

# Carson Scholars Fund **n**ews

## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 7, 2017**

Scholarship Payout Forms Due

**July 17, 2017**

Payout checks mailed to colleges/universities

**October 2017**

Online Application Available

## Reading Room Openings

**Warfield Elementary**  
Indiantown, FL

**Lake Park Elementary**  
Lake Park, FL

**Washington Elementary**  
Riviera Beach, FL

**Forest Park Elementary**  
Boynton Beach, FL

**Hammock Pointe Elementary**  
Boca Raton, FL

**Prettyboy Elementary**  
Parkton, MD

**Lincoln Elementary**  
Jupiter, FL

**Cloud Springs Elementary**  
Rossville, GA

**Rolling Green Elementary**  
Boynton Beach, FL



## 2017 Banquet Season Goes Out With a Bang

Each spring, the Carson Scholars Fund hosts awards banquets across the country to celebrate the accomplishments of the year's new and recognized Carson Scholars. The 2017 banquet season was a whirlwind, honoring 1,355 scholars at eight regional awards banquets in just four weeks' time. In addition to 483 new and 872 recognized scholars, we awarded several...[Read More](#)

## A Timeless Gift from Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon

A difficult childhood complicated by the pressures of World War II drove Eleni Bukuvalas and Wolfgang Gagon out of their respective native countries to San Diego, California. The two later met and married, and built a loving and prospering life based on simple values: working hard, valuing education, inspiring others, and helping those in need. Over the course...[Read More](#)

## A Big Spring for Reading Rooms

Spring was certainly a busy season for the CSF's Ben Carson Reading Project as six new reading rooms opened and the project grew to include 170 reading rooms. [Read More](#)

## CSF Connect: Your One-Stop Shop for Scholar Connections

CSF Connect is 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...[Read More](#)

## Important Scholar Information

As the 2017 scholarship season comes to a close and as we are preparing for scholarship payouts, we have been sending you (and your schools) a lot of information. Please make sure that you have received all of the following if applicable to you. If you are missing something or if you...[Read More](#)

## Donor Spotlight: Tony Rose

Mr. Tony Rose and his wife Sandy have been proud, committed supporters of the Carson Scholars Fund since 2013. Mr. Rose works as a Division Controller for ITW/Hobart, a food equipment manufacturer and service provider in Troy, Ohio and has previously been honored by the CSF with the Trailblazer Award for his pioneering spirit and his positive impact on society. Mr. Rose has always had the urge to give...[Read More](#)

# news

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### Florida



Banquet season kicked off in Florida on Sunday, April 2 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Hotel in Bonita Springs. 522 guests gathered to celebrate with 46 new and 131 previous scholars from across the state. Longtime CSF supporter Johnny Sheppard gave the invocation, followed by a piano performance during lunch by Tamarah Wallace, a 2017 Carson Scholar from Cooper City High School. N'Jhari Jackson, a 3-time Carson Scholar and 10<sup>th</sup> grader from The Paideia School of Tampa Bay, shared a poem that he authored called *They Say That I'm a Dreamer*. N'Jhari went on to introduce "Humble & Kind", a video focusing on just a few of our amazing scholars and their dedication to their communities. Dr. William Frey, the inspiration and financial force behind the Lee County Chapter, reminded scholars that they are our future leaders. Candy Carson elevated all of the scholars, guests and educators with her enthusiasm for the program and assisted Dr. Frey in awarding the medals and certificates. The Power of Excellence Award went to Katie Riemenschneider, 2016-2017 Lee County Teacher of the Year, and the Trailblazer Award went to Dr. Stephen Achuff, former director of Adult Cardiology Clinical Programs at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The inspirational day ended with the scholars celebrating with noisemakers and a big group photo. [View photos from the Florida banquet.](#)

## Pittsburgh

On Saturday, April 8, the Pittsburgh CSF Chapter hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Carson Scholars Awards Banquet at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, PA. 74 new Carson Scholars, as well as 173 previous scholars, were recognized for their outstanding academics and humanitarian qualities. 530 guests attended to celebrate the scholars' high achievements. Brittny McGraw, WPXI-TV's weekend anchor and weekday news reporter, emceed the event for the second year in a row. Dr. James Withers, Pennsylvania native and founder of Operation Safety Net and Internal Street Medicine, conveyed a powerful message to the scholars about giving back to the community.



Lisa Stabryla, a CSF alumna and 2-time Carson Scholar, was inducted into the CSF Hall of Fame.

