

# STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times

Helping students achieve a  
choice in education!



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## Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc./CSF FW is dedicated to increasing educational options for children in Tarrant County whose parents do not have the financial means to provide an education best suited to their children's unique needs.

We believe the well-being of the entire community is enhanced when children are given a quality education that allows them to achieve to their utmost ability. Therefore, we intend wherever possible, to encourage partnerships with schools, parents, community organizations and concerned citizens in supporting its children to achieve the American Dream.



If you are interested in sponsoring a student or would like more information about the STAR Program for you or someone you know, please contact us at:

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## "STAR Alum" Chyna Pinto Expands Her Horizons

Dear STAR/CSF Fort Worth,

As I look back at my academic journey, words cannot describe how thankful I am to be a part of this community. The S.T.A.R. Sponsorship Program has really helped lay a foundation of success and habits that I want to possess for the rest of my life. The values and beliefs that were instilled in me from such a young age really helped me develop into the person I want to become. I was given opportunities that I never imagined and I have been blessed enough to meet people who really want to help me and see me succeed in my dreams.

Right now, I am a Junior at Boston University majoring in Business Management with concentra-



The Opera in Budapest

tions in Finance, Marketing, and International Management. It took me a long time to realize what I wanted to do with my life and I still do not know exactly - but that's the beauty of life. Life is

one big journey and we must be open to embrace what God puts in our path. One thing that I realized is that you should not be afraid of making mistakes. Instead, take those mistakes and learn from them. Going to BU and being so far away from my family has been hard, but it's those values and beliefs that I possess that enable me to stay true to who I am.

Living in Boston these past few years has been great! I love living in such a beautiful city full of historic places to visit and full of diversity. Growing up in Texas, I was not accustomed to meeting people from different places around the world and who have different backgrounds and cultures, but I love it! Because even though we grew up in different places, we were still able to connect to each other. In a way, meeting all those new people helped set the stage for my study abroad experience.

For this semester, I am currently studying abroad in London. London is fabulous! I am having such a great time here traveling around the city and meeting new people. In a way, I feel as though I am

still in the states because London is very much a big city. Its not until you immerse yourself with the locals that you start to notice the differences in language, culture, and manners.

The great thing about London is that they have so many things to do for free. Most of the museums are free and I spend hours there. I have also gone to a "football" (what they call soccer) game. It was a whole new experience cheering along side the fans. I also went to Brussels on a class field trip to see European Parliament, Commission and NATO. For spring break, I was able to travel to Budapest and Vienna. It is amazing how much you can travel here for so little. And since many my friends are studying abroad in different countries, I already have a place to stay.

On the whole, I think studying abroad was a great decision! For many students, the hard part about doing this or traveling in general is adjusting to the culture shock or missing family. While I miss my family, I think this was a great opportunity, and I am so happy that my parents support me whole-heartedly. As for the culture shock, I feel that I am the type of person who can adjust and immerse myself where ever I go. I think that is a valuable skill to learn, especially when it comes to business, frequent travel or meeting new people. Before this experience, I never thought about working internationally, but now that is an option for me.

All in all, I have learned to never settle for anything less in life than what is best when it comes to your education and career. Because of STAR, children everywhere, myself included, are able to get a quality education that they deserve. I hope that my journey can inspire others to achieve their goals and become valuable assets to the community, so that we one day will be able to give back.

God Bless!

*Chyna*



The Basilica in Budapest



View from Chyna's Flat in London

## Students Write to their Sponsors....

Dear Sponsor,

This past Thursday was a great soccer game! This was the day we broke the chain of misery. We didn't win, but we tied. We haven't tied or won a game in five long years. Who would have thought?! As soon as we found out we had tied we all got really excited.



In English class, we are doing a project called Writer's Workshop... So far we have done two assignments. One was just a short paragraph to get a feel for writing. The second one was two paragraphs and we had to make it sound like we were in a historical event. I chose Pearl Harbor, where Japan bombed Pearl Harbor's Naval Base. I made it so that you are in the person's point of view. I really think I am going to get at least a 92 or higher because my teacher only corrected 5 mistakes.

