

NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

January 8, 2018

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

January 12, 2018

Principal verification deadline

March 2018

Notifications mailed to winners/non-winners

April 7, 2018

Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

April 15, 2018

Lee County, FL Banquet

April 22, 2018

Maryland Banquet

April 29, 2018

Chattanooga, TN Banquet

May 6, 2018

West Coast Banquet

Reading Room Openings

Winter/Spring 2018

La Mesa ES - Monterey, CA

EJE Academy - El Cajon, CA

Scholarship Prep Charter School - Santa Ana, CA

Pioneer Park ES - Lake Worth, FL

Palmetto ES - West Palm Beach, FL

Banyan Creek ES - Delray Beach, FL

Rolling Green ES - Boynton Beach, FL

Cloud Springs ES - Rossville, GA

Cascade Schools - Cascade, IL

Woodholme ES - Pikesville, MD

Starmount Academy of Excellence - Charlotte, NC

East Coffee ES - Manchester, TN

2018 Scholarship Season

The 2018 Scholarship Season is upon us! 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. In fairness to all applicants, we are unable to accept any late applications...[Read More](#)

Year End Giving

The Carson Scholars Fund's 21st year made a lasting impact on countless students like Keya and it is all thanks to you! [Read More](#)

Meet Our CSF Hall of Fame Class of 2018

The Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame includes individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of our history. It honors outstanding Carson Scholar alumni who represent the CSF's mission – those who have demonstrated success and excellence in the work force...[Read More](#)

National Day of Reading Across the Country

As children, many of us fondly remember reading Winnie-the-Pooh, but did you know Winnie-the-Pooh was inspired by a real bear? On Monday, November 13, the Carson Scholars Fund set out to share the remarkable story of Winnipeg, the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, during...[Read More](#)

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The Charlotte Chapter of the CSF, led by Kathleen Juhl, held a fundraiser on October 20 at the Palisades Country Club in North Carolina. The event featured entertainment from local tennis pros who competed in a small tennis tournament for guests to enjoy. Guests dined on food...[Read More](#)

Donor Spotlight: Dr. & Mrs. Donald Janower

Dr. Donald Janower was first introduced to the Carson family when Mrs. Carson brought her young sons in for an office visit. [Read More](#)



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2018 Scholarship Season



The 2018 Scholarship Season is upon us! 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. In fairness to all applicants, we are unable to accept any late applications regardless of weather, school closings, technical difficulties, or any other issue.

- Monday, January 8, 2018** at 8:00 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. Please note the time change from previous years.

- Friday, January 12, 2018** at 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time is the deadline for principal verification. On or around January 10, 2018, 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 2018**.

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** (Be sure to click on the link within the page to download the full version)
- Essay Questions**
- Information for Educators**
- Overall Process** (including teacher recommendation requirements)



- Information for Carson Scholars applying for Previous Scholar Recognition
- Previous Scholar Recognition Application: Email Lacey at lrichards@carsonscholars.org providing your name and date of birth
- Videos explaining online application and teacher recommendations

If you have additional questions you can email Lacey at lrichards@carsonscholars.org or call 410.828.1005 to speak with a CSF staff member.

Year End Giving

The Carson Scholars Fund's 21st year made a lasting impact on countless students like Keya and it is all thanks to you!



"Becoming a Carson Scholar has inspired me and reminded me that I can pursue my dreams as long as I keep being persistent and work hard to earn scholarships to fund my college education...your kindness has made a strong impact in the future of a hardworking, determined and ambitious young adult."

But, by no means does this mean that we are finished changing lives in 2017.

"You can make it possible for more people to have this opportunity by donating to the Carson Scholars Fund. We are very grateful for your thoughtful donation to young men and women who are on their way to becoming the next generation of leaders in America.

Thank you!" – Keya Loding, 3-time Carson Scholar

Make your tax deductible gift today to change the life of a student like Keya this year.

**To ensure your gift makes the 2017 tax deductible deadline, please read the following instructions:

Mailing a gift:

- The date on the check must be before or on 12/31/2017
- The post mark date must be before or on 12/31/2017

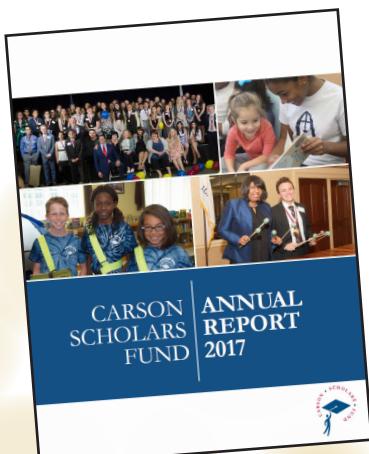
Credit Card gifts online:

- 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on 12/31/2017

Donating Stock:

- If donating stock, stock must be received by 12/31/2017

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



Have you reviewed our
2017 Annual Report?

