



**STAR Students  
2006-2007 school year  
We appreciate your  
Commitment  
and support !**

### **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.**



# STAR/CSF-FW Times



**Helping students achieve a  
choice in education!**



VOL 7 ISSUE 2

HOLIDAYS 2006

### **A Christmas Wish...**

*by Patty Myers, Executive Director*

"What do you want for Christmas?" This is a question many parents ask their children as they prepare for the holiday each year. In pondering this question, please think about our students and the importance of their educational journey! Close to 1,000 students have been touched by your wonderful monetary gifts and equally precious time and for this we are very grateful.

You make their academic journey possible! You allow us to say yes to parents who are struggling financially but who know their children need more in education. You give these stu-



dents and their parents hope for a brighter future. These parents try their best to make sure their children are performing to their best capabilities and require them to uphold the standards we request. The students don't always "make the mark", but they know what is expected of them and they try their best to rise to the occasion. Much more often than not, they succeed. This is a life skill they learn while being a STAR stu-

dent. Many times principals of schools call and tell us how special our students are and what leaders they are in the classrooms and their schools. It makes us proud to be a part of their lives.

One dear family needs to be highlighted as a very special story. It involves three fine young men and their single mother. We gave a scholarship to two boys initially because we have a maximum of two STAR scholarships per family. It was a pleasure to observe their report cards each quarter and to send them on to their sponsors. The boys tried their best academically and their mother challenged them to do their utmost in all areas of academia, including conduct, effort and attendance. She mirrored what we required and she pushed them to achieve their best.



Where are they now? The oldest is a student at Texas Wesleyan University, graduating in May of 2007. He is featured on T.W.U.'s school brochure. His interest lay in sports communication, but he has also found a talent in forensic science.

The other two twin brothers are juniors in high school. One was inducted into the National Senior Honor Society last year. He received a special commendation from the Chapter Advisor and the school for his exemplary performance in academics and service towards others. The second twin had a mountain to conquer in the field of Mathematics. He began tutoring younger students this fall to help him cement his own learning process.

We just received word that this twin will also be inducted into the National Senior Honor Society in the Spring of 2007. One of his tutored students who was failing last quarter achieved the Honor Roll this period. His tenacity and perseverance has paid off in more ways than one! We are very proud of these scholarship recipients and know your kindness has made the difference in their lives.



So our Christmas wish is this... please help us to help more students. Education is the great equalizer! You can make a difference and you personally see that difference every quarter. It's truly incredible. May your season be filled with many joys!

## **High School, College Graduates Lack Basic and Applied Skills, Employers Say**

"... An October 12 report by ... states high school graduates lack basic and applied or "soft" skills such as communications (oral, written, and presentation) basic math and computer application, problem solving, and even basic work behavior (work ethic and etiquette).

Employers make decisions

based on perception and when workers are seen as deficient in skills, that will affect where [businesses] look for employees and their willingness to look out of the [United States]. Americans are an expensive workforce...so we have to be that much better.

**School Reform News**

## Have an old computer?

Donate your old computer! How? Drop off your old computers! We are giving older computers to our STAR students. Many do not have one and it helps them reach for the stars in their educational journey! Drop it by the office at 316 Bailey Ave. Ste. 109 Ft. Worth, TX 76107!

Don't have a computer to donate? Become a STAR sponsor! We have excellent STAR students who need sponsors! You get to see your gift in action all throughout the year! The rewards are immense!



## Letters from a Past Student...

No amount of words would be sufficient in expressing my gratitude to you and your wonderful work. Your generous support for our family has helped me in my present success. I thank God everyday that He has sent you as our guardian angel. I will never forget you or the foundation for giving me a strong beginning in what I hope to be a successful career.



*(Ly is a former STAR student from St. George and Nolan High School. She is combining her junior and senior year of high school with her freshman and sophomore year in college at UNT with the Texas Academy of Math and Science program. She is an outstanding scholar and a shining STAR!)*

## Vouchers Do Not Put Students into more Segregated schools

Contrary to widespread claims, the empirical research finds that school vouchers do not put students into more segregated schools. In fact, all the available empirical research finds that vouchers in Cleveland—and other similar areas—are moving students into private schools that are substantially less segregated than the local public schools. The daily classroom experience of students in private schools exposes them to better racial mixing than the experience of students in public schools.

Private schools have a much greater potential to desegregate students because they break down geographic barriers, drawing students together across neighborhood boundaries in a way the government school monopoly cannot match even when it tries to do so. This potential is hindered by the monetary barrier that keeps many students from exercising the option of attending a private school. School vouchers overcome the monetary barrier, enabling private schools to make desegregation a reality.

From *School Issues*, August 2006

## Students Excel



The 1st Quarter results are in! And the STAR Students are trying their very best to achieve the standards of academic excellence! 53 STAR Students attained

Honor Roll status; 52 had perfect attendance! STAR students strive to do their very best in their studies, as well as in attendance, conduct and effort. Many have sent their sponsors awards they've received, copies of school work, and even paintings they had painted in class! Every STAR student is very appreciative of their donor, and it shows by their excellence in the First Quarter Report Cards! We continue to hold the expectations high and convey the standards to the student each time we receive their results. Their foundation is being laid well for their future!

## Private Schools Perform!

- Private school students are *twice* as likely to graduate from college.
- Private school students from families in the lowest quartile of socio-economic status are almost *four times* as likely to graduate from college as their public school counterparts.
- In 2003, the Dept. of Education released Nations Assessment of Education Progress results showing that **53%** of private school 8th graders read at or above the "proficient" level, compare with only **30%** of public school students.
- The same year, **43%** of the private school 8th graders scored at the "proficient" level in math, while only **27%** of the public school children did so.

*Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund, NYC*

"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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*"Kids deserve a quality education. Shouldn't every child have the chance to succeed? Shouldn't every parent have the right to choose the school they want their child to attend regardless of how much money they have?"*

*John Stossel, anchor of ABC's 20/20*