Dear dedicated supporters:

What began 23 years ago as an opportunity to encourage and elevate some of the country's greatest young minds by recognizing them as Carson Scholars continues to grow as we identify students with potential, devotion and the tirelessness necessary to execute outstanding achievement. Our scholars continue to amaze us with their abilities, compassion and foresight. We have awarded more than 8,800 scholarships to deserving students across the United States. Carson Scholars, as young as nine years old, are inventors, organizers, mentors and humanitarians.

The Carson Scholars Fund reached another great milestone this year! In February we opened our 200th reading room at Twin Oaks Elementary School in California. In less than ten years, the number of Carson Reading Rooms has doubled in schools across the country. We continue to pursue the dream of putting a book in the hands of as many young people as possible with the hope of enriching lives and inspiring the love of reading that has been such an essential part of our lives. These reading rooms are a haven for students seeking a place to escape, an opportunity to gain knowledge or to simply enjoy the pleasure of reading.

As we enter our 24th year, we are inspired and humbled by the great work that our alumni are doing. They are leaders, healers, scientists, authors, educators, engineers and philanthropists. They continue to demonstrate empathy and promote the ideas of what it means to be Carson Scholars. It is crucial, now more than ever, that we continue to elevate and reward the up-and-coming leaders of our country who will be competing globally in the advancement and development of our future.

We cannot continue to do so without you! It is only through the generosity and support of countless individuals, organizations and CSF friends that we are able to continue to promote the importance of education and the recognition those striving to pursue excellence, and we whole heartedly thank you all who have given in the past! The caring humanitarian component of our scholar requirements is particularly important in the current climate of reputation bashing and negativity. We really need future leaders who will stand up for what is right for all, and not what is politically expedient. In addition, our reading rooms continue to make reading materials accessible to our youngest students. With an amazing 90 cents of every dollar donated going directly to student programs, we hope to continue to support and encourage the unifying and positively propelling force of caring leadership found in our scholars for many years to come.

Candy Carson, Co-Founder
Carson Scholars Fund
About Us

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. was founded in 1994 to address the education crisis in the United States. Benjamin S. Carson, M.D., now retired world-renowned Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon, and his wife, Candy, were alarmed by a study’s findings that students in the United States ranked #21 out of 22 countries in science and math. The Carsons also observed that many school display cases were filled with large trophies paying tribute to their sports teams’ achievements, while academically high-achieving students (those who would most likely be the future leaders in our country) only received a pin or certificate.

Carson Scholars Program

In 1996, the first Carson Scholarships were awarded to 25 deserving students. Since then, the Carson Scholars Fund’s network of scholars has grown to over 8,800 scholar awards across the country.

The Carson Scholars Program recognizes and rewards academic excellence and humanitarian qualities in young students enrolled in grades 4-11. Carson Scholars receive a $1,000 scholarship to be invested towards their college education, along with a recognition package and an invitation to attend a regional awards banquet. The Carson Scholars Program encourages a special culture in homes and schools across the country where children, even at a young age, actually expect to attend college. Carson Scholars are role models and leaders in their schools and communities. They encourage their peers and are shaping a better future for themselves and the country.

The Ben Carson Reading Project

As the Carson Scholars Fund grew, the Carsons established a second program, The Ben Carson Reading Project, dedicated to combating illiteracy and promoting leisure reading as a key to unlocking a child’s full potential.

Launched in 2000, the Ben Carson Reading Project provides funding and support to schools to create an attractive, literacy-enriched environment – warm, inviting rooms where kids can escape into the world of books while developing their reading skills. Each room is filled with hundreds of books for students to explore and is colorfully decorated to promote Dr. Carson’s THINK BIG philosophy of encouraging academic success and helping others. In a reading room, students have the freedom to select their own books. When students choose what they read, they read more.
Ben Carson Reading Project

- 23 states
- 26,955,180 minutes read in 2018-19 school year
- 75+ sponsors
- 98,000+ student participants
- 106,000+ books purchased
- $2.8 Million invested in the reading room program

"I like how you can pick out a book, sit down, and let your imagination take flight!"

