If donating stock, stock must be received by 12/31/2016.

For more information, please contact Amy Warner at awarner@caronscholars.org.



Alumni Spotlight



Da'Kuawn Johnson is a two-time Carson Scholar who graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 2013. Da'Kuawn is currently a senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) studying biochemistry & molecular biology and Spanish. He is in the process of applying to Medical Scientist Training Programs (MSTPs) to pursue dual doctorate degrees (M.D. and Ph.D.). He has already been accepted into one program and is hoping to hear from more programs soon.

At UMBC, Da'Kuawn conducted research on campus with Dr. Jeffrey G. Gardner during the academic year and for two summers starting in May 2014. They spent time researching the enzymes that are required for bacteria to break down the complex sugars found in the plant cell wall. Da'Kuawn also had the opportunity to conduct research at Yale University as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Exceptional Research Opportunities (EXROP) scholar during the summer of 2015. There, he focused on identifying cell-cycle regulated proteins in bacteria using bioinformatic techniques.

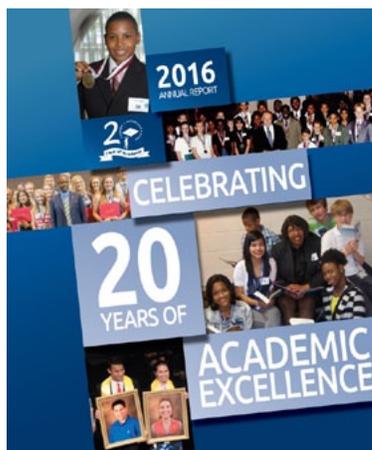
Besides research, Da'Kuawn spends a significant amount of his time serving as a teacher and tutor. He is an undergraduate teaching assistant for the introductory biology course at UMBC. He is given the opportunity to have a small class of 30 students where he teaches basic biological concepts. He also tutors chemistry (general chemistry through organic chemistry and analytical chemistry), mathematics (from algebra to calculus 2) and biology (cell biology and molecular genetics) under UMBC's Learning Resources Center. Furthermore, when he is not teaching he is involved with the Student Judicial Program.



To learn more about Da'Kuawn's accomplishments, volunteer services and awards, [click here](#).

Da'Kuawn's Carson Scholarship was sponsored by The Abell Foundation.

To be featured in our Scholar or Alumni Spotlight section, contact Katie at katie@carsonscholars.org



Take a look at our
2016 Annual Report!



View the Carson Scholars Fund
Evaluation Research Report

CSF Connect App -- Coming Soon!



Attention Carson Scholars and Alumni! CSF Connect is launching this spring!

Do you want to reach out to Carson Scholars with similar interests as you? Are you interested in connecting with CSF alumni at a college or university you're applying to? Have you been looking for a way to receive quick updates and deadline information from the Carson Scholars Fund?

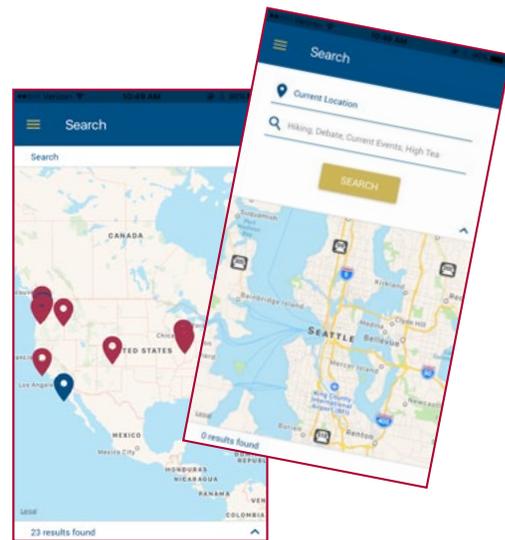
Create a profile on CSF Connect when it is released and you can!

Introducing the fastest and easiest way to network professionally within the CSF community! Your safe and reliable go-to for communication among CSF scholars and alumni. The app is compatible with both Android and iOS!

Stay tuned for the release date, which will be announced through emails, as well as on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

CSF Connect Features:

- CSF Scholar and Alumni Directory with advanced search functions:
 - Search for Carson Scholars and alumni by name, school, hobby, graduation year, and more!
 - Create your own profile and view other Carson Scholar and alumni profiles to get connected and see updates in their professional and personal lives.
- "Users Nearby" map
 - View drop pins of CSF Connect users all across the country!
- Direct access to CSF news and events
- Important CSF updates and notifications



Announcing Five New Hall of Fame Members!

Last year, at the start of our 20th anniversary, we introduced the first ever Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, a celebration of individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of the Fund's history.

The mission of the Hall of Fame is to honor outstanding Carson Scholar Alumni who are representative of CSF's mission – those who have demonstrated success and excellence in the work force, who have excelled academically and who have made significant contributions in their communities.

Last year, the inaugural group consisted of 20 inductees who were honored at our Regional Awards Banquets. This year, five new alumni will be inducted to this esteemed group and will also be celebrated at our Regional Awards Banquets.