Check it out here!

Meet Our CSF Hall of Fame Class of 2018



The Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame includes individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of our history. It honors outstanding Carson Scholar alumni who represent 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.

As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, we introduced the first ever Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame. This inaugural class was comprised of 20 outstanding Carson Scholar alumni. Five outstanding alumni were inducted into the CSF Hall of Fame at various banquets during our 2017 awards season, bringing new ideas, new experiences and new goals to the already impressive group.

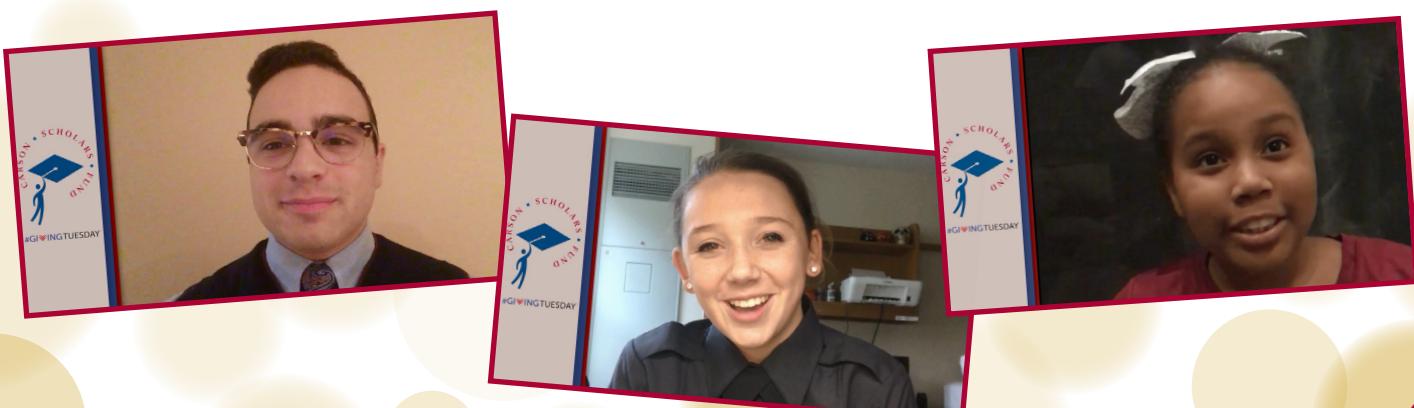
We are thrilled to announce that, for the second year in a row, five new inductees have been selected to join the Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, representing an accomplished group of over 4,400 Carson Scholar alumni. Our 2018 inductees are scientists, healers, authors, engineers and philanthropists. They dedicate their time to mentoring and helping others. We will celebrate our new Hall of Fame members at our awards banquets this spring.

[Meet our Hall of Fame members](#) and check out the amazing things that they are doing in their work, on their campuses and in their communities. We would also like to recognize alumni who are Hall of Fame Honorable Mentions. Congratulations to all!

Giving Tuesday

On Tuesday, November 28, charities across the nation celebrated Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving. For the last five years, the Carson Scholars Fund has brought together donors, board members, friends, family, and social media users to participate in giving back to our charity to support education.

This year, the Carson Scholars Fund raised the funds for several new Carson Scholars! We couldn't have done this without those who support us. With your donations, we are able to reward students who work hard in school, are role models for their peers and strive to make a difference in their communities.



National Day of Reading Across the Country

2017 Carson Scholars Fund National Day of Reading

Sponsored by the
William & Winifred Freeman Foundation

"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

A.A. Milne



As children, many of us fondly remember reading Winnie-the-Pooh, but did you know Winnie-the-Pooh was inspired by a real bear? On Monday, November 13, the Carson Scholars Fund set out to share the remarkable story of Winnipeg, the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, during our 12th Annual National Day of Reading. This year's event, sponsored by the **William and Winifred Freeman Foundation**, featured *New York Times* bestseller and 2016 Caldecott Medal Winner *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick. CSF school partners received a copy of the book and an animated DVD to engage students in reading and literacy activities.

In addition to the featured story, many CSF school partners held literacy events and hosted special guest readers. The CSF believes it's important for children to see adults engaged in reading. Special thanks to all of the guest readers who shared their time, talents and passion for literacy!