- Student, The Learning Choice Academy, Temecula, CA
## New Locations

### California

- **The Learning Choice Academy**
  - Chula Vista
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **L. R. Green Elementary**
  - Escondido
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Fulton and Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering**
  - Lancaster
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Laurel Elementary**
  - Oceanside
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Spring Valley Elementary**
  - O’Neals
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Endeavor College Preparatory Academy**
  - Los Angeles
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Ocean View Christian Academy**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Scholarship Prep Santa Ana**
  - Santa Ana
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **The Learning Choice Academy**
  - Temecula
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Crown Point Junior Music Academy**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Kavod Elementary Charter**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Keiller Leadership Academy**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **The Learning Choice Academy - Scripps Ranch**
  - San Diego
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **San Marcos Elementary**
  - San Marcos
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*
- **Twin Oaks Elementary**
  - San Marcos
  - *Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*

### Georgia

- **West Side Elementary**
  - Rossville
  - *Holland Family Foundation*
- **Tiger Creek Elementary**
  - Tunnel Hill
  - *Holland Family Foundation*

### North Carolina

- **Sterling Elementary**
  - Pineville
  - *Charlotte Chapter of the CSF*

### South Carolina

- **Shaw Heights Elementary**
  - Shaw AFB
  - *Thompson Construction Group, Inc.*

### Tennessee

- **Bel-Aire Elementary**
  - Tullahoma
  - *Deaver Phoenix Foundation*
- **Broadview Elementary**
  - Winchester
  - *The Salvador Foundation*
Carson Scholars Program

505/878 new/recognized Carson Scholars in 2019

OVER 730 colleges/universities have had Carson Scholars

$7 MILLION has been paid out on behalf of Carson Scholars

More than OVER 6,100 members

More than 8,800 scholarships have been awarded in 50 states and Washington DC

890 schools had Carson Scholars in 2019

This award makes me feel great about what I do. It makes me want to keep helping out myself and others and use this award to make an impact.

- Darian, Grade 10
Scholar Spotlight

Emma Anderson, 2-time Carson Scholar, Montana
While in preschool, Emma started Emma’s Cuddle Bear Project to send soft, cuddly bears to children going through cancer treatments. She started by sending 20 bears with special messages to the Cancer Center in Seattle, WA to be distributed to children undergoing treatment. Since those first 20 bears, Emma’s project has grown immensely. She was blessed with 40 large boxes of bears, so she expanded the project to include church mission trips, local shelters and the Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. She’s now provided more than 3,000 stuffed animals to children dealing with illness or difficult situations. In her spare time, Emma is passionate about reading and can always be found with a book! In the future, she’d like to become a teacher.

Mathew Harper, 2019 Carson Scholar, Florida
Mathew’s growing list of awards is quite impressive! He received the Kohls Community Service Student Award, the Las Novias Society Unsung Hero Award and the Legacy Foundation/Palm Beach Pops Scholarship. Mathew enjoys playing the trumpet and singing, and in 2018 won first place in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Talent Competition. He is the founder of the LuvMat Project through which he facilitates donations for the homeless each month and then organizes an annual event to distribute items to those in need. Mathew also serves on the Leadership Team at his church and assists his guidance counselor with distributing blessings bags to fellow students in need.

