



# STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times



Helping students achieve a choice in education!



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## Spring 2013

### Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of the 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 S.T.A.R. Program for you or someone you know, please contact us at:**

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## A STAR Student Shines!



I loved playing softball. I loved sliding, getting dirty, learning how to fall. Hitting a triple was always exhilarating to the max. Giving up softball was tough. Life's complications called, I had choices to make. I knew I had responsibilities to shoulder; I could not shrug them off. Knowing this helped me to mature, and the realization that I had to make a choice gave me keen insight on what was important. I accepted that responsibility and never regretted that decision.

Growing up has not been easy. At a young age I assumed responsibilities uncommon for small children. I was called to translate, to interpret, and to explain situations. Because of my life's circumstances, I was called to do more, and I accepted the call.

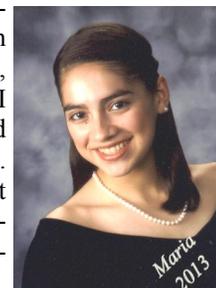
My life is like a game of softball. Every obstacle I encounter I treat as if it were the opposing team, with skepticism. I analyze its strengths and weaknesses. After a thorough analysis, I am ready to go to bat. In life my opponent may pitch some fouls I can deviate from. But most of the time, I am bombarded with perfect pitches invading my strike zone, ones that catch me off guard. These moments help mold who I am. Through difficult situations I am called repeatedly to put aside my desires and act with full disposition to serve others. I realize that to achieve my life goals means I have to run back to home. I wait for the pitcher. This time, I am aware whatever comes at me, I have to hit it, hard. The ball releases; at full speed. Bam! My bat strikes the softball across the field. No one has to tell me to run as fast as I can—flash, I am already at first base. A sense of relief fills me. This is how I feel when I know life is good and nothing can bring me down. In my life I have found that I must not let my guard down. There are always going to be circumstances that I must not take for granted. It is on second base I realize I am halfway to achieving my goal. I cannot quit now.

I am running to third base; I slowly feel my energy wasting away. I feel like I am not going to make it. Much like this present moment, I have felt the weight of school and responsibilities are a burden. I am ready to give up. Suddenly I look up at the stands; I see my mom cheering. She is what keeps me going; what drives me to run to third base. As I am running, I see my coach. His face is different: it is my dad. He has always been there encouraging me to push myself to the limits. Now he is screaming at the top of his lungs, waiting for me to get to third. I finally get there. I stop

and breathe. My dad gives me a pat on the back. He lets me know that all will be okay.

I am just months away from graduating; I feel I am at third base almost to the finish line. I cannot quit. Somehow parents know what is best for their child. My parents know precisely how to advise me. Bam! I hear the sound of the bat as it hits the ball once more. This is my wake up call. I begin to run towards home. I look back and my dad is no longer with me. He is merely just another spectator cheering me on as I am getting closer to home. I realize all the sacrifices they have made are in order to give me an endless world of opportunities. As I am approaching home I realize that I am not going to make it. The only chance I have is to go home with a slide. Just like every other time I do what I have to do. As I am falling to the ground, I feel different. This time I do not feel any pain; instead I find pleasure in sliding. I feel like I was truly meant for this game. I finally make it home. The catcher tags me. I await the call of the umpire. As he is dusting off the dirt from the base, all of my accomplishments flash across my mind. "Safe!" calls the umpire. I realize that this is the moment I have been yearning for all my life. I have always wanted to accomplish my goal. So, this is what it must feel like when I walk across the stage during graduation, or when I begin college, or when I will become a pediatrician. I get up, dust myself off, and walk off with a great sense of satisfaction. But I must remember that this is only one game-- I still have many more to come.

This game has taught me sometimes you have to get dirty for the things that matter and that you have to take swings at things that get in the way. I realize I cannot strike out on the opportunities or hope for a free walk. I either get the run or strike out. I have to be willing to give all, whether there is a crowd cheering in the stands or on the diamond, alone, in the rain. Life is not always about being at bat and taking swings; sometimes it requires taking more of a back seat role to support others, like my parents. I have learned it is truly through service to others, that we become the best versions of ourselves. I am ultimately my own umpire; I call out my own strikes, my own fouls, my own safes. I realize my calls affect others and overall how the game is played. Essentially, it is when I make it back to home, whether with bruises or a clean face, I know it is ultimately worth the journey.



