



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

CARSON SCHOLARS FUND

IMPORTANT 2022/2023 SCHOLARSHIP DATES

October 17

Nominations open:
information sent to
educators

October 25

Recognized scholar
applications distributed
via email

December 16

Nomination deadline

January 13

Application deadline
new & recognized

March 2023

Notifications sent to
applicants

Happy Fall Y'all!

Just like with the change in season, we have some exciting new happenings here at the CSF. In this issue of our fall newsletter, you'll learn about recent events, this year's National Day of Reading and what some of our [scholars accomplished this summer](#). There is also important information included about our 2023 Scholarship Cycle that you will not want to miss.

2023 Carson Scholars Fund Scholarship Season

All of us at the Carson Scholars Fund are so excited to continue discovering promise and rewarding excellence in our 2023 scholarship season! If you have changed any of your contact information since your last correspondence with us, please be sure to give us a call at (410) 828-1005 or send an email to adilworth@carsonscholars.org.

Local Volunteer Event

On September 28, 2022, CSF staff members had the opportunity to spend quality time with some of our local volunteers. We enjoyed a lovely tea at Reynolds Tavern with great food and even better conversation. The sun was shining on this perfect fall day, so after the tea we shopped and walked around downtown Annapolis... [Read More](#)

Associate Leadership Council

The CSF Associate Leadership Council (ALC) is a collaborative group of professionals comprised of CSF alumni and supporters of the CSF. The group began meeting virtually in the fall of 2020. Since that time, they have focused on alumni engagement and ways to further develop connections with scholars and alumni.... [Read More](#)

Reading Room News

Since 2005, the Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading celebrations have taken place in reading room schools across the country. This literacy event unites students, educators and parents to reinforce the importance of reading and discover the power and joy found between the pages of a book... [Read More](#)

Year-End Giving

As the calendar rolls over each year, we each must look within to determine what we value, how we want to prioritize and whose lives we will impact with our actions in the future. We hope as you make your resolutions and consider gifting, whether for tax purposes, or just to participate in this season of giving... [Read More](#)

Summer 2023 Scholar Highlights



[click to watch videos](#)



7th Annual Pittsburgh Charity Golf Tournament

On Sunday, October 2, 2022, CSF Pittsburgh Chapter President and Board Member Fran Donahue, spearheaded the 7th Annual CSF Charity Golf Tournament at Laurel Valley Country Club in Ligonier, PA. After a delicious lunch, participants had an extra challenge this year as they battled stormy weather. Golfers executed their drives and chips in rain falling sideways. Dr. and Mrs. Carson mingled with the golfers and shared the impact that young leaders can make on our nation. The event raised over \$75,000 which will support scholars from the Pittsburgh area.



Maryland Charity Golf Tournament on October 24th at Cattail Creek Country Club!

Foursomes still available, if interested contact Jo at jweisgal@carsonscholars.org.



Thank You to our Wonderful Event Sponsors

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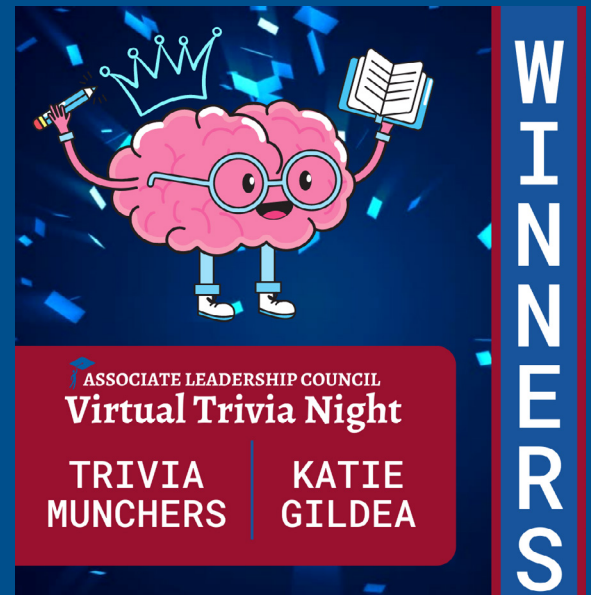
The Carson Family

