

Funding Opportunities to Fulfill *dreams*

Imagine, for a moment, being a gatekeeper of a **place** where people can fly. You have the ability allow those who **wish** to pass through. You can see their dream ahead of them in the **depth** and colors of the endless horizon. When you open the **gate** you watch them take flight. It is exciting to see them soar. That **is** the work of the Rochester Children's Scholarship Fund (RCSF), finding opportunity for underprivileged students who show **academic** promise and financial need to achieve their professional **dreams**.

RCSF assists students in the Rochester City School **District** who meet federal financial guidelines and demonstrate a **desire** to excel by providing resources so that students believe in **themselves**, see possibilities, and engage in a broader life experience. It **was** initially established in 1916 as the Rochester Memorial Children's Fund when students worked to help with family finances. **A** means of keeping students in the educational system, it also **served** as a living memorial to those serving in World War I. To this **day**, RCSF makes it possible for students who contribute to their **households** to work fewer hours and focus more on their studies. RCSF has grown to assist with the purchase of books and **school** supplies, vocational training courses, and fees attendant **with** college applications. RCSF's Support a Scholar program **allows** students to participate in field trips and after school activities **they** would otherwise not afford.

Aaron is an RCSF Scholar and a 2006 graduate of Rochester School of the Arts. During his high school years he served **as** **counsel** in Rochester Teen Court, in production management for **theater** and concert events, and as a representative in student **government**. Aaron graduated as an RCSF Scholar, a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation "Gates Millennium Scholar," a College **Board** "A.P. Scholar," and an Urban League of Rochester "Black **Scholar**."

Aaron's hard work led him from the inner city of Rochester to the Ivy League. He attended Harvard University on a full **scholarship**.

While at Harvard he served as a trial judge in Harvard Model Congress, as a public service advisor for the Harvard Center for Public Interest Careers, and as an ambassador for the Harvard College Admissions Office. Aaron graduated from Harvard in 2010 with a B. A. in Philosophy, as a Sidley Austin LLP "Sidley Prelaw Scholar," and as a recipient of several fellowships and awards throughout his Harvard career. He is currently pursuing a Juris Doctorate at Cornell Law School, eagerly awaiting his graduation in 2013 when he can return home to make the Rochester area a stronger, safer, more prosperous, and vibrant community.

Currently, Tori from East High School wants to be a physician: RCSF has helped her purchase school supplies and visit universities. She is grateful for the support which has given her the motivation to work even harder. Luis from Dr. Freddie Thomas is interested in business management and is working toward becoming the CEO of a major corporation. Nicole from Wilson Magnet hopes to double major in pre-med and Biology and to continue on to medical school to be an OB/GYN.

Over 90% of RCSF Scholars continue on to higher education. In every RCSF story lies the hope for all of us that our futures will be stable and bright when we no longer are capable of doing the work ourselves. This RCSF Board Member believes that it is a privilege to celebrate children with promise and invest in the future of our country.

For more information on the Rochester Children's Scholarship Fund, visit www.RCSF.info