

news

IMPORTANT DATES

April 7, 2018

Pittsburgh Awards Banquet

April 15, 2018

Florida Awards Banquet

April 22, 2018

22nd Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony

April 28, 2018

North Carolina Awards Banquet

April 29, 2018

Chattanooga/Atlanta Awards Banquet

May 6, 2018

West Coast Awards Banquet

May 11, 2018

Battle Creek Awards Banquet

Spring 2018 Reading Room Openings

Pioneer Park Elementary

Belle Glade, FL

Palmetto Elementary

West Palm Beach, FL

La Mesa Elementary

Monterey, CA

EJE Academies Charter School

El Cajon, CA

Scholarship Prep

Oceanside, CA

Cloud Springs Elementary

Rossville, GA

Starmount Academy of Excellence

Charlotte, NC

Manchester Elementary

Pinewood, SC

East Coffee County Elementary

Manchester, TN

Congratulations to the 2018 Carson Scholars!

Each year, the Carson Scholars Fund receives applications from bright, talented, and dedicated students throughout the nation. Applicants are nominated by their schools based on their high academic achievements and commitment to their communities. Each year, we are continually impressed...[Read More](#)

Scholar Spotlight: Makenzie Greenwood

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Carson Scholars Fund supporter Mr. Richard Herron is a California native who has a passion for giving back to his community and helping students reach their full potential through education. Mr. Herron grew up...[Read More](#)

Update Your Contact Information with Us

It's important that we have the most up-to-date contact information for scholars and alumni as the majority of our communication is done through mail and email. Without that information, you could miss out on scholarship payout forms, banquet information, newsletters and more. [Read More](#)

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Congratulations to the 2018 Carson Scholars!



Each year, the Carson Scholars Fund receives applications from bright, talented, and dedicated students throughout the nation. Applicants are nominated by their schools based on their high academic achievements and commitment to their communities. We are continually impressed by the quality of applications that we receive. The 2018 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 501 of the best and brightest academic superstars from across the country have been named Carson Scholars. With this honor, these students will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and a recognition package.

Also this year, 868 previous scholarship winners have achieved recognition status. These previous scholars have continued to meet the high standards of the Carson Scholars Fund. Year-after-year, they show their leadership both in their classrooms and in their communities.

To celebrate all of the 1,369 Carson Scholars this year, we will be holding seven regional awards banquets this spring. If you are interested in attending one of these events, [please visit our Banquet Tickets page](#). If you are interested in sponsoring an event, [please visit our Banquet Sponsorship page](#).



Congratulations to our 2018 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 2018 Carson Scholars!

- Saturday, April 7 – [Pittsburgh Awards Banquet](#)
- Sunday, April 15 – [Lee County Awards Banquet](#)
- Sunday, April 22 – [Maryland Awards Banquet](#)
- Saturday, April 28 – [North Carolina Awards Banquet](#)
- Sunday, April 29 – [Chattanooga/Atlanta Awards Banquet](#)
- Sunday, May 6 – [West Coast Awards Banquet](#)
- Friday, May 11 – [Battle Creek Awards Banquet](#)



Thanks to the numerous donors who supported these young superstars and our school partners across the country! A special thanks to our volunteers who spent hundreds of hours scoring applications! The mission of the Carson Scholars Fund would be incomplete without our donors, volunteers and school partners.



**Put your business in front of
the country's
best and brightest students**

Choose an option below to support future Carson Scholars!

SPONSOR AN AWARDS BANQUET

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR BANQUETS

Scholar Spotlight: Makenzie Greenwood



Taking a drive down Main Street in Hampstead, MD, you'll notice the makings of a charming small town: family-owned restaurants, auto shops, salons, and churches. Behind one particular church, Makenzie Greenwood is changing the lives of people in her community.

A two-time Carson Scholar and fifth grader at Spring Garden Elementary, Makenzie crafted the plans for Hampstead's Little Free Pantry at the age of nine. Inspired by Little Free Libraries that are now staples in many neighborhoods, she began drafting proposals and rounding up helpers to make the pantry a reality. With the help of her church and a local scouting group, the Little Free Pantry opened in January 2017 and has since been accessed over 600 times by people both donating and taking food.



