

STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth



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

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Darla Romfo, Hero of 2010

Darla Romfo, President and COO of Children's Scholarship Fund, one of Newsmax's 2010 Heroes:

"U.S. public schools often cope with the burdens of crowded classrooms, empty supply closets, and apathetic teachers, especially in the inner cities. Private schools can be better, but usually are an option for only the wealthy. Enter the Children's Scholarship Fund under the leadership of Darla Romfo. The group, which funds private-school tuitions for underprivileged children, has disbursed more than \$400 million in scholarships to more than 110,000 low-income kids since 1998. The fund boasts graduation rates for its beneficiaries substantially higher than their public-school counterparts. Romfo, the fund's president and chief operating officer, is an education advocate who once was legislative director for U.S. Sen. John Breaux, a conservative Democrat from Louisiana."

December 2010, <http://www.newsmax.com/slideshows/Newsmax-s-2010-Heroes/112005/slide/1>

Children's Scholarship Fund Financial Highlights

In the fiscal year of 2009, Children's Scholarship Fund and its partner programs distributed nearly \$43,600,000 in scholarships for low-income children. CSF distributed more than 27,800,000 and the remaining 15,800,000 was paid from matching contributions raised locally by our partner programs.

In 2010, for the fourth consecutive year, CSF was awarded four-star status by Charity Navigator – the highest rating the watchdog organization gives to charities that outperform the majority of nonprofits in America with respect to fiscal responsibility. Only 9% of charities have achieved a four-star rating four years in a row.

CSF has been awarded the "Best in America" seal of excellence by the Independent Charities of America, for meeting the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. Few than 5% of U.S. charities meet or have been awarded the ICA's seal.

Management and Fundraising costs are funded by our co-founders and a few other key donors, allowing 100% of other contributions to CSF to go directly to scholarships.

2009-2010 Children's Scholarship Fund Annual Report



S.T.A.R./
Children's
Scholarship
Fund Ft Worth
Board of Trustees
with Darla
Romfo,
President of
Children's
Scholarship
Fund

Dear STAR,

I have the most exciting news! I came home one day to a big TCU package addressed to me. I got accepted into TCU! And then that very same day I logged on to check the status of my UT Austin application and guess what? I also got accepted into the University of Texas at Austin! It was one of the proudest and most exciting moments of my life!

I also placed 5th in Spanish at the Dallas TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) meet and will be going to state competition.

I hope you are very proud of all my accomplishments thus far! In all honesty I would have never pushed myself so hard without your undying faith in me! As I am going through so much preparing for my future, I am grateful for all the wonderful support I have received. I have so many people (my blessings) that I am thankful for. You are truly making a difference in my life, and for that I will always be thankful. God bless you!

Brenda—12th grade May 2011



Brenda is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Nolan High School. She is an AP Scholar, VP of the Spanish Club and SADD Club. She is Secretary of HOSA Club and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. She also served as Queen of the Federation of Zacatecana Clubs for 2010-2011. She traveled to Mexico this summer and was chosen an Ambassador by the Governor of Zacatecana. Brenda has been accepted into TCU, the University of Texas, the University of Alabama, Boston University and Fordham University.

Milwaukee Voucher Program Boosts Student Graduation Rates

*Demonstrates National Trend for School
Choice Programs*

January 11, 2011 (Washington, D.C.) —

Student participants in the Milwaukee school voucher program have graduation rates that are 18 percent higher than those of students in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), according to a new report released by John Robert Warren, an education expert and professor at the University of Minnesota.

Data gathered since 2003 show clearly the benefits of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)—which allows students from low-income families to attend participating private schools in Wisconsin's largest city. Had graduation rates for MPS matched those of the MPCP, nearly 4,000 additional students would have graduated from 2003 to 2009. Job-related productivity from those additional graduates would have also resulted in approximately \$4.2 million in additional tax revenue. The findings from Milwaukee echo those from the voucher program in Washington, D.C. Dr. Patrick Wolf, a University of Arkansas professor was the principal investigator in a U.S. Department of Education study on the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), which last year found that graduation rates for OSP participants were 21 points higher than for non-OSP students. The program, which began in 2004, awards scholarships to low-income families in the nation's capital so they can attend the school of their choice. Despite a host of data showing that the OSP has delivered positive results, Congress has so far failed to reauthorize the program.

