

Carson Scholars Fund news

IMPORTANT DATES

June 20, 2019

CSF Summer Kickoff Fundraiser

July 5, 2019

Scholarship Payout Forms Due

July 11, 2019

Payout checks mailed to colleges/universities

September 23, 2019

Pittsburgh CSF Charity Golf Tournament

October 2019

Online Application Available

FALL READING ROOM OPENINGS

Chesterton Elementary, San Diego, CA

Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary, Palm Springs, FL

Conway Elementary, Escondido, CA

Glen View Elementary, Escondido, CA

Juniper Elementary, Escondido, CA

Knob Hill Elementary, San Marcos, CA

La Mirada Academy, San Marcos, CA

Live Oak Elementary, Fallbrook, CA

Martin Luther King Jr. School of the Arts, Seaside, CA

Orange Glen Elementary, Escondido, CA

Pioneer Elementary, Escondido, CA

Rock Springs Elementary, Escondido, CA

Scholarship Prep Charter School Lomita-Harbor City, Lomita, CA

Thomas Edison Elementary, Glendale, CA

Forest Hill Elementary, West Palm Beach, FL

Opportunity Inc., West Palm Beach, FL

Dalewood Middle, Chattanooga, TN

2019 Banquet Season Wrap-Up

As the school year comes to a close, so does the Carson Scholars Fund's 2019 banquet season. 1,383 Carson Scholars, including 505 new and 878 recognized scholars, were celebrated at six banquets across ... [Read More](#)

CSF's 2nd Annual Summer Fundraiser

Join us for the CSF's 2nd Annual Summer Fundraiser on Thursday, June 20! We will celebrate with music, cocktails, local cuisine, a silent auction and dancing ... [Read More](#)

Attention Scholars: Enter CSF's Newsletter Design Contest!

Our contest will accept submissions of new newsletter nameplate designs. We are looking for the most creative and original newsletter design which best represents the Carson Scholars Fund ... [Read More](#)

Congratulations to the 2019 Hall of Fame

The Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame continues to grow as more accomplished alumni are inducted each year. At the 23rd Annual Maryland Awards Banquet ... [Read More](#)

CSF Reading Rooms Keep Rolling!

Fulton and Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering, a K-8 school, located in Lancaster, California, opened their new Think Big Reading Room on Friday, February 22, making it Carson Scholars Fund's 201st reading room ... [Read More](#)

Scholar Payout Information: Attention Class of 2019

Congratulations to all of the Carson Scholars who are graduating from high school this spring! As you prepare to start your next adventure, be sure to check out our scholarship payout process ... [Read More](#)

2019 Banquet Season Wrap-Up

As the school year comes to a close, so does the Carson Scholars Fund's 2019 banquet season. There were 1,383 Carson Scholars, including 505 new and 878 recognized scholars, celebrated at six banquets across the country. Along with these scholars, whose academic and humanitarian efforts know no limits, we also honored several adults who are making a difference in their fields and in the world.

The theme for the 2019 banquet season was "Whatever It Takes," highlighting the astonishing lengths our scholars will go to be successful both academically and in their communities. Our efforts would not be possible without dedicated volunteers, donors and supporters who believe in the mission of the Carson Scholars Fund! Thank you for all that you do to support our academic superstars.

Pittsburgh



Sunday, April 7 will be a special day to remember for our 2019 Pittsburgh Carson Scholars! There were 134 scholars in attendance celebrating their academic success of having at least a 3.75 GPA and demonstrating outstanding humanitarian qualities. These high achieving students in grades 4-11 were awarded \$1,000 college scholarships. This year's Pittsburgh Banquet was held at Heinz Field from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event began with a wonderful introduction from emcee Jennifer Tomazic, news reporter for WPXI-TV. Pittsburgh Chapter President Fran Donahue delivered the welcome and kicked off the awards celebration.