Sai Mamidala, 8-time Carson Scholar, Alumni
Sai, now a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, hopes to become an aerospace engineer after college to contribute to the advancement of technology in spacecraft. In high school, Sai was a member of the Society of Women Engineers Club, which she founded as a freshman, and the Math Club, which allowed her to compete in math competitions including the Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament and the Princeton University Math Competition. In the fall of 2018, Sai had publications featured in the Columbia University Junior Science Journal and the PennScience Journal of Undergraduate Research. She was a National Merit semifinalist and a two-time JPMorgan Youth Tech Challenge winner. Sai has worked extensively to train and mentor middle school-aged girls in robotics, math, and computer programming to expose them to careers in technology. During high school she interned in the robotics lab at the University of Pennsylvania and conducted chemical engineering research at Drexel University.
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh led the way as we entered banquet season. On April 7, Pittsburgh Chapter President Fran Donahue warmly welcomed 134 scholars and their families to Heinz Field. Dr. Ben Carson took the stage for his inspirational address, but as always our scholars were the “Steelers” of the banquet. Carson Scholars Zachary Esch, Sarah Helwick and Adrienne Simons contributed their talents to the celebration. To conclude the banquet, Candy Carson welcomed this year’s honoree, Rickey Jackson, Pro Football Hall of Fame Member, who was the recipient of the 2019 Power of Excellence award. He spoke on working towards your goal even in the midst of difficulties.

West Coast
This year marked the 10th Annual West Coast Awards Banquet. The continued generosity of Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon guided the way by providing sponsorship of 85 new scholars across the state of California. Dr. Bennet Omalu whose life story was portrayed in the movie, Concussion, received the Trailblazer Award for his contributions to medical sciences and shared his story of standing up for what is right even against such powerful national institutions as the NFL and media. Carson Scholars Kristin Berry, Emily Diaz, Liberty Floyd and Sabrina Smith each added their talents before CSF’s co-founder, Dr. Ben Carson, delivered an uplifting keynote address.

Florida
On April 23, Florida continued the celebrations hosting over 500 guests for their 11th Annual Awards Banquet. Dual recipients Cissie Graham Lynch and Corey Lynch accepted the Generous Heart Award. The duo shared inspiring stories of their work with the international relief fund, Samaritan’s Purse. Johnny Sheppard, longtime CSF supporter, and Carson Scholars Maya Allione, Alexander Mankin and Sophia Salamanca contributed to the ceremony. Dr. Carson imparted words of wisdom to the future leaders stressing the importance of setting goals and using your God-given gifts to accomplish them.
North Carolina
Five-time Carson Scholar Vy Bui kicked off the 4th Annual Awards Banquet on April 24. Dr. Rodney Alsup, President of the Chatham County CSF Chapter, made formal introductions and welcomed both guests and scholars. Carson Scholars Alexis DeCastro, Addison Taylor, Faelynn Williams, and Elli Yu added their special touches to the ceremony. Mrs. Candy Carson provided remarks and encouragement to the group and Dr. Mary Jo "MJ" Hall, Content Manager for the Association for Talent Development and lifelong educator, delivered the keynote speech, featuring her model for success.

Maryland
Our 23rd Annual Maryland Awards Banquet took place on Sunday, May 5 at Martin's West with over 1,000 people in attendance. WBFF-TV news anchor Jennifer Gilbert served as this year’s emcee. The event started with a procession of five Hall of Fame members, 153 recognized scholars, and 149 new scholars.

Scholar Faith Andreen led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Noah Milad, who sang a rendition of "God Bless America." Board president Dr. Nancy Grasmick 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, who shared his challenges and how he overcame them resulting in victories! Next, 3-time scholar Enzo Santillan gave the blessing followed by Skylar Podraza’s performance of the song “Hallelujah.”

During lunch, Carson Scholars Francesca Ramos played selections on the harp, and William Streaker performed on piano. After lunch, aspiring neurosurgeon and scholar Alena Shen introduced keynote speaker Dr. Ben Carson for his inspiring speech.

Chattanooga/Atlanta
The finale of banquets was hosted on May 11 in Chattanooga. Michelle Hunter, representing the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, received this year’s scholars and their families. Carson Scholars Sarah Katheron Latham and Katie Parsons warmed the hearts of those in attendance and Mr. David Parker, President and CEO of Covenant Transport, was presented the Power of Excellence Award. He charged the scholars to take advantage of opportunities and work dedicatedly towards their goals. Candy Carson closed.
The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund, under the leadership of board member Fran Donahue, held two fundraising events in 2018, the Charity Golf Tournament and the Holiday Celebration. Together the events provided funding for 55 Pittsburgh scholarships.

