



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND PHILADELPHIA, WITH HELP FROM WAWA CEO, ANNOUNCES OPEN APPLICATION SEASON FOR 2,000, NEW, FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR K-8TH GRADE STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME PHILADELPHIA FAMILIES

Scholarship applications will be distributed, beginning Friday, November 15th, 10:00 AM, at Citizens Bank Park Stadium, Citizens Bank Way

Philadelphia, PA, November 15, 2013 – Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) today opens its scholarship application season for the 2014-2015 school year, and announced that as part of its *Campaign for 10,000 Children*, it will – for the third consecutive year – offer 2,000 new, four-year scholarships for K-8th grade students from low-income Philadelphia families.

With the support of CSFP's lead Campaign partners including: The Maguire Foundation, Mrs. Dorrance Hamilton, the Hamilton Family Foundation, Marguerite and H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest and corporate partners like ACE Group, CIGNA, Medrisk, PECO, PNC, SEI, T.D. Bank, United States Liability Insurance Group, URBN, and Wawa, CSFP has already secured more than \$28 million dollars in gifts and pledges towards its \$50 million campaign goal.

CSFP will be joined by Chris Gheysens, CEO of Wawa, to kick off the launch of the new citywide K-8th grade scholarship applications. Wawa has been a long-time educational partner of CSFP, and has positively changed the lives of thousands of Philadelphia children and families.

"Wawa is proud of its support of CSFP and the transformational opportunities that these new scholarships will present for children," said Gheysens. Since opening our doors in 1964, we've been committed to supporting important causes in the communities we serve. As we approach our 50th anniversary in retail, we are particularly excited to celebrate the availability of 2,000 new four-year need-based scholarships for children."

Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia currently has about 4,500 children in K-8th grade in more than 185 area tuition-based schools, who are receiving an average of \$1,600 per child, per year. Now in its 13th year, CSFP is the largest K-8th grade scholarship organization serving low-income families in Philadelphia and it stands alone in its focus on families and children and providing them with the financial access to safe, quality tuition-based schools.

According to Ina Lipman, CSFP's Executive Director, CSFP's program evaluation demonstrates the impact of these early, quality educational experiences. "CSFP students regularly outperform their public school peers in objective in-grade tests. Most importantly, CSFP alumni graduate high school, prepared and on-time at rates in excess of 96%. Given the current educational crisis within the Philadelphia public schools, CSFP remains deeply committed to providing as many new scholarship opportunities for families in need as possible."

CSFP scholarships are need-based and awarded by random lottery. Applications are available online at www.csphiladelphia.org, as well as at all branches of The Free Library of Philadelphia, YMCA's, Police Athletic League and Philadelphia Park and Recreation Centers. Completed applications must be received by CSFP no later than March 1, 2014. Only the first 10,000 applications received will be processed and entered into the lottery. Scholarship award selections (by lottery) will be made in mid-March.

About The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia

Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) is a privately funded program, established in 1998, whose mission is to provide financial access for students from low-income Philadelphia families to safe, high quality, tuition-based schools. It is the largest provider of scholarship support for grades K-8 in Pennsylvania. There are more than 185 private and parochial schools that participate in CSFP's program. The average tuition for these schools is \$4,200 per year. The scholarships are all need-based and awarded by lottery.

For more information about CSFP, please contact CSFP Executive Director, Ina B. Lipman at (215) 670-8410 or (215) 688-6934.

children's scholarship fund



Media Alert

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CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND PHILADELPHIA, WITH HELP FROM WAWA CEO, CHRIS GHEYSENS, ANNOUNCES CITYWIDE AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2,000, NEW, FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR K-8TH GRADE STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME PHILADELPHIA FAMILIES

- WHAT:** Children Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) will celebrate its thirteenth, city-wide distribution of its scholarship applications by announcing the availability of 2,000 new, four-year K-8th grade scholarship awards as part of its Campaign for 10,000 Children. Chris Gheysens, CEO of Wawa, is hosting this kick-off event.
- WHO:** Chris Gheysens, The Phillie Phanatic and Wawa's Wally Goose, together with more than 250 interested families and students, school representatives, current recipients, CSFP board members, and CSFP supporters.
- WHEN:** Friday, November 15, 2013
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- WHERE:** The Philadelphia Phillies
Citizens Bank Park Stadium
Pattison Avenue Entrance (West Lobby)
One Citizens Bank Way
Philadelphia, PA 3
- DETAILS:** CSFP is a privately funded program, established in 1998, whose mission is to provide financial access to students from low-income Philadelphia families to safe, high quality tuition-based schools. It is the largest provider of scholarship support for grades K-8th in Pennsylvania. The scholarships are need-based and awarded by lottery. Scholarship applications must be received no later than March 1, 2014. Only the first 10,000 applications will be processed and entered into the lottery.

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