



Children's Scholarship Fund Baltimore

FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Choice Matters: Supporting Diversity



School choice is about finding students the school they need in their educational experience to allow them to blossom and thrive. The Grays Family, featured in this year's report, is a beautiful example of what having this choice can look like – four individual children with diverse interests, choosing different schools, and having distinct paths during (and after) high school, each with a unique career path. CHOICE MATTERS.

Dear Friends of CSFB:

It has been 18 months since the initial shutdown, and I don't think anyone would have thought back in March 2020 that we'd still be in the thick of this pandemic. For our 41 CSFB partner schools, mandatory masking, outside classes and weekly COVID tests are now the norm to keep our kids where they need to be – in the physical classroom.

Indeed, it is the resilience of our teachers, school leaders and families that inspires us to go to work every day in support of our CSFB students. With the successful \$1 million "Fund the Future" campaign behind us, we are now focusing on building the annual fund and continuing to ensure that our students attend Kindergarten through 8th grade at a school that prepares them for high school, college and beyond.

As we start our third decade, we now have a critical mass of former CSFB students that are through college and making their way in the world. They stay in touch with us – we have a rocket scientist at NASA, a firefighter and a stay-at-home mom. You will be hearing more about these successful former CSFB students in the months to come.

As I transition off the CSFB board, I want to thank the CSFB staff – Beth Harbinson and Joanne Sanders – for their tireless support of our families, especially during the last 18 months. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for their expert guidance, creative ideas, and financial support. And I especially want to thank our incoming board chair, Elizabeth Green. She is a powerful advocate for school choice, and I am grateful for her leadership.

Finally, I want to thank all our donors, big and small, who believe that education needs to work for every child – no matter their family's financial status. We have always believed that each donation, each scholarship, can change the trajectory of a child's life. I know you believe as well, and I am forever grateful for your continued support.

Kate Rawson Powell

Kate Rawson Powell, Board Chair

OUR MISSION AND PROGRAM

CSFB is Baltimore's need-based, non-denominational program providing low-income Baltimore City families with tuition assistance for their children to attend K - 8th grade at the school of their choice.

We are lucky enough to get a brief glimpse into the lives of Valerie Grays' kids, four CSFB scholars who are each successful in their own right, and who bring a diversity and richness to telling the CSFB story. Her four children were part of CSFB from 2002 to 2018, and now Valerie serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.

CSFB STORIES

VALERIE GRAYS

Q: How did you find out about CSFB?

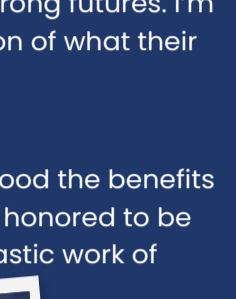
A: There was a flyer that talked about the program and an upcoming information session. The location of the session happened to be at a church up the street from Cardinal Shehan School, so I went. (smile)

Q: What is it about CSFB that you appreciate?

A: Providing an excellent foundation for my children was of the utmost importance to me. So, when selecting schools, I looked for schools that would meet their individual needs academically, as well as creatively and socially. By doing so, each of my children have been able to chart their own paths and move on to strong futures. I'm very proud of each and every one of them and excited in anticipation of what their futures will bring.

Q: What made you say yes to becoming a CSFB trustee?

A: How could I say no? I believed in the mission of CSFB and understood the benefits first hand by being a recipient of scholarships for my children. I was honored to be asked to be on such an import board and to help continue the fantastic work of Children's Scholarship Fund Baltimore.



MICHAEL DRAKE

AKA "MICKEY", 30

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I went to Bowie Elementary and Brehms Lane Elementary. When we moved into Baltimore City, I went to Parkville Middle School and then Cardinal Shehan School.

I attended and graduated from Baltimore City College High School.

I went back to my Bowie roots and attended Bowie State College studying business and then I transferred to Morgan State University where I majored in Visual Arts.

Q: Why do you think your parent chose the school or schools you attended from K - 8?

A: Location, we moved from Bowie to Baltimore.