Several scholars participated in the banquet this year. Adrienne Simons, a 5th grader from Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Eighth grader Leyu Belachew represented East Catholic High School and introduced our keynote speaker, Dr. Ben Carson, to the stage. Dr. Carson shared an inspirational speech that captivated the audience. One parent commented, *"It has inspired me to consider doing more to help others through various volunteer opportunities and to be a better role model for my own children and others."* The banquet continued as Sarah Helwick, an 8th grader from Sacred Heart Elementary School, delivered an eloquent blessing. Three-time Carson Scholar Zachary Esch, a junior from Seton - LaSalle Catholic High School, was this year's musical performer. He dazzled the audience with his rendition of "Corner of the Sky" from the 1972 musical *Pippin* while lunch was served. After lunch, Coryn Ferguson took the stage to share her scholar essay. This 11th grader from Seneca Valley Senior High School discussed being cut from the swim team, and how she was able to turn a disappointing situation into a positive learning experience. To conclude the banquet, Mrs. Candy Carson welcomed this year's honoree. Rickey Jackson, Pro Football Hall of Fame Member, was honored with the 2019 Power of Excellence Award, which recognizes a person who demonstrates excellence in their career and serves as a positive role model. [View photos from the Pittsburgh banquet.](#)



West Coast



This year marked the 10th Annual West Coast Awards Banquet, where 117 new and 113 recognized Carson Scholars were honored for their academic achievements and humanitarian work. Family, friends and educators made the journey to the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, CA to show their unwavering support for their scholars. CBS San Diego News personality Heather Myers emceed the event for the second year and was pleased to see those familiar scholars from last year walk across the stage this April. 2019 Carson Scholar and 4th grade student Emily Diaz kicked

the event by leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Candy Carson warmly welcomed the audience and reminded everyone just how incredible these scholars are and how it takes the support of family and passionate educators to help them along the way.

A beautiful rendition of “Amazing Grace” was performed by talented harpist and 2019 Carson Scholar Liberty Floyd. The magnitude of the event could not have been possible without the continued generosity of Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon. It was only fitting then to play a tribute video honoring the incredible couple for their achievement and benevolence. This year, the Gagon Trust sponsored 85 new scholars and continue to fund dozens of Think Big Reading Rooms across Southern California.

The afternoon hit its peak when Dr. Carson introduced Dr. Bennet Omalu and presented him with the Trailblazer Award. Bennet Omalu is a Nigerian-born physician who holds eight degrees and professional certifications in the medical sciences and business management. Dr. Omalu identified Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy [CTE] in a retired football player when he performed an autopsy and examined the brain of Mike Webster. Subsequently, he identified CTE in other high-impact, high contact sports athletes and in military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. His work and life have been featured extensively in all media platforms across the world including the major Hollywood film, *Concussion*, released in December 2015 by Sony Motion Pictures, in which the renowned actor, Will Smith, played Dr. Omalu.

Dr. Omalu’s breakthrough work is what led the next component of the afternoon – an essay reading from 2019 Carson Scholar Sabrina Smith. The 11th grade student and San Diego native shared her story of how two sports concussions created a path for her to serve others and further her appreciation for health and wellness. Kristin Berry illustrated her incredible service work as she introduced the keynote speaker and CSF’s co-founder, Dr. Ben Carson. Dr. Carson charmed the audience with stories from his work as a medical student and the importance of believing in your abilities along with sharing his thoughts behind his “Think Big” motto. [View photos from the West Coast banquet.](#)



Florida



On Tuesday, April 23, over 500 guests attended the 10th Annual Florida Carson Scholars Awards Banquet in Bonita Springs, Florida. This year, 46 new Carson Scholars and 141 recognized Carson Scholars were honored throughout the evening. Morning news anchor Greg Parker from ABC-7 was on hand to emcee the event.

Two-time Carson Scholar Alexander Mankin delivered the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a benevolent invocation by longtime supporter of the CSF, Johnny Sheppard. 2019 Carson Scholar Sophia Salamanca delivered her scholar essay encouraging fellow scholars to strive for social change and never give up on their dreams. Dinner was served as a slideshow of past and present Carson Scholars was shown on two large viewing screens.