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Associate Leadership Council Update

The CSF Associate Leadership Council (ALC) is a collaborative group of professionals comprised of CSF alumni and supporters of the CSF. The group began meeting virtually in the fall of 2020. Since that time, they have focused on alumni engagement and ways to further develop connections with scholars and alumni. They have held a networking event, created a resume hub to review and advise scholars looking to enhance their resumes, put out a newsletter for alumni and most recently, hosted the first ALC Virtual Trivia Night. On August 18th, 24 teams and individuals joined the ALC for a fun, competitive evening of trivia. Tim Barbalace of 105.7 The Fan emceed the night. Teams such as The Wesley Warriors and Team Thor competed against the Stone Crushers and Forest Foursome. The Trivia Munchers triumphed as the team winner and Gildea attained individual winner status. Each winner received a \$50 Amazon gift card. If you are interested in learning more about the ALC please email pmarshner@carsonscholars.org.



You're Our Cup of Tea

On September 28, 2022, CSF staff members had the opportunity to spend quality time with some of our local volunteers. We enjoyed a lovely tea at Reynolds Tavern with great food and even better conversation. The sun was shining on this perfect fall day, so after the tea we shopped and walked around downtown Annapolis. Each volunteer received a teacup and a few goodies as a small token of our deep appreciation.

Here at the CSF, we know one thing for sure; we would not be able to accomplish all that we do without the dedication and support of our volunteers. Across the country we have 200-300 volunteers that help us carry out our scholarship and reading room programs. If you are interested in volunteering at the CSF, please contact us at 410-828-1005. We'd love for you to join our team!



BECOME A VOLUNTEER!



CARSON SCHOLARS FUND
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

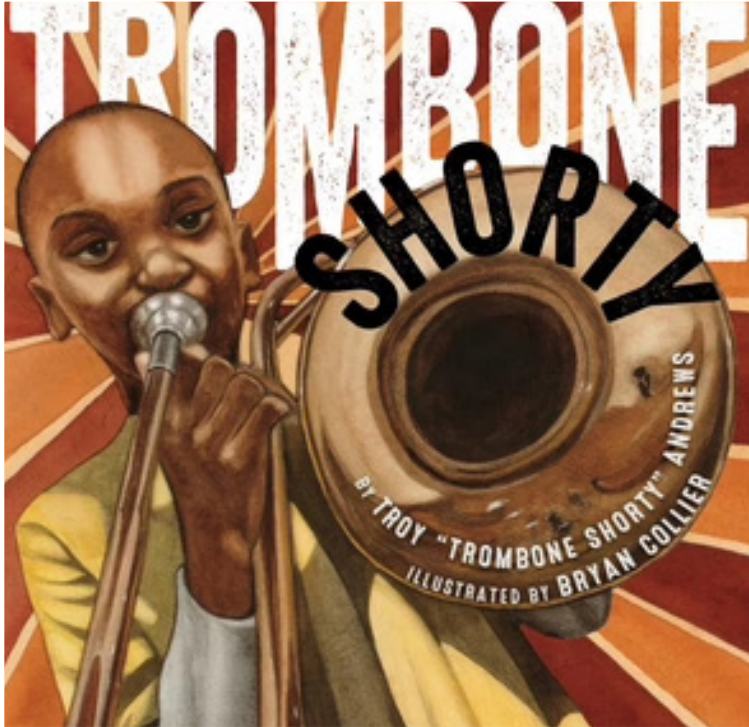
JUDGING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
IN-OFFICE MAILINGS
EVENT PREPARATION

REMOTE
volunteer
opportunities
as well as in
person!

INTERESTED IN HELPING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW?
Contact our scholarship director at rbrown@carsonscholars.org

305 W. CHESAPEAKE AVENUE - SUITE 310 - TOWSON, MD 21204
WWW.CARSONSCHOLARS.ORG | (410) 828-1005

The Carson Scholars Fund is “jazzed” to present the 17th Annual National Day of Reading - celebrated during the week of November 14th



Since 2005, the Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading celebrations have taken place in reading room schools across the country. This literacy event unites students, educators and parents to reinforce the importance of reading and discover the power and joy found between the pages of a book.