Makenzie's reason for opening the pantry is simple: "I thought it would be a nice way for me to help people in my community." The pantry, which requires no paperwork and is open 24/7, is stocked by members of the community with everything from non-perishable food to laundry detergent. Makenzie visits several times a week to organize donations and restock the shelves. While there, she is able to see the impact of her efforts through anonymous notes of gratitude left by those who utilize the pantry.



Makenzie is already looking towards the future of the Little Free Pantry with hopes of opening others around Maryland. Her work has not gone unnoticed, receiving a variety of honors including the Baltimore Orioles Birdland Hero Award, the William Donald Shaefer Helping People Award and a Governor's Citation by Governor Larry Hogan. Most recently, Makenzie received the WBFF FOX45 Pay It Forward Award, including a check that she plans to use to offer a grant to help other kids open pantries in their communities.



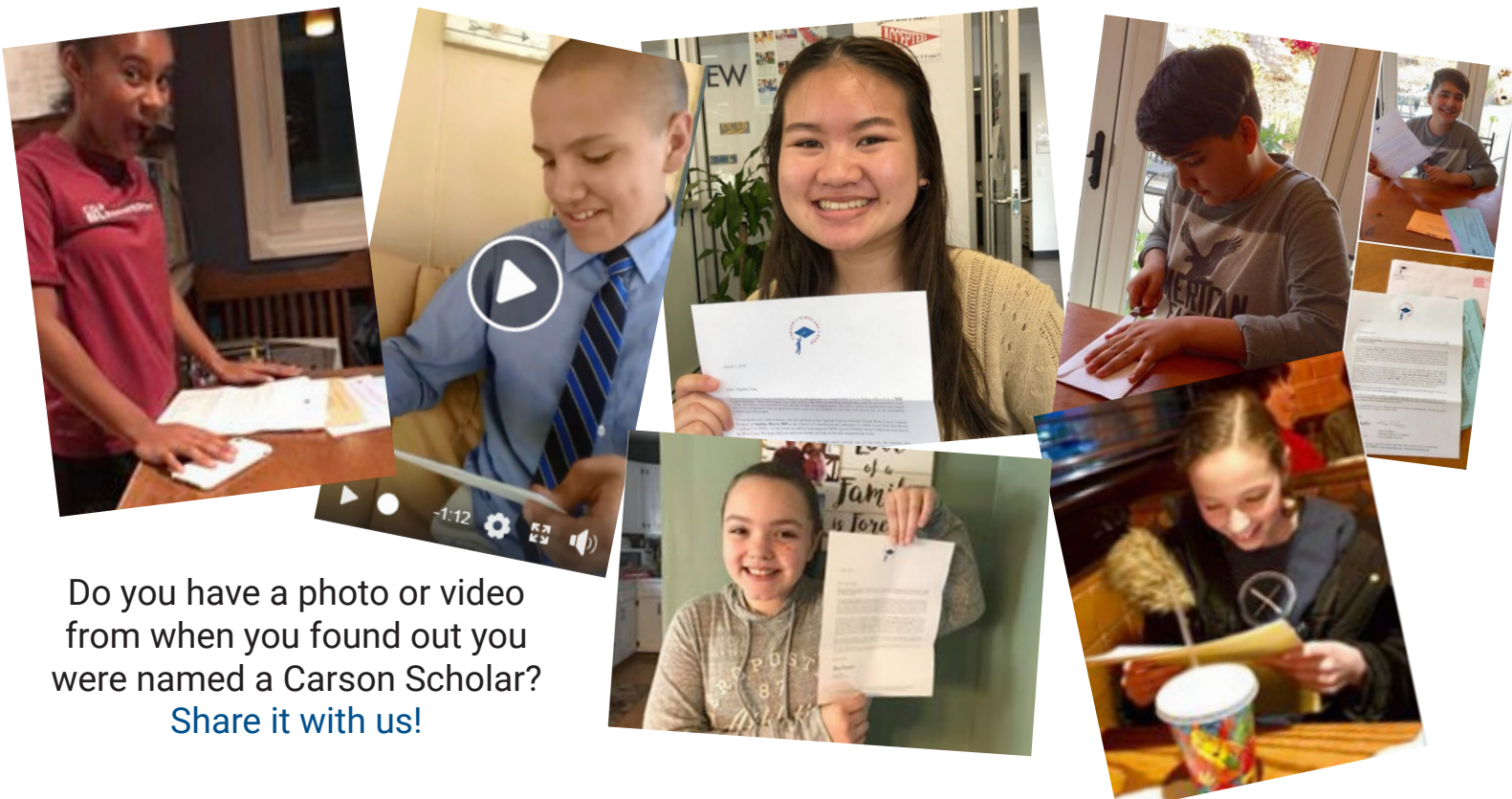
When she isn't checking on the pantry, Makenzie can be found volunteering for her school's Safety Patrol, practicing her clarinet and ukulele, and swimming for a local swim team. Each summer, she helps the Sea Turtle Preservation Society in Florida by taking stranded baby sea turtles to the facility so that they can be rehabilitated and released back into the wild. One day, she hopes to be a fourth grade social studies teacher.

