

STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times

Helping students achieve a choice in education'

Fall
2013



1993



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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!

Board of Directors

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Margaret Philpott, Anna Melissa Philpott,
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An Evening to Remember

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STAR Sponsorship Program 20th Anniversary



Sponsors and students

September 26th, 2013 marked the second-ever *STAR Sponsor-Student Soiree* as a night to remember! Over 100 guests gathered at the home of Peter and Anna Melissa Philpott to celebrate 20 years of collaboration for changing the lives of deserving and motivated children. It was an amazing evening where students and sponsors were able to meet each other.

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"The Soiree was an extra special event for my daughter, Alexis. She has been in the STAR program since the 6th grade, and Mr. King has been her sponsor these past years. This was the first time that we actually met Mr. King and let me say, it was a great experience being able to meet the person that has blessed our daughter and family so much, face-to-face, and shake his hand! My daughter gave him a big hug and said thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mr. King is willing to give his time and truly cares about the futures of these children. I saw the result of the letters my daughter had written over the years by how Mr. King knew so much about her through her letters. It was also such a sweet and wonderful bonus to be able to meet his two precious daughters. They seemed to adore Alexis, and she felt the same about them.

My other daughter, Ashton, met her sponsor at last year's soiree. Since we met Ms. Dena and Ms. Amanda, our relationships have grown with them. There seems to be a sweet transformation that takes place once these children get to see, in person, the sponsors who have blessed them so much. Meeting the ones responsible for giving them an increased chance at a brighter future is so uplifting. It also

brings the letters that they write every month a new deeper meaning. Thank you, STAR, Patty Myers, and everyone who takes part in bringing these students and their sponsors together."

Blessings, Jodi Mealer

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"My experience meeting my sponsor was so exciting!! Mr. King is so very nice, and his daughters are the cutest girls ever! He came up to me and said my name, and I was like...."Do I know you?" I looked at his name tag and knew I wasn't speaking to a stranger! He recognized me from pictures I had sent him. He asked me about my academics and all my sports. He wanted to know where I was thinking of going to college and my major. We talked about what I wanted to do for my career. Mr. King remembered many things about me from letters I had written.

In the summer before 6th grade I would cry every day and pray that I would be able to go back to my private school. My Dad's work had decreased because of the economy, and my younger sister was starting Kindergarten. We could no longer afford for me or my sister to attend Temple Christian School. After my parents told me about the STAR program and my sponsor, I was the happiest girl on the planet. My younger sister was also blessed with a sponsor!!! It was like a miracle had just happened! I thanked God and still thank Him for making all this possible! Without my sponsor and God, I wouldn't be where I am today."

day."

You just have no idea how much you have blessed others, and you are just so phenomenal!! Thank you so much!

Alexis Mealer♥ - Straight A Student



STAR sponsor Bryan King
with his daughters and
sponsored student
Alexis Mealer

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A STUDENT OR WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE S.T.A.R. PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

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STAR (**S**uccess **T**hrough **A**cademic **R**eadiness) is celebrating 20 years of "Making a Difference... One Student at a Time". We began in 1993 with the first scholarships awarded in the fall of 1994. In 1999, we joined forces with the national Children's Scholarship Fund. Over 3,500 scholarships valued at over \$4,200,000.00 have been awarded to low-income youth in Tarrant County since our inception.

Motivated parents seek financial help when faced with a school that does not fit their child's needs. They value education and appreciate the financial assistance and more importantly the sponsor's support for their children. They partner in the process by paying a portion of the tuition.

PROGRAM INCEPTION: STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc. awarded 22 scholarships valued at \$31,730 in the fall of 1994.

PROGRAM TODAY: Due to a generous matching grant opportunity from the Amon Carter Foundation, STAR awarded over \$195,000 to 110 students in the fall of 2013.

Quick Facts:

- Students need sponsors for the 2013 school year.
- Sponsorships are \$2,000 a year (annual ask)
- 100% of designated funds are spent on scholarships.
- Administration costs are raised separately by the Board.
- STAR is seeking corporate sponsorships in which employees mentor their sponsored students.

The successful education of all our children is a critical link to our community's future. Nowhere is this more keenly seen than in children from homes hovering at or below poverty level. Many of these children do not realize their full academic potential or drop out of school before graduating. This failure impacts our community and local economy significantly while the scars of academic failure permeate the students' self esteem and makes them more at risk for other negative life trajectories. Truly, education is the gateway to addressing the issues of poverty-related problems affecting Fort Worth and Tarrant County at large.

A GRADUATE'S PERSPECTIVE



"The STAR program impacted my life because I realized that my education was important to people other than my family and teachers. **Society** needs to encourage the importance of education just as much and even more than teachers. My sponsor, Mr. Philpott, extends his time, energy, and resources to help kids. STAR places an emphasis on education and striving to learn beyond the classroom. I have tried my hardest to take this approach throughout my life. STAR's direct and indirect support has given me fulfillment as a student.

I really saw the impact of this philosophy when I greeted the various students and their parents, especially the STAR student who spoke at the Soiree. The STAR Program sows fertile seed by nurturing students."

Ot'Lantis plans on entering officer training school upon graduation from college.

(pictured above) Ot'Lantis Adedeji with sister Ot'Landrea STAR Student—Our Mother of Mercy, 2003

THE DREAM: To increase the educational opportunity in Tarrant County by providing more scholarships for the 2014 school year and beyond. This partnership is in tandem with the donors, the schools, and the parents who are sacrificing to provide an education that better suits their children. Parents agree to adhere to program expectations in motivating their children to excel. Students are expected to be on time, complete homework assignments, behave in an exemplary manner, and strive for the A/B Honor Roll. Donors receive students' report cards (from the schools) and correspondence from the students as they learn the value of the opportunity they are being provided. Donors see firsthand their return on investment in the lives of these children and their families.

Snapshot

STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc. - 2013-2014

110 Scholarship Recipients
10% Increase in New Awards
\$1,761 Average Scholarship Amount
\$5,658 Average Tuition
\$31,623 Average Family Income
13 Schools in Tarrant County

Giving Parents a Choice
Giving Children a Chance
Making a Difference One Student at a Time

A SCHOOL'S PERSPECTIVE

"I am grateful for the STAR Program for many reasons. It has provided students who wouldn't otherwise be given the opportunity to attend our schools that privilege. I love the fact that donors to this program not only invest their money, but their time, effort, and expertise into the lives of the children. Last but not least, the program runs efficiently and fairly thanks to the leadership of Patty Myers and the oversight of the Board.

Our school has participated in the program long enough to see students grow up in our ranks, graduate from high school with honors, and then graduate from college with honors and become people who discover and achieve their destiny. I am forever grateful for the opportunities these young people have been given. Their lives have been made richer because of the commitment of the people who make STAR work.

It takes us all. Parents, donors, students, teachers, and administrators all doing their part make the program work seamlessly year after year. Henry Ford once said, 'If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.' I believe this has been the secret to the success of the STAR program. We continue to move forward as a team.

This year we have new and returning STAR students, and we are given another opportunity to teach and train them for their bright futures. What a marvelous privilege!"

Sue Tidwell, Administrator
Calvary Christian Academy



NEED DONATED COMPUTERS

If anyone knows of any individuals or businesses that might be replacing computers and/or monitors in their offices, please ask them if they could donate them to STAR. We would of course provide a tax receipt. We could then give this equipment to our students who need a computer for schoolwork and research/studying.