For the 17th Annual National Day of Reading, we will be featuring the children's book, Trombone Shorty. This Caldecott Honor book and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award tells the real-life story of New Orleans native and musical prodigy, Troy Andrews.

The autobiography is set in Tremé, a historical New Orleans neighborhood where music fills the air. Troy, nicknamed Trombone Shorty by his older brother, hails from this melodious community where he aspires to play a musical instrument. The

author shares the journey of a four-year-old barely strong enough to hold a trombone to an award-winning artist traveling the world sharing his gift. In this book, students learn what happens when determination, discipline and passion intersect.

READING ROOM OPENINGS



Thursday, October 6

Palm Beach Public, Palm Beach, FL
*Sponsored by Harvey Oyer and
the Cody Crowell & Frisbie Family*

Monday, October 24

Rusk Elementary School, Midland, TX
Sponsored by the Pevehouse Family Foundation

Monday, October 10

Cullowhee Valley School, Cullowhee, NC
Sponsored by Gordon and Cheri Martin

Monday, October 24

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy, Washington, DC
Sponsored by Best Friends Foundation

Palm Beach Public Elementary Reading Room Opening

Palm Beach Public Elementary School was the first public school built on the island of the city of Palm Beach, Florida! And the year 2021 marked the school's 100th anniversary¹! Last year, Covid restrictions prevented celebrations, but the school and community found another way to celebrate!

The opening of The Ben Carson / Think Big Reading Room in Palm Beach Public Elementary in 2022 was the first installation of its kind on the entire island! The room filled with award-winning books to enhance the education and help motivate young people to become life-long learners is a special initiative of the Carson Scholars Fund (CSF) that over 250 other schools across the country have embraced!

At the gathering in the cafetorium, the school's string quintet preceded the program by serenading everyone with an excerpt from Handel's Water Music!



Once Principal Christie Schwab ascended to the podium, she officially started the program by offering a very warm welcome to all and thanking those who contributed to the establishment of the room.

Among the distinguished guests were Palm Beach County superintendent, several school board representatives and other school officials and community leaders. Also, as in some of the other reading room openings, the city mayor was present. But, and here's another first, not only was Palm Beach City Mayor Danielle Moore in attendance, but Palm Beach County Mayor Keith James as well took time out of his day to support the efforts to enrich the educational experience of these young citizens of our country!

The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by 5th-grader Maxim Mezentsev and Eve Oyer, a 3rd-grader and 6th-generation native of Palm Beach County, whose great great great grandparents moved here in 1872, 150 years ago this year. Eve is the 4th generation of the Oyer family to attend public schools here because there were no schools prior (the first generation of her ancestors were home schooled). Her father, Harvey Oyer III will appear later on in the program.

"Open a book," the popular poem by Jane Baskwill, was then impressively antiphonally recited by 4th graders Leila Gonzalez and Nell Mercer.

Award-winning author and attorney Harvey Oyer III followed, speaking on behalf of himself and the other sponsors, Cody Crowell and Rob Frisbie, Jr. Continuing on about the importance of education, he cited reading in particular as a springboard to success! His surprise was a formal announcement that after the room opening that day at Palm Beach Public, SIX MORE reading rooms would be opening in the near future! And here's another first... the donors for all 7 of the reading rooms were physically there in support! His comprehensive introduction of Dr. Ben Carson brought the former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to the podium.

