

news

IMPORTANT DATES

April 2, 2017

Florida Awards Banquet

April 8, 2017

Pittsburgh Awards Banquet

April 9, 2017

West Coast Awards Banquet

April 18, 2017

Battle Creek Awards Banquet

April 19, 2017

Chicago Awards Banquet

April 23, 2017

Chattanooga/Atlanta Awards
Banquet

April 25, 2017

Greensboro Awards Banquet

April 30, 2017

21st Annual Maryland Scholar
Awards Ceremony

**Spring 2017 Reading Room
Openings**

Cowan Elementary School

March 31 | Cowan, TN

Palm Harbor Academy

April 4 | Palm Harbor, FL

**Francis B. McCord Elementary
School**

April 19 | Burbank, IL

Harry E. Fry Elementary School

April 19 | Burbank, IL

Inlet Grove High School

May 5 | Riviera Beach, FL

Northmore Elementary School

May 15 | West Palm Beach, FL

Announcing the 2017 Carson Scholars!

Every year, the Carson Scholars Fund receives applications from bright, talented, and dedicated students throughout the nation. Applicants are nominated by their school based on their high academic achievement and commitment to their communities. Each year, we are continually impressed by the quality of applications we receive. The 2017 class of Carson Scholars stand out even more. Their compassion for...[Read more](#)

Scholar Payout Information: Attention Class of 2017

As you're gearing up for graduation and looking towards college in the fall, it is important to 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...[Read more](#)

Reading Room Updates

Check out the six reading rooms that are popping up this spring and catch up on more reading room news...[Read more](#)

Black Tie Baltimore

The Carson Scholars Fund got dressed up to support education at the third annual Black Tie Baltimore on Saturday, February 28, 2017. The event was held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry to support three educational nonprofits: The Carson Scholars Fund, The Midtown Academy...[Read more](#)

CSF Chapters Continue to Spread the CSF Mission

On Saturday, June 24, the Palm Beach County Chapter will be hosting a charity golf tournament to raise funds for Carson Scholarships and Ben Carson Reading Rooms in the area. Currently, Palm Beach County is home to nine reading rooms and fourteen Carson Scholars. With your help, we can reach even more promising young students. The tournament will be held at the...[Read more](#)

Pi Day Celebration

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Every year, the Carson Scholars Fund receives applications from bright, talented, and dedicated students throughout the nation. Applicants are nominated by their school based on their high academic achievement and commitment to their communities. Each year, we are continually impressed by the quality of applications we receive. The 2017 class of Carson Scholars stand out even more. Their compassion for others, dedication to making a difference, and vision for the future is inspiring. Exhibiting self-reflection and perseverance, these scholars represent our future leaders.



The Carson Scholars Fund is excited to announce that 483 of the best and brightest academic superstars from across the country have been named 2017 Carson Scholars. With this honor, these students will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and a recognition package.

Also this year, 872 previous scholarship winners have achieved recognition status. These previous scholars have continued to meet the high standards of the Carson Scholars Fund. They show year-after-year, their leadership both in the classroom and in the community.

To celebrate all of the 1,355 Carson Scholars this year, we will be holding eight regional awards banquets. If you are interested in attending one of these events, [please visit our Event Tickets page](#). If you are interested in sponsoring an event, [please visit our Event Sponsorship page](#).



Congratulations to our 2017 Carson Scholars! View [the complete list of new scholars](#) and [the complete list of recognized scholars](#).

Here is a list of upcoming banquets where we will be honoring our 2017 Carson Scholars!



- Sunday, April 2 -- Florida Awards Banquet
- Saturday, April 8 -- Pittsburgh Awards Banquet
- Sunday, April 9 -- West Coast Awards Banquet
- Tuesday, April 18 -- Battle Creek Awards Banquet
- Wednesday, April 19 -- Chicago Awards Banquet
- Sunday, April 23 -- Chattanooga/Atlanta Awards Banquet
- Tuesday, April 25 -- Greensboro Awards Banquet
- Sunday, April 30 -- 21st Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony

Thanks to the hundreds of donors who supported these young superstars and our school partners across the country! A special thanks to our volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours scoring applications! The mission of the Carson Scholars Fund would not be possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, and school partners.

Scholar Payout Information: Attention Class of 2017

As you're gearing up for graduation and looking towards college in the fall, it is important to 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, and 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 will be made available to all eligible scholars in late May/early June. This information will be mailed and emailed to you. **The Payout Request Form must be completed and submitted back to the CSF office by Wednesday, July 5, 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 5, 2017 will be held for payout for the Spring 2018 semester.

