



# JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

## CARSON SCHOLARS FUND

### IMPORTANT 2022/2023 SCHOLARSHIP DATES

#### **October 17**

Nominations open  
Information sent to  
educators

#### **October 24**

Previous scholar  
applications distributed  
via email

#### **December 16**

Nomination deadline

#### **January 13**

Application deadline  
*new & previous*  
including report cards

#### **January 13**

Teacher  
recommendation  
deadline

#### **March 2023**

Notifications sent to  
winners/non-winners

### **Congratulations to the 2022 Carson Scholars!**

After two years of virtual ceremonies, the Carson Scholarship Program was thrilled to provide the opportunity for scholars, families, educators and funders to come together to honor the heroes among us, our 2022 new and recognized scholars.... [Read More](#)

### **The 250th Ben Carson Reading Opening!**

The Carson Scholars Fund's 250th Ben Carson Reading Room, located at Henderson Elementary School in Midland, Texas, is inspired by the 2021 Disney Pixar movie "Luca." The backdrop of this reading room is the picturesque Italian Riviera. Several scenes from the movie are brought to life in the expansive (28" x 43") reading room ... [Read More](#)

### **25th Reading Room in Palm Beach County!**

On January 28th, the CSF opened its 25th Ben Carson Reading Room in Palm Beach County, Florida. CSF Co-Founder Candy Carson was there when the first Palm Beach County reading room opened at Allamanda Elementary in October 2014, and she was present at the opening of the 25th reading room at Highland Elementary. Click [here](#) to experience this special event through the eyes of Mrs. Candy Carson.

### **Scholar Spotlight: Grady Smith & Hayden Slade**

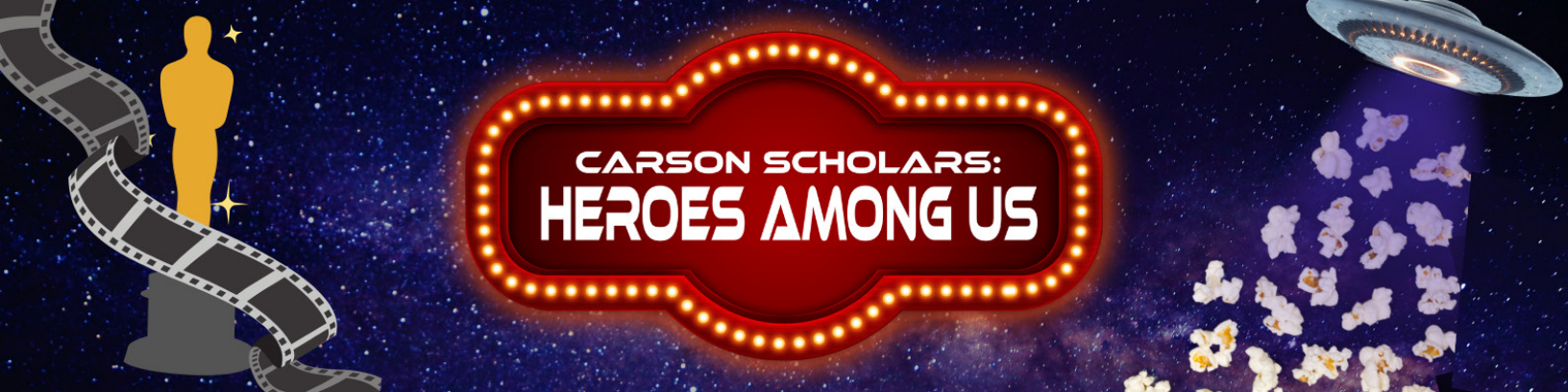
Grady Smith, a 7-time Carson Scholar, and 6-time Carson Scholar Hayden Slade truly represent what it means to be compassionate leaders in the community. In November of 2018, the dynamic duo from Ellwood City, PA began giving out board ... [Read More](#)

