



Breaking Barriers Campaign

Opening doors to quality education



Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia

Case for Support



Because **barriers** to quality education are barriers to economic and social success.

22 Years of Hope, Opportunity, and Successful Outcomes

Since 2001, Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia has been changing lives by providing parents the opportunity to select a safe, quality school for **their kids**. We do this by offering scholarships to Philadelphia families in financial need so that their children can attend tuition-based schools that meet their educational needs.

Now CSFP is launching a bold plan for growth. Our aim is to serve *more students longer* by removing our four-year restriction on scholarships and retaining more of our scholars through 8th grade, while still providing up to 2,000 new scholarships annually. This campaign, with its historic goal of \$100 million, will be essential to our plan. We ask you to join in making it the transformative success we know it can be.

In doing so, you will be helping to break unjust barriers far too many Philadelphia children face—barriers to access, barriers to achievement, and barriers to the prosperous and fulfilling lives they and their families dream of.



Our Mission and Vision

At CSFP, our reason for being is to address a single critically important problem: the educational disparities experienced by so many children in the City of Philadelphia. Despite recent progress and the efforts of many committed people, 75% of Philadelphia public K-8th grade schools rank among the lowest performing in the state.

CSFP's answer is to empower families to choose and afford a safe, quality school for their children. We provide financial assistance to under-resourced parents so that their children in grades K-8 can attend better schools — *the schools of their choice*. It is parents who select the best match for their child's needs from the 156 diverse, quality schools in CSFP's regional network. And because CSFP awards partial scholarships, parents participating in our program also make a significant financial investment in their students' educations —and in fulfilling their own hopes and dreams for their children.

To date, CSFP has awarded scholarships to more than 30,000 students. The majority of these have been made possible by support of CSFP through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. Now, as CSFP works to increase funds for scholarships, we are also securing philanthropic investment in a range of other forms as well.

82% of those we serve are students of color.

Their families' average household income is **\$42,307**.

73% live in Philadelphia neighborhoods with the lowest performing public schools.





What decision is more important for a parent than **where and how** their children will be educated?

Our Conviction

That all parents, regardless of their zip code or financial situation, should have the resources to enroll their child in the school of their choice.

Our Solution

Providing children from under-resourced Philadelphia families with access to tuition-based schools of their choice—and to new pathways of opportunity in life.

Our Aspiration

To be part of a future in which all children in Philadelphia have a safe, quality education and their success breaks the cycle of generational poverty.



Because families facing poverty have the same **hopes and dreams** for their children all families do.





That he becomes the best version of himself. I want nothing but opportunities and great life experiences for my son.

Chase



To have the opportunity to get the best education in order to have a bright future doing what he loves.

Christopher



To receive the best education possible.

Josephine



That she stays focused on a path to greatness and has the ability to make smart choices in life.

Antoinette



That she never feels different. That she never feels our income will stop her dreams.

Sajayah



To learn and explore all the world has to offer. To know that as long as she works hard and never gives up, she can reach her goals

Neveah



Our Reach and Impact

The key focus of CSFP's scholarship program and the supporting services we provide is to prepare our scholars to gain entry to the high schools of their choice, to thrive once they have enrolled, and to achieve their educational and life goals in the years beyond.

Research clearly indicates that a scholarship in 8th grade provides the steppingstone to later outcomes, including higher rates of college attendance. This is why we contend that CSFP reaches students in the earliest and most important years of their education.

