

NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

January 9, 2019

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

January 11, 2019

Teacher recommendation deadline

January 16, 2019

Principal verification deadline

March 2019

Notifications mailed to winners/non-winners

April 7, 2019

Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

April 13, 2019

West Coast Banquet

April 23, 2019

Lee County, FL Banquet

May 5, 2019

Maryland Banquet

May 11, 2019

Chattanooga, TN Banquet

Reading Room Openings

Winter/Spring 2019

Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center,

West Palm Beach, FL

Sterling Elementary, Charlotte, NC

Bel-Aire Elementary,

Tulahoma, TN

Shaw Heights Elementary,

Shaw AFB, SC

KIPP Adelante, San Diego, CA

TLC, Chula Vista, CA

Laurel Elementary, Oceanside, CA

Kavod Elementary Charter,

San Diego, CA

Spring Valley Elementary,

O'Neals, CA

Thomas Edison Elementary,

Glendale, CA

Fulton & Alsbury Academy of Arts

& Engineering, Lancaster, CA

Keiller Leadership Academy,

San Diego, CA

2019 Scholarship Season

The 2019 Scholarship Season is underway and we're looking forward to receiving, what are sure to be, outstanding applications! During this busy time of year, it's important to keep our deadlines in mind ... [Read More](#)

Year End Giving

The Carson Scholars Fund's 22nd year made a lasting impact on countless students like Christianna, and it's all thanks to you! ... [Read More](#)

Meet Our CSF Hall of Fame Class of 2019

In 2016, in honor of our 20th anniversary, we created the Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, inducting 20 remarkable Carson Scholar alumni whose lives and careers comprise an integral part of our history ... [Read More](#)

National Day of Reading Across the Country

The Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading is an annual event designed to raise awareness of the importance of daily reading. This year's celebration took place on Monday, November 12 ... [Read More](#)

A Fun Fall for the Ben Carson Reading Room Project

It was a busy season for the Ben Carson Reading Room Project as we opened seven new rooms! ... [Read More](#)

Pittsburgh Holiday Celebration

On Thursday, December 6, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted a holiday celebration at the Pittsburgh Field Club to benefit future Carson Scholars ... [Read More](#)

Help Us Select the Next Generation of Carson Scholars

The success of our scholarship program relies on the dedication of our amazing volunteers who donate their time and talents to help execute our mission ... [Read More](#)



NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

January 9, 2019

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

January 11, 2019

Teacher recommendation deadline

January 16, 2019

Principal verification deadline

March 2019

Notifications mailed to winners/non-winners

April 7, 2019

Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

April 13, 2019

West Coast Banquet

April 23, 2019

Lee County, FL Banquet

May 5, 2019

Maryland Banquet

May 11, 2019

Chattanooga, TN Banquet

Reading Room Openings

Winter/Spring 2019

Opportunity Early Childhood

Education and Family Center,

West Palm Beach, FL

Sterling Elementary, Charlotte, NC

Bel-Aire Elementary,

Tulahoma, TN

Shaw Heights Elementary,

Shaw AFB, SC

KIPP Adelante, San Diego, CA

TLC, Chula Vista, CA

Laurel Elementary, Oceanside, CA

Kavod Elementary Charter,

San Diego, CA

Spring Valley Elementary,

O'Neals, CA

Thomas Edison Elementary,

Glendale, CA

Fulton & Alsbury Academy of Arts

& Engineering, Lancaster, CA

Keiller Leadership Academy,

San Diego, CA

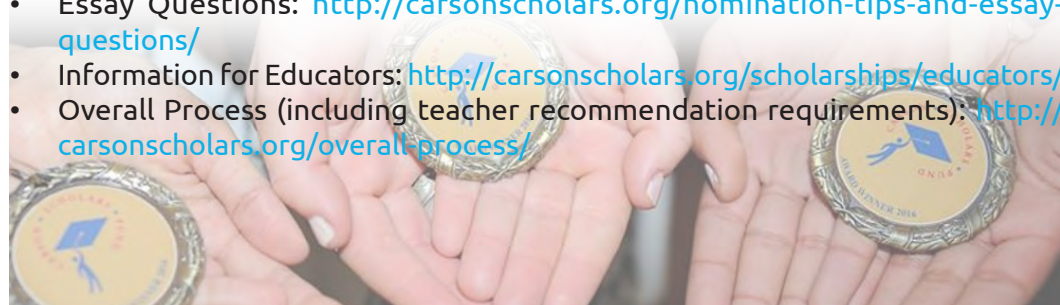
2019 Scholarship Season

The 2019 Scholarship Season is underway and we're looking forward to receiving, what are sure to be, outstanding applications! 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.