Down the road, Makenzie plans to visit schools, churches and scouting groups to share her story and encourage other kids to start their own service projects in their neighborhoods.

"It is important to me that kids know that we can make a difference."

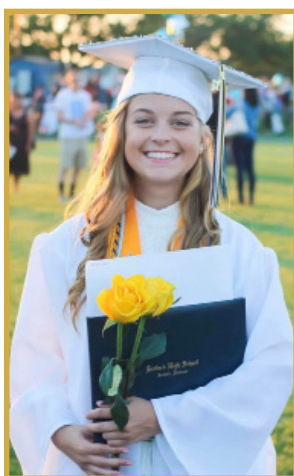
Interested in learning more? [Follow Hampstead's Little Free Pantry on Facebook.](#)

Makenzie's scholarship is sponsored by The Kahlert Foundation.



Do you have a photo or video from when you found out you were named a Carson Scholar? Share it with us!

Are You Graduating in 2018?



Congratulations on your upcoming high school graduation! With so many things to prepare for your first year of college, don't forget about your scholarship payout.

Scholarship monies are paid directly to the college or university at which you will be a student. Payouts can only be completed 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, but we do 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 2018 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 July 6, 2018.** Checks will be mailed to colleges on July 16, 2018 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 6, 2018 will be held for payout for the spring 2019 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 liz@carsonscholars.org.





Reading Rooms Spring Up Across the Country

With nine new reading rooms opening throughout the United States, the Reading Room Program is in for a busy spring!

- Pioneer Park Elementary** - Belle Glade, FL
- Palmetto Elementary** - West Palm Beach, FL
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- Starmount Academy of Excellence** - Charlotte, NC
- Manchester Elementary** - Pinewood, SC
- East Coffee County Elementary** - Manchester, TN

Reading Room News

Take a reading room tour with Candy Carson on our blog!



Through the efforts of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund and the generosity of the BallenIsles Charities Foundation, Palmetto Elementary is opening its very own reading room this spring!

Sande Constantine, chapter president, and Larraine Stevens accepted the award on behalf of the Palm Beach County Chapter at the BallenIsles Charities Foundation's awards ceremony earlier this month.

Thank you, BallenIsles Charities Foundation, for supporting CSF's mission to foster children's love of reading at a young age.

Winter Reading Room Openings

Sid and Kyra Ferenc Foundation

Good things come in threes - from fairytales (*Three Little Pigs*, *Three Little Kittens*, etc.) to Hollywood blockbusters to our Constitution which promises a trio of good things: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. In February, the Ben Carson Reading Project hit the trifecta with the creation of three new Ben Carson Reading Rooms sponsored by the Sid and Kyra Ferenc Foundation. Two reading room sites, Banyan Creek Elementary and Rolling Green Elementary, are located in South Florida and the third location is in Kyra Ferenc's hometown of Cascade, Idaho.



On the morning of February 6, **Banyan Creek Elementary** in Delray Beach hosted its grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting. The school celebrated this new resource by hosting an all-school assembly. During the ceremony, the fourth graders, accompanied by two student ukulele players, raised their voices in song to *What Can One Little Person Do*. The song's lyrics were altered to reflect Dr. Carson's academic journey. The school is located near the ocean; therefore, they opted for a marine themed reading room. The mural features an under-the-ocean scene. Images of dolphins, seahorses and turtles can be seen frolicking under

the sea. The focal point of the mural features a mighty octopus encased in a sunken treasure chest. Its large outstretched tentacles are wrapped around a book. In this reading room, students are learning that books truly are a treasure for a curious mind.