Q: What is your superpower?

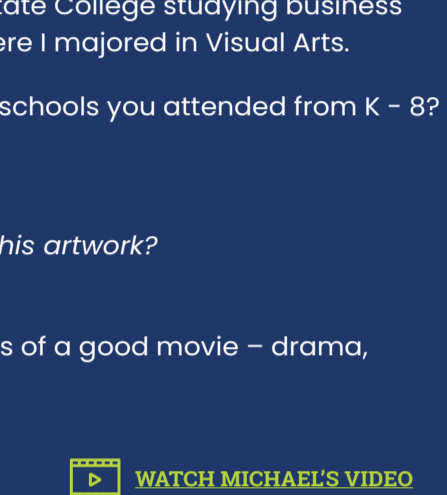
A: Mickey claims no superpower, but have you seen his artwork?

Q: What is your favorite movie or book?

A: The Titanic, because it's a perfect mix of all aspects of a good movie – drama, action, love and comedy.

Q: What are you most hopeful for in 2022?

A: Opening another tattoo shop



WATCH MICHAEL'S VIDEO

DONOR LIST

We are grateful to the foundations, individuals, corporations, and alumni who support this life-changing program.

\$100,000 - \$50,000

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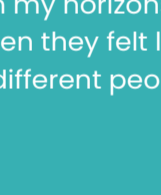
\$499 - \$100

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(In Memory of Thomas L. Grays who owned Tom's Barber Shop on Federal St. in East Baltimore and was honored with the naming of the street where his shop is located in 2013.)
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CSFB is grateful for every donation we receive from individuals, organizations, and businesses. If your name is missing please contact bharbinson@csfbaltimore.org.

CSFB STORIES

JUSTIN ALSTON

AKA "J" OR "JUST", 24

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Cardinal Shehan and then the Waldorf School Baltimore School for the Arts with a focus on theatre University of MD College Park – majoring in theatre

Q: Why do you think your parent chose the school or schools you attended from K - 8?

A: I think my parents chose different schools because they wanted to expose me to a lot of different things the world had to offer and to broaden my horizons...it started me off in Catholic School which was really good for me, and then they felt like I could grow more if I had a change of scene and could be exposed to different people and they were right!

Q: What is your superpower?

A: If I had to say, my superpower would be good I can read people. I get certain energies/vibes – and tell if something is how or back I catch their energy

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Space Jam and Lion King (VHS on repeat every day) these still remind me of home

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Moby Dick – it's a long one, but it's a classic

Q: What are you most hopeful for in 2022?

A: New opportunities to live life, experience new things and travel more.

JAARON ALSTON

AKA "JAY", 23

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Cardinal Shehan preK to 8th grade Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (followed in father's footsteps) University of MD College Park – (followed in my brother's footsteps...) but majored in family studies (therapy, social work)

Q: Why do you think your parent chose the school or schools you attended from K - 8?

A: I think my parents chose Cardinal Shehan, a smaller environment – it prepared us for engaging in one on one conversations. Be more engaged, have a good foundation. Still have some of those same friends (allowed me to sprout my wings)

Q: What is your superpower?

A: If I had to say, my superpower would be how I can read people. I get certain energies/vibes – and tell if something is good or back I catch their energy

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Space Jam and Lion King. EVERY SINGLE NIGHT!!! we memorized every single line!

Q: What is your favorite book?

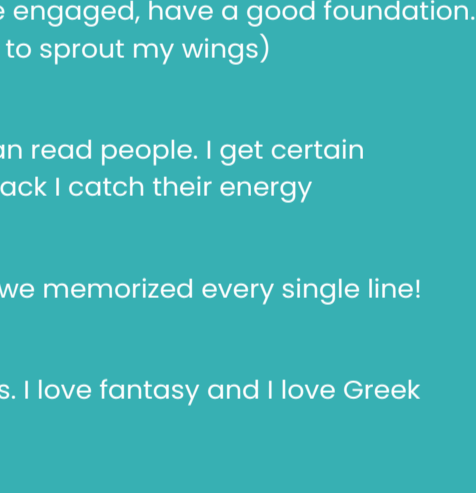
A: The Lightning Thief from the Percy Jackson series. I love fantasy and I love Greek mythology, something I would study all day!