- **Wednesday, January 9, 2019** at 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) is the deadline for students (both new students and previous scholars applying for recognition) to complete their online applications. This is also the postmark deadline for any student completing a hard copy application.
- **Friday, January 11, 2019** at 8:00 pm EST is the deadline for educators to submit recommendations on behalf of their students. While we encourage the recommendation letters to be submitted by January 9th with the applications, we do understand restrictions set by winter break schedules. Teachers must submit recommendation letters by this deadline for students' applications to be considered.
- **Wednesday, January 16, 2019** at 8:00 pm EST is the deadline for principal verification. On or around January 14, 2019, an email will be sent to the school principal asking him/her to review the application, and verify that the materials are correct and that the student truly is the school's nominee. This process cannot be completed ahead of time. Principals of previous scholars applying for recognition will also receive principal verification information.
- All applicants (and schools) will be notified of the status of their application – either winner or non-winner – via regular mail in March 2019.

We receive a lot of inquiries during the scholarship season. Many frequently-asked questions can be answered by visiting the following pages on our website:

- 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/>



2019 Scholarship Season, continued

- Information for Carson Scholars applying for Previous Scholar Recognition: <http://caronscholars.org/scholarships/current-scholars/>
- Previous Scholar Recognition Application: [Email Lacey](#) providing your name and date of birth
- Videos explaining online application and teacher recommendations: <http://caronscholars.org/application-videos/>

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

Year End Giving

The Carson Scholars Fund's 22nd year made a lasting impact on countless students like Christianna, and it is all thanks to you!



"Being a Carson Scholar means that I change the world one volunteer opportunity at a time. I am a humanitarian, advocate, and dreamer. You showed me that paying for college was possible with hard work. Receiving the Carson Scholarship during my junior year was the boost I needed to invest in applying for scholarships. I realized the benefits (improved writing skills, confidence, and finances) of applying for scholarships."

By no means does this mean that we are finished changing lives in 2018.

*"I have told so many people about this foundation and how it encouraged me to **dream big**. My plan is to graduate debt-free. Thank you for your support!"*

– Christianna Marcy, 2018 Carson Scholar

Make your tax deductible gift today to change the life of a student like Christianna.

****To ensure your gift makes the 2018 tax deductible deadline, please read the following instructions:**

Mailing a gift:

- The date on the check must be before or on 12/31/2018.
- The post mark date must be before or on 12/31/2018.

Credit Card gifts online:

- 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on 12/31/2018.

Donating Stock:

- If donating stock, stock must be received by 12/31/2018.



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



2018 Annual Report

Have you
reviewed our 2018
Annual Report?
**Click here
to check it out!**



Meet our CSF Hall of Fame Class of 2019



In 2016, in honor of our 20th anniversary, we created the Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, inducting 20 remarkable Carson Scholar alumni whose lives and careers comprise an integral part of our history. In the years since, we have established a tradition to recognize five additional alumni each year who will join the ranks of very impressive young adults in the growing Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is meant to celebrate outstanding Carson Scholar alumni who continue to represent the 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.

This year, we once again welcome five new alumni to the Hall of Fame, who represent an accomplished group of over 5,600 Carson Scholar alumni. Among the 2019 inductees are computer programmers, humanitarians, musicians, political leaders, and researchers. Despite adversity and challenges, they continue to strive toward their goals and give their time and talents to help people worldwide and make the world a brighter place. Our new Hall of Fame inductees will be celebrated at our awards banquets this spring.

[Click here](#) to meet our 2019 Hall of Fame class and learn more about all of the incredible work they are doing in their communities and around the world. Congratulations to all!