Dr. Carson began by speaking of the American dream, noting that America is the only country with a dream! He named several countries without a dream, including Canada, "who thought they had one, but not so long ago found out they didn't!" As a citizen who was able to fully experience that dream, he shared his incredible journey from humble beginnings to becoming a world-class neurosurgeon. Speaking about some of his more challenging neurosurgical cases, one had a particular application that the kids could relate to. A little girl from Connecticut who started having seizures when she was only 8 or 9 years old, ended up at Johns Hopkins, because there was no other hospital at that time that had a procedure to cure her. In the dramatic story, she had half of her brain removed. And it was the half where logic is processed. Although she recovered after the surgery, she and her parents were still quite concerned, because they wondered how well she would do in math. Over the course of the next year, the little girl studied so hard that she was at the top of her math class with only half a brain! At this point, Carson asks the students, "so what can you do with a whole brain and a little determination!"



Dr. Carson then asked his wife and co-founder of the CSF, Candy Carson, to share more about the rooms to which she complied.

Principal Schwab then called the members of the reading room committee to the stage, and described each one's unique part in the establishment of the special room, presenting them with a bouquet or floral arrangement as thanks. She also presented special gifts to the founders as well as the sponsors of the room before dismissing the well-behaved students.

The final reflection was presented by Superintendent Michael Burke.

Guests were ushered over to the other building where the room was located. With so many dignitaries present, it took awhile for all the photos before the room was opened. But with the countdown from 5-1, and Eve and her dad plus a few others with their hands on the scissors, the ribbon was cut and the room was now officially open!

The Room:

Hibiscus flowers of all colors put smiles on faces as they welcomed visitors from the corkboard on the left wall as they entered! A pink and white vertically striped canopy over the 'Think Big' erase board situated over rows of sand-colored, nautically themed bins of books, brings to mind visions of fun tropical treats...thirst-quenching popsicles... ice cream cones with sprinkles...and chasing waves as they chase you back!

In the far corner, the wall with grass growing on it, cultivates the idea of 'thinking big' as flowers cascade from the ceiling in shades from rose to white!



Art teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Petti shows the mural she and her husband discovered and used as the inspiration for the rest of the tropical room! Kid-sized pillowed wicker furniture and tubed-frame patio chairs are strategically placed around the area between tall (but not-too-tall) bookcases bursting with books!

Circular placemats on the pink-fringe-umbrella'd table welcome students to a setting where generous portions of adventures are served, with so many choices on "the menu," they thrill just about any tastes!



Reading buddies (stuffed animals) reflect the natural fauna of the Florida island, and include a beautiful olive-green turtle, a pair of multicolored owls: mentor- and mentee-size, and a 3-1/2-foot-long soft alligator perfect for a couple of students to relax on, and share a book, or read independently!

Perched in a basket, is a large, bright green frog awaiting his turn to be read to! Braided, multi-hued circular rugs, grass rugs, ferns in urns, and other tropical accents round out this "paradise for perusing periodicals" ...and non-periodicals!

The reading rooms are part of a unique initiative of the Carson Scholars Fund to maximize the potential of all students by motivating them to learn to love reading and increase their comprehension levels so they can have a better future.

Many thanks to: Harvey Oyer III, Cody Crowell, Rob Frisbie, Principal Christie Schwab, Angela Walters and the reading room committee members.

[1] "A former school built in 1886 had closed in 1901 (it's now in Phipps Ocean Park as part of The Preservation Foundation's "living history" program) after area officials decided a central "consolidated" school in West Palm Beach was best."

Cullowhee Valley School Reading Room Opening

It was a thrillingly happy day for EVERYONE at Cullowhee Valley School in western North Carolina! So much so, that when you walked into the vestibule, even the life-size bronze statue of their mascot, Cully the Wolf, might have been wagging his tail and winking his eye...when he thought no one was looking! (If you timed it right, you might have gotten a glimpse of the wolf wagging and winking!)

It was the first time the school had an actual assembly in three whole years! The principal even said that for their students in 2nd grade on down through preschool, this would be their first school assembly ever!



The special assembly was organized to celebrate the establishment of a new THINK BIG Reading Room at Cullowhee Valley. This would be the first in this part of the state, as well as the first in Jackson County!

Jackson County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Dana Ayers and 80% of the school board members were on site to support the new initiative to enhance the educational experience of the students. And the folks from “downtown” went all out! Almost half of the board and even the superintendent were wearing the school colors, black and gold!