To give you an update on math, I must say I am getting better and better, because I got an 88 on my quiz. I really hope to get a 96 or higher on my next quiz. My lowest has been an 86...

I know I have said this before, but thank you for sponsoring me. ..

**Kind Regards, Andrew — Grade 6**

Dear Sponsor,



How are you? I hope you are doing well. In Math I have a new teacher. When I don't understand something, she goes over it with me until I understand. My English and Literature teacher is a great teacher because he has taught me seventh grade lessons, while I am still in 6th grade.

Now I would like to talk about my after school activities. I think they really help me in school. For example, basketball will keep me fit and healthy to go to school. They games are especially fun! I also take piano. I heard that piano helps with math. I am getting ready to choose my recital music... I am thinking of something classical like Beethoven. I will really be able to accomplish so much this year because I have the support of my family and you! For all that you've done for me I say thank you and may God bless you!

**Love, Gabriella — Grade 6**

Dear Sponsor,

At my new school I have a spelling bee. I have to study 4 pages... I can't wait until it starts. I hope I win the first one. In math I get a lot of 100's on my papers. Also, we use blocks to help other kids with subtraction. I know lots of subtraction... the lesson is not to give up.



**Your Pal, Brooklyn — Grade 2**



## S.T.A.R Sponsors are a Gift!



"The STAR Program has helped me become a better person inside and out. It has also helped me take responsibility and achieve more goals than I knew could possibly be set. I have been influenced to do my best inside and outside of school. I learned that once you are given a chance to become successful, you do not take it lightly I may be growing up without a father, but take nothing away from me because anything I put my mind to, I will be successful at. This is mostly because of the STAR program and the constant motivation and encouragement. I have been influenced to go from making low C's to making high A's and B's and for this I'm proud of myself. Without the STAR program I could be potentially nothing and I thank God for giving me such a blessing."

—Keelen

"Being a S.T.A.R. student means having the ability to hard work, having a strong commitment to school, and determination to accomplish life goals. Because S.T.A.R. has opened so many opportunities for me just by pushing me to do my best, I think future sponsors should know that their participation spans way beyond financial support, their participation gives a student hope, gives them an opportunity that they were not blessed to be able to afford but are willing to work for. Helping with a S.T.A.R student will give them the chance to witness hard work in its purest most genuine form. A person presented with the opportunity to sponsor is already a blessing from God, because God has chosen these people because He knows they have the heart to do so. I know my sponsor was a blessing from God, and I thank God for him everyday." —Raul

These words of wisdom far exceed the ages of the STAR students who wrote them. These students are in eighth grade. They understand the value of education. They appreciate the necessity of working hard. They have pride in accomplishment. They are truly grateful. They are a success!

Your gift produces countless blessings for STAR students. They are challenged to do their best and when they fail, they have to figure out what is needed in order to improve. Nor do they stop there—they seek help through their teachers, peers, and mentors and they reach for even greater heights. Their futures, and the extent to

which they are able to share their gifts with others, become truly limitless and full of promise.

Their families also support them in their development, helping them to stay motivated. Their families realize the possibility of better lives for their children is achieved through education. Understanding this to be so, they are willing to sacrifice much in order for their children to be able to develop to their fullest potential. In turn, you have given these families the resources to empower their children for success. Without your generosity, these children would not have such great opportunities for personal growth— for this; we sincerely appreciate your support.



**Success Through  
Academic Readiness**



It is increasingly clear that better education is essential if children at all socioeconomic levels are to feel a part of what has been called the American Dream—a chance to work hard, excel, and reap the rewards—both personally and in the marketplace. By providing the opportunity for a private education to students whose parents cannot afford it, STAR Sponsorship Program and Children's Scholarship Fund Fort Worth will help make a difference—student by student. *Giving parents a choice, giving children a chance... one student at a time!*

**Note: We have students on a waiting list who would love to have the opportunity for a choice in education. Please call if you know of someone who might be**

**interested!**

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