#GivingTuesday 2018

On Tuesday, November 27, charities across the nation celebrated #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities, and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. For the last six 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.

Thanks to you, we were able to support 5 Carson Scholars on #GivingTuesday this year! We couldn't have done this without you. 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 2018



The Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading is an annual event designed to raise awareness of the importance of daily reading. This year's celebration took place on Monday, November 12 and featured the beloved children's book *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon. This classic book tells the tale of a newborn fruit bat who is separated from her mother and finds refuge in a bird's nest. The story explores the topics of friendship, being honest with one's self and values.

In observation, CSF school partners received a hardcover copy of *Stellaluna*. A special video book narration was recorded by CSF co-founder Mrs. Candy Carson. A link to the narration was distributed to CSF school partners. Some schools showed the video school-wide during morning announcements while other schools preferred to share

the story in a more intimate setting of a classroom or during library visits. For children not attending a reading room school, the link to the story was available on the CSF website.

Many community members supported the event by volunteering to read in Ben Carson Reading Room schools. The literacy role models came from diverse occupations and included a children's author, news anchor, elected officials, reading room sponsor and even a 3-time Carson Scholar. To view the day's highlights, [click here](#):

2018 Guest Readers

From left, top row: Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond / WBFF News Anchor Jennifer Gilbert / Ben Carson Reading Room Sponsor Marlene Young /
From left, middle row: Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell / 3-time Carson Scholar Mitchell Atkins /
From left, bottom row: CSF Executive Director Amy Warner / CSF Program Coordinator Celeste Jordan / CSF Scholarship & Communications Coordinator Jen Kuhn /
Not pictured: Children's Author Caroline Arnold



A Fun Fall for the Ben Carson Reading Room Project

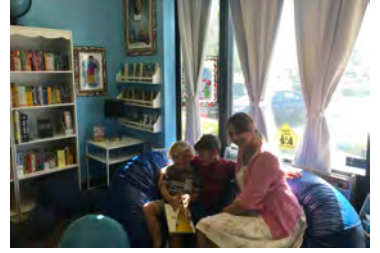
Fall was a busy season for the Ben Carson Reading Project as we opened seven new rooms! With these new additions, 198 reading rooms have now been established.

The Learning Choice Academy *Temecula, CA*

The Learning Choice Academy (TLC) opened a second Think Big Reading Room, this time at their Temecula site. With special thanks to donors Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon, administrators, teachers, parents, and student helpers were enthusiastic in creating their new, world traveler-themed Think Big Reading Room. The diverse team at TLC witnessed their hard work pay off when the beautiful room was revealed to their students, parents and community members on September 18. The opening ceremony started with TLC student



and 2018 Carson Scholar Maryann Roybal playing the violin and then sharing with the audience how reading inspired her to become a dedicated musician. Following her amazing performance, a group of students shared how Dr. Carson's "Think Big" philosophy has helped them become successful students in-and-out of the classroom. The newly transformed office has 6 clocks, each one set to the local time of a city abroad, overlooking the shelves of hundreds of books that spark the interest of students ranging from 3rd to 12th grade. TLC students may not be able to travel the world just yet, but they surely are getting worldly experience when visiting their new Think Big Reading Room.



Crown Point Jr. Music Academy *San Diego, CA*

San Diego Unified School District had their first Think Big Reading Room open at Crown Point Junior Music Academy (CPJMA) on October 16. Late donors Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon would be proud to know that they sponsored yet another Think Big Reading Room in California. CPJMA is a Tk-5 neighborhood school in the historic Crown Point area of San Diego that enriches students with an immersive musical learning experience. The CPJMA Reading Room team transformed a former classroom that previously held the school's weekly staff meetings into a 'Reading by the Sea' themed reading room. Fishing nets, aquatic decals, giant blue pillows, bean bags and a four foot stuffed seahorse all contribute to the ocean vibe the team initially decided to create. Principal Lopez addressed a large group of students, parents, community business owners, and district officials in the school auditorium and shared why his team feels so fortunate to be able to



create a literacy-rich environment for CPJMA students, thanks to the Carson Scholars Fund and the Gagon Trust. School board members shared personal stories with the audience about how reading opened doors for them to be successful in their respective careers. Students then took the stage and creatively explained how to use the reading room responsibly and what kind of reading adventures await. The gathering was capped off with an enthusiastic roar from students when they saw one of their favorite book characters walk through the door, Clifford the Big Red Dog!