Q: What are you most hopeful for in 2022?

A: Hoping that this COVID stuff will finally be knocked out of the park. Hoping for a nice smooth year and financial stability overall.



WATCH JUSTIN'S VIDEO



WATCH JAARON'S VIDEO

CSFB STORIES

VARIA ALSTON

AKA "V" OR "CECE", 17

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Cardinal Shehan preK - 8th grade Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (currently a 12th grader)

Q: Why do you think your parent chose the school or schools you attended from K - 8?

A: I think my parents chose Cardinal Shehan, it was a good environment...small. I was kind of delayed in speech, and I think that smaller environment helped me. Also convenience, because my brothers went there.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: If I had to say, when I listen to music I can come up with choreography or freestyle to it instantly.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

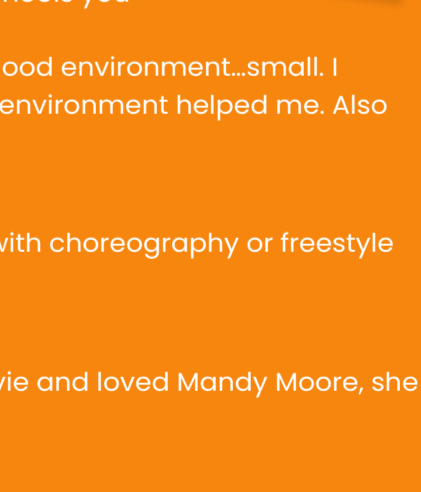
A: A Walk to Remember. It's a really cute, romantic movie and loved Mandy Moore, she was really good in it.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Five Feet Apart. Another romance, but also sad. Just a great story. They both had Cystic Fibrosis, but they can't be near each other. Sad, but realistic.

Q: What are you most hopeful for in 2022?

A: Going to prom! I missed my junior prom.



WATCH VARIA'S VIDEO

FINANCIALS

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

REVENUE	\$ 955,884
Grants	\$ 758,060
Individuals and Corporate	\$ 131,721
Events	\$ 57,250
Interest Income	\$ 8,853
EXPENSES	\$ 716,970
Program Services	\$ 559,912
Management	\$ 53,639
Fundraising	\$ 103,419
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 238,914

CSFB audited financials are available upon request.

Giving parents a choice. Giving children a chance.

CSFB's program is intended as a helping hand for families enrolling their children at a private school for the first time.

Our model of providing partial-tuition scholarships to low-income families is one of the simplest, most immediate and effective ways to educate children and empower families to break the cycle of poverty. In Baltimore City, there are hundreds of empty seats in private schools – schools which lead to high school graduation rates of more than 97%. We can fill those seats.

The breakdown of our CSFB families and students is **58%** are African American, **32%** are Caucasian, **9%** are Hispanic and **1%** are Asian American

CSFB provided tuition assistance to **275** students

\$5,264 is the average yearly family contribution

\$15,278,260 of tuition assistance is paid directly to Baltimore schools

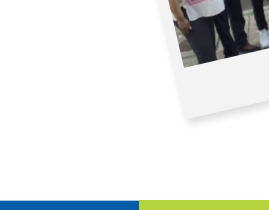
7,958 students have received scholarships from CSFB over the past **21** years

64% of our students come from single-parent households where a female is often the head of household

CSFB scholars attended **81** different schools

98% of CSFB eighth graders continue on with school and graduate from high school

95% percent of CSFB graduates attend one of Baltimore City's top five public, charter or magnet high schools



nine categories of school affiliation (Catholic, Jewish, Christian (no specific denomination), Baptist, Lutheran, Seventh-Day Adventist, Protestant, Islamic, Non-denominational)

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Children's Scholarship Fund Baltimore

giving parents a choice, giving children a chance

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