The warm welcome by Principal Holly Whisnant was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. (She later informed us that the entire school recites the Pledge of Allegiance and sings the National Anthem first thing every day! But that morning they only sang and saved the Pledge for the program.)

The audience’s attention was then drawn to stage left as “All was quiet on the Western (NC) front.” On choral

risers, Cullowhee Valley’s 7th and 8th grade chorus then shared the song, “When You’re Reading,” with motions to the tune of “When You’re Smiling.”

4th grader, Hudson Stephens, followed with a poetry reading of “Open a Book” by Jane Baskwill. He dressed as his favorite literary character, Willy Wonka.

Open a book And you will find
People and places of every kind;
Open a book And you can be
Anything that you want to be;
Open a book And you can share
Wondrous worlds you find in there;
Open a book And I will too
You read to me And I’ll read to you!

The already quiet room became even more so as the video played Dr. Ben Carson’s address to the school, without a hitch! He described his transformation from being the dummy in the class to achieving top scores, by reading books and doing the reports required by his mother. Although he didn’t like it at first, preferring to play outside with his friends, he soon became interested in all kinds of books! And he shared that while reading the books, he came to the conclusion that “the person who has the most to do with what happens to you...is YOU! YOU can determine your own path to success by READING! Books are special and provide ways for each of you to explore! They can take you anywhere you want to go, and to anyone you want to meet!”

Mrs. Candy Carson spoke about the power of the brain, sharing the dramatic story of one of her husband’s hemispherectomy patients and about how important it is to exercise your brain by reading.





Mrs. Cheri Martin quickly and effectively engaged the students with comments about their chosen book characters, even spotting a few of her favorites and complimenting the students on their choices! She also mentioned how honored she and her husband, Mr. Gordon Martin, felt to be allowed to install a special room there to help students maximize their potential!

There was more music as “It’s My Book” was sung by more than forty 2nd and 4th graders, in 3 rows, spanning the whole wide width of the gym! “It’s my book and where I go it goes! You will find me reading it, ‘til the cows come home! It’s my book and where I go it goes!”

Before introducing Superintendent Ayers, Principal Whisnant thanked all who contributed, including Tammy Cabe, who designed the room, and Mrs. Davis, the music teacher who put the musical components of the program together.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Ayers talked about the importance of reading and the opportunities the new room provides in a nice way for family and community to continue to support the students in their academic development. Her two shared quotes on reading brought it all home:

**“So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away,
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall.
Then fill the shelves with lots of books.”**

This one is by Roald Dahl, from the film, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

And her last remark was this quote by Taylor Swift, “Books train your imagination to THINK BIG!”

The dignitaries and other guests were asked to leave the gym first and stand in the hall outside of the media center to await the Book Character Parade. Students then quietly marched single file (so all could appreciate the costume of the character they represented) from the gym past the media center to their respective classrooms starting with the youngest. Cats in hats, ninjas, superheroes, and other popular protagonists proudly paraded past the honored guests, carrying the related book in hand. “Fern” even carried “Charlotte’s” black web!

Once the halls were clear, all guests entered the media center where immediately on the left, a kid-height purple table in the shape of North Carolina caught their eyes! And the red balloon indicating Cullowhee Valley’s locale was balanced by the state capital on the east side in white.

The large scissors did the job while the superintendent and principal were left “holding the ribbon,” representing the “keys” that opened the room!



Room theme:

“Dive into reading because...reading opens an ocean of possibilities!”

In the wonderfully tangible depiction of an underwater paradise, the texture of the concrete block walls that had been painted a warm turquoise made the ambience even more realistic! And those walls were loaded with a myriad of sea creatures, and schools of fish (including Nemo’s!) ...What better place for them than at a school! The decor was a very effective encouragement to all to “Dive into reading because...reading opens an ocean of possibilities!”

Ms. Tammy Cabe, the school's media coordinator who designed the room, along with her sister and mother, personally glued all the wall appliques so realistically, that visitors have to remember to breathe in and out because you really feel like you're "under the waves" in a water wonderland!