West Side Elementary School *Rossville, GA* Tiger Creek Elementary School *Tunnel Hill, GA*

The number 'three' has special meaning in children's literary works. After all, there were *Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *The Three Musketeers* just to name a few. For students in Northwest Georgia, three has a new meaning: it is the number of Ben Carson Reading Rooms located in Catoosa County Schools. On the morning of Monday, October 22, West Side Elementary opened its "Camp Carson" themed reading room followed with an afternoon unveiling of "Carson Castle" at Tiger Creek Elementary. These are the second and third reading rooms to be sponsored by the Holland Family Foundation in Catoosa County Schools, joining the ranks of Cloud Springs Elementary, the first school in the county to receive this distinction.



Fall Ben Carson Reading Project, continued

While the themes of the reading rooms are strikingly different both schools worked diligently to create a book-filled reading oasis. At Camp Carson, students have the option of reading in a hollowed out tree trunk, in a tent, or next to a faux camp fire. Students at Tiger Creek enter their medieval reading room by walking across the castle's drawbridge. Once inside, students can choose from numerous comfy seating options. Both reading rooms boast a robust book collection guaranteed to entice children to read, dream, and find adventure.

CSF co-founder Mrs. Candy Carson attended both openings and reflected on how the reading rooms provide opportunities and hope. "Once you have one child with hope, it becomes a ripple effect. Hope extends to his classmates, friends and family, therefore, positively impacting the child, his family, and the community," she said.



Scholarship Prep Charter School Santa Ana, CA



This past Halloween, Scholarship Prep Charter School in Santa Ana, CA opened their beach-themed Think Big Reading Room with gratitude to donors Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon. Opening a reading room on Halloween had its advantages as teachers dressed in their best luau attire, adding to the day's theme of 'reading on the beach.' The newly transformed room is carefully decorated with cloud-mimicking fabric that softens the room, palm trees, tiki umbrellas, surfboards, and murals sprinkled throughout thanks to local artist and teacher Ms. Dewberry. This public charter school network was founded by former California State Senator Mrs. Gloria Romero and serves students in grades K-8. The opening ceremony was attended by a handful of elected officials, a CSF board member, CSF Executive Director Amy Warner, parents, and

students, who were engrossed in the presentation made by the Reading Room Team at Scholarship Prep. The city of Santa Ana, Orange County, and the State of California State Senate had representatives at the opening to present a Certificate of Recognition to Scholarship Prep Charter School for their efforts in instilling a love for reading in their students. The Think Big Reading Room is now an essential feature on campus as multiple classes visit the room each day to soak up some rays on the beach with a good book in hand.



Ocean View Christian Academy San Diego, CA

Through the generosity of Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon, Ocean View Christian Academy (OVCA) in San Diego opened their new Think Big Reading Room on November 1. The Think Big Reading Room at OVCA is equipped with multiple seating options and hundreds of books that appeal to a variety of ages. After the room's unveiling, students found themselves thumbing through a robust book selection in the uniquely decorated ocean-themed reading space. The Reading Room Team at OVCA transformed a section of their existing library into a brand new reading space that is sure to be



a popular place on campus. The day's events were kicked off in the school's pristine chapel where Principal Johnson addressed the audience about the school's mission to further encourage leisure reading and how the Gagon Trust and CSF made it all possible. Student writers, each representing their respective grades, shared a few paragraphs on how reading has shaped them into the high achieving students that they are. This is the eighth reading room to be sponsored by the Gagon Trust and the eleventh to open in Southern California.