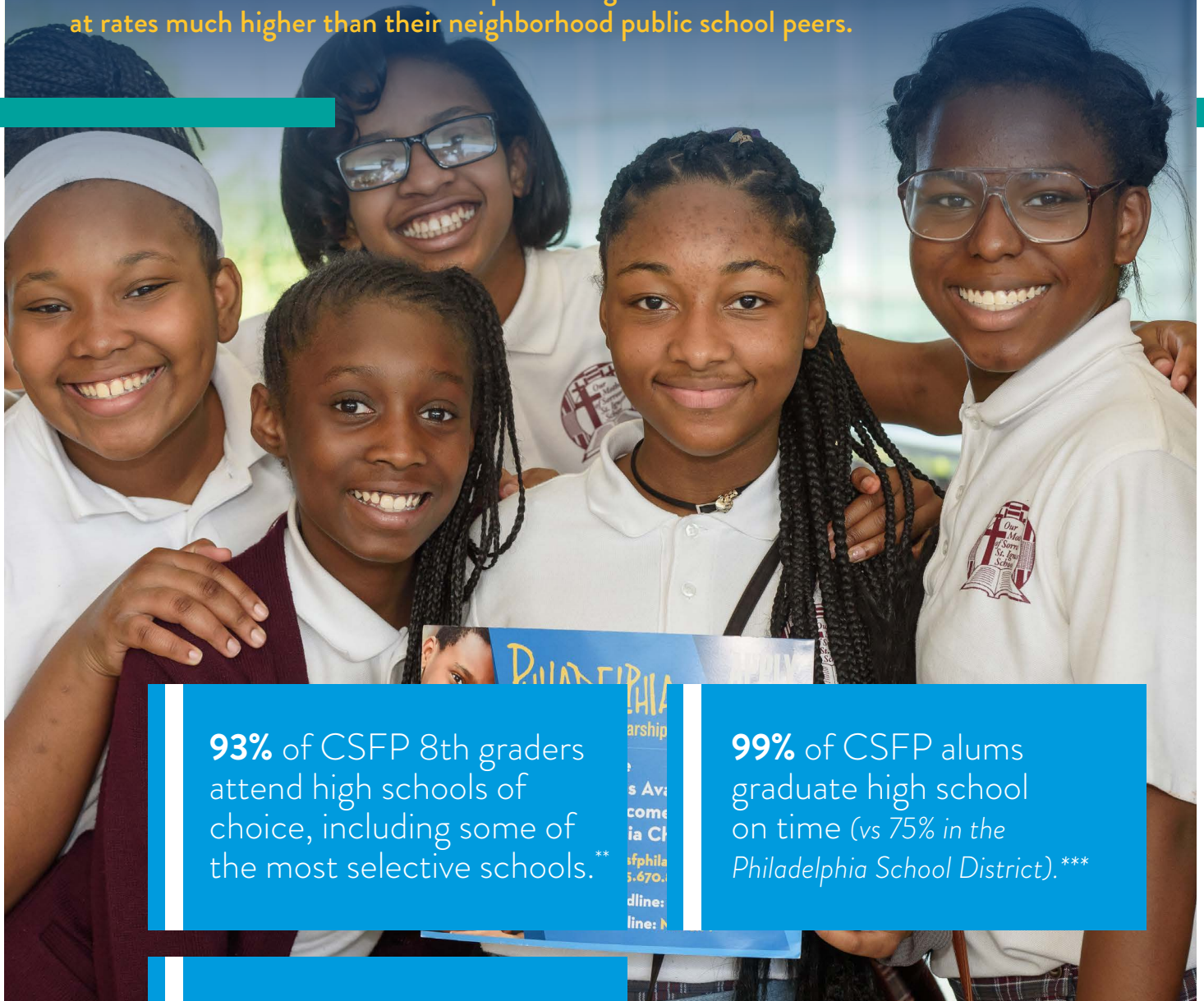
At CSFP, we operate with a laser focus on outcomes, and the data we gather have strongly validated our impact. However, we also recognize the importance of impacts harder to quantify. We know that good schools offer not only strong academics, but also enriching, horizon-expanding opportunities in the arts, community service, sports—and that nearly 100% of our students take advantage of these opportunities.

We know that many offer advantages ranging from professional counseling to extended school days, to a foundation in faith-based values. And we know that our partner schools performed exceptionally well in facing the challenges of the Covid pandemic. By spring 2021, 99% were open for in-person instruction, helping mitigate the learning loss so many students across the city and nation experienced.



Right now, right here in Philadelphia, scholarships are working.

CSFP observes that our scholarship alumni go on to realize success at rates much higher than their neighborhood public school peers.



93% of CSFP 8th graders attend high schools of choice, including some of the most selective schools.**

99% of CSFP alums graduate high school on time (vs 75% in the Philadelphia School District).***

66% of CSFP alums enrolled in college (vs 45% in the Philadelphia School District).***

** Data are for students in the 8th grade class of 2022.

*** Data are for students graduating in the high school class of 2021.



Because there
is **no limit** to
the potential
education can
unlock.





I carry what I learned at St. Malachy with me every day. I developed grit and optimism and learned the true definition of hard work.

David E.

CSFP Scholar, 2007-11
St. Martin of Tours Elementary

- Graduated from Archbishop Ryan High school as valedictorian.
- Now studying psychology/pre-med at Princeton University.
- Has earned assured admission to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The education I received at St. Martin of Tours, thanks to the CSFP scholarship, provided me with a strong foundation for my future education and the academic toolset I needed.