"It's so encouraging to see such strong performance from the Milwaukee program, where we're celebrating the 20-year anniversary of expanded educational opportunities for low-income families," said Betsy DeVos, the chairman of the American Federation for Children and the Alliance for School Choice. "What is happening in Milwaukee isn't an outlier, and it's becoming clear around the nation—school choice works. It's no surprise, therefore, that public officials from both major political parties – in states from Florida to Pennsylvania, and from Indiana to Louisiana – are embracing broader school choice in greater numbers than ever before."

American Federation for Children,
<http://www.federationforchildren.org>

Students Write to their Sponsors....

Dear Sponsor,

...I got the A honor roll on my report card! My lowest grade was a 95! My highest grade was a 103 in history! I also had perfect attendance. Thank you for everything you do to keep me in this school. God Bless you!

**Sincerely,
Andrea — Grade 6**



Dear Sponsor,

At school we got our report cards and I received all A's. My mom and dad were very happy to see my report card. Also at school, we are learning how to multiply fractions. On Tuesdays after school my friends and I go to a knitting class in the kindergarten classroom. Our first project is to make a scarf. So far I've got a very long scarf. The color of my scarf is cherry red... So far my classes are going well and I really enjoy them.

**Your Pal,
Brittany— Grade 5**



Dear Sponsor,

I continue to work hard to make you proud of me. I have included some of my work, my report cards, and honors certificate. Thank you for believing in me, it means a lot to me.

Vanessa — grade 4



Knights of Columbus Honor Students at American Way Awards

The ceremony recognized and honored the eighth grade students from the Parochial Schools who have shown exemplary conduct and "Love of God and Country". The students are chosen by their principals. S.T.A.R students Juan Robles from All Saints Catholic School, Judy Pham from St. Rita Catholic School, Amado Martinez and Sonie Hare from Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School received this honor.

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Carly is a bright young lady of purpose who is graduating the STAR Program and the 8th grade this year. Here are her thoughts on how STAR has impacted her life:

When I was a little kid, I thought of a star as a little twinkling dot in the sky. I would always wish on a star every night. Even though my wishes did not come true, I never imagined I could be a STAR myself work at making my dreams come true. But I could not do it alone.



The S.T.A.R. program has been by my side from the beginning and will continue to benefit me until I have succeeded in what I started. My sponsor has a huge part in this. We have stayed in touch through the mail and I have informed my sponsor of how school, sports, and family have been. Finally, my parents are the ones who put me in the S.T.A.R. program in the first place. They have pushed me to try harder and accomplish my goals. They have been by my side and watched me mature and grow and will one day see me go off to college. I thank everybody who has supported me and guided me through Elementary and Middle school.

I am heading into High School now, where I will prepare myself for college and the start of my career. I have thought about my career a lot and it was hard to choose, but I have finally made my decision. I want to travel around the world learning about many different cultures and traditions. When I am done exploring one culture, I will return home and create interesting books for kids to learn about those cultures. Between all those amazing adventures, I know I will come up with wonderful stories and become one of New York's Best Selling Authors. If that doesn't work out, I want to become a director for Hollywood films and create beautiful, heart warming movies.

Someday, when I have succeeded in my goals, I will tell my children to never give up and shoot for the stars. I know they will think the same thing I did – a twinkling dot in the sky will pop into their mind. But I will tell them my story and then they will know the true meaning of being a STAR. I give thanks to God for giving me this opportunity of becoming a S.T.A.R student and someday I want to pass on the same opportunities I have had to other kids with dreams.

Carly — 8th grade graduate May 2011

**We give thanks
for our sponsors!**