Broadview Elementary School Winchester, TN

There's a magical, mystical place where Dr. Seuss, Harry Potter, and Narnia coexist. It's a place chock full of books captivating children to read about them and other interesting characters. The place is the Ben Carson Reading Room at Broadview Elementary School in Winchester, Tennessee. On Friday, November 16, the school opened its "Somewhere Under the Rainbow" themed



reading room. A team of artists strategically created the character/story murals to bring the literary world onto the school's campus. The focal point of the room is a sizeable handcrafted wooden rainbow structure showcasing all of the hues of the rainbow. The inside of the rainbow contains two benches to cuddle up with a book. The outside of the structure supports the arches and serves as a bookcase. At the end of the rainbow children can find a pot of gold.

Broadview Elementary is honored to be sponsored by the Salvador Foundation. Janine Gardener, Salvador Foundation board member and former school teacher, shared, "Reading is a key to success in essentially any path you take in life" and the Foundation is excited to participate in such a unique opportunity.



Florida Reading Room Workshop



On Wednesday, November 14, reading room representatives from Florida gathered at the West Palm Marriott for a reading room workshop. The workshop was designed for reading room school partners to come together to share information and ideas and to build camaraderie. CSF co-founder Candy Carson welcomed the school representatives and thanked them for all that they do on behalf of their students and the Ben Carson Reading Room Project.

After Mrs. Carson spoke, reading room sponsor Mark Foley stepped up to the podium and echoed Mrs. Carson's sentiment. He surprised everyone by announcing he would be sponsoring another reading room in Palm Beach County Schools. This will be the second reading room to be sponsored by Mr. Foley. Last March, Mark and his sister, Donna Foley Winterson, sponsored the Pioneer Park Elementary School reading room in Belle Glade.



The event's keynote speaker was award-winning author Christina Diaz Gonzalez. Christina is the author of *The Red Umbrella*, *A Thunderous Whisper*, *Moving Target*, *Return Fire*, and *Stormspeaker*. Her books have received numerous honors including the American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults, the Florida Book Award, the Nebraska Book Award, and the International Latino Book Award. Publications such as *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Miami Herald*, *School Library Journal*, and *The Washington Post* have called her novels "exciting, engrossing and compelling."



Pittsburgh Holiday Celebration

On Thursday, December 6, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund hosted a holiday celebration at the Pittsburgh Field Club to benefit future Carson Scholars. The evening opened with an elegant cocktail hour during which guests were entertained with music by Regina Givi and Dan Hanczar and magic by Lee Terbosic. Attendees bid on silent auction items including holiday baskets, jewelry, and art which raised funds to support Pittsburgh scholarships.

Next, committee member Patti Loyacona welcomed guests, who were treated to a holiday dance performance by Dance Mechanics. Following the performance, Pittsburgh Chapter president Fran Donahue shared the grim educational statistics of our nation's performance against other countries and then introduced CSF co-founder Candy Carson. Candy expounded how the CSF's vision for the future addresses this educational crisis.

Fran introduced Carson Scholar Hall of Fame member Ella Walsh, who reflected on how being a Carson Scholar influenced her life. "There is something special about being

supported by strangers, by people who do not personally or intimately know you, such as the way the Carsons and those of the Carson Scholars Fund support me. Being awarded a scholarship back in 2009, for me, was the equivalent of Dr. and Mrs. Carson telling me, 'We may not know you personally, but we have noticed your hard work, and we believe in your ability to do something great, to be someone great.' That is what receiving the scholarship felt like."

Father Thomas Miller delivered the invocation before everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner. After dinner, guests listened intently to an inspirational message from Dr. Ben Carson, who shared his life's lessons and the importance of developing a pipeline of bright, compassionate, young leaders.

Congratulations to the Pittsburgh Chapter on their continued success. Thank you to all who attended and generously supported this special evening to benefit future Carson Scholars.



Help Select the Next Generation of Carson Scholars

The success of our scholarship program relies on the dedication of our amazing volunteers who donate their time and talents to help execute our mission. If you're interested in being a CSF volunteer, please contact us.

We are looking for volunteers to help 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 around January 21 and runs through late February. If you're interested in scoring applications please contact Lacey at lrichards@caronscholars.org. After a brief training session in the Towson, MD office or over the phone, you will be able to score applications remotely.

We are looking for volunteers starting in January and continuing through our banquet season in May. 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@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, MD office.