I am so thankful for the scholarship CSFP provided me with. The education I received at Penn Charter continues to resonate with me.

Paige H.

CSFP Scholar, 2008-11
St. Malachy Catholic School

- Graduated from Dover High School, Dover, DE.
- Now studying Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware.
- Hopes to become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Madeline A.

CSFP Scholar, 2007-11
William Penn Charter School

- Now studying Political Science at Rowan University.
- Interns at the U.S. State Department in Legislative Affairs.
- Joined AmeriCorps city year and started her own charity.
- Hopes to attend law school.



Education has allowed me to pursue my intellectual interests and passions unconstrained. With resources like the Children's Scholarship Fund, I know I can do anything.

Santiago V.

CSFP Scholar, 2009-12
St. Martin of Tours Elementary

- Graduated from Father Judge High School.
- Studied communication and business administration at Eastern Connecticut State University.
- Currently works in Marketing at Temple University.

Whether it [was] making me a recipient of their scholarships or an intern at their South Broad office, I am eternally grateful. The CSFP family holds a special place in my heart.



My education has shaped me into an advocate, a leader and a scholar.

Ekram I.

CSFP Scholar, 2008-15
The Islamic Education School (TIES)

- Graduated from George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science.
- Now studying pre-med at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Hopes to become a psychiatrist, helping meet a need for Black doctors in the field.

Nzinga S.

CSFP Scholar, 2012-15
Friends School Haverford

- Graduated from Science Leadership Academy.
- Now studying Community & Justice Studies at the Guilford College, and graduating a year early.
- Hopes to be a voice for the voiceless.





Securing additional funding to ensure that each CSFP scholar is supported through 8th grade is a core priority of this campaign.

Our Plan for Growth

CSFP is committed to extending scholarship support to more of the students in our city who do not have access to a quality school, who could benefit enormously from our program, and whose families are eager for that opportunity. Specifically, our goal is to serve 7,700 scholarship students per year by 2027, up from more than 5,800 currently.

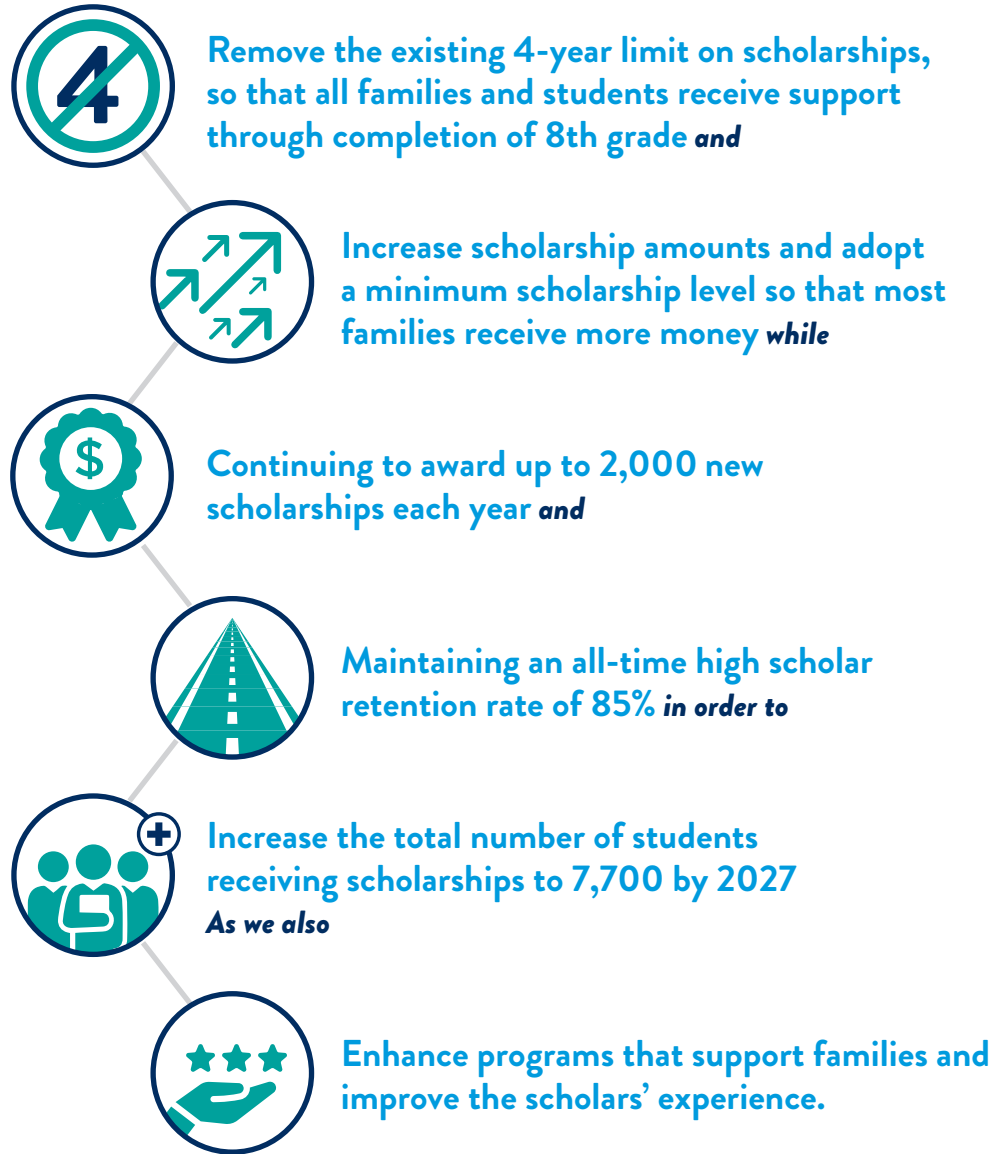
We will reach this goal by continuing to award new scholarships and discontinuing our policy of limiting scholarships to four years so that we can increase retention rates and keep more students through 8th grade. In addition, a new three-tiered scholarship system will lead to more dollars in the hands of students.