2017 Guest Readers

Apryl Scalici / Children's Author A.B. Curtiss / CSF Co-Founder Candy Carson

Carol Beutler / Councilman Todd Crandell / Councilwoman Cathy Bevins

Councilwoman Vicki Almond / Darla Natole / Dr. Steven Pliskow

BCPS Community Superintendent George Roberts

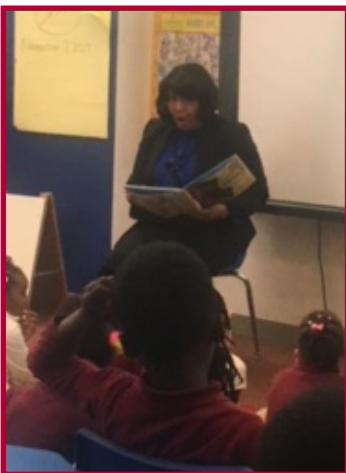
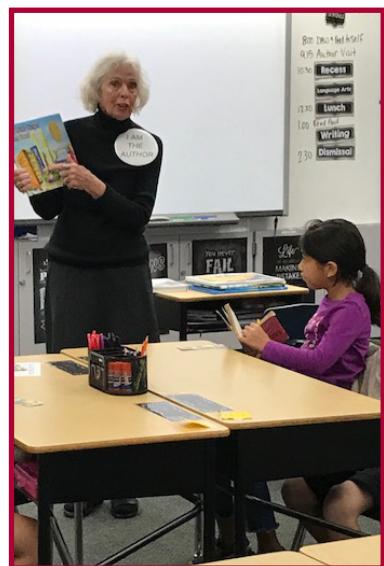
CSF Alumna & Advisory Board Member Hailey Cramer / Jeff Janower

WBFF News Anchor Jennifer Gilbert / Jessie Monteleone / Lorraine Stevens

Linda Stoch / Marlene Young / Michelle Osborne / Councilman Mike Perrone, Jr.

Councilwoman Monica Worrell / Councilman Patrick Vincenti / Peggy Cisar

Children's Author Peter Blueberry / Sande Constantine



A Fun Fall for the Ben Carson Reading Room Project

Fall was a busy season for the Ben Carson Reading Room Project as we opened seven new rooms! With these new additions, 177 reading rooms have now been established.

Prettyboy Elementary School

Freeland, MD



The reading room at Prettyboy Elementary School opened on September 24 and is the second room to be sponsored by the Votta family. Students and staff were eager to visit "Camp PBE," a camping-themed room containing over 500 new books, a handmade canoe and large stuffed bears for the students to relax on. The mural that adorns the wall was created by the daughter of a staff member and the students enjoyed watching the progress of the lake and trees throughout the weeks. CSF co-

founder Candy Carson was in attendance for the opening and spoke to students about the importance of always "thinking big." The opening was celebrated with a school-wide assembly where each grade took part in sharing their love of reading with songs, poems and letters of thanks.

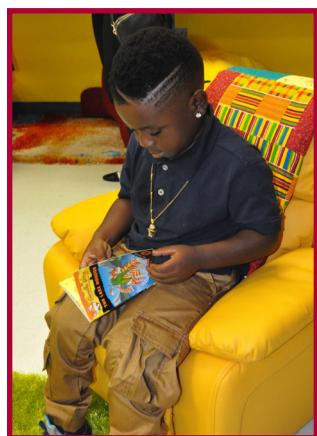
Lincoln Elementary School

Riviera Beach, FL

Lincoln Elementary School also celebrated a reading room opening this fall. Thanks to the generosity of Steve and Apryl Scalici, students can now "dream beyond what you see." On October 20, students, staff and guests gathered in the school's gymnasium for an all-school assembly to mark this very special occasion. Students can select an



old favorite or discover an exciting new series from the reading room's collection of over 500 books. Lincoln Elementary students executed the ceremony through speeches and singing a musical number. Candy Carson addressed the audience to discuss the importance of reading, education and working hard to accomplish goals.



Forest Park Elementary School

Boynton Beach, FL

Students at Forest Park Elementary School are now able to pick from over 1,000 books and go on an adventure with their brand new "Explore the World" themed reading room. The walls are adorned with a mural that was impressively painted by fifth grade teacher Michael Webber. On November 9, students, staff and guests celebrated this exciting addition to their school with an assembly, ribbon cutting ceremony and recognition of room sponsors. Amongst staff, Candy Carson and the mayor of Boynton Beach Steven Grant spoke to the students about the importance of reading and education. This is the second reading room generously donated by Earl Abramson and Sheila Schlaggar.