We encourage you to meet our Hall of Fame members and see all of the amazing things they are accomplishing. We would also like to recognize alumni who are Hall of Fame Honorable Mentions. [View the Carson Scholar Hall of Fame here!](#)



Ben Carson Annual Reading Room Workshop



On Tuesday, October 25 reading room coordinators gathered at the Mt. Washington Conference Center in Baltimore, MD for the 13th Annual Ben Carson Reading Room Workshop. The workshop brings reading room coordinators together to learn ways to keep their school's reading room active and their students engaged in reading. This year's keynote speaker was children's author Jacqueline Jules. Jacqueline is an award-winning author of over 30 children's books, including the *Zapato Power* and *Sophia Martinez* series. During the workshop, Jacqueline discussed the importance of multiculturalism in literature. Also presenting was Baltimore County librarian and book reviewer, Paula Willey. For the past five years, Paula has shared her expertise and book

recommendations, many of which go on to win literary awards. For participants unable to attend the workshop, the workshop was recorded and made available via the Internet.

Ben Carson Reading Day Bigger and Better Than Ever

On Monday, November 14, Ben Carson Reading Room schools throughout the country celebrated the 11th Annual Ben Carson Reading Day. Ben Carson Reading Day is designed to raise awareness about the importance of everyday leisure reading. This year's event was made possible through a partnership with the James A. & Ruth D. Neff Historical Foundation. To celebrate, Ben Carson Reading Room elementary schools viewed a special narration of *The Raft* by Jim LaMarche featuring Dr. and Mrs. Carson. *The Raft* is about a young boy exploring wildlife, developing special relationships, and discovering his talents. All reading room school partners received a copy of the book for their school's reading room. For children not attending a Ben Carson Reading Room school, the narration was available on the CSF website.

Middle and high school partners received the book *What Made Me Who I Am* by Bernie Swain, one of the founding members of the Washington Speakers Bureau. The book features the life stories of inspirational and influential leaders, including CSF co-founder Dr. Ben Carson. In addition, all school partners received a copy of *Johnny Tremain* courtesy of the Neff Historical Foundation.



The Carson Scholars Fund strongly believes it is important for children to see adults engaged in reading; therefore, many reading room schools hosted special guest readers. This year over 50 guest readers, including news anchors, elected officials, authors, and community members volunteered their time to read to students making it our most successful reading day to date! [To view some of the day's activities, click here.](#)

Special Reading Room Openings



Thanks to our generous donors, the CSF has been busy opening three new reading rooms this fall and expanding the Ben Carson Reading Project to a 22nd state.

The reading room at **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School**, sponsored by Mr. Earl Abramson and Ms. Sheila Schlaggar, in Riviera Beach, FL opened on November 21. Students and staff were eager to visit the Dr. Seuss-themed room containing over 500 new books. Various Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the elephant and the Grinch, adorn the walls of the blue, red, and white room. Mrs. Candy Carson was in attendance for the opening and spoke to students about the importance of always 'Thinking Big.' A Cat in the Hat mascot also made an appearance to help students and guests celebrate the school's new reading oasis. The reading room at Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary is the tenth room to open in Florida and the 161st room established by the CSF.

Belle Glade Elementary School in Belle Glade, FL also celebrated a reading room opening this fall, thanks to the generosity of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the CSF. On November 28, students, staff, and guests gathered in the school's gymnasium for an all-school assembly to mark the special occasion. Mrs. Candy Carson attended the celebration and shared a motivational message reminding students about the places that reading can take them. Guests were then invited to the reading room for a ribbon cutting ceremony. *Books: Our Passport around the World* is the theme of the room, and the walls are covered in beautiful murals showing the Eiffel Tower, a desert landscape at sunset, and a mariachi band. The room at Belle Glade is the eleventh reading room in Florida and the seventh room sponsored by the Palm Beach County Chapter.

Sponsored by Mr. John Henry Kendall, a new Ben Carson Reading Room opened at **Patagonia Montessori Elementary School** in Patagonia, AZ on December 8. At an assembly held to celebrate the room's opening, students shared the meaning of 'Think Big,' sang a song, and read selected poems. Special messages were shared with students by Mr. John Henry Kendall and Mr. Alfredo Velasquez, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools. The blue, yellow, and green reading room at Patagonia Montessori instills a feeling of tranquility. Two oversized couches fill the room where students can relax and curl up with a good book. The reading room at Patagonia Montessori is the first to open in Arizona and the second sponsored by Mr. John Henry Kendall.



We Hit Our Target This #GivingTuesday!



On Tuesday, November 29, charities across the nation celebrated Giving Tuesday – a global day of giving. For the past four years, the Carson Scholars Fund has been rallying old donors, new donors, board members, friends, family, social media users, etc. to participate in giving back to our charity in support of education.

This year, the Carson Scholars Fund had an ambitious goal of \$40,000, and thanks to a large, last-minute donation, was able to raise a total of \$40,050 in 24 hours!