The Charity Golf Tournament took place on Monday, October 1 at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, PA. It was a beautiful day of golf with colleagues and friends who supported academic superstars from the Pittsburgh area.

Golfers played alongside celebrity NFL Hall of Famer Rickey Jackson, who is a former linebacker for the New Orleans Saints and the San Francisco 49ers and an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh.

On Thursday, December 6, the Pittsburgh Chapter hosted a holiday celebration at the Pittsburgh Field Club to benefit future Carson Scholars. The evening opened with a 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 which raised funds to support Pittsburgh scholarships.

Committee member Patti Loyacona welcomed guests, who were treated to a holiday dance performance by Dance Mechanics. Next, Carson Scholar Hall of Fame member Ella Walsh reflected on how being a Carson Scholar influenced her life. Before dinner, Father Thomas Miller delivered the invocation, and afterwards, guests listened intently to an inspirational message from Dr. Ben Carson.

### Florida Reading Room Workshop

On Wednesday, November 14, reading room representatives from Florida gathered at the West Palm Marriott for a reading room workshop hosted by Palm Beach County Chapter president Sande Constantine and chapter member Linda Stoch. 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 Project.

After Mrs. Carson spoke, reading room sponsor Mark Foley stepped up to the podium, echoed Mrs. Carson's sentiment and surprised everyone by announcing he would be sponsoring a second reading room in Palm Beach County Schools. 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 and *The Washington Post* has called her novels “exciting, engrossing and compelling.”

### Second Annual Summer Fundraiser

The CSF held its Second Annual Summer Fundraiser on Thursday, June 20, 2019 in the Historic Savage Mill Manor. Our hosts this year were Tudy and Steve Adler, Merlynn and Ben Carson, Jr., and Leslie and Kevin Hollins.

An enthusiastic group enjoyed the music and food before our hosts took to the mic. Ben Jr., Candy, and Dr. Ben Carson each addressed the group welcoming them and sharing their vision. Afterwards, Steve Adler introduced two Carson Scholars to the attendees, 8-time scholar Sydnae Becton and 7-time scholar Darian Avery. The scholars spoke about the impact receiving the Carson Scholarship had on their academics, confidence and dedication to community service.

Board member Steve Adler’s “Call to the Heart” topped off the evening as guests gave generously to the request. The evening fundraised support for over 40 scholarships.
## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents – operating</td>
<td>$774,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents – restricted for scholarship commitments</td>
<td>$1,390,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents – restricted for reading rooms</td>
<td>$5,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash – chapters</td>
<td>$80,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments – operating</td>
<td>$1,400,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments – restricted for scholarship commitments</td>
<td>$5,077,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments – restricted for reading rooms</td>
<td>$4,011,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge receivables</td>
<td>$4,000,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$377,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,118,861</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$51,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship commitments</td>
<td>$3,567,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,619,300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>$2,581,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td>$10,918,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,499,561</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,118,861</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Statement of Activities and Functional Expenses

### SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND GAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Without Donor</th>
<th>With Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$201,891</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>263,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading project</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>121,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards event</td>
<td>162,391</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment return</td>
<td>470,911</td>
<td>145,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>110,287</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, net expense of $38,196</td>
<td>109,862</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>773,995</td>
<td>(773,995)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND GAINS</strong></td>
<td>1,829,337</td>
<td>(243,386)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Functional Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Service</td>
<td>$1,840,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$70,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$71,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,982,935</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Without Donor</th>
<th>With Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(153,598)</td>
<td>(243,386)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – Beginning of the Year</td>
<td>$2,734,625</td>
<td>11,161,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – End of the Year</td>
<td>$2,581,027</td>
<td>$10,918,534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Special events are presented net of expenses.*
Thank You to Our Financial Supporters