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@caronscholars.org.

Reading Rooms Galore!

Here are the reading rooms that are popping up this spring!

- March 31: **Cowan Elementary School** – Cowan, TN
Sponsored by the Deaver Phoenix Foundation
- April 4: **Palm Harbor Academy** – Palm Harbor, FL
Sponsored by United Way Volusia – Flagler Counties/Jennifer McDonald/Karen Welden & Seminole Feed
- April 19: **Francis B. McCord Elementary School** – Burbank, IL
Sponsored by Advocate Christ Medical Center
- April 19: **Harry E. Fry Elementary School** – Burbank, IL
Sponsored by Advocate Christ Medical Center
- May 5: **Inlet Grove High School** – Riviera Beach, FL
Sponsored by Sid & Esther Dinerstein and Gerald & Gwen Richman
- May 15: **Northmore Elementary School** – West Palm Beach, FL
Sponsored by BallenIsles Charities Foundation

Esperanza Elementary School Opens New Reading Room

Thanks to the generosity of the William and Winifred Freeman Foundation, students at Esperanza Elementary School started the new year off with a brand new Ben Carson Reading Room.

Esperanza Elementary, located in Phoenix, AZ, hosted a grand opening celebration on January 13. Many community members volunteered their time and talents to aide in the construction of the room. Local high school students painted an under-the-sea mural across three walls of the room complete with a sunken ship, a deep sea diver, and various marine animals. High school students and community members held a book stamping party to prepare and shelve all of the new books for the school's reading room. Esperanza's reading room construction team carefully selected seating options for the room to meet diverse learning needs of their students. Stationary bikes, couches, bean bag chairs, and floor lounge rocking chairs can all be found throughout the room.



At an assembly held to celebrate the room's opening, students shared readings and performed a song. Special messages were shared by Ms. Allie Schultheis from the William and Winifred Freeman Foundation; Dr. Mario Ventura, Isaac School District Superintendent; and Ms. Diane Douglas, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Esperanza Elementary School's reading room is filled with over 700 high-interest books and provides students with feelings of excitement and curiosity while reading beneath the sea. The reading room at Esperanza is the first to be sponsored by the William and Winifred Freeman Foundation and is the second to open in Arizona.

Sneak Peek: Cowan Elementary School Reading Room



Thanks to the generosity of the Deaver Phoenix Foundation, a new reading room will open at Cowan Elementary School in Cowan, TN at the end of March. A National Park theme was selected for the room. Vibrant floor-to-ceiling paintings of various national parks and monuments filled with books cover the walls of the reading room.

Reading Rooms Galore! (cont.)

Palm Beach Reading Room Update

In December 2016, the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted a dinner with Dr. Ben Carson to fundraise for new reading rooms in Palm Beach County, FL. Generous donations from the event are being used to create eight additional reading rooms in the area. Two of the eight reading rooms will open this spring with the other six slated to open in Fall 2017.

Reading rooms at Inlet Grove High School in Riviera Beach and Northmore Elementary School in West Palm Beach will open this spring. Funding for the reading room at Inlet Grove was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Sid and Esther Dinerstein and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Gwen Richman. The high school's reading room is being designed after a coffeehouse and will include comfortable seating and rugs to create a peaceful and quiet atmosphere. A chalkboard wall and student artwork will be used to decorate the room. The reading room at Northmore Elementary, funded by the BallenIsles Charities Foundation, is being created in a planetarium at the school that is no longer being used. To match the planetarium location, the reading room team at Northmore plans to incorporate elements of space into the reading room.

In addition to helping to build reading rooms, members of the Palm Beach County Chapter recently had the pleasure of having lunch with *New York Times* bestselling author James Patterson. Sande Constantine and Linda Stoch of the Palm Beach County Chapter and Mr. Patterson discussed the importance of literacy among adolescents.



From left to right: Linda Stoch of the Palm Beach County Chapter of CSF, author James Patterson, and Sande Constantine of the Palm Beach County Chapter of CSF

Black Tie Baltimore

The Carson Scholars Fund got dressed up to support education at the third annual [Black Tie Baltimore](#) on Saturday, February 28, 2017. The event was held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry to support three educational nonprofits: The Carson Scholars Fund, The Midtown Academy and Teach for America.