The 2x4-foot fluorescent lights shine through fabric with sea creatures swimming, so if you think there's a few turtles swimming above you...you're right!

With books on display along the walls and even in the center of the room, no one has to go far to find an adventure! In keeping with the school populace, most of the shelving is about waist-high for an adult, providing easy access for the younger set. For the 7th and 8th graders, the shelves along one of the walls are tall and literarily loaded, but there's still seashells, small sea critters and other nautical-themed artifacts interspersed amongst the sea-lections in keeping with



cubbies, oversized blue bean bag, and "Big Joe" stuffed armchairs! The stuffed blue whale is also a nice soft option to cozy up with as a student reads as well! Some might even find the octopus appealing as a reading buddy...but they might prefer the soft red lobster.

Special thanks to: Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Cheri Martin, Superintendent Dr. Dana Ayer, Principal Holly Whisnant, Tammy Cabe and the Think Big Reading Room committee members.

[A little background on Cullowhee Valley:](#)

"The present community (Cullowhee Valley) developed at the site of a historic Cherokee town, which was centered around the earthwork Cullowhee Mound. The name was long thought to mean "Valley of the Lilies." In fact, it is derived from the Cherokee phrase joolth-cullah-wee, which translates as "Judacullah's Place." [7] Judacullah, a giant warrior and hunter who the Cherokee believe lived in the area, is an important figure in their religion and culture."



the theme! There's even a "books of the month bookcase of drawers" which has specially sea-lected stories in each pull out for each grade level with front covers showing, for easy sea-lection! And to top that, there's a tall, clear, lighted cylinder on top of it, that somehow powers small jellyfish toys up and down in the water...who appear to be excited about reading! (If they could talk, they'd probably tell you they ARE INDEED EXCITED ABOUT READING!)

Meditation mats lead the list of fun, comfy seating to enhance chosen adventures!

Yes, the traditional table and stools are present, but as children entered the room, they dashed to the sub-shelf



After the opening, the reading room committee presented sponsors Gordon and Cheri Martin with beautifully framed photos of the room!

written by Mrs. Candy Carson

IMAGINE IF...



Giving Tuesday

On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, the CSF will participate in #GivingTuesday, a Global Day of Giving. This special day is held each year on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. As part of the season of giving, supporters of this day ask everyone to consider donating, small or large to help others achieve their dreams. To participate, please visit our website and select Giving Tuesday as a donation option or send a check and write Giving Tuesday in the notes section. We are looking for matches and challenges. Please contact our office if you would like to challenge other supporters to make a gift. It is always a fun and rewarding day of giving. More information to come on our website and social media.

- every child believed they could accomplish anything they set their mind to.
- every child had the pleasure to select a book and read it in an inviting environment.
- every child realized that education provides an opportunity for success.
- every child senses their hard work makes them special.
- every child feels the gratification of helping another.

At the Carson Scholars Fund, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to feel this way.

Year-end is a time of reflection, hope and giving. It is also one of the most important times of the year for a non-profit. Most donations to non-profits occur in the last three months of the year, but 30% of all annual donations are made in December.

Year-End Giving

As the calendar rolls over each year, we each must look within to determine what we value, how we want to prioritize and whose lives we will impact with our actions in the future. We hope as you make your resolutions and consider gifting, whether for tax purposes, or just to participate in this season of giving, you will consider supporting youth education through the CSF.

Several things to consider:

- 88 cents of every dollar donated goes towards funding our programs.
- In order to have your donation applied to the 2022 tax year, it must be postmarked by or received in our office no later than December 31, 2022.
- If you have questions regarding a stock exchange or QCD, please contact your advisor to make sure the appropriate steps are taken to enact this exchange to qualify for the 2022 tax year.
- Please consider monthly giving. It is a great opportunity to give all year. An option is provided on our website donation page to make a monthly gift with a credit card.

Thank you for your generosity and support! As you entrust us to carry out these valuable missions and help future generations succeed, we are humbled and honored to continue to strive to meet your expectations.