

news

IMPORTANT DATES

January 8, 2016

Application deadline (including report cards and teacher recommendations)

January 15, 2016

Principal verification deadline

March 2016

Notifications sent to winners/non-winners

April 10, 2016

Maryland Banquet

April 17, 2016

Pittsburgh Banquet

April 29, 2016

Battle Creek Banquet

May 1, 2016

Chicago Banquet

May 7, 2016

Florida Banquet

TBD

Chattanooga/Atlanta Banquet
West Coast Banquet
Greensboro, NC Banquet

Reading Room Openings

Indian Pines Elementary
Lake Worth, FL

Lookout Valley Elementary
Chattanooga, TN

2016 Scholarship Season

The 2016 scholarship season is well underway! During this busy time of year, it's important to keep our deadlines in mind. While the weather 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](#)

CSF Hall of Fame!

At the start of our 20th anniversary season, we introduce the first ever Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, a year-long celebration of individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of the Fund's history....[continue reading](#)

Ben Carson Reading Day

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Best Giving EDU Day Ever

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities across the nation celebrated Giving Tuesday – a global day of giving. For the past three years, the Carson Scholars Fund has been rallying donors -- both previous and new, board members, friends, family, social media users, etc. to participate in giving back to our charity in support of education. Because CSF is an educational charity, this year we changed Giving Tuesday into Giving EDU Day....[continue reading](#)

Pittsburgh Charity Auction and Cocktail Event

On Thursday, December 3, 2015 the Pittsburgh chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted their 12th annual charity auction and cocktail event at The Andy Warhol Museum in downtown Pittsburgh. Jerome Bettis, 2015 Hall of Fame Member, former Pittsburgh Steeler and longtime supporter of CSF, along with Dr. Alfonso Costa, president of the Pittsburgh CSF chapter, hosted the evening's events....[continue reading](#)



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The 2016 Scholarship season is well underway! During this busy time of year, it's important to keep our deadlines in mind. While the weather 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 8, 2016 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 students completing the hard copy application.
- **Friday, January 15, 2016 at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time** is the deadline for principal verification. On or around January 12, 2016, 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 – in **March 2016**.

We receive a lot of inquiries during the scholarship season. In an effort to help you find answers quickly, 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://carsonscholars.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://carsonscholars.org/application-videos/>

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

Year End Solicitation

It's not too late to make a year-end donation to the Carson Scholars Fund. The Fund continues to encourage leadership and a college-going culture with the Scholar Recognition Program. Additionally the Ben Carson Reading Room Project ignites the desire to dream through leisure reading. We are pleased to share that 93 cents of every dollar that you donate goes directly to supporting education.



We invite you to view our [Planned Giving Guide](#) if you are considering a more lasting gift.

In addition we are:



- Combined Charity Campaign 7674
- Maryland Charity Campaign 8174
- United Way of Central Maryland 2681146
- Combined Federal Campaign 51950

The Carson Scholars Fund participates in the following workplace campaigns:



Scholar Spotlight



Hannah Grice, a senior at The Catholic High School of Baltimore, is a four-time Carson Scholar. Impressively, Hannah is a member of multiple school organizations, including: an officer of the Ambassadors Organization; class executive on the board of the Student Council; member of the Student Advisory Panel; member of the Mother Generosa Chapter of the National Honor Society; member of the Science National Honor Society; founder and president of the Sister Corda Marie Bergbauer Chapter of the National English Honor Society; and president of the Art National Honor Society.

In addition, Hannah has won prestigious awards including gold honors, student of the month, the Computer Engineering Award and a \$10,000 Nordstrom Scholarship Award. The Nordstrom Scholarship recognizes students throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico for academic excellence and outstanding community service involvement. Hannah was one of 80 people selected out of 6,000 applicants!

Outside of academics, Hannah enjoys volunteering. She is co-president and social media director for a campaign called Beautiful Me. She advocates for change in terms of body image and self-confidence, and also educates individuals about the severity of eating disorders and the impact of negative body image. Furthermore, she has volunteered with Believe in Tomorrow Children's House at Johns Hopkins, the St. Jude Radiothon, the Freshman Welcome & Retreat at her school and the Math Olympiad.

Hannah's Carson Scholarship was sponsored by: 

To be featured in our Scholar or Alumni Spotlight section, contact Kaylee at kdougherty@caronscholars.org

CSF Hall of Fame!



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

The goal 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. The twenty selected inductees will be celebrated at our Awards Banquets in Spring 2016. View the Carson Scholar Hall of Fame [here!](#)

Ben Carson Annual Reading Room Workshop

The 12th Annual Ben Carson Reading Room Workshop was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at the Mt. Washington Conference Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The workshop brings principals and reading room coordinators together for an evening of information and fellowship. Reading room coordinators outside of Maryland were able to join the workshop via a live webinar. This year's guest speakers included: book reviewer and librarian, Paula Willey, and inspirational speaker, Sylvia Baffour. Paula shared recently published, high-interest children's books and Sylvia spoke on the Power of Positivity.