Dual recipients of the Generous Heart Award, Cissie Graham Lynch and Corey Lynch, shared inspiring stories from their work with the international relief fund, Samaritan’s Purse. They emboldened scholars to be advocates for the world’s weakest citizens and give generously to those in deepest need.

Maya Allione, a six-time Carson Scholar from Ft. Myers, introduced Dr. Ben Carson for his keynote address. Dr. Carson imparted words of wisdom to the future leaders highlighting the importance of setting goals and using your God-given gifts to accomplish them. [View photos from the Florida banquet.](#)



North Carolina



On April 24, the CSF hosted the fourth annual North Carolina Awards Banquet to celebrate the 18 new and 20 recognized Carson Scholars from the Tar Heel State. These outstanding students do whatever it takes to succeed academically while also balancing extracurricular activities and impressive humanitarian work. Five-time Carson Scholar Vy Bui kicked off the banquet by welcoming guests and introducing the scholar procession before 2019 Carson Scholar Addison Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Dr. Rodney Alsup, President of the

Chatham County Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund, formally welcomed guests to the banquet, sharing information about the CSF and calling for additional and continued support for scholarships in Chatham County, North Carolina. Elli Yu, a 2019 Carson Scholar, eloquently delivered the evening's blessing. Special remarks were made by co-founder Mrs. Candy Carson who was introduced by four-time Carson Scholar Alexis DeCastro. Faelynn Williams, a 2019 Carson Scholar, introduced this year's featured video montage, "Whatever It Takes," of Carson Scholars going the extra mile to achieve their goals. The evening's keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Mary Jo "MJ" Hall, Content Manager for the Association for Talent Development and lifelong educator. Dr. Hall presented scholars with advice and a toolkit to help them on their lifelong journeys of discovery and learning. The CSF is thankful for our North Carolina chapters in Chatham County and Charlotte for all of their support. [View photos from the North Carolina banquet.](#)



Maryland



Our 23rd Annual Maryland Awards Banquet took place on Sunday, May 5 at Martin's West and was as impressive as ever, with over 1,000 people in attendance to celebrate the 2019 Carson Scholars. We were thrilled to have WBFF-TV news anchor Jennifer Gilbert serve as this year's emcee. The event started with a procession as five Hall of Fame members, 153 recognized scholars, and 149 new scholars entered the venue greeted with a round of applause from the audience.

The Carson Scholars Fund makes a point to include as many scholars in our banquets as possible, and this year was no exception. 2019 scholar Faith Andreen was called to the stage to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Noah Milad, who delivered an amazing rendition of "God Bless America." We had

the pleasure of being joined by board president Dr. Nancy Grasmick, who delivered the welcome. Dr. Grasmick was joined by Mrs. Toby Orenstein, Dr. Ben Carson and Mrs. Candy Carson to present the Trailblazer Award to this year's honoree, Mike Lindell, inventor and CEO of MyPillow. The Trailblazer Award is given to an individual with a pioneering spirit who has positively impacted society with his/her innovative ideas. After Mike Lindell's gracious speech, three-time scholar Enzo Santillan delivered the blessing followed by Skylar Podraza's beautiful performance of the song "Hallelujah."

A delicious lunch was served as two amazing scholars entertained the guests. Francesca Ramos played selections on the harp, and William Streaker dazzled the audience with a lovely piano performance. After lunch, aspiring neurosurgeon and scholar Alena Shen introduced keynote speaker Dr. Ben Carson. Always inspiring, Dr. Carson's speech was celebrated with a standing ovation from the entire audience.

The event ended with our salute to the 2019 Carson Scholars. Family members, friends, educators and donors all cheered as the scholars stood to be recognized. The scholars grabbed their whistles and made some noise to celebrate an amazing conclusion to another Maryland Awards Ceremony. [View photos from the Maryland banquet.](#)



Chattanooga/Atlanta



The last of the 2019 scholarship banquets was held on Saturday, May 11 in the scenic city of Chattanooga. Although the day was wet and dreary, it didn't dampen the spirits of the Southeast region's Carson Scholars as they converged on The University of Tennessee Chattanooga campus. For the fourth year, WDEF News Now anchor and reporter John Mercer served as the event emcee. The ceremony kicked off with scholars marching single-file into the Tennessee Room in the UTC University Center building. Michelle Hunter, representing the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, welcomed the scholars and their families, including several who had traveled great distances to be in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, scholars and their

families were treated to a special musical presentation by middle school student and 2019 Carson Scholar Sarah Katheron Latham.

