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# STAR/CSF-FW 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.



## Former STAR Student Natasha Bui shines!

Our greatest joy in this program is to **give children a chance and give their parents a choice**. One of the rewards is not just seeing the smiling faces of these children and grateful parents, but hearing from them once they have left the STAR program and what they've achieved in their lives thus far...

Natasha Bui was a STAR student from 1999 to 2002 and graduated from 8th grade at St. George Catholic School. She sent us an email this summer, explaining how STAR had given her a chance to succeed. These are her words...



"Dear Mrs. Myers, I can't even begin to describe how much STAR has contributed towards my life. The STAR Sponsorship Program has truly been amazing throughout my

childhood years. It presents an opportunity for any child, regardless of financial status, to attend a good school. The best way to start building a strong future for a child is through his or her education. The fact that STAR contributes so much to that with their sponsors is very touching.

Because of STAR, I've learned to never settle for anything less than the best in life when it comes to your education and career goals. I've truly been blessed and inspired to reach the extent of my education by earning a Ph.D. in Psychology. Next year, I'm working towards that goal at Loyola University in New Orleans with a major in Psychology/Pre-Med. I'm also very grateful to be attending Loyola with a generous scholarship of \$23,000. As soon as I earn my bachelor's degree there, I'll be heading to graduate school for further study.

One of my goals is to open my own ... practice. The other is to be as successful as possible with my career while starting a family of my own.

This has given me the strength for all of my achievements. All the late nights I've spent studying for exams and writing papers have prepared me for my next big challenge. I'm ready to embark upon this wonderful new chapter of my life and head towards college not as a child, but as an adult. Thank you STAR for making this and hundreds of other dreams possible.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Bui

### John Stossel's ABC NEWS 'Stupid in America' How Lack of Choice Cheats Our Kids Out of a Good Education

*"At age 10, American students take an international test and score well above the international average. But by age 15, when students from 40 countries are tested, the Americans place 25th."*

"Competition inspires people to do what we didn't think we could do. If

people got to choose their kids' school, education options would be endless. There could soon be technology schools, science schools, virtual schools where you learn at home on your computer, sports schools, music schools, schools that go all year, schools with uniforms, schools that open early and keep kids later, and, who knows what else. If there were competition, all kinds of new ideas would bloom."

### STAR Students 2006-2007



**70 students will participate in the STAR Sponsorship Program for the 2006-2007 school year. We appreciate your commitment and support !**

*"School choice is important because the choices that families make today will universally impact the present and the future of our communities, our nation, and our world."*

D.C. Dean Annette Miles

## 1300 Families on Waiting



Almost every day the phone rings with another desperate parent trying to find financial help in paying for their children's

education. These parents are frustrated with their neighborhood school and feel their child needs another option in order to succeed academically.

These parents want the best education for their children. They want better than what they had, and they will sacrifice almost everything to get them into a good school. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor a student, please tell them about us. We are proud to have been named one of "100 of America's Top Charities".

## Letters from Parents...

...Thank you for all you have done for our family over the last 7 years. The fund has been a tremendous blessing!



*Mother of 3 children on Children's Scholarship Fund*

...I just want to thank everyone for everything you have done for my family...Your financial help made it easier for me to keep them in private school and get any outstanding education. My son...will graduate high school this year, my daughter will enter high as a freshman. ....I cannot express how much I appreciate your contributions. May God bless the staff and the charities that donate the funds for giving child an advantage to get a decent education without compromising their morals and principles.

*Mother of 2 children on Children's Scholarship Fund*

## Growing Evidence That School Choice Works

"One likely reason for the growing bipartisan support for school choice is the mounting empirical evidence that school choice programs work. Over the past 15 years, the growth of school choice programs has enabled researchers to study the impact of school choice on students, families, and school systems. Students participating in school choice programs have made academic gains when compared to their peers in public school. Importantly, public schools that face competition from choice programs have shown improvement.

The U.S. Department of Education's National Household Education Survey Program also found that parents benefiting from school choice were more satisfied with their children's schools and more involved in their children's education..."

From the Heritage Foundation School Choice: 2006 Progress Report by Dan Lips and Evan Feinberg Backgrounder #1970

## Students Excel



Each STAR student is challenged each quarter to reach for the stars! They are asked to give their very best effort, to be on time, to finish all required work and to be-

have well! An annual meeting in August is held to relay program expectations to students and their parents.

Our STAR students received this challenge and ran with it! **91% of STAR students achieved the Honor Roll!** Students were given certificates of congratulations in celebrating their 2005-2006 achievements.

70 students were awarded STAR scholarships for the 2006-2007 school year. Each quarter we will monitor their progress and report cards with results will be sent to their sponsors. We hope you are pleased with your investment in their future through education!

## School Choice Makes Big Progress in 2006

"A new Heritage Foundation paper, "School Choice: 2006 Progress Report," details how parental choice in education increased during states' 2006 legislative sessions. State legislatures created or expanded publicly funded private school choice programs in eight states: Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Wisconsin. By 2007, as many as 150,000 students will participate in publicly funded tuition scholarship programs.

The paper also focuses on the most important developments of 2006: the expansion of Milwaukee's voucher program, Arizona's three new school choice programs, and the new scholarship tax credits in Iowa and Rhode Island. In addition, the report provides detailed information on existing school choice programs across the country.

Supporters have reason to be optimistic about the future of school choice across the country, concludes the paper, citing the growing empirical evidence pointing to the benefits of parental choice in education and increasing bipartisan support. <http://www.heritage.org/research/education/bg1970.cfm>

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but no morals. We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

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