The Power of Excellence Award was presented to Mairi Cooper, 2015 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year from Fox Chapel Area High School. Retired, world-renowned pediatric



neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson congratulated the scholars on their achievements and reminded them to thank their families for their endless support. NFL Hall of Famer Jerome "the Bus" Bettis made a surprise appearance to speak to the scholars about the importance of pursuing education. The event concluded with a presentation of the 2017 Carson Scholars and an exciting celebration to the song *Can't Stop the Feeling*. [View photos from the Pittsburgh banquet.](#)

## West Coast



The West Coast Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 9 at the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, CA honored 135 students. Dan Cohen, a dynamic news anchor from CBS News 8, emceed the event for the second year. 2017 Carson Scholar Emma Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and later, 2017 scholar Mary Kate Tracy delivered the blessing. Award-winning producer and writer Dan Angel, of *The X-Files*, *Goosebumps*, and *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, shared a special video message with guests, and Margaret Loesch, television executive and award-winning producer, welcomed all to the special event. Pianist and 3-time scholar Channing Lee showcased her talents through an outstanding performance and Mrs. Candy Carson reflected on her book, *A Doctor in the House: My Life With Ben Carson*. Mark Victor Hansen, entrepreneur



and author best known for the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, delivered an inspiring and motivational keynote address about accomplishing goals and achieving success. Mark lifted the entire group to a new level of audacious dreaming. The afternoon reached its pinnacle when Beth Le Friant, Trustee, delivered a landmark announcement about a [multi-million dollar transformative gift from Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon](#) to benefit deserving students in California. Immigrants Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon made their home and their fortune in their beloved city of San Diego. Beth, along with other close friends of Eleni and Wolfgang, shared stories and delivered a moving tribute to the generous couple whose greatest gift would be a legacy of educating the future generations in the town they treasured. There was certainly much to celebrate! [View photos from the West Coast banquet.](#)

## Battle Creek

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle Creek Awards Banquet began with a warm welcome from CSF Executive Director, Amy Warner. 16 Carson Scholars were honored from the Battle Creek area and throughout Michigan. Quinlan Trinh-Huynh, 2017 Carson Scholar and 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Prairieview Elementary, delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

On this year's CSF application, scholars were challenged to explore the promise of their future and to write the next chapter in the proverbial 'book of life.' Carson Scholar Diana Dalski shared her essay with guests. She recalled, "It is my drive to succeed that has guided my life so far. I don't know everything that is in store for me, but I know that whatever challenges I face, I'll do the best I can do with everything given to me."



The theme of the 2017 Carson Scholars Fund Awards Banquets was "Humble and Kind". Carson Scholars across the country are not only excelling in their education, but they are doing amazing work for their communities including helping the homeless, working with underserved children, and lifting the spirits of the infirmed. One such student is 8-time scholar Hannah Swank. Hannah took the stage to share with fellow scholars the positive impact that receiving the Carson Scholar honor can have. She ensured scholars that they are capable of anything they set their minds to and can change the world.

Oluwakemi Dauda, a senior at the Dr. Benjamin Carson High School of Science and Medicine and a 2-time Carson Scholar, assisted with the reading of the scholar names and biographies. Accomplished Carson Scholars proudly came forward and accepted their medals, certificates and pins. Thank you to all the families and educators in the audience for making this day memorable in Battle Creek. [View photos from the Battle Creek banquet.](#)

## Chicago

Wednesday, April 19 marked the celebration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Awards Banquet. Carson Scholars, joined by their families, friends and educators, gathered at the Oak Lawn Hilton to celebrate their accomplishments. Dr. Sandy Goldberg, clinical nutritionist and founder of the Silver Lining Foundation, returned as emcee for the fifth year. 5<sup>th</sup> grader and 2017 Carson Scholar Enzo Santillan led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the program. Reverend Wendell Oman, from Advocate Christ Medical Center, welcomed everyone and shared remarks about the importance of education and reading. 2017 Carson Scholar Margaret Hennessy delivered the blessing prior to dinner. Tristan Swihart, a 2-time scholar from Indiana, showcased his talents through an



outstanding marimba performance which earned a standing ovation! Candy Carson spoke of the motivation behind starting the Carson Scholars Fund with her husband, Dr. Ben Carson. Daleah Sampler, a 2017 Carson Scholar, and Kai Bosley, a 2-time Carson Scholar, introduced the evening's honorees. Aalap Shah, founder of SoMe Connect, a digital media company, was presented with the Trailblazer Award for his pioneering and innovative spirit. John Fountain, author and columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, received the Generous Heart Award for demonstrating leadership in his profession and generosity in giving back to the community. This year, 99 scholars were honored from Chicago and

the mid-West. [View photos from the Chicago banquet.](#)