### **Do you play golf? Looking for more sponsors!**

We are pleased to recognize the following companies for their generous support of the Carson Scholars Fund Charity Golf Tournament at Cattail Creek on October 24, 2022. There is still time to become a partner in the event! This phenomenal networking opportunity not only will provide for an enjoyable experience on the golf course ... [Read More](#)

### **Save the date for the ALC Trivia Night!**

Are you up for the challenge? Please Join the CSF Associate Leadership Council on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 8:00 pm for a fun-packed evening of trivia, fellowship and laughter. Test your knowledge as a team, join a team or play solo. See more details [Here](#)



After two years of virtual ceremonies, the Carson Scholarship Program was thrilled to provide the opportunity for scholars, families, educators and funders to come together to honor the heroes among us, our 2022 new and recognized scholars.

During the month of May, scholars from across the country were invited to one of seven movie premieres to watch a short original film titled “Carson Scholars: Heroes Among Us.” In addition to their cameo in the movie, Dr. and Mrs. Carson worked tirelessly to attend the majority of the premieres and recognize the amazing accomplishment of each scholar- hero. They greeted them, provided words of wisdom and encouragement, posed for photographs and ate a lot of popcorn!



The film tells the story of two extraterrestrials who were sent to Earth to find the best and the brightest. After seeing a commercial about the 2022 Carson Scholars they head out to find these brilliant young stars. Movie theatre snacks and drinks were provided, medals and pins were handed out and scholars donned capes as they walked across the stage to be recognized for the momentous accomplishment of being named a Carson Scholar.

Across the nation, 547 new students were named 2022 Carson Scholars. They will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship, a personalized medal and certificate of accomplishment.

In addition to this outstanding group, 803 students earned the prestigious status of being named a 2022 Recognized Scholar. These students continue to exhibit the qualities of a Carson Scholar by reaching high academic standards and continuing their community service initiatives. They were honored with a commemorative pin, certificate of accomplishment and an invitation to the movie premiere.

Not only are 2022 Carson Scholars over the top brilliant, but they are also kind and compassionate leaders in their communities. These students are researching cures for diseases, starting non-profits, donating items to those in need, hosting food drives, caring for the elderly, teaching young ones — and the list goes on!

The CSF would like to thank our devoted donors who support young students and help us carry out our mission. Additionally, we'd like to thank our school partners who nominated their students and helped them through the application process. Last but not least, we extend sincere gratitude to our volunteers who spent hundreds of hours scoring applications.

Once again, congratulations to all of our 2022 Carson Scholars! View the complete list of new and recognized scholars at [www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org).







## The Ben Carson Reading Project Marks a Milestone with the Opening of the 250th Ben Carson Reading Room!

**“This is gonna be the best summer ever! We’ll ride down every road, see the whole world together! It’ll be amazing!”**  
**– Luca Paguro**

The Carson Scholars Fund’s 250th Ben Carson Reading Room, located at Henderson Elementary School in Midland, Texas, is inspired by the 2021 Disney Pixar movie “Luca.” The backdrop of this reading room is the picturesque Italian Riviera. Several scenes from the movie are brought to life in the expansive (28’ x 43’) reading room. Students can set their imaginations assail in a three-person canoe. For those who prefer to stay ashore, they can spend time in the bistro with a sweeping view of the entire reading room. Others may choose to stretch out on top of a loft beneath the glow of twinkling lights or nestle under the loft on comfy pillows shaped like tree stumps. One of the central features



of the reading room is a book fountain. Students thirsting for knowledge can take a sip or immerse themselves in a good book surrounded by soft blue pillows resembling calming waters. No matter where students choose to read, they will find an abundance of books. The reading room has an extensive collection of over 1,000 books meticulously curated by the school’s principal, reading interventionist and reading room book committee members.