Special Thank You
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Carson
Mr. Mike Lindell
Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust

$20,000 and Above
Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga
Costco Wholesale
Dr. Nancy Grasmick
Highmark
Michael S. Hollins Foundation
James Family Charitable Foundation
Kahlert Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Karen Zeliff

$10,000-$19,999
BallenIsles Charities Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Suzanne Bartolucci
Mr. David Bower
Delaware Community Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Donahue
Friends of Mark Foley
Louis and Phyllis Friedman Foundation
Gordon & Llura Gund Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Guckert
Haugh Family Charitable Foundation
Herman & Walter Samuelson Foundation, Inc.
Kaiser Permanente
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Loyacona
NexTier Bank
Chattanooga Downtown Rotary Club
The Bruni Foundation
The Deaver Phoenix Foundation, Inc.
Thompson Construction Group, Inc.

$5,000-$9,999
Mr. & Mrs. Morton Bender
Cole Roofing Company, Inc.
Dr. Sarah E. DeRossett & Dr. Rodney Alsup
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel F. Devoe
Mrs. Ann C. Donahue
Mr. Thomas G. Donahue
Donahue Family Foundation
Emmert Hobbs Foundation
Federated Investors Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Kevin & Dr. Leslie Hollins
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Janower
Mr. Steven Kuhn
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Riedinger
Mr. David Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Salvucci
Mr. & Mrs. Graylin Smith
Col. (RET.) Jay Stobbs & Dr. MJ Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Willie White
Mr. James Robert Witman

$1,000-$4,999
Mr. & Mrs. Steven H. Adler
Andeavor Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Joan Antonelli
Mr. Eugene Badgett
Mr. Gary G. Bahre
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Ball
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Berger
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Brudnak
Mr. Leon J. Condon
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Constantine
Dr. Randy Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Davison
Dr. Robert DeMarco
Mr. Paul Diede
Ms. Cynthia Dillon
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Dobbins
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Duncan
Dr. Lori Everett
Ms. Diane Fasel
Mr. & Mrs. Jack F. Fernandez

Mr. Kelvin Fu
Mr. Mark Germanos
Mr. Clark Gettinger
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard A. Giordana
Ms. Lisa Gragnani
H&R Peters Family Foundation
Hays Companies of Maryland
Ms. Carol S. James
The Karyn Trust
Mr. Doug Kathol
Mrs. Carolyn Pape Keenen
Ms. Doreen Khumalo
Ms. Katherine Koldewyn
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Krauland
Mr. David Lee
Llandaff Family Trust
Mr. Ian Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Maruca
Mr. & Mrs. Denis P. McCarthy
Mr. Michael J. McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McNulty
Mrs. Joan L. Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Miller, Jr.
Mr. Jared Napora
National Association of Small Trucking Companies - David Owen
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Natole
Dr. & Mrs. Richard North
Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Paulson
Mr. David Pavasko
Dr. Steven Pliskow
Mr. Stephen Rabbitt
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Mrs. Joan Rosenberg
Rabbi Barry Rubin
S&T Bank
Saunders Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuler
Mr. Pete Serodino
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Sheppard
Mr. Karam Shin
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Silver
Stack & Store Mini Storage, LLC
Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Stevens
Dr. & Mrs. Russell Stoch
Mr. Gary Stockton  
Stonebridge Advisors  
Mr. Patrick Stowe  
Strategies Now, Inc.  
The Burch Family Charitable Fund  
The DG Fund  
The Glen Y. Arakawa New Horizons Fund  
The Master’s Touch, LLC  
The Swaroop Family Charitable Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. William Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Karl E. Towle  
Tucker Family Foundation  
Mr. Daly Turnbull  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Young