## Chattanooga/Atlanta

On Sunday, April 23 the Carson Scholars Fund celebrated 97 students from Tennessee and across the Southeast region at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chattanooga and Atlanta Awards Banquet. The 33 new scholars and 64 repeat scholars were honored for their academic achievements and compassion. For the second year in a row, John Mercer, news anchor for WDEF News 12 Now, emceed the event. Meaghan Jones, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, started the program by welcoming scholars and their families to Chattanooga, the scenic city on the river, and to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Candy Carson had the privilege of presenting awards to two dynamic individuals: Dr. Elaine Swafford, executive director of the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, and Tom McDevitt, chairman of *The Washington Times*. Dr. Swafford was honored with the Leadership Award and shared the poem *It Couldn't Be Done* by Edgar Guest. Tom McDevitt was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award. After receiving the award, Tom left the scholars with a thought to ponder: "I challenge you today with your brilliance and tremendous achievements to ask the question of why are you doing it, what is the purpose and make the purpose beyond yourself." The event culminated with the new scholars receiving their medals and the previous scholars renewing their Carson Scholar status. In addition to the accolades, both the new and previous scholars received a



hearty handshake from Tom McDevitt and a warm congratulatory hug from Candy Carson. [View photos from the Chattanooga/Atlanta banquet.](#)

## Greensboro

The Greensboro CSF Chapter hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carson Scholars Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 25 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons. 23 talented students from the Greensboro region were named Carson Scholars for the first time. Additionally, 16 Greensboro area students renewed their Carson Scholar status thanks largely to the generosity and support of Mike Haley and Zach Matheny. These scholars display high academic standards and a strong commitment to their communities. Rosemary Plybon, host of *This is Greensboro* on Greensboro Television News, emceed the event for the second year. 2017 Carson Scholar Tejas Santanam shared his scholar essay on youth advocacy with banquet guests. The keynote address was delivered by Tom McDevitt, chairman of *The Washington Times*, who expressed to the scholars the importance of investing in your education. While scholars from the Piedmont Triad area lined up, Candy Carson summarized the vision of the Ben Carson Reading project and used words to paint pictures of the rooms. [View photos from the Greensboro banquet.](#)



## Maryland

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland Carson Scholars Fund Awards Ceremony was held at Martin's West on April 30. Over 280 new and recognized Carson Scholars, joined by their family, friends, educators and supporters, were part of the special day. Jennifer Gilbert, FOX45 news anchor and emcee for the day, introduced the 2017 recognized scholars, who led the way for this year's new scholars and several Hall of Fame members. Lucy Hott, a 2017 Carson Scholar from Manchester, MD, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Nancy Grasmick, president of the Carson Scholars Fund and retired Maryland State Superintendent, spoke about the importance of fostering a strong support system for students. She also discussed CSF's goals to expand its programs into new areas over the next few years and continue to form deep, lasting connections with its alumni network and school partners.

Jennifer then introduced Dr. and Mrs. Carson for the presentation of special awards. The Power of Excellence Award was given to Sia Kyriakakos, 2017 Maryland Teacher of the Year and Visual Arts Teacher at Mervo Technical High School in Baltimore. Sia, a passionate teacher who gives her students exposure to the world through art, advised scholars to not forget who they are or where they came from. After Sia spoke, Jennifer asked all educators in attendance to stand, prompting a roaring applause from the entire crowd. Dr. Tony Nobles received the Trailblazer Award and spoke about the true definition of success: taking your knowledge and not only using it to be the smartest person in the room, but spreading it to others and watching them become successful. Gabriella Ribeiro, a 3-time Carson Scholar from Boston, MA, delivered a beautiful blessing followed by an exquisite operatic piece by Lena Goldstein, a 2017 Carson Scholar from Owings Mills, MD. Guests were then delighted with a performance on piano by 8-time scholar Michelle Bao from Ellicott City, MD while enjoying dinner.



After dinner, the Carsons returned to the stage to award popular TV personality Steve Harvey with the Generous Heart Award. He delivered an entertaining yet meaningful speech, leaving the scholars with an important message about the value of having a dream and following that dream to be whatever they want to be. He challenged scholars to not only be successful, but to be great and to share their greatness.



The biggest surprise of the night came when guests were directed to view a video illuminating the life story of a remarkable couple, [Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon](#). It was announced that the Gagons, who were educators and lifelong learners, had pledged their philanthropy to educating young children. After sharing poignant stories, friends of the charitable couple were given commemorative keys to the future illustrating the gift's intention to 'unlock potential in children.'

Benjamin Garonzik, a 2017 Carson Scholar from Pikesville, MD, cleverly introduced Dr. Ben Carson for the evening's keynote address. Dr. Carson stressed the importance of the scholars making their presence known, of standing up with courage and conviction, and of talking about what is right, just and fair. He left scholars with a simple yet powerful idea: "Each one of us has a choice. What kind of person are we going to be? Be someone who helps others and is fair."

