

STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth 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.

****You can now** follow STAR/CSF on Twitter! Go to www.twitter.com and search for *STARCSFFtWorth***



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Messages from STAR Graduates



Growing up in a private school has really been a blessing to me. It has helped me grow spiritually as well as intellectually. I thank God every day for giving me the chance to be educated in an environment where the students and staff share the love of God in our daily lessons. I also thank God for my STAR Sponsor who blessed my life with educational financial aid. Being a recipient of the STAR Sponsorship Program has not only helped me financially, but it has served as a catalyst to make me a good student. I strive for success knowing that I have people supporting me as I reach for my dream of a college education. I am motivated to do my best in school as a way of showing my gratitude to my STAR Sponsor. Knowing that someone believes in me enough to willingly and unselfishly pay for my education drives me to succeed in meeting my teacher's expectations or even exceeding them! Since I have been a part of STAR, I have always tried my hardest to get good grades. Often, I have traded playing soccer for studying. This is huge because soccer is my passion in

life but I know school is more important. I spend more time doing homework and studying than watching television or hanging out with my friends. With the support of my parents and STAR, my priorities are in order, not just for my sake, but for the sake of my parents, my sponsor and the people at the STAR Sponsorship Program. I want to make everyone know how much I appreciate their love, support and encouragement. I want the community to know the STAR Program works and I am living proof. The program has been a life-altering experience for me. It has shaped my work ethic, made me realize the joy that comes in giving to others, and how I can change the world, one student at a time. I plan on one day coming back to STAR, not as a person looking for help, but as a person looking to help. Thank you can't fully describe the gratitude I have for the STAR Sponsorship Program so I will, now and forever, keep the program and my sponsor in my prayers, asking God for His continued blessing on such a wonderful program.

-Vanessa F.
2009 8th Grade Graduate



People ask me what is it to be a STAR student. The STAR Sponsorship Program is when a sponsor pays some of your private school tuition, but you have to make good grades, have good effort, behavior, and attendance. You can write letters to your sponsor and tell them about what is going on at school and special events. My sponsor even came to my basketball game and it made me feel good. The teachers at Our Mother of Mercy helped me a lot. It's a good atmosphere being in a Catholic school. My favorite teacher did not only teach us about school but also about loving God and behaving in class. Education is important because without education you will not be able to get a good job in the future. Someday I would like to own my own company. My education is very important to me. My mother always tells me to do my best and to be the best I can be. Being in STAR has affected me in a big way in showing me how I have to behave and by knowing I had to do my best in order to stay in the program. The

STAR Sponsorship Program has helped me to set my goals. It has taught me to do my work and make good grades and to be persistent. It gave me confidence to get through school. STAR has taught me to be persistent because to be a STAR student, I had to do all I could to get on the Honor Roll. STAR has impacted my life in a big way. It gave me less stress because I got used to just doing the right thing and kept myself focused. Doing my work and having good behavior gave me freedom to do other things and have fun. STAR means being the best you can be. You have to be the best you can be for STAR to be able to help you with a scholarship. I would like to thank my sponsor for everything he has done for me and for the opportunity to learn at a good school. I promise to do my best in everything I do and to give it my all.

- Bobby P.
2009 8th Grade Graduate

"I plan on one day coming back to STAR, but not as a person looking for help. As a person looking to help."

- Vanessa

Excerpts from STAR Students...

Dear Sponsor,



The new school year has just begun and I can already tell that this year will be a good one. I am extremely excited and eager to learn new things and to build new strengths as a student and as a person. I cannot wait to join more clubs and to get more involved... This year is so important because this is the year to start thinking more about college and the future. I have been looking at a few colleges but I have yet to decide which ones I would most like to attend; although I suppose I still have a bit of time to decide. However, I definitely have a career in mind—I still wish to become a pediatrician. I believe that it would be the most terrific job and I have always been interested in it. Overall my ultimate goal this year is to try my very greatest at all things that I do so that I may accomplish all of my goals. Once again, thank you so much for helping me to be in an educational environment that allows me to strive to be my very best.

Sincerely,
Brianna—Grade 11

Dear Sponsor,



I just finished the first two weeks of school. I also made the football team. I am a wide-receiver and a corner-back... Even though I play football, I will need to balance sports and academics. I

will always aim for good grades. You are a great blessing to my family and I am always praying for you. God bless!

Blessings,
Grant—Grade 7

Dear Sponsor,



I am very happy because I am back to school. I am ready to learn more and I am going to put my best effort to have good grades. Thank you for being my sponsor.

Love,
Alondra—Grade K

Dear Sponsor,



How are you? I just started school... We went in the class and I started to learn about new things. I knew I wanted to make A's... I'm so proud of myself because I'm learning new things. The reason I want to go to school is because I want to be a doctor, but have to go to school to learn to go to high school and college. I'm going to TCU because I think it's a wonderful college.

Sincerely,
Alexis—Grade 4

Dear Sponsor,



Thank you for sponsoring another year. I had the opportunity to go to a summer enrichment program. I learned new Math and History. I

went to a swimming pool and took swimming lessons. I am so thankful you are providing money for me to go to my school. I like school and Math is my favorite subject. Some day I want to be a Veterinarian.

Thanks again,
Madison—Grade 3

Dear Sponsor,



Hello and blessings to you! I have finished 2 weeks of school and it is really exciting. I met my new classmates and my old classmates as well. I also met my teachers and they are wonderful. I will continue to pray for you and your family.

Sincerely,
Nikki—Grade 2

Dear Sponsor,



Hello, how are you doing? I have already started school. I am in the 3rd grade now. I love my new teacher. I have new friends this year. I had a wonderful summer, and now I am ready to learn. I will try my hardest for A's. Thank you for all you do.

Love,
Britni—Grade 3



STAR students send letters to their sponsors during the school year to update them on their progress. If you are interested in receiving these wonderful letters by sponsoring a child, please contact us at 817-332-8550.

Pride... it's what every parent possesses when they see their children work hard and achieve success. STAR/CSF Ft. Worth provides many success stories in seeing this accomplished. Reading the quotes from students, seeing their faces when they receive an award...all the effort is made worthwhile when we see sponsorship in action. Investing your hard-earned funds for the benefit of others is concrete when you sponsor a student. Why? Because you see the results rather quickly, in fact, every time that student writes you or each time you receive a report card. STAR students know what their responsibilities are. They are accountable and they work hard to achieve good

citizenship, perfect attendance, and ultimately honor roll achievement. We just held the annual meeting for STAR students and their families. At this meeting we accomplish many goals: 1) Reward and acknowledge past year's performance by STAR students in the areas of honor roll achievement and perfect attendance. 2) Listen to testimonies from students (graduates and current) as to how the program has affected their lives. 3) Give parents an opportunity to explain to other parents how the program has affected their lives. 4) Communicate program's goals and expectations for STAR students. 5) Set goals for parents/guardians of students to know what their role is in the scholarship program.

These simple steps speak volumes when you hear how STAR Sponsorship affects their lives. Parents and students speak with appreciation and pride about their sponsors, about their schools, their teachers and most importantly their opportunity to succeed. Please spread the word and tell others that this opportunity is well worth their investment. This success in education prepares students to be good citizens and productive members of society. This simple choice in education gives hope and the chance for a better future! Please encourage others to call us about sponsoring a student; this is a never-ending story and one you will cherish forever.

**Education is not
the filling of a
bucket, but the
lighting of a fire.**

-W.B. Yeats

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**The important thing is not
so much that every child
should be taught, as that
every child should be given
the wish to learn.**

- John Lubbock