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STAR/Children's Scholarship Fund Fort Worth News

SPRING / SUMMER 2005

Diocese Honors STAR/CSF FW at Banquet

Stepping out of the chilly damp of a late January evening into the Tarrant County Convention Center, any clinging gloom was dispelled by the general sense of good cheer. Here school faculty, community supporters, clergy, and lay-people at the 2005 Catholic Schools

Banquet held by the Diocese of Fort Worth met to celebrate Tarrant County Catholic schools – and to honor the

STAR/CSF Fort Worth program.



The murmuring crowds took their seats in the sparkling banquet hall roofed by enormous steel stars (an appropriate motif for the evening, it was agreed). As

dinner started, so did videos of the Fort Worth Catholic schools; pictures of principals, teachers, and students flashed

by as narrators spoke of the schools' accomplishments.

After the videos and the speeches came the award. President Paul Greenwell, Mark Walton, Executive Director Patty Myers, and Co-Founder Janet Carter accepted it for the STAR/CSF Fort Worth Program. Now it stands in our office, a crystal cross representing thanks for STAR's work furthering education in the community.

Waiting List Count Crests 1000

The phone rings. "Hi, I'm calling to see about applying for a scholarship to get my child into private school?"

Their voices are hesitant, their needs numerous. Most are single mothers, some are aunts, grandmothers, fathers. All are desperate for help.

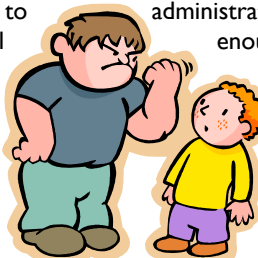
"My daughter has Down Syndrome and we need to get her into a school that knows how to help her."

"My nephew is very bright and needs more chal-

lenge than he's receiving right now."

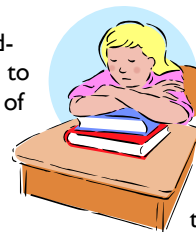
"The school my granddaughter is scheduled to go to next year is full of gangs and they've had shootings this year. She's a pretty girl and I'm worried for her."

"My son's being bullied and the administration isn't doing enough to stop it. He needs to get into a school where he'll be valued."



There is little we can do to help these students. "I

can put you on the waiting list," we say. "We'll contact you with how to get an application when we're next able to give out scholarships." But the months stretch into years. Parents call us back who have been on the waitlist for three years. "Sorry, but nothing's changed," comes the reluctant answer. "We'll let you know when we are able to do something."



Letters

Dear Board and Generous Donors:

I want to think you on behalf of the students, parents, and faculty of Calvary Christian Academy for your generous support to our school.

Losing our school in the tornado of 2000 caused us to be thrown into a building program that we had never anticipated. Thankfully, we are now occupying a new school building and are in the process of rebuilding our enrollment. With your help more students will have the opportunity to enroll who need what we offer in our school.

Calvary appreciates the city of Fort Worth and wants to be a part of the revitalization



of the north side. We feel that we have brought a new presence to the neighborhood, and we are able to offer parents a school choice. Your sponsorships and donations will help some of these parents give their children a gift that will last them for a lifetime.

Words are not adequate to say thank you, but I know that well-rounded and successful young people growing up into stable, educated adults will be your reward. Please contact me at any time if I can be of assistance to you. I am always at your disposal.

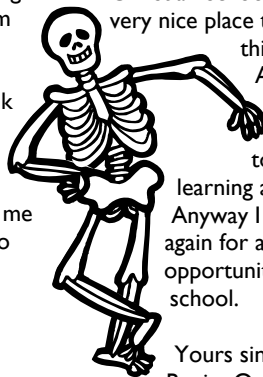
Respectfully,
Sue Tidwell
Administrator of Calvary Christian Academy

Dear Sponsors of Children's Scholarship Funding,

I want to tell about my school Evangel Christian School at Grand Prairie. It is a very nice place to learn. We learn a lot of things like the nine planets.

And also we learn how to build good character. We learn how to sing, and how to pray. My favourite part is learning about human's skeleton. Anyway I will stop here thank you again for assisting in giving me the opportunity to learn in such a great school.

Yours sincerely,
Benita Ozoude
10-year-old CSF scholarship recipient



Ways Students Benefit from

Private Education

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics indicate that the average private elementary school tuition in America is less than \$4,000 and the average private secondary school tuition is around \$6,000. Public schools spend far more per student, so states could save money by allowing more children to attend less expensive private schools.

Private schools cost less, as a rule, because of smaller administrative bureaucracies. A 1989 study by the Manhattan Institute showed that New York City public schools had 6,000 administrators on the payroll while the city's Catholic schools had only 25, even though parochial schools served about one-fourth as many students. According to 1999 data from the National Center for Education Statistics, teachers comprise only 52.2% of all public-school personnel in America. In private schools, the percentage is above 80%.

- Excerpted from David Salisbury's "Real Education Reform" in the New York Sun, February 17, 2005.

Private School Efficiency

The Council for American Private Education has a new brochure that details the overwhelming benefits of private schooling. Here are a few of their findings:

Private school students perform better than their public school counterparts on standardized achievement tests.

Ninety percent of private high school graduates attend college, compared to 66 percent of public high school graduates.

Private school students score well above the national average on standardized measures of "how well American youth are prepared to meet their citizenship responsibilities.

Not only are achievement gaps between minority and majority students lower in private schools, minority students in private schools are more than twice as likely as their public-schooled counterparts to enter four-year colleges.

According to the brochure, this makes "private schools the nation's greatest hope for boosting minority participation in society from boardroom to classroom.

- Information obtained from the *School Reform News*, December 2004.