This year's banquet theme of "Humble and Kind" truly showed through a video that showcased the impact that scholars make in their communities. One of those scholars was alumna Megan Rosenberger who, along with four other outstanding Carson Scholars alumni, was inducted into the 2017 CSF Hall of Fame with the help of members from the 2016 Hall of Fame class. With so much to celebrate, the ceremony concluded with a balloon drop and confetti while scholars tooted their own horns and danced to *Can't Stop the Feeling*. [View photos from the Maryland banquet.](#)

Thank you to everyone who made the 2017 Carson Scholar Awards Banquets so successful and memorable! We are honored to work with with so many educators, community leaders, scholars and families who continuously show their dedication to furthering the education of young students. Check out the [Chapters](#) page on our website for more specific information on area scholars. Photos are also available on our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.

# From Scholars, Parents and Educators

“She now believes that with perseverance and hard work she can accomplish her goals. It gives her motivation to continue to go forward. This is going to be a stepping stone in her successful career. I can feel it. Thank you for allowing this to happen.”

**Gerardo Rojas**

*Parent of Elizabeth Rojas*



“The Carson Scholars Fund has helped my child to understand that service to others matters. ‘Humble and Kind’ is our family motto...what a wonderful theme for today’s event.”

**Deneen Skalniak**

*Parent of Brandon Skalniak*



“It means that I am headed towards the right path and that I should keep it up. It encourages me to keep on trying.”

**Liset Diaz-Cortes**

*2-time Carson Scholar, Springfield Middle School*



“Our scholar is a leader! After she was recognized I have heard other students discuss how they would like to lead as well.”

**Dan Clark**

*Educator, Northeast Elementary School*

## A Timeless Gift from Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon



A difficult childhood complicated by the pressures of World War II drove Eleni Bukovalas and Wolfgang Gagon out of their respective native countries to San Diego, California. The two later met and married, and built a loving and prospering life based on simple values: working hard, valuing education, inspiring others, and helping those in need. Over the course of their lives, the Gagon’s amassed a substantial real estate portfolio and stimulated revitalization in their beloved city of San Diego.

The Carson Scholars Fund is thrilled to announce that the greatest part of the estate that Eleni and Wolfgang worked so hard to create was set aside for furthering education through the youth missions executed by the Carson Scholars Fund. This represents the largest gift in the history of CSF. The selfless spirits of Eleni and

Wolfgang Gagon will continue through the mentoring of deserving children of California, and of San Diego in particular, for many years to come.

We encourage you to [listen to the life story of Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon](#). Get involved by [volunteering to propel our programs into West Coast schools](#).



Carson Scholars received so many words of wisdom from this year's awards banquet honorees. Check out some of their advice below and [visit our website](#) for full speeches.

**“Education is the pathway down any road you wish you take.”**  
**Jerome Bettis**  
Guest Speaker | Pittsburgh

**“Always be purposeful.”**  
**Dr. Elaine Swafford**  
Leadership Award | Chattanooga

“The question that we have to raise is why do we do what we do? I challenge you today to ask the question of why you are doing it and what is the purpose, and **make the purpose beyond yourself.**”  
**Tom McDevitt**  
Lifetime Achievement Award | Chattanooga

“Success is when you take what you’ve done and you **give it back to someone else** and you watch them become successful.”  
**Dr. Tony Nobles**  
Trailblazer Award | Maryland

“You need to study hard, learn your skills, be good at what you do, but always look for opportunities to **bring your humanity into your lives** and treat others as you would want to be treated.”  
**Dr. Jim Withers**  
Keynote Speaker | Pittsburgh

**“You got to attach this smartness that you got to a dream.”**  
**Steve Harvey**  
Generous Heart Award | Maryland

“Success and happiness come when you **find and foster meaningful relationships** in your lives. You will have moments of doubt, but when you do, your questions will be answered by turning to the ideas, beliefs and dreams that have given you meaning. You will falter, but when you do, you will be lifted up by colleagues, friends and family members whose relationships have given you meaning.”  
**Mairi Cooper**  
Power of Excellence Award | Pittsburgh

“Be passionate about what you want to do. **Be passionate about how you want to live.** Be loving to everyone around you and do it with honor and grace.”  
**Sia Kyriakakos**  
Power of Excellence Award | Maryland

**“Set goals that are outrageous.”**  
**Mark Victor Hansen**  
Power of Excellence Award | West Coast

“Going to college, studying and doing the right thing can be hard sometimes. But you are here because **people believe in you.**”  
**Katie Reimenschneider**  
Power of Excellence Award | Florida

## Congratulations to the 2017 Hall of Fame!

With the help of several 2016 Hall of Fame members, five Carson Scholar alumni were welcomed into the CSF Hall of Fame during the Pittsburgh Awards Banquet (April 8) and the Maryland Awards Banquet (April 30).