After lunch and fellowship new scholar and mitochondrial disease spokesperson Katie Parsons read her Carson Scholar essay. Katie is involved with numerous nonprofits and shared one of her profound observations. *"There are two types of people in this world, those who need help and those who give help. At any given point in your life, you will be both."* After Katie spoke, the program segued into the presentation of the Power of Excellence Award. This year's recipient was David Parker, president and CEO of Covenant Transport. Covenant Transport, a trucking carrier company, was founded on the cornerstone of quality and integrity. Mr. Parker imparted the importance of those values.



The event culminated with the presentation of the 2019 Carson Scholars. This year 46 students from the Southeast region received the coveted honor of being named Carson Scholars and 52 students renewed their Carson Scholar status. [View photos from the Chattanooga/Atlanta banquet.](#)

Help Us Grant MORE Scholarships in 2020

If you have a fundraising idea for your school, town, or workplace, let us know. Perhaps you know a potential educational partner or foundation that we should contact? We would love to hear from you. With your help, 2020 can be our biggest year ever. Don't let deserving students go unrewarded. Email Amy at Awarnar@carsonscholars.org with your ideas.



Celebrate Summer at CSF's 2nd Annual Summer Fundraiser

Join us for an evening of fundraising for the Carson Scholars Fund at CSF's 2nd Annual Summer Fundraiser on Thursday, June 20. We will celebrate with music, cocktails, local cuisine, a silent auction and dancing! All proceeds benefit the Carson Scholars Fund.

Tickets and sponsorships are [available on our website](#). Tickets are \$100. Reserve yours before it's too late!

For Carson Scholars and their families who are interested in attending, please contact Jo at jweisgal@carsonscholars.org.



HOSTED BY:
Tudy & Steve Adler,
Merlynn & Ben Carson, Jr.,
and Leslie & Kevin Hollins

CELEBRATING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR STUDENTS

CARSON SCHOLARS FUND'S
2nd Annual Summer Fundraiser

Local cuisine, cocktails,
silent auction,
and dancing!

Thursday, June 20, 2019
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Historic Savage Mill
Great Room
8600 Foundry Street
Savage, MD

Save THE Date!

For tickets and more information, visit www.carsonscholars.org.

Event sponsored by *The Traffic Group Inc.*



Click here to review us
and help us become a
**2019 Top-Rated
Nonprofit!**



Attention Scholars: Enter the CSF's Newsletter Design Contest!

RULES & ELIGIBILITY

What is the contest?

Our contest will accept submissions of new newsletter nameplate designs. We are looking for the most creative and original newsletter design which best represents the Carson Scholars Fund. Submissions will be judged on creativity, and all decisions will be final.

Our nameplate appears at the top of our quarterly newsletter, the Carson Scholars Fund News, which is distributed electronically to thousands of contacts as well as posted on the CSF website. Be creative and show us what you got. We can't wait to see your designs!

Who can enter?

All Carson Scholars and alumni are eligible to enter the contest.

What is the contest timeline?

- June 3, 2019: Contest announced
- August 3, 2019, 11:59 p.m. EST: Submission deadline
- September 2019: Winner announced
- September 2019 Newsletter: New design to appear in the CSF newsletter and winner will be featured in an article. Winner will also receive a gift card for art supplies.

How can I submit a design?

Design must be submitted digitally in the following format to jkuhn@carsonscholars.org by August 3, 2019, 11:59 p.m. EST:

- Nameplate design must be submitted in PNG or JPEG format.
- Colors to use in the design are Carson Blue (PMS 295C), Carson Red (PMS 194C), and/or Carson Gold (7555C).
- Nameplate dimension is 1000 x 300 px.
- All artwork submitted must be original. Submissions will become property of the Carson Scholars Fund.

