

CARSON SCHOLARS FUND | 2022 ANNUAL REPORT









"Education is the fundamental principle of what makes America a success. It is the foundation of what truly makes our country 'the Land of Opportunity."

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson

A Message from Dr. & Mrs. Ben Carson

It is our belief that knowledge is our most valuable currency. One never knows when the opportunity will arise for a bit of knowledge to become significant. Reading, learning and telling stories allow a society to reference what has come before, develop empathy and trigger one's imagination; often driving a passion for a purpose and the development of wisdom. A healthy human brain stores everything learned, seen and heard. It helps us understand and appreciate our past, improve our present and imagine our future.

At the Carson Scholars Fund (CSF) we celebrate knowledge. For children it is critical that we impart knowledge, encourage them to seek it and reward them as they use knowledge in positive ways.

We live in a world where influencers are revered. If they like a product we buy it; if they challenge us we meet the challenge. This is especially true for the youngest members of our society, where social media and the internet are part of their daily lives early on. Being cognizant of how we influence children is critical as they become influencers themselves.

The Carson Scholars Program is designed to recognize and reward young students who excel academically and participate in community service. Our criteria are designed to engage students early in their academic careers and motivate them to continue, ultimately becoming compassionate leaders and positive influencers. We partner with educators who nominate students they know possess the leadership qualities we hope to foster.

These past couple of years have provided a unique learning opportunity for all. We have been amazed, impressed and inspired by our scholars. Not only did they stand up to the challenge of learning in a whole new way, they thrived. They used their knowledge to problem solve. Scholars sought ways to help their peers and the most vulnerable in their communities. Rising to the challenge, scholars' actions generated complicated solutions, from constructing mobile apps and starting non-profits to old-fashioned labor, such as packing boxes and doing yard work for an elderly neighbor. We continue to seek and celebrate compassionate leadership.

Due to your generosity and support, we are able to provide an instrument through our scholarship program that provides financial support to continue education. But, perhaps more importantly, as we have heard from Carson Scholar alumni consistently throughout the years, is the recognition and reinforcement the award provides. The award gives students hope for the future and encouragement to continue working hard and pursuing their dreams. As these children grow and learn, the hope is that they will transform from learners to being leaders.

Our second mission, the Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Project, is another vehicle through which the CSF celebrates knowledge. The project focuses on combating illiteracy at its core and giving every child an opportunity to feel confident in their world. The hope is that inspiring children to love reading early will provide a channel of opportunity for growth and seeking knowledge. Reading rooms open a world of possibilities for students, their families and their communities.

We look forward to continuing to partner with each of you to celebrate knowledge. Like a small bit of knowledge, actions which sometimes seem small are often the catalyst that lead to significant discoveries.

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At The Carson Scholars Fund

We identify, acknowledge and honor young students who achieve high academic standards and spend time serving others. We also provide the opportunity for students to discover the joy of reading and become life-long readers.



The Carson Scholars Program

10,500+

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

IN 50 STATES AND WASHINGTON, DC

Our scholarship program is designed to identify America's brightest and most benevolent students. As early as fourth grade, students are identified and rewarded for their academic and community service-related achievements. Empowering students to become leaders early in their academic career supports the transition from learners to leaders. Check out how our program is making an impact far beyond the walls of the classroom.









The Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Project

250+

READING ROOMS

IN 23 STATES AND WASHINGTON, DC

The Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Project aspires to battle illiteracy by promoting leisure reading as a pleasure, not a chore. Reading plays a crucial role in a child's development, creating a foundation for empathy and the quest for knowledge.



The Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Project

On February 2, 2022, the CSF reached a major milestone with the opening of the 250th Ben Carson Reading Room. The room at Henderson Elementary, located in Midland, Texas, is the 250th Ben Carson Reading Room created since the program's inception in 2000.













250 Reading Rooms and Counting





118,000+ students
have benefited from the
reading project



Purchased 128,500+ high-interest books

The importance of reading extends far beyond classroom walls. Reading is a key ingredient to a successful life. The Carson Scholars Fund recognizes the importance of this skill and has custom-made a literacy program to engage budding readers to cultivate the habit of reading and learning.

Reading Rooms Through The Years



Sonya Carson & Phyllis Friedman at Hall's Cross Roads Elementary (MD) - First Ben Carson Reading Room in 2000.



Haywood Elementary (TN) students celebrating their reading room opening in 2016.



Highland Elementary School (FL) principal reading with students at the reading room opening in 2022.

Scholarship Program



In 2022, 91.9% of first time Carson Scholars had a GPA of 4.0 or higher.



Out of the 2022 new Carson Scholars, 71.6% participated in leadership roles in their extracurricular activities



The 2022 Carson Scholars logged over 132,628 hours serving their communities.