Presented with a portrait and a commemorative ring, the inductees represent some of the best and the brightest of the Carson Scholars Fund. They are dedicated to bettering their communities and consistently demonstrate excellence beyond high school.

At the Pittsburgh Awards Banquet, 2017 Hall of Fame inductee Lisa Stabryla offered sound advice to this year's new and recognized Carson Scholars. Lisa, who is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental engineering, helps to inspire female and minority students to pursue STEM fields through working with the Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education and with the INVESTING NOW Summer Enrichment Program at the University of Pittsburgh. She encouraged scholars to find what they are passionate about and turn their passions into careers.

Maanal Ali, Evan Barnard, Da'Kuawn Johnson, and Megan Rosenberger were all recognized during a

special ceremony at the Maryland Awards Banquet. 2016 Hall of Famers Jeremy Garriga, Alexandra Vlk and Ashley Zachery assisted the Carsons as each inductee had a biography read, showing the crowd what it takes to be a member of the Carson Scholars Fund's Hall of Fame.



“Find the things you are passionate about in your life and think of ways you can develop and shape them into a career. And since you’re going to be thinking anyway, you might as well **THINK BIG** – like combatting climate change, improving health care, eliminating poverty, or reforming education. This early thinking will give you a jump start in developing the skills and education you need to succeed in the career of your dreams.”

Lisa Stabryla, 2017 Hall of Fame Member

## Fall 2017 Reading Room Openings

- **Warfield Elementary** – Indiantown, FL
- **Lake Park Elementary** – Lake Park, FL
- **Washington Elementary** – Riviera Beach, FL
- **Forest Park Elementary** – Boynton Beach, FL
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# A Big Spring for Reading Rooms

Spring was certainly a busy season for the CSF's Ben Carson Reading Project as six new reading rooms opened and the project grew to include 170 reading rooms.

## Cowan Elementary School



Reading has the ability to transport you to magical places. Students at Cowan Elementary in Cowan, TN can now travel across this beautiful nation of ours without leaving their school's Ben Carson Reading Room. This National Park themed reading room features murals depicting national parks and famous landmarks across the United States. From the lush forests of the Great Smokey Mountains to the Statue of Liberty's shining torch, children can explore over 500

high-interest books in this awe-inspiring room. The reading room opened on March 31. To commemorate the special occasion, the school hosted an all-school assembly featuring students singing *America the Beautiful*. This is the sixth reading room to be established in Tennessee and the fourth reading room to be sponsored by the Deaver Phoenix Foundation. [View photos of Cowan ES' reading room.](#)

## Palm Harbor Academy

Students at Palm Harbor Academy, a public charter school in Palm Coast, FL, are aiming for the stars in their school's space-themed reading room. Through the generosity of United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Jennifer McDonald, Karen Welden and Seminole Feed, the reading room is quickly becoming the most popular place within the school. The school held its opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 4 at a capacity crowd of students, teachers, administrators and community members. Highlights of the ceremony included a student led THINK BIG presentation and performance of a creative song about reading (to the tune of Pharrell's *Happy*). Candy Carson was in attendance and shared some amazing facts about the brain. In the reading room, students can cozy up with books in cubbyholes and bench seating surrounded by intricate paintings of planets, asteroids and a rocket blasting off into space. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> reading room to be established in Florida and the first in Flagler County. [View photos of Palm Harbor Academy's reading room.](#)



## Frances B. McCord and Harry E. Fry Elementary Schools

Thanks to the continued support of Advocate Christ Medical Center, new reading rooms opened at Frances B. McCord Elementary School and Harry E. Fry Elementary School in Burbank, IL. Both schools celebrated their openings on April 19 with a ceremony at McCord Elementary followed by a reception at Fry Elementary. During the ceremony at McCord, the sixth grade class performed *Read It* to the tune of Michael Jackson's *Beat It*, and students read an essay and a short story. Candy Carson and Reverend Wendell Oman from Advocate Christ Medical Center spoke to students and guests about the importance of reading. At the ribbon cutting ceremony, students were eager to pick out new books and settle onto the couch to read by the fireplace. Candy Carson enthusiastically read a story to the group of children visiting the cozy new room. At Fry Elementary, guests were greeted by the entire student body lining the halls of the school holding signs proclaiming their goals and dreams. The learning laboratory-themed reading room includes special nods to Dr. Carson's mother, Sonya, and his childhood such as a bicycle decoration with 'Benny' written on the basket.



## A Big Spring for Reading Rooms



The brightly colored reading room also incorporates word walls to further help students develop their reading skills while visiting the room. Having someone to look up to is important to the students and staff at Fry Elementary, so as a tribute to Dr. Carson's mother, the school created and produced a video highlighting the importance of strong female role models which was played during the reception. View photos of [McCord ES](#) and [Fry ES' reading rooms](#).