Lake Park Elementary School

Lake Park, FL



Students at Lake Park Elementary School were able to finally explore their new African themed reading room this fall! A mural proclaiming the Lake Park Lions are "Wild about Literacy" is front and center in this brand new addition to the school. On October 13, thanks to sponsors Ginger and John Bills, Lake Park Elementary celebrated with a school-wide assembly and a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring African inspired snacks. Students can choose one of over 500 brand new books and relax within a safari of their very own.



Warfield Elementary School

Indiantown, FL



Warfield Elementary School opened their reading room thanks to the efforts of the CSF's Palm Beach County Chapter and a generous donation from Mrs. Enid Cheatham. The 'Under the Sea' themed room gives students the opportunity to take the plunge into one of 1,300 new books. Teachers, administrators and volunteers worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality, setting a marvelous example for their students to Think Big! On October 5, the school celebrated the new room with an assembly. Also present was Mrs. Candy Carson, who spoke about the importance of reading and how it can change your world.

Hammock Pointe Elementary School

Boca Raton, FL



The reading room at Hammock Pointe Elementary School is the eighth room to be generously donated by Dr. and Mrs. Donald Janower. On September 8, students, staff and special guests gathered together for an assembly to share in their excitement of their brand new camping-themed reading room! The assembly was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony where our sponsors were recognized for their incredible impact on the school. Students at Hammock Pointe can now camp out with a good book and remember that "the s'more you read the s'more you know."

Washington Elementary School

Riviera Beach, FL



Happiness is a journey, not a destination in the brand new Washington Elementary School reading room. This brightly colored room opened on October 13 thanks to Ron and Kim Berman. Students have the opportunity to choose from over 1,000 books to learn about space, history, and even medicine like Dr. Carson did! Candy Carson was in attendance for this opening, speaking to students about the importance of literacy and reminding them to "Think Big" every day.



Fall Fundraisers

Charlotte Chapter



The Charlotte Chapter of the CSF, led by Kathleen Juhl, held a fundraiser on October 20 at the Palisades Country Club in North Carolina. The event featured entertainment from local tennis pros who competed in a small tennis tournament for guests to enjoy. Guests dined on food by Tony's Catering and Bakkavor while also enjoying signature margarita drinks. The silent auction was a hit with items such as a week's stay at a resort in Maui Eldorado Resort in Hawaii and a mountain retreat in Boone, NC. 145 guests were in attendance. The event raised enough funds for the Charlotte Chapter to build their second reading room! Thank you to all those who came out to support reading rooms in the Charlotte, NC area!

Thank you to the following Charlotte Chapter committee members who made this event so successful: Kathleen Juhl, Glenda Reneau, Anne Marie Steele, Sande Constantine and Jann Pollard

Pittsburgh Chapter

On December 7, the Pittsburgh Chapter hosted a fundraiser, Carson Scholars: Driving the Future, at the elegantly decorated Pittsburgh Field Club. Guests mingled and bid on exciting auction items while enjoying entertainment from pool trick shooter Tim "The Dragon" Chin. The evening continued into the ballroom with a surprise performance by the group, Dance Mechanics, who danced to various holiday classics including *The Nutcracker*.



Mrs. Fran Donahue, Pittsburgh Chapter president, welcomed guests and thanked them for their support of the Carson Scholars Fund. Little did CSF co-founders Dr. and Mrs. Carson know, the Pittsburgh Chapter had a special announcement planned. On behalf of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Mrs. Donahue was honored to announce that the chapter was endowing a scholarship in Dr. Carson's mother, Sonya Carson's, name. Sonya Carson will now have a lasting impact on the lives of countless Pittsburgh students. The Carsons were also presented with a stunning portrait of Sonya by artist John Del Monte.

Mrs. Candy Carson was thrilled to introduce Carson Scholars who were in attendance: 5-time Carson Scholar Gwenyth Zeis-Miller and alumna Alexis Zito. Both scholars reflected on the impact that the CSF has made in their lives and thanked guests for their support.

As dinner was served, guests explored the future of autonomous driving firsthand with a presentation by John Celli, Ford Motor Company driver assistance strategy and planning engineer.

Thank you to the Pittsburgh Chapter committee members who devoted their time and energy into making this a successful fundraiser to benefit future Carson Scholars in Pittsburgh: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Donahue, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Krauland, Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Loyacona, Mrs. Christy Maruca, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuler, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vernillo.

A Night of Legends and Heroes

"We all have the capacity to be a superhero. In order to become one, you just have to find your unique power or ability and exploit it for the greater good. The cape and mask are optional accessories, but a kind heart is essential."