Questions?

Email Jen Kuhn at jkuhn@carsonscholars.org or call us at 410.858.1005. Good luck!

The nameplate appears at the top of the newsletter: →



Congratulations to the 2019 Hall of Fame!

The Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame continues to grow as more accomplished alumni are inducted each year. At the 23rd Annual Maryland Awards Banquet, one of our newest Hall of Fame members, Swetha Prabakaran, officially joined her fellow alumni in the elite Hall of Fame. Several Hall of Fame scholars were present to help pass the torch to Swetha: Rafee Al-Mansur, 2018 inductee; Jeremy Garriga, 2016 inductee; Da'Kuawn Johnson, 2017 inductee; and Megan Rosenberger, 2017 inductee. Swetha had a special escort to the stage for her portrait unveiling: her sister, Sanjitha, a two-time Carson Scholar. Swetha is currently studying computer science and dance and performance studies at the University of California at Berkeley. She is the founder of the non-profit organization Everybody Code Now!, which engages students, especially young women, in the computer science and STEM fields through the organization's various coding programs.



Thank you to our volunteers whose hard work and dedication make our mission possible!

Thank you to everyone who made the 2019 Carson Scholar Awards Banquet season a huge success! We are honored to work with with so many educators, community leaders, scholars and families who continuously show their dedication to furthering the education of young students.



Our Reading Rooms Keep Rolling!

Fulton and Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering

Fulton and Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering, a K-8 school, located in Lancaster, California, opened their new Think Big Reading Room on Friday, February 22, making it Carson Scholars Fund's 201st reading room. A group of 6th grade students designed the engineering-themed reading space which resembles a hip coffee shop, appealing to students in upper grades. The reading space is surrounded by one wall decked out with chalkboard wallpaper with mathematic formulas sprinkled throughout. Aluminum paneling and framed photos of engineering feats make up with other boundaries of the reading space. Hundreds of chapter books line the shelves which are topped off with giant letters spelling the words "Imagine," "Explore," "Achieve," and of course, "Think Big." Superintendent Dr. Michelle Bowers and board members Keith Giles and Sandra Price were present for the assembly and ribbon-cutting event. The Think Big Reading Room is a popular spot on campus, seeing dozens of students coming and going each day. In fact, since the opening, the school has 28 One Million Word Readers! With so many great titles for students to choose from, they love browsing and finding just the right one. Fulton and Alsbury Academy are forever grateful to Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon who sponsored their reading room. [View photos from the opening.](#)



KIPP Adelante

On March 6, the Gagon Trust was pleased to see their 14th Think Big Reading Room opening. KIPP Adelante, in downtown San Diego, was excited to see their students react to their beautiful reading room which used to be an underutilized storage area. A mural depicting a bright sun, sky, and clouds and the words "Dream Big" set the tone of the sharp reading room which is home to many students getting lost in books each day. Comfy seating options and tasteful décor were outdone by all the brand new books that fill the bins. The grand opening coincided with KIPP's Read Across America celebration which included all staff and faculty dressing up as their favorite literature characters, and allocating time in the day for each class to visit their new Think Big Reading Room. All students in grades 4 through 8 piled in their common space area to hear their peers and teachers speak about why they love books. Their remarks sparked an instantaneous passion to read as just about every student patiently waited their turn to see the much anticipated reading space for the first time. KIPP's student council is largely credited for the reading room's success as they played a key role in planning and implementing a vision they worked hard to create. This student ownership fuels the student body with an appetite to read, read, read! [View photos from the opening.](#)