### Inlet Grove Community High School

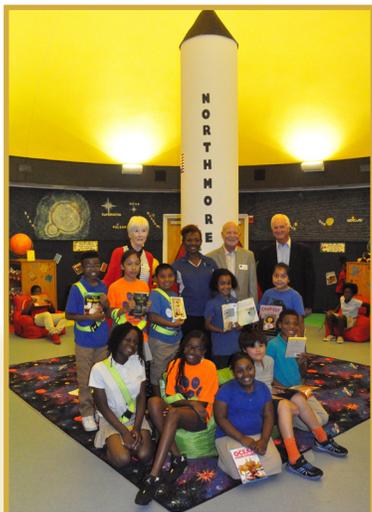
On May 5, Inlet Grove Community High School in Riviera Beach became the first high school in Florida to open a reading room. Sponsored by Sid & Esther Dinerstein and Gerald & Gwen Richman, with additional support from Rita & Joe Scheller, the reading room, also called The Hurricane Café, was designed after a coffee house. The furniture and decorations were carefully selected for the room to create a café atmosphere where students can discover new books or revisit old favorites. A popcorn machine and a Keurig are unique additions to the reading room café. Special guests at the reading room's opening included the Dinersteins, the Richmans, Candy Carson, and the Palm Beach County Chapter of the CSF. Inlet Grove students executed the



ceremony through serving as emcees, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a musical number. Candy Carson, Sid Dinerstein and Gwen Richman addressed the audience to discuss the importance of reading, education and working hard to accomplish goals. The Inlet Grove Marching Canes drumline closed out the ceremony with an energetic performance! [View photos of Inlet Grove Community HS' reading room](#).



### Northmore Elementary



On May 15, Northmore Elementary School in West Palm Beach, FL celebrated the opening of their new reading room thanks to the generosity of the BallenIsles Charities Foundation. Northmore's reading room, which marked the 170<sup>th</sup> reading room for the CSF, opened in a unique location – a former planetarium at the school! Naturally, the school selected a space theme to match the setting, encouraging students to soar off with a good book. Murals of the solar system cover the curved walls and a large rocket ship stands in the middle of the room surrounded by bean bag chairs. At an assembly prior to the ribbon cutting reception, Northmore's choir performed a song, and students recited Dr. Ben Carson's 'Think Big' philosophy, read a poem, and shared 'Did You Know?' facts about Dr. Carson. Students can select an old favorite or discover an exciting new book from the reading room's collection of over 800 books. [View photos of Northmore ES' reading room](#).

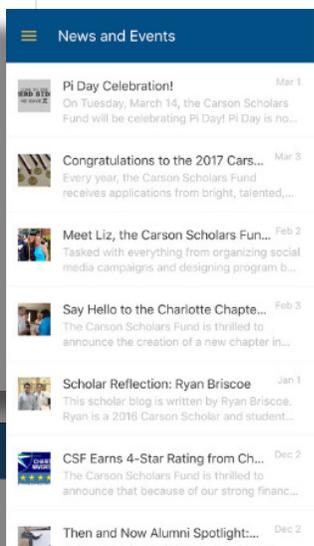
# The wait is over! It's finally here!

## introducing

# CSF ★ CONNECT

CSF Connect is 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.

## CSF Connect Features



### CSF Scholar and Alumni Directory with advanced search functions

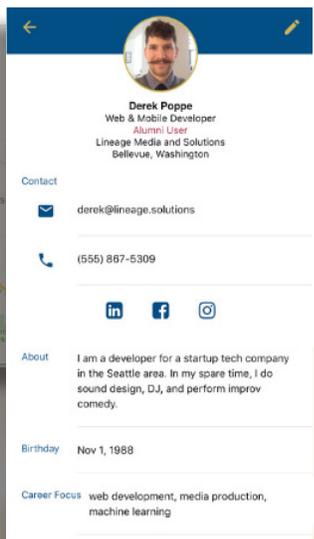
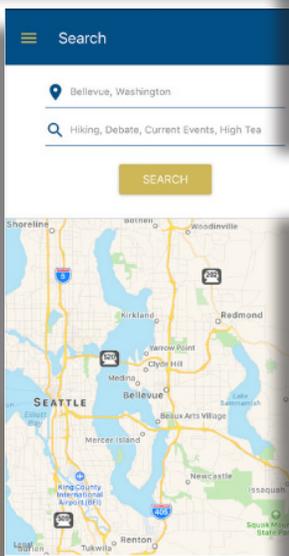
- Search for Carson Scholars and alumni by name, school, hobby, graduation year and more
- Create your own profile and view other Carson Scholar and alumni profiles to get connected

### “Users Nearby” map

- View drop pins of CSF Connect users all across the country

### Direct access to the CSF news, events, updates and notifications

Available on the App Store®. Coming soon to Google Play.