Twenty-two years ago, the intent of the four-year restriction was to ensure limited funds were distributed equitably. In practice, however, we found that the limit presented a barrier to families, unsure if their scholarships would be renewed, sometimes hesitant to reapply, and fearing a painful transition if their children could no longer attend the schools they had come to love. For this reason, securing additional funding to ensure that each CSFP scholar is supported through 8th grade is a core priority of this campaign.

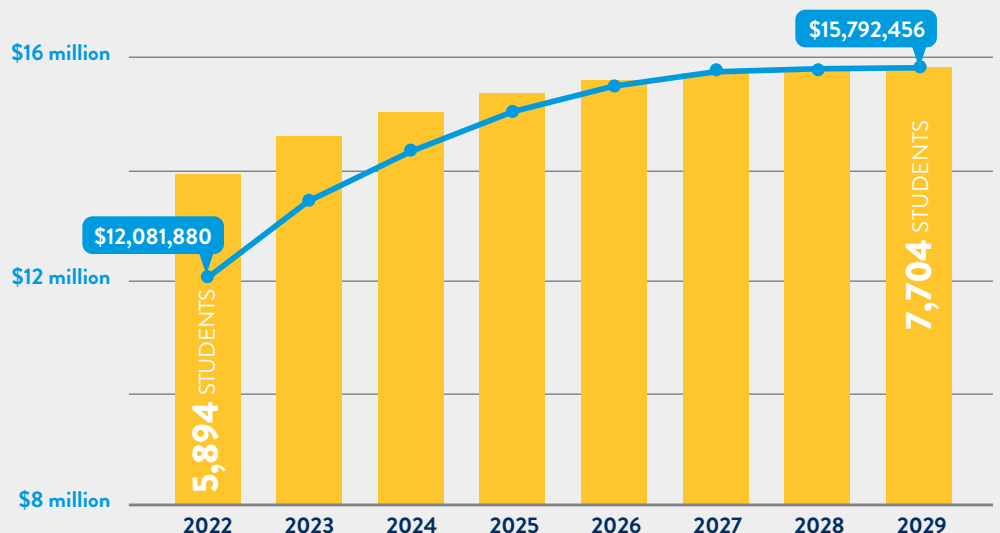
In addition, we will be strengthening support services CSFP provides, from our parent-to-parent mentoring program to guidance in the school selection and application process, to assistance to families in financing academic summer camps.



Key Steps



Projected Scholarship Program Growth





Our Appeal to **You**

At CSFP, we are passionately committed to the ideal of educational opportunity for all. Our vision is to move our city one step closer to that ideal every day and help create a future in which Philadelphia kids graduate from college or other post-secondary programs ready to make a difference in their communities. Through this campaign, you can make an essential investment in this vision. **You can also do something more:**

Invest in families who want the best for their children, who dream of their future success, and who are already making financial sacrifices for their children's futures.

Invest in Philadelphia, a city whose health and growth tomorrow depend in large measure on how well we educate our young people today.

Invest in equity, because there is no better path to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty than through education—in fact, there may be no other way at all.