**“To dream the impossible dream**

**To fight the unbeatable foe**

**To bear with unbearable sorrow**

**To run where the brave dare not go.”**

The words to this song speak to the character and traits of a young lady named Maria Barragan. Maria applied for a scholarship in 2006. She was about to enter middle-school and had dreams and aspirations of making the world a better place. Since that first day, Maria has grown into a confident, cheerful, hard-working, and gracious young lady.

When I explained the program’s expectations to Maria, she translated them quite eloquently to her parents in Spanish. When I asked Maria if she could adhere to these requirements, she looked me straight in the eye, smiled, and said, “Yes Ma’am!” Maria had respect for her parents, for our program, and for her education. Each quarter, we received her report card from the school and each quarter, she achieved exemplary results. She received many awards and her teachers’ comments were always praiseworthy. Her letters to her sponsor were entertaining, informative, and a treasure to read.

Maria values life. She values people. She values her faith, her family, and her friends. Her humble background keeps her grounded. It keeps her focused. It keeps her wanting to help all those in need. Her father did not attend grammar school; instead, he had to tend sheep in the hills with his grandfather. Her parents are hard-working, delightful people who have raised their children with honor and integrity, a sense of right and wrong, and good manners that will help guide their future. She truly is an example of what we call a shining **“STAR”!**

*Patty Myers, Executive Director*

## GRATEFUL AND PROUD

STAR has been like a strong arm that has always been there for my children to lean on. If it wasn’t for STAR the path that we would travel on would be very, very different. Because of STAR so many doors of opportunities have manifested themselves to my children. STAR has helped my family economically and academically. My children and I have learned a lot from STAR, which has helped us grow closer in our faith while reaching for academic success.

Thank you STAR Sponsorship Program for playing a key role in my children’s education. God bless you for all the hard work you do to change the lives of families like mine. *Esperanza Barragan*

- Marian Award-Nolan Catholic High School
- Magna Cum Laude Graduate
- President of Spanish National Honor Society
- Nolan Catholic High School Life Club
- Ambassador for Nolan Catholic High School
- Nolan Catholic High School LIFE Team
- Volunteer, Cook’s Children’s Hospital
- Volunteer, Texas Wesleyan University
- Semi-finalist Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship
- Spanish Honor Society Scholarship
- Chaminade Grant
- Woodhaven Country Club Scholarship
- Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance

Maria dreams of attending St. Mary’s University or Baylor University majoring in Pre-Med or Communications.



### Dear Sponsor:

How are you doing? I’m getting good grades in school. My favorite subject is Science. We are learning about volcanoes and erosion. On my progress report I got all A’s and two B’s in Music and Media

Center. I hope you have a chance to reply. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, —Domingo, 4th Grade

### Dear Sponsor,

I caught the flu for the first time. After a whole week I got better and was glad to be back at school. Even though I missed some school days, I am still keeping up with my school work. God Bless You, -DanVy, Grade 3



### Dear Sponsor,

Since my last report card I’ve been bringing my grades up. The only subject I still struggle with is Spanish.

—John, Grade 7

### Dear Sponsor:

Hello! I’m really having a good year. I love being in eighth grade. It’s so much fun. I really like all my teachers, and this may come as a shock to you, but I actually like math this year. I think I’m doing a lot better! My math teacher really is helpful. He goes over the problems more than once. I think it helps that my math class is smaller so I can focus... If I do start to get distracted, I can move... I really love my Bible teacher! She is my favorite teacher in my whole entire school life. She was also my science teacher in sixth and seventh! I take integrated physics now. It’s crazy! You really are a big part of my life, and I thank you so much for that :) Love, —Alyssa, 7th Grade



### Dear STAR,

You’ve done so many things for us. You gave us tickets to see the Rangers. You gave us good sponsors. You gave us a computer that is still working! I want to thank you for putting up with me. Thanks for all the advice and encouragement.

—Ronnie, 8th Grade

### Dear Sponsor:

My Science Fair for my school is coming up. This is my first year to do it. My project is an egg floating in water. It’s pretty cool. For 12 weeks I have been going to a rehab home for Community Service and doing art with them.

Sincerely, —Rhiann, 3rd Grade



### Dear Sponsor,

I made the Principal Honor Roll, which means I got straight A’s. Yay! In religion we are learning the seven sacraments. In Math we are learning multiplication.

Sincerely, —Celeste, 4th Grade

### Dear Sponsor,

At school I am learning about the Civil War. I had to do a play, “Charlotte’s Web.” I was Wilbur the pig, and the play was very funny. We had no school on Friday, and all day long I worked with my dad outside.

Sincerely, —Isaisas, 4th Grade



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