

1993-2003



Helping Children Achieve the American Dream for 10 years

# STAR/CSF Fort Worth Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2  
Fall/Winter 2003



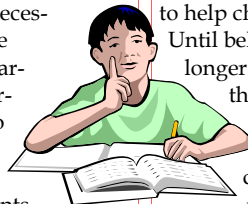
Children's Scholarship Fund  
giving parents a choice • giving children a chance

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## STAR: Past, Present, and Future

STAR now has a website!  
Check it out at  
<http://www.starcsffw.org/>

Ten years ago, three concerned citizens had a vision to empower parents and students with educational options. In contrast to the plethora of college scholarships, no financial aid was available at the grade school level to lay the strong academic foundation necessary to qualify for those higher education scholarships. Low-income parents could not afford to give their children the academic opportunities that wealthier parents could and had no choice but to send their children to public school.



of it. The sponsor has the opportunity to build a relationship with the child, encouraging and supporting his or her efforts.

Our board desires to find more people who will join this mission to help children out of poverty. Until beleaguered parents no longer call in a plea for help, the board will continue to champion the cause of giving affordable educational opportunities to as many children as possible.

It is this situation that Janet Carter, Paul Greenwell, and Mark Walton set forth to rectify. They started the STAR Scholarship Fund, based on the New York STAR program. In its first year, STAR gave scholarships to 23 students at three inner city Catholic schools. In 1998, STAR partnered with the Children's Scholarship Fund. With their matching funds and administrative help, our growth rate soared.

Today, we provide scholarships for 350 children who attend 63 schools across Tarrant County. When they graduate from high school they are prepared for the academic rigor of college because of their solid education during their years as scholarship recipients. Their education prepares them to be good citizens and productive members of society.



STAR/CSF FW changes people's lives. Partnering the donor with the parent is a micro-level approach to helping individuals in the community. Students learn that they are provided with an opportunity and are accountable for what they make

## The Wall Street Journal Reports

As featured in the May 4, 2001 issue of the Wall Street Journal, a Harvard study reveals that Children's Scholarship Fund parents are happier with their children's school than the average public school parent. One prevalent reason for this difference was not the abundance of rules and regulations often associated with private schools, but rather the school's "culture". Paul Peterson, a co-author of the survey, writes: "Apparently, it is culture, not rules, that makes for an educational difference. Private schools create an ethos of responsibility among teachers and students alike. It is this general atmosphere, not any particular rule, teaching method, or homework assignment, that best explains why private-school parents express such enthusiasm for their schools."



## Letters

...Through STAR Sponsorship, our son, **James Rashad Dancer**, was given the opportunity to attend Calvary Academy, one of the best private learning institutions in our city.

Because of the foundation that was built at Calvary Academy, James has been able to excel in his academic studies for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Without assistance from STAR Sponsorship, an education in a private school setting may not have been possible for James.

**Mr. James P. Dancer**

Dear Ms. Myers,  
Thank you, thank you. The past four years as a recipient of the Children's Scholarship Fund have been both rewarding and a true blessing. [CSF] provided me the opportunity to experience a private school setting for two years as well as a homeschool setting... through Lighthouse Christian Academy.... I am truly grateful to all the sponsors of this program and for your tireless efforts in making it all flow so well....

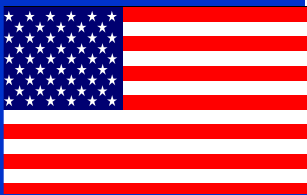
Sincerely,  
**Tempestt Benschop**



## 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.



## 10 Years of Faithful Giving

Ten years, forty report cards... a long commitment is what comes to mind when we thank our donors who have been with us since the first year of scholarship awards! Students who have STAR sponsors are blessed in ways they cannot truly fathom until they are grown and can reflect on the gift they were given by someone whom they did not know.

As we celebrate 10 years of operation, we would like to celebrate and thank those who have been so kind and so generous to the students and their educational dreams.

Steve and Linda Vincent,  
Gary Miller, Randy Rod-



**"The purpose of education is to create young citizens with knowing heads and loving hearts."**

-Thomas Jefferson

gers, Luther King, Rev. Charles King, Jim and Mary Ann Harris, Gary and Mina Hardin, David and Marsha Dowler have been sponsors since that first year. Joining this elite group in year two were Joan Maynard, Edward Martin, and Kathi and Lamont Frawley! We owe you a huge and heartfelt "Thank You" for your support and your belief in this opportunity for children.

When asked why they contribute to the STAR Sponsorship Program, Mary Ann Harris said, "We're big believers in education and want to make it where there are opportunities for learning." Hope and opportunity- these are the tools a child needs to succeed. May God bless you for giving them the opportunity.

## STAR Board Welcomes Two New Members



**Aaron Scow** is an attorney with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in Dallas. He and his wife, Margo, have a 7-month-old son, Trevor.

Aaron Scow was elected to the board of directors earlier this year. He says, "One of the main reasons I got involved in STAR was to work with a group of committed individuals who were interested in, among other things, ensuring that underprivileged children in the Fort Worth area had an opportunity to receive a quality education."

He hopes to assist the Board with respect to any legal matters involving STAR. He also hopes to become more involved with fundraising.

## A Note to Our Donors

This holiday season, as families across the nation gather to reflect on their blessings, families of STAR and CSF scholarship recipients will think of you. You, through your donation, provide hope to a disadvantaged child by giving an opportunity for an excellent education.

A child's education is one of the single most important influences in her life, shaping her opportunities, character, and perception of the world and of self. A school can edify, encouraging curiosity and creativity, or it can repress, killing the child's natural love of learning.

Parents want the best education for their children. However, because of their lack of financial resources, most parents with low incomes are forced to put their children into the public school system, regardless of its compatibility with their children's needs.

Your donation enables parents to choose the best education for their child, one that will challenge and empower. Scholarships allow children to get a quality education that will enable them to succeed despite their backgrounds, achieving their dreams.

### Go, Frost Prioleau!

We want to specially thank **Frost Prioleau**. In November, Frost contacted us and said that he was running the White Rock Marathon in Dallas on December 14<sup>th</sup> and had chosen STAR/CSF as the charity to benefit from his run. He sent letters asking friends and family to sponsor him by donating to STAR/CSF. Playing on rapper P. Diddy's participation in the Boston Marathon, Frost included an original rap. Since he sent the letters out, donations have been pouring in. We are so grateful to Frost and to these donors for their generosity. And our congratulations to Frost, who completed the marathon with a time of 3:15:35!



**Ralph McCloud**, a native of Fort Worth, is currently on his fourth term on City Council. In 1999 and 2003 he was unanimously elected by his

council peers to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. He is employed in the Administration Offices of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, where he is the Director of Peace and Justice Ministry. He also serves as the current Director of African American Ministry for the Diocese. He is the President of the Housing Finance Council and a member of the Neighborhood Resources Council.

He has held numerous other positions and has received many awards because of his service to the community. In 1999, he was awarded the first the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Award by the Tarrant Area Community of Churches. In 2000 the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Fort Worth named him *Man of the Year*.

### STAR/Children's Scholarship Fund Fort Worth Board of Directors

Paul Greenwell, President, Co-Chair CSF FW

Nancy Carlson - Janet Carter, Co-founder - Bryan King - Ralph McCloud - Patty Myers, Executive Director

John Pergande - Peter Philpott - David Porter, Co-chair CSF-FW - Lisa Retamozo - Aaron Scow -

Michael Williams, Texas Railroad Commissioner