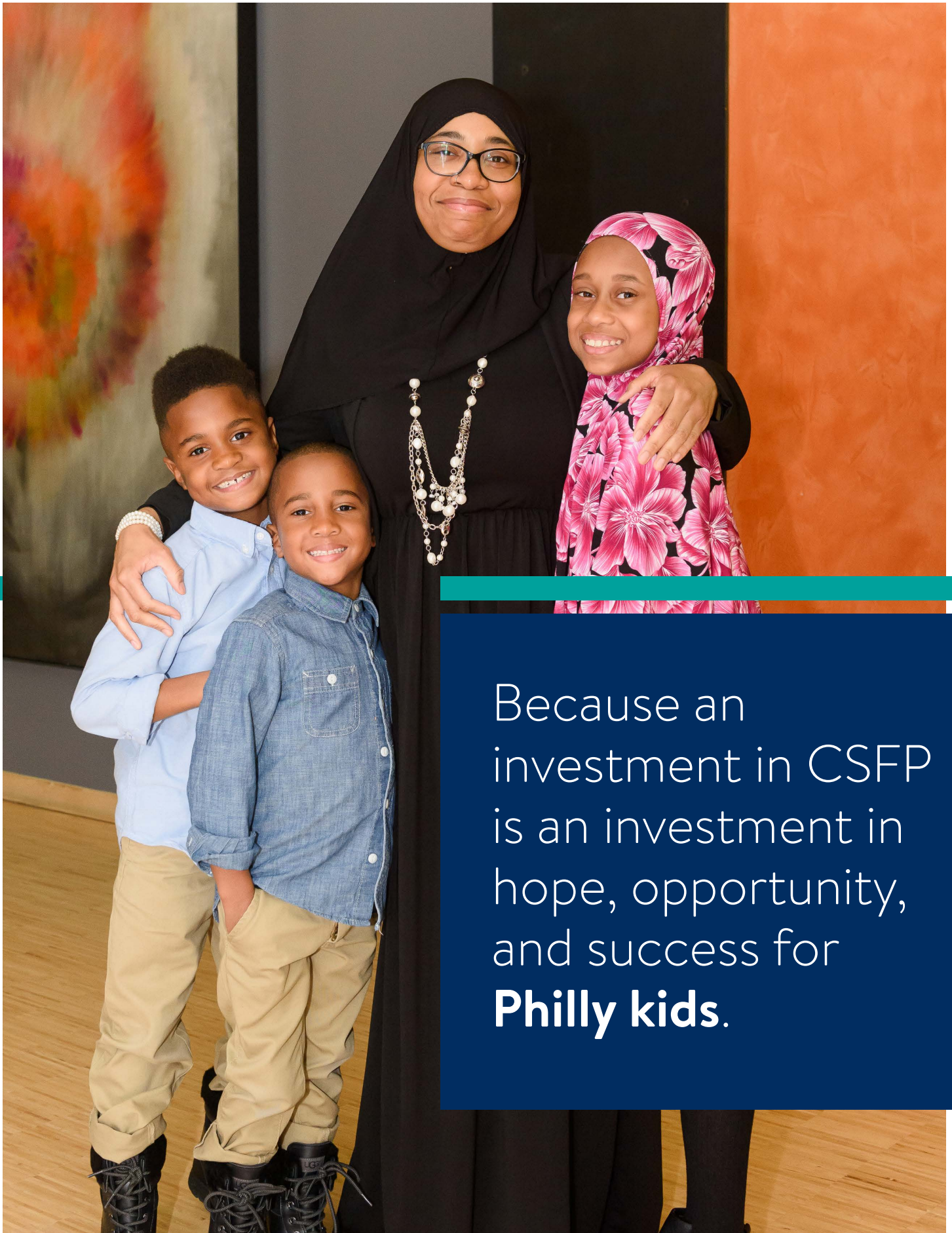
It is for all these reasons we believe that Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia not only qualifies as an organization worthy of donor support, but must rank as a priority of exceptional immediate importance.

Each passing year with thousands of Philadelphia students turned away from opportunities to succeed in an environment that best suits them, is another year in which unjust barriers are allowed to stand. CSFP aims to give students who, without a scholarship, have no other choice but to attend a known low-performing school the chance to seek other options.

We ask you to join us in breaking these barriers down and in lifting these young people up.

Your commitment will be deeply appreciated.





Because an
investment in CSFP
is an investment in
hope, opportunity,
and success for
Philly kids.



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