Bel-Aire Elementary School



Dr. Seuss wisely said, "Think and wonder, wonder and think." The Bel-Aire Elementary Bees in Tullahoma, Tennessee, now have a Dr. Seuss-themed reading room where they will be able to do just that. On the morning of Monday, March 18, students, staff, administrators and special guests gathered for an all-school assembly to celebrate the opening of the reading room. During the ceremony, students learned the meaning of "Think Big" and attendees were treated to a rendition of "Cantamos! (We Sing)" by the Bel-Aire Chorus. After the spirited assembly, guests were escorted to the reading room where they were transported into a Seussical wonderland. An entire wall is devoted to king-sized portraits of Dr. Seuss' most beloved characters including the Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Sam-I-am and the Grinch. The remaining walls are painted sapphire blue with baby blue circles strategically placed throughout the room which give it a colorful, playful look. The classroom window is decorated with fish from *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* representing how much fun reading can be. Students have numerous seating options including an oversized bright red couch, comfortable chairs and not one, but two bathtubs, including a freestanding clawfoot tub. Cushions and pillows line the tubs making them ideal places to "soak" in a reading adventure. This is the first reading room to be located in Tullahoma City Schools and the sixth reading room to be sponsored by The Deaver Phoenix Foundation. [View photos from the opening.](#)

Laurel Elementary

Laurel Elementary understands the importance of reading. Reading achievement and time students spend reading for pleasure were top priorities for the school heading into the new school year. Located in Oceanside, California, the *Starry Night*-themed reading space is located in the school's library and features beautiful mural work throughout the space. Stunning renditions of classic paintings make every visitor stop and marvel and create an enriching environment for students to get lost in a good book. Principal Chavarria, along with the school's Parent Teacher Organization, formed a partnership with a local artist who enticed students and parents into the vision of the reading space. In the weeks leading up to the March 8 grand opening, the school hosted a Family Literacy Night to prime the community's excitement about their new reading room by having students and families contribute to the large tapestries which are prominently displayed in the reading space. Oceanside Unified School District's superintendent and board members, along with its community members, gathered to celebrate. The school works to prioritize reading, and their goal culminated with the unveiling of their new reading room. A special tribute was presented to the Gagon Trust who sponsored the reading room.

San Marcos Elementary

March 8th was a busy day for the foundation as another school in the San Diego area celebrated the opening of their new Think Big Reading Room. Students at San Marcos Elementary heard the buzz about their camping-themed reading room just days before the opening, and they were blown away when they got a glimpse of it for the first time. A camper-shaped tent is parked a few feet away from a circle of camping chairs surrounding a fire pit decorated with marshmallows on sticks roasting in the fire. Comfy pillows cover the floor inside the reading tepee, and mats line the floor underneath a long counter, perfect for those readers who prefer to read undercover. What is even better is the finely decorated space is lined with hundreds of books! Community members and special guests came to join the fun as the festivities started with a third grade class singing a reading-parody of Pharrell's *Happy*. Special remarks by the principal honored the Gagons, who sponsored yet another Think Big Reading Room. Camp S'More Reading Room is the 16th to be sponsored by the Gagon Trust. [View photos from the opening.](#)



Sterling Elementary

On Wednesday, April 3 Sterling Elementary turned a new page with the opening of its Ben Carson Reading Room. The reading room is sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of the CSF, a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about education and literacy. In order to raise the funding for the sponsorship, the chapter hosted a high-spirited event chaired by Ann Marie Steel. Chapter members Sandy Constantine and Beth Barry collected items donated by local businesses. Members also donated personal artwork and vacation getaways, including destinations to Asheville, Hilton Head and Maui.



The school selected a "Think Big, Dream Big, Live Big" theme and recruited local artist, Abstract Dissent, to create a graffiti wall to bring the space to life. The reading room has a robust book collection with over 1,300 books.

In addition to the Sterling Elementary reading room, the Charlotte Chapter sponsored the Ben Carson Reading Room at Starmount Academy of Excellence in Charlotte, which opened in April 2018. [View photos from the opening.](#)