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## Important Scholar Information

As the 2017 scholarship season comes to a close and as we are preparing for scholarship payouts, we have been sending you (and your schools) a lot of information. Please make sure that you have received all of the following if applicable to you. If you are missing something or if you have any questions about the information, please contact us at 410-828-1005 or email [katie@carsonscholars.org](mailto:katie@carsonscholars.org).

✓ All scholar packets have been mailed if you were unable to attend the banquet. Scholar packs include your certificate and medal (new scholars) or pin (previous scholars). Scholar packs were mailed via bulk mail, which can take up to three weeks. Contact us if you don't receive your scholar pack by the end of June.

✓ All scholars were emailed their 2017 scholarship statement. Scholarship statements are only available online – you will not be receiving a statement in the mail. Please make sure that we have an accurate email address on file for you.

✓ All scholars eligible for the fall 2017 semester payout should have received a payout request form with their scholar statement. This information was mailed and emailed.

✓ Schools have been mailed their trophy and/or nameplates.

It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact information for our scholars. If you have moved, changed email addresses, or got a new phone number, please let us know! This is especially important when it comes time for scholarship payouts.

## Scholar Payout Information: Attention Class of 2017

Getting ready to set off for college? Make sure you understand our scholarship payout process.

Scholarship monies are paid directly to the college or university at which you will be a student. Payouts can only be done after verifying that you have been accepted and will be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution within the United States for the upcoming semester. Students must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree-track (four-year) program to receive their payout.

Scholarship monies can be used towards academic expenses including tuition, room and board, or books. Your scholarship is a one-time scholarship. We offer the option to request a full or partial payout. Students who have other scholarships that cover much of their academic expenses often request a partial payout and use our scholarship money towards books. We also offer students the option to defer their scholarship payout. Payouts may be deferred for up to three years after high school graduation.

The Carson Scholars Fund will only make payouts twice a year – for the fall and spring semesters. We cannot accommodate payout requests for summer or winter classes.

Balance statements and Payout Request Forms for the fall 2017 semester have been sent to payout eligible scholars. **The Payout Request Form must be completed and submitted back to the CSF office by Friday, July 7, 2017.** Checks will be mailed to colleges on July 17, 2017 for the fall semester. Any Payout Request Forms received between now and then will be held until July. *All Payout Request Forms received after July 7, 2017 will be held for payout for the spring 2018 semester.*

[Download a copy of the fall 2017 payout request form.](#)

Or, you can complete your payout request form online. All eligible scholars should have received an email with a link to the payout request form, your username and password.

If any of your contact information (mailing address, email address or phone number) has changed since we last heard from you, please contact us! We can only send Payout Request Forms to contact information that we have in our database. To update your information, call 410-828-1005 or send an email to [katie@carsonscholars.org](mailto:katie@carsonscholars.org).



## Scholar Spotlight: Gabriel Ramos



Gabriel Ramos is a 2017 Carson Scholar and a junior at North Pocono High School in Covington Township, PA. Gabriel believes in challenging himself academically. He is involved in his school's gifted and talented program and was named Pennsylvania Distinguished Gifted Student of the Year for 2016-2017 and 2013-2014 by the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education. He has taken independent studies in advanced math and Latin, and completed an independent study in biology as an eighth grader. Gabriel is involved in the North Pocono Odyssey Players Theatre Group, serves as advocacy and legislative chairperson for the PTSA, and is a National PTA Youth Summit Leader. He also participates in the Red Cross Club, National Honor Society, Math Club and on the golf team. He mentors elementary students in need of academic assistance and facilitates a Crazy 8's Math Club and a Rubik's Cube Club, teaching difficult math and physics concepts in a fun manner to encourage a love of math.

As an aspiring healthcare professional, Gabriel is already learning the ins and outs of research and legislation. He has completed research in behavioral science, studying the effects of multitasking and depression and social media use. He has also studied the topical antibacterial properties of turmeric on *Staphylococcus* under Dr. Namdari. With the help of Representative Marty Flynn, Gabriel wrote a healthcare reform proposal and is now working on a dental program grant through his internship with The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education. Through the Wright Center, he will work in advocacy and legislation as well as grant writing. Recently, Gabriel was selected to represent The Wright Center at the American College of Physicians Leadership Conference on Capitol Hill to advocate for patients and health care reform.

