



Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia



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Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia Celebrates 10 Years

CSFP honors Christy Walton and Wawa at 10th Annual Student Award Ceremony

Philadelphia, Pa. (June 7, 2008) – Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) today celebrates 10 years of hope, opportunity, and success at its 2008 Student Award Ceremony. 2500 attendees will gather to honor Christy Walton and Wawa as 2008 *Citizen of the Year* and *Corporate Citizen of the Year*, respectively, as well as to recognize the achievements of CSFP students during the 2007-08 school year and announce the student recipients of 1,500 new four-year scholarship awards for grades K-8.

"Over the past ten years, CSFP has helped provide tuition assistance for thousands of elementary school students from low-income families in the Philadelphia area," said Evie McNiff, President of the CSFP Board. "We are particularly thankful for the local corporations, foundations, and individuals that have supported us in our endeavors."

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell will present the honor to Christy Walton and Wawa for their roles in providing educational opportunities for underprivileged children in the Philadelphia area. Ms. Walton is being honored as the CSFP Citizen of the Year. In 1998, she and her late husband John Walton established Children's Scholarship Fund and secured \$100 million in initial funding to allow low-income families across America access to private schools. Since then, Children's Scholarship Fund has distributed \$315 million in scholarships to 96,000 students across the nation – including nearly 6,000 in the Philadelphia area.

Wawa is being awarded Corporate Citizen of the Year for its continued support of CSFP and involvement in initiatives and programs that positively impact the lives of children. Since 2001, Wawa's contributions have meant that more than 100 Philadelphia low-income children received new four-year scholarships. Wawa supports CSFP through its Community Giving Program as part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program.

"Since our first store opened in 1964, Wawa and our associates have remained committed to being good neighbors and supporting the communities we serve," said Howard Stoeckel, Wawa's President and CEO. "We are proud to support a cause as worthy as CSFP and help provide low-income children from the Philadelphia area with access to a quality learning environments."

The event concludes with student and school award presentations, followed by the awarding of 1,500 new four year scholarships. These students come from families with an average income of \$28,500 and, upon selection, are enrolled in one of the approximately 200 participating private schools, parochial and other community-based independent schools. CSFP is the largest provider of scholarship support in grades K-8 in Pennsylvania and has received more than 80,000 qualified applications in Philadelphia alone over the last eight years.

About CSFP

The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) is a privately funded program, established in 1998, whose mission is to broaden educational opportunities for students from low-income families in the Philadelphia area by providing them with tuition assistance. It is the largest provider of scholarship support in grades K-8 in Pennsylvania. There are more than 200 private and parochial schools that participate in CSFP's program. The average tuition for these schools is \$2,400 per year. The scholarships are need based and awarded by lottery.

About Wawa, Inc.

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, began in 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, Pa, in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960's, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 as an outlet for dairy products. Today, Wawa operates more than 560 stores in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

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