Mary Anne Benton, a retired educator and Midland community member, led the charge for this reading room. Mary Anne worked diligently to secure the funding for the CSF’s 250th reading room and hand-picked Henderson Elementary to be the recipient of the reading room. Her enthusiasm for the project brought individuals and organizations together to secure the resources needed to create this work of art. This room was made possible by the Ken W. Davis Foundation, the Henderson Elementary PTA and caring community members.

The Henderson Elementary reading room is sure to inspire Midland’s young scholars. They are learning the importance of reading and like the movie protagonist so elegantly articulated, “We can go anywhere, do anything” inside the pages of a book.

The CSF is honored to welcome Henderson Elementary into our Ben Carson Reading Room family. What started as one reading room in 2000 in Aberdeen, Maryland has blossomed into a network of 250 reading rooms serving students across the country. This milestone would not be possible without the support of our reading room sponsors and dedicated educators. We send a heartfelt thank you to all who have traveled with us on this journey.



# READING ROOM OPENINGS



## Sponsored by the Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon Trust

**December 2**

Edison Elementary Advanced  
Technology Magnet & Spanish Flag  
Glendale, CA

**December 3**

Lilburn Elementary School  
Lilburn, GA

**December 14**

Chollas Mead Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**December 16**

Cherokee Point Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**January 14**

Encanto Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**February 2**

Fay Elementary  
San Diego, CA

**February 23**

Balboa Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**March 3**

Hamilton Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**April 21**

Bay Park Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**May 19**

Battlefield Elementary School  
Fort Oglethorpe, GA

**May 20**

Birney Elementary School  
San Diego, CA

**June 6**

Julian Junior High School  
Julian, CA

**June 6**

Julian Elementary School  
Julian, CA

*50th Think Big Reading Room to be sponsored by  
the Eleni & Wolfgang Gagon Trust*

**50<sup>TH</sup> GAGON READING  
ROOM CELEBRATION**



**Sponsored by the BallenIsles  
Charities Foundation**

**January 28**

Highland Elementary School  
Lake Worth Beach, FL  
*25th Ben Carson Reading Room to open in  
Palm Beach County, FL*



**Sponsored by Stack & Store  
Self Storage**

**January 28**

George D. Lisby Elementary School  
at Hillsdale  
Aberdeen, MD

**Sponsored by the Ken W. Davis  
Foundation, Henderson PTA &  
Caring Community Members**

**February 2**

Henderson Elementary School  
*250th Ben Carson Reading Room*  
Midland, TX



# Social & Emotional Well-Being

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant a few years of crisis and uncertainty with students experiencing high levels of stress, trauma and anxiety. Educators across the country have expressed concern about their students' social and emotional well-being. When asked in a survey, 64% of educators in schools with Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Rooms articulated that they are highly concerned about their students' social and emotional well-being. The survey also revealed that 60% of administrators and teachers felt that Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Rooms provided emotional support during the pandemic. Here's what a few educators had to say about their experiences with the Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Rooms during the pandemic.

**"The reading room is like a life raft in the sea of Covid-19."**

*Tina Calabrese, Principal - Bonsall West Elementary School*

**"The Think Big Reading Room has been a safe haven and beautiful room for our students during the pandemic where they can self-regulate in reading books."**

*Melina Quon, Principal - Pioneer Elementary School*

**Carson scholars - if you are published and would like to share your book in a forum with Dr. Carson, please email [pmarshner@carsonscholars.org](mailto:pmarshner@carsonscholars.org)**

## Scholar Spotlight: Grady Smith & Hayden Slade - Games to Give



Grady Smith, a 7-time Carson Scholar, and 6-time Carson Scholar Hayden Slade truly represent what it means to be compassionate leaders in the community.

In November of 2018, the dynamic duo from Ellwood City, PA began giving out board games to deployed U.S. soldiers, cancer patients and

underprivileged children and adults. Hayden and Grady both love playing games in their free time, and they wanted to share that joy with those in need.