Friday, October 20 was full of heroes of all ages at the Carson Scholars Fund's We Can Be Heroes fundraiser to support future Carson Scholars in Maryland. From Spiderman scaling the wall to scholars in capes, it was clear that everyone was in for a fun, action packed evening.



As guests filled in at TranZed Alliance in Baltimore, they were welcomed with hits from the great Neil Diamond, performed by The Mahoney Brothers' Jukebox Heroes. Throughout the night, the Jukebox Heroes entertained with their impressive tributes to music's biggest names, including The Beach Boys, The Beatles, and Elvis Presley.

The program began with some words from Hailey Cramer, 2-time Carson Scholar and CSF alumni advisory board member, who reflected on the true definition of a hero and reminded guests that they can be heroes, whether they had considered it before or not.



Hailey introduced CSF co-founders, Dr. Ben Carson and Mrs. Candy Carson. Before discussing the inspiration behind creating the Carson Scholars Fund, they recognized the legendary Tony Orlando for his enduring support of Carson Scholars over the years. Tony, who is known for his support of veterans through concerts and organizations like Snowball Express, is a longtime friend of the Carson Scholars Fund. He never fails to put on a stellar performance to raise funds for academic superstars.

The Carsons then called up four young heroes from the Baltimore area, all Carson Scholars themselves: Joshua Turner, Christina Battaglia, Marisa Perfetti, and Benjamin Garonzik. Each scholar shared a different story about their accomplishments and personal heroes, but all had the same theme: a dedication to using their strengths to help those around them. Collectively, they have founded three non-profits, dedicated hundreds of hours to volunteering, play multiple instruments and still find time to consistently perform at the top of their classes.

The party really got started as music sensation Tony Orlando took the stage. The crowd came to their feet, singing along with Tony to his famous "Knock Three Times," "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree," "Candida" and more. Tony not only dazzled the audience with his songs but he inspired with his stories. Tony's stirring rendition of his original song "God's Country" hit a powerful chord with everyone. The evening ended with an exciting live auction, including a guitar autographed by Tony Orlando.

We cannot thank Tony Orlando enough for headlining an amazing night, as well as everyone who joined us to recognize academic excellence and our superheroes in the classroom. Thanks to you, we now have the funds for 40 new Carson Scholarships for deserving students right here in Maryland.



Thank you to all of the super supporters who helped to make We Can Be Heroes such a success: Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Kaiser Permanente Foundation, Pensmore Foundation, SB & Company, The Warner Companies, The Kahlert Foundation, Resource Enterprises, The Jay and Carol Jean Young Foundation, Wes and Toni Guckert, Garth and Jennifer McDonald, The Children's Guild, Fran and Betty Contino, Jennifer Gilbert, and Chief Stewart Russell. Our sincere thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Ben Carson and most of all, thank you Tony Orlando!

Donor Spotlight: Dr. & Mrs. Donald Janower



Dr. Donald Janower was first introduced to the Carson family when Mrs. Carson brought her young sons in for an office visit. *"I can recall Mrs. Carson coming into my office with her two boys, demanding the best care possible. She was a strong-willed, caring individual who put her sons needs above all else."* From that day forward, Sonya Carson, Dr. Carson's mother, made a lasting impression on Dr. Janower and his wife, Barbara, due in part to Sonya's determination and core values. Dr. and Mrs. Janower have always admired that with just a third grade education, Sonya was able to raise both a successful engineer and a world-renowned neurosurgeon on her own.

Throughout the years the two families have remained in contact. Knowing that Sonya Carson was the inspiration behind the Ben Carson Reading Project, Dr. and Mrs. Janower were drawn to the program and its ability to provide high-interest books to children in communities who need them the most. The first reading room sponsored by the Janowers opened in 2011 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and was dedicated to Sonya Carson. Since then, Dr. and Mrs.



Janower have been the benefactor of reading rooms in Connecticut, Florida, Maryland and Michigan, making them the sponsor with the most reading rooms in different states! In total, Dr. and Mrs. Janower have sponsored 8 reading rooms. **Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Janower, for giving countless students the opportunity to discover the joy in reading.**



"My wife and I feel very fortunate to be able to help. It is our pleasure to give back to students across the country." – Dr. Donald Janower

Remembering Sonya Carson

The true inspiration behind the Carson Scholars Fund and Reading Room Project



Help Select the Next Generation of Carson Scholars!



The success of our scholarship program relies on the dedication of our amazing 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 15 and runs through late February. If you're interested in scoring applications please contact lrichards@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 lrichards@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.



In observance of the holiday season, the CSF office will be closed starting Monday, December 25, 2017 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.