The evening started out with an open bar, a silent auction, a DJ playing music, a photo booth from Pixilated, as well as hors d'oeuvres and food from [Sascha's](#). The hors d'oeuvres included the crowd-favorite, chutney bacon straws, as well as smoked turkey served on orange muffins and shrimp toast topped with a plum sauce. The food for the night featured a pasta bar with red marinara sauce or pesto cream sauce with assorted grilled vegetables,

braised short rib sliders with horseradish crème fraiche with sides of green beans and sweet potato puree, classic golden tater tots with Maryland crab dip or cheese sauce and Maryland fried chicken. To top it off, the desserts featured were miniature brownies, lemon bars, Toll House cookie bars, raspberry crumble bars and strawberries.



The [Blue Label Band](#) took the stage and the real party started. They played the perfect variety of songs that got everyone to the dance floor and kept them there all night long!

The night was filled with networking, food, drinks, music and lots of laughter! We hope that all of the Carson Scholars Fund Alumni can join this special event next year. View more pictures on the event [Facebook page](#).

Special thanks to the host of the event and CSF Board Member, David Ross.

CSF Chapters Continue to Spread the CSF Mission

Palm Beach County - Carson Scholars Fund Charity Golf Tournament



On Saturday, June 24, the Palm Beach County Chapter will be hosting a charity golf tournament to raise funds for Carson Scholarships and Ben Carson Reading Rooms in the area. Currently, Palm Beach County is home to nine reading rooms and fourteen Carson Scholars. With your help, we can reach even more promising young students.

The tournament will be held at the Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club located at 11199 Polo Club Road, Wellington, FL. With its two pristine 18-hole championship golf courses, Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club is sure to impress. The tournament will be held on the Dunes course which was designed by Ron Garl and Jerry Pate, and demonstrates a Scottish links-style course. Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club sustains a reputation as being one of the leading private country clubs in South Florida.

For more information on the tournament, please call the CSF office at 410-828-1005. [Sponsorship opportunities may be viewed here.](#)

Charlotte - Dealing Cards for Children

On Thursday, March 30, the Charlotte Chapter will be hosting a fundraiser, Dealing Cards for Children. The event will benefit students in the Charlotte area by raising awareness of the importance of reading at an early age while also raising funds to support the growth of the Ben Carson Reading Project. With this chapter's official launch in 2016, Charlotte Chapter members look with excitement to a new year of positively impacting the educational environment for Charlotte's youth.



Dealing Cards for Children will be held at the Palisades Country Club at 13704 Grand Palisades Parkway, Charlotte, NC. Card games for the day will include Bridge, Canasta, and Mahjong. More information regarding this event will be provided on the CSF website as the date approaches.



IMPORTANT: Updates Required

The Carson Scholars Fund upgraded to a new scholar database. With the new system, we want to make sure that we have the most accurate contact information for our scholars. All scholars (including alumni) should have received an email in February with a unique link to update their contact information with us. If you haven't yet completed this request, please do so today.

If you haven't received the link, or if you have any additional questions, please email Katie (katie@carsonscholars.org).



Pi Day Celebration

COME TO THE
NERD SIDE
WE HAVE π

On Tuesday, March 14, the Carson Scholars Fund will be celebrating Pi Day! Pi Day is not only Einstein's birthday, but is a day to honor the mathematical symbol Pi (π), which is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. It is observed on 3/14 since 3, 1 and 4 are the first significant digits of π . The Carson Scholars Fund wants to see how YOU celebrate Pi Day!

Share with us a photo of your Pi Day celebration and we will post it to our Pi Day Celebration photo gallery! And guess what? The individual who sends us the best Pi Day celebration photo will win a CSF t-shirt and the book *Piece of Pi* by Naila Bokhari! This book teaches you about pi (π) and its use in everyday life through exciting activities.

To join us in the Pi Day fun, simply:

- Send us a photo in file format JPEG or PNG of your Pi Day celebration
- Must be original work
- Judging based off of content, creativity and quality/timeliness
- Appropriate photos will be uploaded to the [Carson Scholars Fund website](#)
- Deadline to submit your Pi-Day photo: **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 12:00 A.M. EST.** Please include your name, phone number and email address so we can contact you if selected as the winner. Submissions should be sent via email to kelsey@carsonscholars.org

Whether it's discovering how pi affects your everyday life, baking a delicious pi(e), or throwing a pizza pi(e) party with friends, we want to see it! ** The individual that meets or exceeds the guidelines above will be declared the winner and will receive the book *Piece of Pi* and a CSF t-shirt!

We will announce the winner on Friday, March 17, 2017 on our website and social media sites.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate Pi Day with us!

***With submission of your photo, you consent that the Carson Scholars Fund has permission to use the materials.*



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