$500-$999
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen C. Achuff  
Alameda Land Company, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Balkema  
BCT, LLC  
Mr. Mark Berenthal  
Mr. William Bristol  
Mr. Scott Cary  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Cestra  
Chattanooga Business Services, Inc.  
Chattanooga Closet Company  
Mr. Glen Coatney  
Ms. Rhonda Cornelsen  
Donlin & Harriett Long Family Fund  
Edward St. John Foundation  
Dr. & Mrs. Feliciano N. Ferrer  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Flatley  
Mr. Michael Fosco  
Mr. Ken Fox  

Dr. Jean Posner Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Gorman  
Mr. Steve Green  
Mr. Bob Greenspan  
Mr. Eric Hendricks  
Ms. Michelle Hunter  
Ms. Susan Hurley  
Mr. Christopher Infantino  
Mr. John Jorde  
Mr. Thomas Kelsch  
Mr. Alan Kurland  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick L. Kurrle  
Mr. Steve Lamar  
Mr. Kenneth Lasorella  
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Mandelbaum  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Manley  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Marous  
Mr. Richard Meyers  
Mock Family Charitable Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Moore  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Mulder  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick O’Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Phillips Parson  
Mr. Harrison Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Reeder  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Riter  
Mr. Charles Sears  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Secen  
Mr. Neal Seckler  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Talarigo  
The Walter H. Petrie Revocable Living Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Thompson  
Ms. Janet Vacca  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vidi, Jr.  
Mr. Cleveland G. Webb  
Ms. Dawn Williamson

$250-$499
Ms. Cris Areskog  
Mr. Joseph Bacigalupo  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Bills  
Mr. Robert Brinker  
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Brown  
Mr. Craig Buhler  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Damie  
Mr. Ralph D. Dillon  
Mr. Mark Feinberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Figureli  
Ms. Lynne Gale  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven W. Hoag  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony B. Hopp  
Jack & Beverly Prosek Charitable Giving Fund  
Ms. Charnell Johnson  
Ms. Dolores C. Johnson  
Ms. Jo Ann Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Lin  
Mr. Stephen Martin  
Ms. Priscilla Miles  
Ms. Sue A. Morgensen  
Ms. Kathy Morris  
Ms. Catherine M. Nolan  
Mr. Thomas Null  
Olson Family Charitable Fund  
Ms. Beth Perlman  
Ms. Kristie B. Pillow  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Siebel  
Mr. Jay Siembieda  
Mr. Joseph Stella  
Ms. Dianna Vance  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wright
Gabriel Ramos  
2-time Carson Scholar

Gabe, a sophomore enrolled in the honors college at the University of Notre Dame, is double-majoring in anthropology and pre-med and minoring in Irish studies/Gaelic. Gabe received the distinguished honor of being selected as a Stamps Scholar, chosen for his academic excellence, leadership experience and exceptional character, which earned him a full ride to Notre Dame.

Gabe began making an impact on the world as a teenager. At just 13 years old, he earned his Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America. In high school he started a Blessings Bag initiative to provide homeless women, children and veterans with personal care and nutritional items. He proposed a bill for gifted education in his home state of Pennsylvania and a healthcare reform bill, both of which passed in 2016 and 2015, respectively. He also spent time mentoring and tutoring elementary school students. Gabe accumulated more than 815 hours of community service during high school.

Now, in South Bend, Gabe is part of a research project to eradicate lead poisoning in water. Through the project, he helps poverty-stricken homes deal with lead testing and lead remediation. Gabe also contributes by writing grants to help secure funding for the research. He also works with the Geisinger Health System doing quality control and quality research to ensure optimal patient care. Gabe worked directly with a doctor to write two posters to highlight their findings; both were published in August 2019. This fall, the posters will be presented in Boston at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Summit.

