

# STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times

Helping students achieve a choice in education!



1993 2014



SPRING 2014

VOL 15, ISSUE 1

## 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.



If you are interested in sponsoring a student or would like more information about the S.T.A.R. Program for you or someone you know, please contact us at:

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## STAR Students Shine!



In 1960 Msgr. Ernest Langenhorst acquired a booklet entitled *The American Way* by Father Leo Gales, OSB, which explained the many ways in which our great country had progressed and of its reliance on God for guidance. Monsignor suggested an award program for eighth grade boys who exemplified an excellent attitude towards God and Country. The first awards were presented to students at their 1961 graduation exercises and were later moved to the Sunday closest to George Washington's Birthday. Since that time the ceremony has been expanded to include an American Humanitarian Award and a Community Service Award. In 1983 the Catholic Daughters of the Americas joined the ceremony to present awards to eighth grade girls who exemplified the same attitude towards God & Country. STAR students who received this honor:

**The American Way Awards**  
presented by  
Knights of Columbus  
Fourth Degree  
General Worth Assembly  
1089 and  
The Catholic Daughters  
of the Americas  
Court Louise #209  
Fifty-Fourth Year  
02/09/14

Andrew Valles—St. George School  
Angela Quintero—St. George School  
Jesus Barragan— St. Rita School

"I was awestruck that I had received this award for good citizenship and being a good role model. I was moved and joyful, not just for me, but also for my family. The award is earned for being active and helping out in your community. Helping others that are struggling or need help, such as when we collected jackets and gloves for the needy and took them to Catholic Charities. I felt I had helped my community.

I was happy to see my sponsor, Mr. Philpott, at my ceremony. To see him out in the crowd watching me receive this award held a lot of emotion for me. I was very grateful and proud."



ANDREW VALLES



ANGELA QUINTERO

When asked what she thought when notified about receiving the award, Angie said, "My first thought was of the reason why they would give me the award. I was surprised."

"This award is for faith and good citizenship. I was happy; I did not have the words to describe how I felt. I was very proud. At the ceremony, several people were congratulating me. All of a sudden, when Mr. and Mrs. Cram introduced themselves, it was then I realized these were my sponsors! I was shocked. I had tears in my eyes. I have always wanted to meet them and here they were. I was so happy. This award has shown me I have accomplished a lot of things at St. George, and I know I have my faith on my side."

"When my parents were first notified, they were very happy. When I was notified I was happy because it was a blessing to receive such a wonderful award. Ever since I was younger, my family has taught me to help those who



Jesus Barragan

are in need. Now that I am older, it has just been something that I love to do; I didn't think it was something to win an award for. The feeling of serving others has made me enjoy these moments. Being a role model is everything from simple manners to spending time with the elderly.

My parents tell me that I must set an example for younger kids. This means that I behave myself at all times no matter what. I understand that I must continue to act this way not because I won this award but because it is what makes me a good student, a good leader, a good role model and a good servant."



# A STAR graduates

“When I was small, I thought the only people who were going to help me in life were my family. Up to now, I was right.

When one is a child, one does not think much about what the future will bring, so some children had worry free lives. That was me. I guess it was this that caused me to yearn for something else, something my tranquil life couldn't provide me. I don't remember when I was introduced to books, but I do remember when I asked my Mother to read me picture books. I noticed something peculiar about the books, or about my Mother's stories. I asked her to read me a book I knew she had read the day before. The story wasn't the same as the day before. Then I realized my Mother couldn't read English, neither could my Father. They didn't want to let me down. With this knowledge in mind, I knew that if I wanted to journey into books, I had to read them myself. I wouldn't say “because I have to” but because I wanted to.



Starting school, I also realized learning is better when you enjoy it. At first, I only achieved good grades in school to please my parents, but as time went on I learned to make it a passion. Others might have a passion for fashion or sports. As time passed, I learned how important education was. According to *Thorndike Barnhart's World Book Dictionary* education is “the development of knowledge, skill, ability, or character by teaching, training, study, or experience...” I was and I still am proud of this wonderful passion so distinct from other passions. I have the incredible privilege of being able to have a better education than others that are being offered and to be able to continue my passion. I know now that education is the key to success, but success through education must be earned with demanding work. Those who didn't strive for success in education, but have achieved their “goal” in life, and are looked up as role models, don't impress me. I don't want to be like them even though they have accomplished their goals. Their goals are not mine. My goal is to do something wonderful and unique *for* the world. I don't care if my name isn't known, give credit to someone else, but let my actions never be forgotten. The only way I can accomplish this is by opening the door of triumph with the key I gained from all my hard work through continuing education and the blessing from God Almighty. If I am here, it is because of God. If I have this passion for education, it is because of God. If I have a wonderful supporting family, it is because of God. My family isn't just my mother, my father, and my sister. It is my mother, my father, my sister, all my friends (who are actually my family), the Catholic Church, ...STAR, and everyone else who has been cheering me on, not on my way to the Olympics, but on my way to triumph in life, including the remarkable support you have given me.

I thank you for all these years of staggering support and concern. Without you, I know that the path to my purpose in life would be challenging. I thank God for bringing me this blessing to continue with life. You are not just my sponsor you are my friend, but most importantly, a part of my family. THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

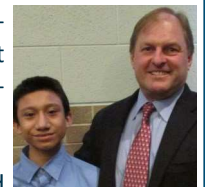
**Gabriela C. 8th Grade STAR student**

# Donors' thoughts...

**James Meintjes**, on behalf of JPMorgan Private Bank for the Baylor L. Agerton Trust, shared his excitement for Gabriela's upcoming graduation. “It has been a pleasure to have followed Gabriela's success at St. Rita's,” he stated. “As trustee for the Agerton Trust, it is extremely gratifying to see Mr. Agerton's generosity being manifested in the support that the Trust has been able to provide Gabriela during her education at St. Rita's. We are excited for her, and delighted to have been able to partner with the S.T.A.R. program in providing support. Gabriella has done a superb job in her studies, and we have no doubt that her experience at St. Rita's will continue to benefit her throughout her life.”



**Paul Greenwell**, sponsor of American Way Award recipient Jesus Barragan said, “I fully expect additional accolades and formal awards to fall on this outstanding student. While proud of his academic success it is his development as a person that will have the biggest impact on our world community moving forward.”



**Peter Philpott**, sponsor of American Way Award student Andrew Valles said, “I am always delighted when one of our kids achieves something that I probably could not—and Andrew and our other students have done just that. Congratulations to all of them for making the program and our sponsors look great!”

## 1993-2014

**Success Through Academic Readiness  
Making a Difference: One Student at a time**

The successful education of all children is critical to our community's future. It is truly the foundation upon which children become vibrant, motivated, and successful members of our community. We have seen the importance of a high-quality education at the school level and its connection to life trajectories. Notably, a quality education at this level can impact that extends beyond an immediate generation of schoolchildren, impacting even their future children and their quality of life. Please tell a friend about how they can impact the future through sponsorship.



### S.T.A.R./Children's Scholarship Fund Fort Worth Board of Trustees

*Paul Greenwell, President, Co-Chair CSF FW; David Porter, Co-chair CSF-FW; Janet Carter, Co-founder; Patty Myers, Executive Director; Brian Crumley – Bryan King – John Pergande – Peter Philpott – Frost Prioleau – Diego Semper – Aaron Scow – Ralph McCloud – Lisa Retamozo – Michael Williams (Former TX RR Commissioner)*