The boys had the idea for starting the organization after attending a Carson Scholar awards banquet. They shared, "We were inspired by Dr. Carson years ago when he challenged us to "THINK BIG!"

The organization has been thriving ever since, and Games to Give was recently approved as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS. This status allows the organization to apply for grant money and qualify for other fundraising programs. Games to Give raises money to buy and donate games through several organizations, including The Yellow Ribbon Girls, Club Hope and The Prevention Network. The organization also donate games to individual children and to several local toy drives.

In addition, the boys collect used games, rehabilitate them (making sure they are clean, complete and have instructions) and donate them to social service organizations. Before 2020, the boys had given away 286 new and used board games. To date, Games to Give

has given away 1,581 board games, including 729 in 2021 — what an accomplishment!

The CSF couldn't be prouder of these extraordinary scholars and their commitment to serving others. Our scholarships are given to students who excel academically and possess humanitarian qualities. Hayden and Grady are reminders of why the community service aspect of our program is so important.

These scholars are changing the world, one game at a time!



# ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL Virtual Trivia Night

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

**8:00-9:30 P.M. EST**

**Bring a team, join a team or play solo**

**GUEST MODERATOR**

**TIM BARBALACE**

FROM BALTIMORE'S 105.7 THE FAN



**Online Registration:**

**WWW.CARSONSCHOLARS.ORG**

**REGISTER HERE!**

**\$20**

## Carson Scholars Fund Associate Leadership Council Virtual Trivia Night

**Are you up for the challenge?**

Join the CSF Associate Leadership Council on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 8:00pm for a fun-packed evening of trivia, fellowship and laughter.

Test your knowledge as a team, join a team or play solo.

Tim Barbalace from Baltimore's 105.7 The Fan will serve as guest moderator.

All proceeds benefit the Carson Scholars Fund. Check out CSF social media leading up to the event for teaser questions.

**Register with the link provided or at [www.caronscholars.org](http://www.caronscholars.org) under events by August 11, 2022.**

Questions, please email [pmarshner@caronscholars.org](mailto:pmarshner@caronscholars.org) or call the CSF office at 410-828-1005.

*Please join us!*



## PITTSBURGH CARSON SCHOLARS 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Sunday, October 2, 2022*

*Laurel Valley Golf Club*

175 Palmer Drive - Ligonier, PA

Interested in the Pittsburgh Charity Golf Tournament?  
Please email [jweisgal@caronscholars.org](mailto:jweisgal@caronscholars.org)  
or call the CSF office at 410-828-1005.



## Update Your Contact Information with CSF

If any of your contact information (mailing address, email address or phone number) has changed since we last heard from you, please let us know! We can only send information to contacts that are accurate in our database.

To update your information, call 410.828.1005 or send an email to Ally at [adilworth@caronscholars.org](mailto:adilworth@caronscholars.org).





# Thank You Sponsors!

## Carson Scholars Fund Charity Golf Tournament



We are pleased to recognize the following companies for their generous support of the Carson Scholars Fund Charity Golf Tournament at Cattail Creek on October 24, 2022. ***There is still time to become a partner in the event!*** This phenomenal networking opportunity not only will provide for an enjoyable experience on the golf course, but will support the missions of the CSF in combating illiteracy and enriching the lives of exceptional students as they navigate through the path of going from learners to compassionate leaders.

### Sponsorship Opportunities Are Still Available

#### Pioneer



#### Trailblazer



#### Longest Drive Challenge

**CANAL**

#### Golf Ball

**The Carson Family**  
**WC THE WARNER COMPANIES**

#### Pro Shop Merchandise

**\$4,000**

**Lunch**  
**\$4,000**

**Breakfast**  
**\$3,000**

#### Hole Sponsors



Registration & Sponsorship opportunities are still available at [www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org) or contact Jo Weisgal at [jweisgal@carsonscholars.org](mailto:jweisgal@carsonscholars.org) or (410) 828-1005.