Ben Carson Reading Day



Pictured above: Former Miss Maryland, Marina Harrison Cooper, at Milbrook Elementary School

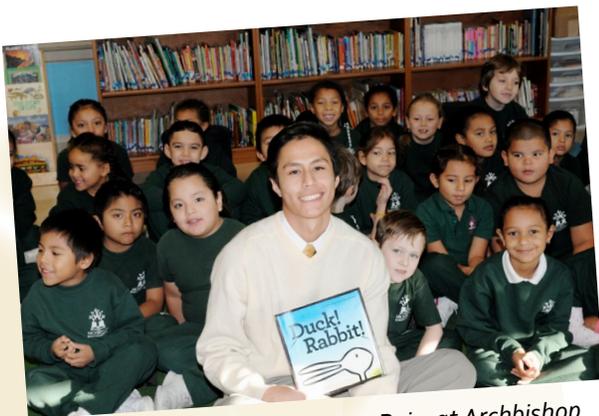
On Monday, November 16, 2015, reading room schools throughout the country celebrated Ben Carson Reading Day. Ben Carson Reading Day is an annual literacy event held in conjunction with American Education Week and is designed to raise awareness of the importance of everyday leisure reading.

To celebrate Ben Carson Reading Day, reading room schools received a copy of *Anything Is Possible: The Ben Carson Story*. Written for novice readers, this bright, colorful children's book chronicles the inspiring true life story of Dr. Ben Carson and encourages children to reach for the stars and not be held back by temporary setbacks. Reading room school students also had the opportunity to view a special narration of the book featuring Dr. Carson's family and friends.

In addition, many Ben Carson Reading Room schools hosted special guest readers. This year's guest readers included: WBFF News Anchor, Jennifer Gilbert; former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy Grasmick; former Miss Maryland, Marina Harrison Cooper; authors Linda Brodine, Judith Slaughter and Ginger Wich; and members of the community.

Special thanks to Joyce and Aubrey Chernick for sponsoring this year's Ben Carson Reading Day.

To view photos of the event, [click here](#).



Community member, Brayan Ruiz, at Archbishop Borders Catholic Elementary School



Author, Judith Slaughter, and Toni Guckert at Halstead Academy

Barnes & Noble Gives Back

The holidays are a time of giving and sharing. This holiday season, patrons of the Barnes & Noble in Ellicott City shared their passion for reading by donating new children's books to Ben Carson Reading Room schools during the store's Annual Holiday Book Drive. The schools who received the books included: Hilltop Elementary, Holabird Academy, Swansfield Elementary and Woodside Elementary. Thank you, **Barnes & Noble**, for making the Ben Carson Reading Project the beneficiary of this honored tradition and a special thank you to the Barnes & Noble customers for their generous support.



Domtar Vendor Partnership Meeting and Charity Golf Event



The beautiful Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge was the backdrop for the **Fifth Annual Domtar Vendor Partnership Meeting and Charity Golf Event**. The event commenced Monday, October 19, 2015 with a reception and dinner with the Domtar management team and their vendor partners. Domtar announced that the Carson Scholars Fund was the beneficiary of the event with the donation directly benefitting the Ben Carson Reading Room Project. Amy Warner shared that this donation by Domtar and the participating vendor partners was the 'largest single donation earmarked for the Reading Room Project that CSF has received to date.' She went on to share

with the group that the generous donation would provide funding for 10 Ben Carson Reading Rooms in Domtar facility areas.

Tuesday dawned sunny and crisp as 124 golfers headed out for the shotgun start. Domtar executives, managers and their vendors and suppliers maneuvered the pristine course at Ballantyne. A fantastic day on the course was had by all. Thanks to the generosity of Independent Container Line, CSF received another \$5,000. The grand total is now \$160,000!

Sincere thanks to: John Williams, President and CEO of Domtar; and Lu Ann Debolt, Events & Operations Coordinator, Sustainability & Business Communications of Domtar

Special thanks to:

ABB
AFN LLC
Andritz, Inc.
Asten Johnson
Bison Transport, Inc.
Buckman
Chemtrade
Childress Klein Properties
CP Rail
DHR International
Akzo Nobel PPC (Eka Chemicals)

Eric Mower and Associates
Fuel Transport Inc.
Georgia Pacific
Independent Container Line
Interstate Distributor Company
Kemira Chemicals, Inc.
KITS Brokerage Inc.
Motion Industries
Nalco Company
Nekoosa Coated Products, LLC
OxyChem