Later in the afternoon Mrs. Candy Carson, along with Sid and Kyra Ferenc, traveled to **Rolling Green Elementary** in Boynton Beach to open their Dr. Seuss inspired reading room. The walls in this colorful room are filled with Dr. Seuss' book characters including Horton, Thing One and Thing Two, Yertl the Turtle and everyone's playful favorite, The Cat in the Hat. Dr. Seuss quotes are placed strategically on the walls reminding students that "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

The third reading room, located in **Cascade Schools**, opened a week later. This reading room is the first to open in Idaho and adopted a Think Big theme. The mural is of a young girl reading a book. Stars are floating off the pages traveling above the girl's head, symbolizing the ideas and knowledge that can be obtained by reading a good book. This reading room is a full-sized classroom and offers a variety of seating arrangements. A built-in bookshelf covers an entire wall and is home to a collection of over 600 books.



The Friedman Charitable Foundation

Children love the mystery of outer space. They imagine what it would be like to travel to distant planets and explore other galaxies. Students at **Woodholme Elementary** in Pikesville, Maryland will now be able to fuel their imaginations in the school's newly created space-themed reading room. Upon entering the room, your eyes are immediately drawn to a hand painted rocket ship, however, this rocket is unlike any other that you may have seen. Instead of being made out of metal, this fuselage consists of handcrafted book spines. Two astronauts flank the books as the planets float around them. Another unique feature of this room is a handmade red rocket bookcase. Floating bookshelves hold some of the most popular books in the reading room. Children can find their favorite titles including *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and the *I Survived* series, just to name a few. This is the 10th reading room to be sponsored by Louis and Phyllis Friedman and the fifth to be located in Pikesville area schools.



Donor Spotlight: Richard Herron



Carson Scholars Fund supporter Mr. Richard Herron is a California native who has a passion for giving back to his community and helping students reach their full potential through education. Mr. Herron grew up in a single parent household with three siblings. Though his family may have grown up in a financially challenged environment, they lived near an affluent area. Because of this, Mr. Herron was exposed to great schools and universities, allowing him to see a world of opportunity outside of his small community. Growing up, Mr. Herron's mom always told him that the key to success is education. These words of wisdom resounded with Mr. Herron throughout his life. As a young boy, he began saving for his education by delivering newspapers and working at a local grocery store. He was able to pay his way through college at the University of Southern California.

Today, Mr. Herron is dedicated to his family, consisting of his wife, four children and grandchildren. Just like his mother did before him, Mr. Herron taught his family that education is one of the most important factors of a successful life, along with hard work and living below ones means. One day, when visiting a local church, Mr. Herron and his wife heard the Carson Scholars Fund's (CSF) co-founder, Dr. Ben Carson, speak about the importance of recognizing academics through the CSF. Immediately, the CSF's mission resonated with Mr. and Mrs. Herron. As a college professor, Mrs. Herron understood the importance of higher education and the financial burden that scholarships can relieve for students. Because of Mr. Herron's upbringing and experience, he knew that education was the key to opportunity and a better life.

Since that day, Mr. Herron has devoted his time and resources to the Carson Scholars Fund and the students of California. He has endowed three schools, providing scholarships to each for years to come. The three schools were carefully selected based on Mr. Herron's personal connections. The first school he endowed due to its location in a financially challenged area. The second school is where Mr. Herron's son received an education. The third school Mr. Herron chose to endow because it was situated in the community that he grew up in. It brings Mr. and Mrs. Herron great joy to help students realize their potential through the encouragement of the Carson Scholars Fund and by exposing them to the opportunities that higher education has to offer.

The compassion Mr. Herron has for the community in which he grew up has made a positive impact in the lives of many California students. The Carson Scholars Fund is eternally grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Herron's support and commitment to education.

"Give back and live a life of significance, not just success." – Mr. Richard Herron

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If you think we have an old mailing and/or email address, please email Liz at liz@carsonscholars.org with your new information. Thanks!



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