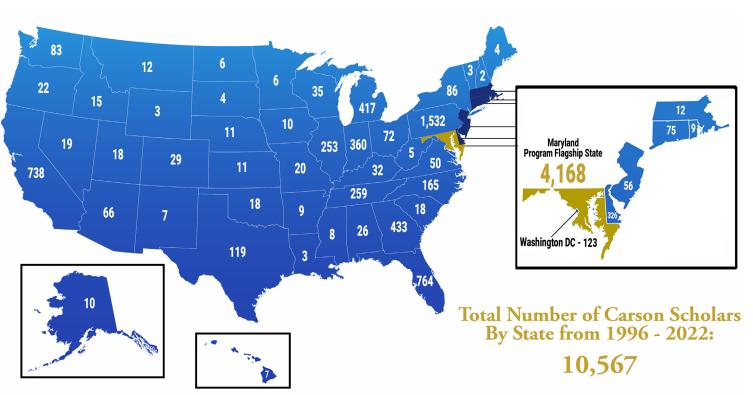














"We're looking to you young people to become the leaders of our society and to make the right choices." - Dr. Ben Carson

The CSF staff was elated to host in-person celebrations and see our scholars once again this year! We came back with a bang and created the first ever CSF original movie, "Carson Scholars: Heroes Among Us," featuring our very own 2022 scholars. After the film, Dr. Carson started his address to the group by saying, "We knew you were out of this world from reading your applications." The pun referred to the two main characters of the film who hailed from the planet Gravity. The duo came to earth seeking the best and the brightest. Throughout the film, Carson Scholars were showcased for their incredible academic achievements, talents and community services initiatives.

Scholars were invited to view the movie at seven exclusive premieres throughout the country. They were honored with accolades in front of

their families, peers, educators and supporters at the event. Scholars sported blue CSF capes and medals to show off their hero status.

It was a privilege to spotlight our brilliant and kindhearted scholars on the silver screen. Time and time again these students prove that Carson Scholars truly are heroes among us!





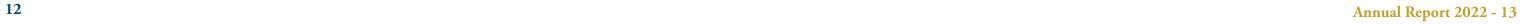












Carson Scholar Spotlights

Carson Scholar Alumni



Serena Goyal 4-time Carson Scholar Clarksville, MD

Serena loves science and has a strong desire to help others. She plans to combine these two passions and pursue a career as a physician. Serena is well on her way to success, as she participates in Future Doctors of America, Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children, Science in Society, Health Occupation Students of America and Future Business Leaders of America. Serena shares her extraordinary gift set with others through an organization that she created called Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children. The Foundation raises funds for special medical projects, coordinates volunteer groups to travel to clinic sites and raises awareness about public health.

Jordan is an accomplished young student who recently earned the Congressional Gold Medal Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the initiative, service and achievement of youth ages 14-24 years old. Jordan has a passion for gardening and grows free, organic vegetables for those in need in the community. In total, he has documented 2,200 service hours! Inside of school, Jordan participates in National Beta Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta National High School Mathematics Honor Society and clay sports team. Due to his outstanding academic achievements, Jordan earned the Duke Tip State Recognition Award, High GPA Award, first place in NRA Civil Rights Defense essay contest and ACT Recognition 96% in the nation.



Jordan Smothers 2022 Carson Scholar Covington, GA



Tristyn Wharton 2022 Carson Scholar Kennesaw, GA

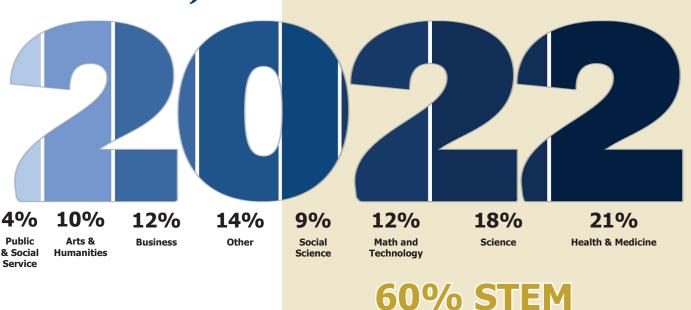
Tristyn is a compassionate young student who hopes to become a pediatrician when she grows up. Tristyn is actively involved in her school and thoroughly enjoys participating on the News Team, where she reports the weather, assists with cameras and helps with backdrops. Her commitment to community service is truly remarkable. Each year, Tristyn chooses an organization for which to collect donations for. This year, she organized a campaign to collect and donate 25 buddy boxes (packages containing everyday necessities) to WellSpring Living, an organization that helps victims of human trafficking.