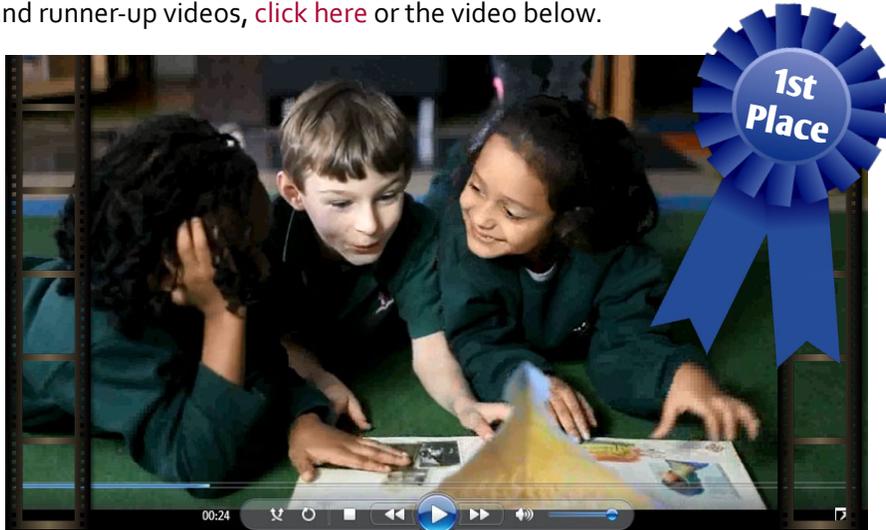
Omya Inc.
Packaging Corporation of America
Printpack Inc.
Sonoco Products
Tate & Lyle
Thompson Construction Group, Inc.
TransWorks
Valmet, Inc.
Voith Paper Fabrics & Roll Systems Inc.

And the Winner Is...

And the winner of the Lights, Camera, Impact! Video Challenge is.....Archbishop Borders School in Baltimore, Maryland! In November 2015, the CSF issued a challenge to all reading room schools to demonstrate how the Ben Carson Reading Room impacts their school. The winning video was produced by the Archbishop Borders seventh grade class and featured the thoughts and impressions of the first graders. The first-place runner up was Memorial Elementary School in Garden City, Michigan. Both schools will receive a cash prize award to purchase additional materials for their schools' Ben Carson Reading Room.

Thank you to all of the reading room schools who submitted a video and participated in this challenge. We hope next year will be bigger and better than ever!

To view the winning and runner-up videos, [click here](#) or the video below.



Grove Park Elementary School



Bakerfield Elementary School



Boca Raton Elementary School



Westward Elementary School



To learn more about the reading room openings, [click here](#).

Best Giving EDU Day Ever!

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities across the nation celebrated Giving Tuesday – a global day of giving. For the past three years, the Carson Scholars Fund has been rallying donors -- both previous and new, board members, friends, family, social media users, etc. to participate in giving back to our charity in support of education. Because the CSF is an educational charity, this year we changed Giving Tuesday into Giving EDU Day.

Giving EDU Day showed the generosity of our donors and the meaning of giving back. Thanks to you, in 24 hours, the CSF was able to surpass our goal, making our one day total \$40,923. With a generous match donation provided by Joyce and **Aubrey Chernick**, our final Giving EDU Day total was \$81,846!!

Thanks to your donations, we're able to fulfill our mission of awarding \$1,000 scholarships to students who excel academically and show a commitment to their community, as well as providing literacy enriched environments in schools throughout the U.S.

Thank you again for making this Giving EDU Day the BEST DAY EVER!



Pittsburgh Charity Auction and Cocktail Event



On Thursday, December 3, 2015 the **Pittsburgh chapter** of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted their 12th Annual Charity Auction and Cocktail Event at The Andy Warhol Museum in downtown Pittsburgh. Jerome Bettis, 2015 Hall of Fame Member, former Pittsburgh Steeler and longtime supporter of CSF, along with Dr. Alfonso Costa, president of the Pittsburgh CSF chapter, hosted the evening's events.

Guests enjoyed music from the Juan Vasquez and Joe Munroe duo as they mingled and bid on silent auction items. Six-time Carson Scholar, Kevin Williams, Jr., spoke at the event. Kevin shared how important winning the Carson scholarship was to him – it was the first scholarship he won and encouraged him to apply for more. Kevin is currently a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh where thanks to the scholarships he received, he is attending tuition-free!

After Kevin's inspirational remarks and reflection from Dr. Costa and Jerome, guests bid on live auction items – including an exclusive dinner with Jerome at his signature restaurant and diamond jewelry items.

The Pittsburgh chapter has proudly awarded over 1,000 scholarships to students from the Pittsburgh area. Thanks to the success of this event, they are able to continue their legacy of making an impact in the lives of Pittsburgh area youth. A special thanks to Sarah Piccione, Samantha Hirshberg, Kristen Malagise and Mandy Carragher for making this event successful.

Also, a very special thanks to the event sponsors S&T Bank, Dr. Gerald T. Loyacona, The Orthodontic Smile Academy, Christine Toretta, John Waldron, Herbert & Phyllis Bazron, Tom & Song Kehoe, Joan Davis and Costa Land Company. View the album of the event [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 from 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 18 and runs through late February. If you're interested in scoring applications please contact katie@caronscholars.org. After a brief training session in the Towson, Maryland 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@caronscholars.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, Maryland office.

SAVE
the
DATE

HIPPODROME THEATRE

Sunday, April 10th, 2016

BALTIMORE, MD





Wishing you a
JOYFUL HOLIDAY
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In observance of the holiday season, the CSF office will be closed from Thursday December 24, 2015 starting at noon and will reopen Monday, January 4, 2016.