Shaw Heights Elementary

As the azaleas, wisteria and jasmine were beginning to bloom in South Carolina, the flowers in the Ben Carson Reading Room at Shaw Heights Elementary School were on full display as the school excitedly welcomed students into their newly created reading room. The school, located within the gates of Shaw Air Force Base in the Sumter School District, held its opening day ceremony on Friday, April 5. The school adopted the theme of "Growing Readers to New Heights," and incorporated décor to encourage reading growth and development. The room has two expansive trees hand painted on the walls. One of the trees has

steps leading to a treehouse, while the other has books arranged on freestanding shelves beneath the sprawling treetop. While bookcases can be found throughout the room, one in particular stands out. Located in the back compartment of a bookcase is a floral garden featuring a rainbow of silk Gerber Daisies, which makes the bookcase both eye-catching and functional. One of the most unique features of the room is the hand painted ceiling tiles. The school serves second and third graders and each classroom had an opportunity to create a ceiling tile showcasing their favorite book. If students need a book suggestion, all they need to do is look up. The reading room at Shaw Heights Elementary is the fifth Ben Carson Reading Room to be established in South Carolina and the third to be sponsored by Thompson Construction Group. Thompson has proudly sponsored Ben Carson Reading Rooms at Manchester Elementary and R.E. Davis Elementary. [View photos from the opening.](#)

Spring Valley School

Spring Valley School, located in O'Neals, California, celebrated its Think Big Reading Room grand opening on Tuesday, May 7. Spring Valley shook up the traditional reading room opening as they began the event after school, just before the school's open house. It was a giant success! Many students, parents and teachers came to celebrate the hard work that went into creating the cozy space along with honoring Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon, the room's sponsors. Community members, school board members and the district's superintendent all came out to support Spring Valley and their efforts to boost a love of reading amongst their students. The whimsically themed reading room is a child's dream.

Clouds are strung from the ceiling, and fantasy-like creatures soar above the young readers who may be sunken in bean bag chairs or sprawled out on the carpet. This is the first reading room in O'Neals and the 30th in California.

[View photos from the opening.](#)



Save the Date!



PITTSBURGH CARSON SCHOLARS CHARITY DINNER

Friday, December 6, 2019
Pittsburgh Field Club
121 Field Club Rd, Pittsburgh, PA

Important Scholar Information

As the 2019 scholarship season comes to a close and we are preparing for scholarship payouts, we have been sending you (and your schools) a lot of information. Please make sure that you have received all of the following if applicable to you. If you are missing something or if you have any questions about the information, please contact us at 410-828-1005 or email Irichards@carsonscholars.org.

- ✓ All scholar packs have been mailed if you were unable to attend the banquet. Scholar packs include your certificate and medal (for new scholars) or pin (for previous scholars). Contact us if you do not receive your scholar pack by the end of June.
- ✓ All scholars were emailed their 2019 scholarship statement. Scholarship statements are only available online until the beginning of July. We recommend logging in and printing this information now as it will not be viewable after July 5.
- ✓ All scholars eligible for the Fall 2019 semester payout should have received a payout request form with their scholar statement. This information was mailed and emailed.
- ✓ Schools have been mailed their trophy and/or nameplates.

It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact information for our scholars. If you have moved, changed email addresses, or have a new phone number, please let us know! This is especially important when it comes time for scholarship payouts.

Scholar Payout Information: Attention Class of 2019

Congratulations to all of the Carson Scholars who are graduating from high school this spring! As you prepare to start your next adventure, be sure to check out 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 made 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, and/or books.

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 2019 semester have been sent to all payout eligible scholars. The Payout Request Form must be completed and submitted to the CSF by Friday, July 5, 2019. Checks will be mailed to colleges on July 11, 2019 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, 2019 will be held for payout for the Spring 2020 semester.



[Download a copy of the fall 2019 Payout Request Form.](#)

You can also complete your Payout Request Form online. All eligible scholars should have received an email with a link to the online form and your username and password to log in.

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 information to contact information that we have in our database. To update your information, call 410.828.1005 or send an email to Irichards@carsonscholars.org.

Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Charity Golf Tournament

AT LAUREL VALLEY GOLF CLUB



**YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN PITTSBURGH**

**LAUREL VALLEY GOLF CLUB
175 PALMER DRIVE, LIGONIER, PA**

Click here for registration and sponsorship information or contact
Jo Weisgal at jweisgal@carsonscholars.org, call 410.828.1005
www.carsonscholars.org



SAVE THE DATE 9.23.19