



STAR Sponsorship Times

Celebrating 25 Years - Making a Difference...One Student at a Time!



Volume 20 Issue 3



Fall 2019

Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc. 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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Diego Semper



Before he came involved with STAR Sponsorship, long-time Board Member and donor Diego Semper was looking for charitable organizations that could make a big difference in our local communities. His search was so intensive that it reached the point of him considering a start of his own non-profit.

His mission? To focus on the education of young children, especially those from underserved backgrounds and in their formative years. By happy accident in 2013, he discovered STAR and its unique model for student achievement.

"I was very impressed with STAR from day one," Semper recalls. "It didn't just closely resemble the organizations I was thinking about, it was much stronger and much more invested in the growth of the students than I could have ever imagined. The work that STAR does in terms of formative education is unparalleled in my mind."

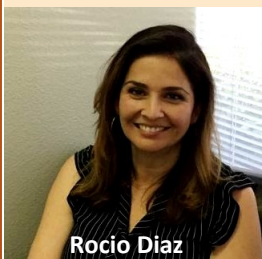
For Semper, one of STAR's biggest draws was how it helps shape students' resilience, desire to succeed, and work ethic. *"The administration and founders are focused in instilling in every child a true sense of the classical values - honesty, dedication, persistence, hard work, compassion, and gratitude are not just words at STAR, they are guiding principles,"* Semper explains. *"At a time when our society seems to be going down a path where these virtues are eroded every day and even completely dismissed at times, STAR is committed to making them the educational foundation of every student."*



Celeste with Diego

Celeste, one of Semper's sponsored students, notes that his gift has been life-changing for her: *"STAR has helped me realize how lucky I am to have you as my sponsor. Knowing there is someone else besides my mom who cares about my education inspires me."*

According to Semper, STAR does more than just benefit the students. He describes it as a 'win-win-win' for the children, their sponsors, and the schools alike. *"The kids benefit by having doors opened and being put on paths that can take them beyond anything they thought possible,"* he says. *"The schools benefit by being able to leverage their institutions' resources and further extend their reach and impact -they are able to do what they are designed to achieve, but more of it. Donors are able to invest/allocate their funds in ways that are completely transparent, traceable, and measurable. They have the certainty and peace of mind that their donation is doing exactly what they want it to do."*

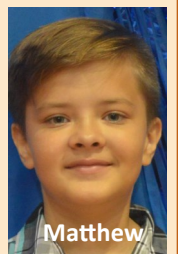


Rocio Diaz

When asked about what stands out about STAR parents and students, Semper replied: *"They are all hard-working, dedicated people, committed to the betterment of their circumstances. They are obsessed with not wasting the opportunity given to them. Everyone I have always met seems to be very aware of the great work STAR does and are very grateful for it. I am always humbled by the stories I hear about the sacrifices our families make."*

Currently Semper and his sister, Rocio, sponsor Matthew. His mother Sarah, acknowledges the huge gift they have given her child with their mentorship: *"I am beyond grateful to them. Their selflessness and willingness to assist my son has given him the opportunity to attend one of the greatest Christian private schools. STAR not only encourages him to reach his full potential, but holds him as well as myself accountable."*

Diaz has followed Matthew's academic journey over the years. In turn, this has been a powerful influence on his development. Diaz said: *"We're so grateful to STAR for providing us with an opportunity to reach out and help hard-working, well-deserving students who may otherwise not have a chance to excel and attain a college-level education. It drives our commitment to the program year after year, knowing that the amazing education and Christian values instilled in each young person will continue making them stronger, all-around balanced individuals, who in turn will contribute to a better community around them."* (continued on back...)



Matthew





Semper From Front, Continued

When asked what he would say to a prospective donor about STAR, Semper responded: *“There are three things that I believe every donor can appreciate and value when making a donation: that every dollar is used expressly for the purpose it was donated, that every dollar contributed can have a multiplier effect creating benefits that exceed the value of the donation, and that every recipient/beneficiary is personally invested in the process by making a personal sacrifice or commitment.”*

Semper continued, *“STAR hits all three! Every contribution will enable a child to have an education that far exceeds what he would have had without the donation, every dollar will produce at least three times the impact due to how the donations are matched by the families' contributions and by the schools' scholarships, and every family and child are making a real sacrifice themselves by having to partially pay for the education they are receiving.”*

“I simply see no other way for a donor to get such a bang for his buck,” Semper concluded. *“The program helps the students, they influence the neighbors they play with, they influence their siblings, and their parents too, making them all strive for a better life, for better conditions and circumstances for all.”*

STAR GRADS

“Being in the STAR program has really pushed me to maintain my grades and be a responsible student. It has helped me understand my work more by introducing me to programs like TexPrep. It has been an amazing experience to be in the STAR Program, and I am happy to have been a part of it.” Thank you for everything you have done for me. I have loved spending my whole journey with you. I’m very excited to enter into the next chapter which is high school.”



Adriana-Our Lady of Victory Catholic School A/B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance

“When I hear the words STAR student, I think of a well-rounded, “high GPA” student. By high GPA student, I mean a student who works as hard as they can, to do the best that they can. Knowing that someone besides my parents receives my report card motivates me to do better, because if more people know what I am capable of and believe in me, the better. The studying and hard work is totally worth it because I see the rewarding results. I knew someone was watching me so I did my best. If I could say one thing to my sponsor, I would say thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to see my new abilities and thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to TVS.”



Bishop-Trinity Valley School A/B Honor Roll Student, Perfect Attendance



“Something that stands out about STAR is my sponsor is a complete stranger that actually cares about me doing well. He believed in me to do good. I believe that this motivates me to do my work, to grow more and to be of good morals. It isn’t every day that just anyone wants me to succeed and do the best I can. There aren’t good enough words that I can use to show how truly thankful I am. You’ve done more than help me in school. You have helped me grow and you’ve helped me to believe in myself. Thank you for believing in me and for inspiring me not to give up. You are one of the reasons that my future will be brighter.”

Breanna-St. Rita Catholic School-A/B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, National Junior Honor Society, the St. Thomas Aquinas Award, Esto Dux Leadership Award, School Spelling Bee Champ, Liturgical Minister, Top Academic Graduate-Class of 2019



“The STAR program is important to my family, because my education is a high priority. Being ready for the next step in my education which includes college, begins with small steps, including the STAR Program. My family has always wanted to be sure I had the best education possible. So when they found this program, they felt really blessed, and cannot thank you enough for your support. This program has changed my life and my parents’ life too, because I found out a lot of good things. Not only your financial help inspired me, but knowing that you were also holding me accountable with my grades has helped me to try harder and be better. This has made my family very proud, and I feel more confident.”

Kate-Fort Worth Academy-/B Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Breakthrough Fort Worth, Perfect Attendance

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