Gabe's accolades are extensive. He was a Fulbright Nominee, a National Hispanic Merit Scholar and a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist. He was named both the Pennsylvania Gifted Student of the Year and the Pennsylvania Distinguished Gifted Student of the Year, was a PTSA National Youth Advocate of the Year runner up and a two-time National Latin Exam Silver Medalist.

When Gabe isn’t researching or serving his community, he enjoys the performing arts. Gabe is a classically trained opera singer now performing with the Notre Dame Glee Club and the Notre Dame Undertones as a member and soloist. His operatic performances have taken him to various countries across Europe and to Carnegie Hall where he was the winner in the voice category for the Opera Honors Recital.

In the future, Gabe aspires to become a neurosurgeon and possibly a patient advocate in Washington DC.

Gitanjali Rao  
2019 Carson Scholar

As a 9th grade student in Highlands Ranch, CO, Gitanjali wears many badges: scientist, inventor, innovator, author, speaker, and active promoter of STEM, to name a few. Gitanjali is passionate about finding solutions to real-world problems. She studied gene-editing techniques to help prevent Zika virus infections and created a black box finder after the Malaysian Airlines flight went missing. When she learned about the Flint, MI water crisis, she knew that she needed to help provide access to clean drinking water.

At just 12 years old, Gitanjali invented an easy-to-use, accurate, portable, inexpensive device that detects lead in water faster than current techniques available on the market. Her device, which she named “Tethys,” uses carbon nanotubes, an emerging technology, to test and detect lead levels in water. The test results display in a custom-built app on a smart phone connected to Tethys by Bluetooth. Gitanjali is currently partnering with the Denver Water Company to conduct further research and testing to improve the accuracy of her device. Gitanjali has also received investment funding for Tethys.

Always looking to help others, Gitanjali partnered with Children’s Kindness Network to develop STEM education programs combined with kindness. She believes the combination of STEM education and kindness can help the next generation make the world a better place.

Gitanjali’s long list of accolades is impressive. She was listed as youngest Forbes 30 Under 30 - Science in 2019; the 3M Young Scientist Challenge Winner in 2017; and was the first girl selected as the National STEM Scout of the Year in 2018. In 2018, she received both the Colorado Distinguished Gifted Youth Award and the EPA Presidential Youth Award. She is a four-time TEDx speaker, having presented in both the U.S. and India, and she runs innovation and technology workshops for elementary schools around the world.

When she’s not in the lab, Gitanjali enjoys baking and staying active by bike riding, hiking, swimming and fencing. Also a gifted artist, Gitanjali plays the piano and loves art and painting; she even has some of her paintings on display in the Nashville International Airport! She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, 4H Club, STEM Scouts, and CyberPatriots, through which she learns the basics of ethical hacking. In the future, she hopes to study genetics and computer science.
Board of Directors and Staff

Founders
Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D.
Candy Carson

Officers
Candy Carson, Co-Founder/Executive Secretary
Dr. Nancy Grasmick, President
Lee Warner, Chairman of the Board
Wes Guckert, First Vice President
Graylin E. Smith, Treasurer
David G. Ross, Secretary

Directors
Steven H. Adler
David W. Bower
Ben Carson, Jr.
Murray Carson
Mary Costa
Hailey Felts*
Francis L. Donahue
Louis Friedman, Esq.
Phyllis Friedman, Esq.
Kevin Hollins
Audrey Jones*
Jason Lee
Kenneth Lukhard
Michael McCarthy

*Advisory Board Member

Staff
Amy Warner, Executive Director
Tammy Blazenyak, Reading Room Director
Keanna Figirrad, West Coast Program Assistant
Kay Folsom, Executive Assistant
Celsease Jordan, Program Coordinator
Jen Kuhn, Scholarship & Communications Coordinator
Pam Marshner, Development Coordinator
Jessie Monteleone, Southeast Expansion Coordinator
Lacey Richards, Scholarship Director
Marcos Rodriguez, California Expansion Coordinator
Jo Weisgal, Events Coordinator & School Liaison

*Advisory Board Member