Thanks to your donations, we are able to give back to education – whether it's through awarding high academic superstars through our Carson Scholars Program or creating reading rooms throughout the country through the Ben Carson Reading Project.

We would have not reached our target without you!

Charity Navigator



The Carson Scholars Fund is thrilled to announce that because of our strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency, we have earned a **4-star rating from Charity Navigator**, America's largest independent charity evaluator! This is the first time that we have earned this top distinction!

In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator highlights the fine work of efficient, ethical, and open charities. As America's premier charity evaluator, Charity Navigator is the gold standard in providing donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

"The Carson Scholars Fund's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according

to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. **"Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating.** This adds the Carson Scholars Fund to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support the Carson Scholars Fund."

The Carson Scholars Fund's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. More-detailed information about the Carson Scholars Fund's rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

Fundraisers Galore!

Our Carson Scholars Fund Chapters have been busy raising funds to support education. Take a look to see the amazing work they've been doing!



Our friends in Pittsburgh are doing a **double take**. After 11 successful years of fundraising, the **Pittsburgh Chapter** has transitioned to a new way of providing scholarships to local students and it's **twice as nice**. This year, the Pittsburgh Chapter **doubled down** and executed **two events in one day**. These two events were a wonderful success thanks to the hardworking golf and dinner committee: Thomas and Fran Donahue, Robert and Rosemarie Schuler, Gerald and Patti Loyacona, and Richard and Mary Krauland.

This **doubleheader** began with a golf tournament at Laurel Valley Country Club in Ligonier, PA. Thirty-two golfers including CSF Co-founder Dr. Ben Carson arrived at Arnold Palmer's home course to show off their skills and have some fun. Competition was tough, so golfers had to work **twice as hard** to come out on top.

The Pittsburgh Chapter was **double booked** for the day. The conclusion of a successful golf tournament led to the beginning of an exclusive dinner event at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh, PA. The evening began with a spectacular silent auction consisting of a wide array of items such as original artwork, tickets to a Pittsburgh Penguins hockey game and a diamond necklace donated by Chapel Hill Jewelers. Guests were able to place bids on various items and mingle while listening to a live piano performance. Candy Carson didn't have to **think twice**, she welcomed the guests to the special evening to benefit high-performing



young students. After enjoying a soothing violin performance during dinner, Dr. Ben Carson was introduced by President of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Fran Donahue. Dr. Ben Carson delivered an inspiring keynote speech on education and the importance of a "THINK BIG" mentality.

Thank you to all who attended to support students in Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. Click [here](#) to view a **video from the golf tournament**, as well as photos from the **golf tournament** and the **exclusive dinner event**.



Fundraisers Galore! (cont.)



On Tuesday, December 13, the **Palm Beach County Chapter** of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted a charity event to benefit future Ben Carson Reading Rooms in the area. Guests were invited to a private reception and dinner at the elegant BallenIsles Country Club. The evening's event was underwritten by a grant from Wilmington Trust. Chapter President Sande Constantine welcomed guests and spoke about the charity's history. Principals Marilu Garcia and Katrina Granger shared heartwarming stories from their schools highlighting the impact that the reading rooms have had on individual children and the student body as a whole. Next, committee member Linda Stoch introduced Dr. Ben Carson who shared inspirational life stories with the guests. Dr. Carson stated that reading is the great equalizer and anything is possible for our next generation. Candy Carson gushed over some of her favorite reading room memories and then Darla Natole closed the evening with the exciting announcement that the proceeds from the evening would help to create seven or eight additional Ben Carson Reading Rooms in the area. Congratulations to the Palm Beach County Chapter on their success, and a very warm thank

you to all who attended and generously supported this special evening to encourage the love of reading in young students. To view photos from the evening [click here](#).

Help Select the Next Generation of Carson Scholars!



The success of our scholarship program relies on the dedication of our awesome volunteers. If you're interested in being a CSF volunteer, please contact us.

We are looking for volunteers to help process applications, calculate GPAs and score essays/applications. Each year, we receive thousands of applications from students across the country. We would not be able to process all of the applications we receive, in our limited time frame, without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

Our greatest need for volunteers is during the application scoring process. This begins January 16 and runs through late February. If you're interested in scoring applications please contact katie@carsonscholars.org. After a brief

training session in the Towson, MD office, you will be able to score applications remotely.

We are looking for volunteers starting in January and continuing through April. Volunteers are welcome every week, Monday through Friday. Exact hours vary by day. Evening and weekend hours can be arranged as well. [Please click here to download our Volunteer Packet and Schedule](#). If you are available to volunteer at any point during the next couple of months, please complete the form and calendar, and fax the form to 410.828.1007 or email the form to katie@carsonscholars.org. To complete the calendar, simply circle the dates/times you would like to come in. Please note that all of these volunteer hours will take place at our Towson, MD office.



Click to view our Scholarship Research video and learn more about the Carson Scholars Program.

