



STAR Sponsorship Times

Since 1993... making a difference...one student at a time!

Volume 19 Issue 1

Spring 2018

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.

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Aaron Scow, Partner with Baker McKenzie LLP, has been a STAR Board member since 2005. When asked what originally encouraged him to become involved with the STAR Program, he replied, "My Mom was a teacher, so education has always been a focal point for me. At the time, I was interested in getting involved with an organization that provided educational opportunities to underprivileged students. STAR was the perfect fit for me."



We asked what gave him the most satisfaction in being a STAR donor-mentor and he said, "Seeing a student like Nicole get an opportunity to go to a very good school and watching her excel. I believe a strong educational foundation plays a significant role in determining a person's success in their future endeavors. Ensuring students get an opportunity to build that foundation is critical."

As a long-time member of the Board of Trustees, Scow explains, "STAR provides educational opportunities at very good schools to students that in most cases wouldn't receive the same type of education. By doing so, we're hopefully increasing those students' chances for success in high school, college, and career settings."

He recently met his student as she graduated from the program in 8th grade. We asked for his thoughts on meeting his student. He shared, "I've had the honor and privilege of meeting Nicole and her mother. They're a great family. It's clear Nicole's mother has instilled a strong work ethic in her. I think that, along with Nicole's great personality, intelligence and positive life outlook, will carry her far."

Nicole meets her sponsor, Aaron Scow

STAR SPONSORS ARE SPECIAL!

In the goal to connect under-served students to educational opportunities, we seek to empower these children for success by providing access to donors (and/or mentors) who encourage them to excel. Jim and Becky Wilkes have sponsored STAR students for several years. They were asked for their thoughts about the program upon meeting with one of their students. Becky said, "It was delightful to meet Gilberto and to witness his and his family's appreciation for the small part we played in his education. Patty had done a remarkable job of instilling gratitude in these students." When asked about what gives them the most satisfaction in being a STAR donor-mentor, she responded, "Knowing that Patty cares so very deeply about these students and mentors them one-on-one."

Meeting their sponsors is a special honor for our program graduates. Students write their sponsors during the year and often wonder what their sponsors are like. Gilberto had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes, who had sponsored him during his three years in the STAR program. In his final letter he wrote, "I want to tell you thank you for being my sponsor because I sincerely mean it. You helped me

and because of that, I may be able to help more people in the future. When I first joined the program, I didn't understand how much help you have given me and my family. Thanks to your motivation, I have gotten A/B Honor roll every year I was in the program! When I grow up I hope I will be able to help other students in school just like you did with me. I hope I can make someone as happy as you made me through our journey. Thank you for everything you have done and God bless. You will be in my prayers." Some words of advice that they had for Gilberto were, "Gratitude opens doors in your heart and in the world surrounding you."



Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes and Gilberto



Please introduce us to a friend who may be interested in providing hope and opportunity for a family who value education and agree to program requirements. We have many fine students!

Corporate Donor Opens Doors with Student Support

STAR donors are truly a gift to the success of our program. They provide generous support towards STAR students and their academic endeavors, but have also been active change agents in the students' overall futures. The employees of Simpli.fi sponsor three STAR students. Recently they invited the students and their families to an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social over spring break. The sponsors shared with the families their academic journeys as well as advice on how important education was to their futures. During this visit, the students learned about Simpli.fi and how their education helped them find a career.

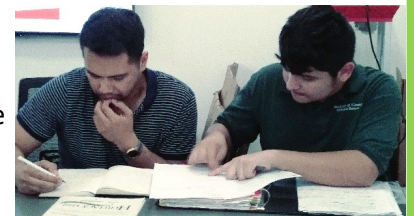


Many employees of Simpli.fi had encouraging words for their students such as, *"Follow your dreams and push yourselves to do more and be more. Strive for the best and in return great things will come to you."* They talked about everything from things they have done themselves, to dreams they wished they had done, such as traveling abroad. They emphasized to their students that not all paths are exactly as they seem and stressed that sometimes life will take you in a new direction.

One employee, wrote after the meeting, *"I was just reflecting on how remarkable it was to hear from you, from the students, and their parents. It was a very moving experience that I wish more people could have witnessed. I am so grateful for (and in awe of) the work you have done in cultivating this program. We loved having an opportunity to learn from everyone. I know you asked for us to give advice, but I found that my Simpli.fi colleagues and I learned from the students' and their parents' examples."*



Employees of Simpli.fi took a step further into the lives of the STAR Program's recipients by volunteering to tutor students in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. Students are able to see a professional in their environment and make the connection as to what education can do to help you find a career.



Tutors were asked what they thought about this new commitment. One comment was, *"I had another great tutoring session with Jonathan. He's a bright kid!"* Jonathan's parent reported that Jonathan says he likes it. He understands everything his tutor teaches him. Parents are very grateful for the mentorship provided by Simpli.fi.

Another tutor said, *"I had a blast! Jimena is great— looking forward to Thursday."* Jimena's mother said, *"Jimena is very happy with the tutoring. She is very enthusiastic and told me that she really liked the person who helped her. Thank you!"*

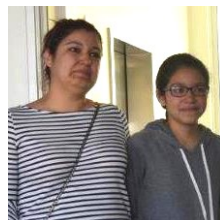


"I want to thank you again for helping me get a good education. I'm working hard and still getting straight As."

Antonio with Board member Frost Prioleau, CEO of Simpli.fi



"Thank you for being my sponsor this year. I am really looking forward to making you proud and trying my best to stay on A/B Honor Roll and even getting straight As." Cecilia



"My parents told me that I am so blessed to have you as my sponsor." Genesis

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