Gabriel's dedication to serving his community has not gone unnoticed, amassing over 750 hours of service throughout high school. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at just 13 years old and is deeply involved in his parish, where he serves as the youth representative on the Parish Pastoral Council. Through his blessing bags initiative, Gabriel donates bags filled with supplies to homeless women and veterans, donating over 200 blessing bags over the last year and a half. Some of those bags were given to a local women's resource center as Mother's Day gifts for the children to give to their mothers.



Gabriel also has a passion for music. As a member of the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, he sings opera and plays piano, jazz harmonica and saxophone. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and was named a National Young Classical Artist, performing at Bloomsburg University's historic Gross Auditorium and Sordani Theater.

After high school, Gabriel plans to major in classical studies and chemistry while finding a college that supports his desire to serve those around him. He aspires to follow in the footsteps of his father, a first generation American who educated himself out of poverty and is now a rheumatologist. Gabriel hopes to dual specialize in pediatric and adult rheumatology while continuing to work with legislators to advocate for the best physician-patient care.

***"Advocacy, for me, is not someone else's responsibility, nor a choice. It is an obligation to our fellow man, ourselves, our next generation - the voice for the voiceless. It is my duty to use my talents to serve, whether that is in legislation, medicine or my community. My mission is servant leadership."***

*Gabriel Ramos, 2017 Carson Scholar*

*Gabriel's scholarship was sponsored by Mr. Jack Fernandez.*

## Meet Our Interns!



**McKenzie Patrick**  
4-time Carson Scholar

**School:** Franklin High School, Class of 2018

**Career Aspirations:** I hope to pursue a career in the field of political science.

**Favorite Book:** *Ender's Game*

**Favorite Food:** Pizza

**Favorite Song:** *Peace of Mind* by Boston

**Being a Carson Scholar** has given me the confidence to continue to strive for great things. It was encouraging to see that I could accomplish this and have my achievements acknowledged at such a young age.

**Best Advice:** "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

## Carson Scholars Selected as 2017 Presidential Scholars



Two Carson Scholars have been named 2017 Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

Congratulations to **Matthew Kleiser of Boys' Latin School of Maryland** and **Gabriela Escalante of Saint Mary's Hall in Texas** on such a prestigious award!



Established in 1964, the United States Presidential Scholars Program recognizes some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Up to 161 students are chosen each year to carry the honor of being named a Presidential Scholar. Scholars are awarded the Presidential Medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

**We are excited to welcome Matthew to the CSF staff this summer as an intern!**



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Nonprofit!**



## Donor Spotlight: Tony Rose



Mr. Tony Rose and his wife Sandy have been proud, committed supporters of the Carson Scholars Fund since 2013. Mr. Rose works as a Division Controller for ITW/Hobart, a food equipment manufacturer and service provider in Troy, Ohio and has previously been honored by the CSF with the Trailblazer Award for his pioneering spirit and his positive impact on society.

Mr. Rose has always had the urge to give back to the community and help others with his time, talent and resources. As his children grew, he learned to coach various sports, lead Boy Scouts and contribute to good causes. As his professional life flourished, he learned the satisfaction of lifting others up to their full potential. Over time he began to adopt a few tenets such as “to whom much is given, much is required”, “give until it hurts”, “if you see something good, help it grow”, and his favorite local saying “come when you can, leave when you must”. Eventually Mr. Rose realized that he had more to offer and started to look for a bigger way to contribute to society.

His new drive led him to serve on city council, run for school board and start thinking about his legacy. Prompted by his employer’s generous charitable matching program, he began researching what it would take to start up a scholarship program, which led him to the Carson Scholars Fund. After stumbling upon CSF, Mr. Rose recalls thinking,

**“What a novel scholarship concept! Recognize the scholar and not just the athlete; recognize the student while they are young and creating their path in life; recognize the student that can influence more students in the class room; recognize the student for their community involvement; and finally, reward this amazing student financially. You see, it is much more than just a scholarship and it matched perfectly with my goals.”**

From that point on, Mr. Rose began working with the Carson Scholars Fund to create his own endowment, with the long term vision of creating one for the school that he grew up in, one for the school that his wife grew up in, and one for the school that his children attended. [Learn more about endowments.](#)



The Carson Scholars Fund is extremely proud to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Rose have now completed their three endowments, the Rose Aspiring Minds & Character Scholarship Endowments. They currently have nine Carson Scholars! Mr. & Mrs. Rose have made a profound impact on the Ohio region that will be felt for many years to come.



**“I’ve been able to meet Carson Scholars at ceremonies in Indiana, Illinois, and Maryland and I’ve met the Hall of Fame Scholars. Trust me, these kids are absolutely AMAZING! I have no doubt these young adults will do incredible things and it is very rewarding to be a small part in helping it grow. I don’t share this to boast, but I hope my personal story inspires you to reach beyond your current limitations and to THINK BIG.”**