"Because I first won this scholarship in fifth grade, the program gave me confidence and enhanced my desire and ability to continue to perform well throughout my middle and high school years. The result was that I earned membership in the Junior National Honor Society in middle school and the National Honor Society in high school."

Jaden Snow, 5-time Carson Scholar | Baltimore, MD



Alumni Majors





Mathew Harper, 4-time Scholar | West Palm Beach, FL

Mathew is a driven young man with the goal of becoming an engineer and a musician when he grows up. He has outstanding leadership skills as Band Section Leader, Senior Patrol Leader of BSA Troop 116 and Founder and CEO of the LuvMat Project. As Senior Patrol Leader, Mathew has lead campground cleanups, food and clothing collections, Valentine's Day projects for seniors and more. He extends his service through LuvMat, an organization that collects necessities for homeless people in the community. Mathew recently won the Delta Men of Excellence Award (Rising Star) for his tremendous character and achievements!



"I'm incredibly grateful to the organization/donor contributing to my education! I'll be the first in my family to attend a 4-year university, and I was lucky enough to go to my top school as both a Carson and Questbridge Scholar. You guys helped me in following my dream, and I'm sincerely thankful for your kindness!"

Marcha Daniels, 2021 Carson Scholar | Lancaster, CA

Meet Our Volunteers

The Carson Scholars Fund relies on 200-300 volunteers across the nation to implement our missions. Volunteers serve as board members, chapter leaders and members, independent scholarship scorers, reading room committee members, banquet helpers and more! To volunteer, please call our office at 410.828.1005.







"Our Pittsburgh Chapter is evidence of what a small group of committed volunteers can do to impact the future of a community. Our young people are a community's greatest resource for continued longevity and success."

Fran Donahue - CSF Board Member and Pittsburgh Chapter President

Did you know that according to The Independent Sector, the value of a volunteer's work calculates to \$29.95/hour? From purely a monetary standpoint, the CSF volunteers contribute over \$100,221 worth of time. The relationships, however, are invaluable.





Educators

Educators play a crucial role in helping the Carson Scholars Fund carry out its missions.















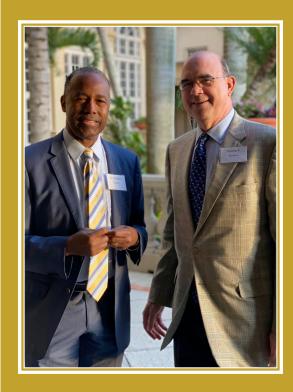
"Excellent teaching makes every other profession possible for our students."

Dr. Nancy Grasmick - President of CSF Board Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Retired



On November 6, 2021, the Pittsburgh Chapter and local Naples supporters hosted a dinner and conversation with Dr. and Mrs. Carson. The intimate affair, held at the Ritz in Naples, Florida, supported 34 scholarships. Dr. Carson shared remarks on the effects of COVID on the classroom and the nation.





Events

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, the Pittsburgh Chapter, led by President Fran Donahue, hosted their 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, PA. Bordered by The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Laurel Lake Nature Preserve, Laurel Valley is known for its challenging course and breathtaking views. Dr. Carson and supporters of the CSF participated



in the fundraiser to benefit the Pittsburgh Chapter. The fundraiser along with chapter support supported 50 scholarships to benefit Pittsburgh area scholars.





On Monday, November 8, Mr. Julio Gonzalez of Engineered Tax Services – The Growth Partnership – ABLE CRM, hosted a dinner in support of the CSF at the beautiful Brazilian Court located in Palm Beach, FL. Dr. and Mrs. Carson spoke

with the attendees and introduced the mission of the CSF. Proceeds generated from the event will support the Palm Beach Chapter.

Meet Our People

Co-Founders

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson Sr. and Candy Carson

CSF Staff

Amy E. Warner Executive Director

Tammy Blazenyak
Director of Reading Rooms

Rachel Brown Scholarship Director

Bridget DevoyGraphic Designer & Scholarship
Coordinator

Ally Dilworth Program Expansion Coordinator **Kay Folsom** Executive Assistant

Pam Marshner
Development Director

Jessie Monteleone Southeast Expansion Coordinator

Lacey RichardsSpecial Projects

Jo WeisgalEvents Coordinator



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Grace Fogle* Member

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Tony Kelly Contributing Member

Tom Stephan Member

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Joe Wyrwas* Member

*Carson Scholar Alumnus

Officers

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Founder of the Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute

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Francis L. Donahue
President, Pittsburgh Chapter of CSF

Louis Friedman, Esq. Partner, The Law Offices of Friedman & Friedman, LLP

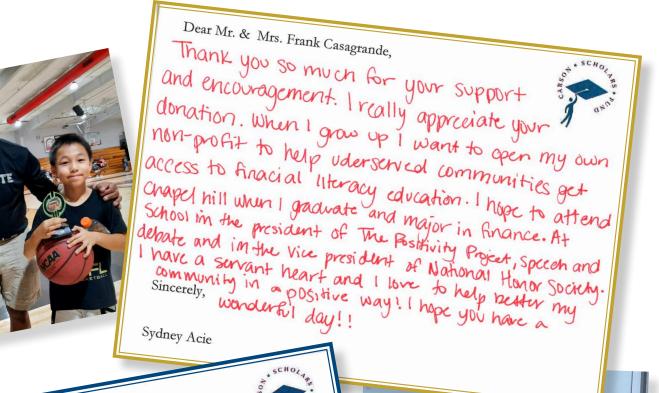
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Kevin HollinsChief Executive Officer, Canal Group

Jason LeeFirst Alta Management Managing Partner

Ryan MillerManaging Director, Savills

Anthony Rose
Chief Financial Officer, Hydrovac Holdings, Inc.



First of all, I am very honored to be reciving this Dear Carson Scholars Fund, Scholarship. The amount of work pot in to serving my community was paged back through the smiles of the people I have helped, so this is just the icing on the cake. to use this opportunity to go into the medical field in the future, and work on improving the world with health, medical, and mental advances. It's a far Letched goal, but if reciving this scholarship has would anything, I have proven that hard work leads to greatness. I couldn't have found my goals with out Kind people

Sincerely,

Andrew Vu

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Dear Ms. Karen Zeliff,

Thank you for helping support my education! I am boking to pursue early childhood education in my future. I am so grateful that this scholarship will help aid me on this journey. Currently my favorite subjects in school are Calculus and physics. Outside of school I do competitive dance, community theater, and Girl Scouts. I love performing for and helping others. Thank you again for helping encourage me to continue wasking hard and reaching towards my goal! Beng a Casar Scholar means a lot to me. Tilbary Dardner Tiffany Gardner

Financial Summary July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets	\$ 16,550,988
Investments – operating Investments – reading rooms Pledge receivables Other assets	1,786,064 3,414,143 1,742,126 605,928
Assets Cash and cash equivalents Investments – scholarship commitments	\$ 3,800,970 5,201,757

Other assets	605,928
Total Assets	\$ 16,550,988
Liabilities Accounts payable and accrued expenses Operating lease liability Scholarship commitments	\$ 43,462 123,322 3,622,702
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,789,486
Net Assets Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions	\$ 4,174,587 8,586,915
Total Net Assets Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 12,761,502 \$ 16,550,988

	88 cents
	of every
	_
<u>.</u>	\$
	raised
	goes toward
7	benefitting young
)	students.*
	*Special events are presented net of expenses.

State of Activities and Functional Expenses

Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions	\$ 490,384	\$ 0	\$ 490,384
Scholarship programs	0	405,107	405,107
Reading project	0	115,430	115,430
Awards event	65,184	0	65,184
Investment income, net	(1,180,513)	(179,381)	(1,359,894)
Events, net of special event expenses of \$71,213	59,870	0	59,870
Other revenue, net cost of goods sold of \$3,633	110,611	0	110,611
Net assets released from donor restrictions	1,583,916	(1,583,916)	0
Total Support and Revenue	1,129,452	(1,242,760)	(113,308)
Expenses Program Services Supporting Services:	1,681,219	0	1,681,219
Program Services Supporting Services:			
Program Services	1,681,219 119,200 82,126	0 0 0	1,681,219 119,200 82,126
Program Services Supporting Services: Management and General	119,200	0	119,200
Program Services Supporting Services: Management and General Fundraising	119,200 82,126	0	119,200 82,126
Program Services Supporting Services: Management and General Fundraising Total Supporting Services	119,200 82,126 201,326	0 0	119,200 82,126 201,326

Thank You To Our Financial Supporters

\$20,000 & Above

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\$19,999 - \$10,000

Mr. & Mrs. David Bower

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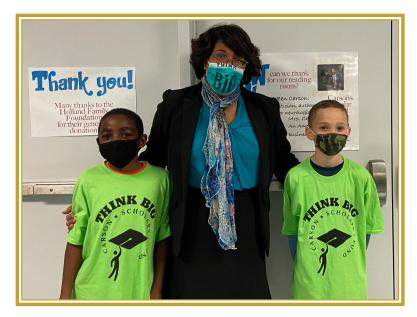
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305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 310, Towson, MD 21204 Phone: 410.828.1005 | Fax: 410.828.1007 | www.carsonscholars.org







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