



The Pittsburgh
CARSON SCHOLARS FUND



3rd Annual

Spring Awards Banquet

Sunday, April 29, 2007

**... our Dream is to have a Carson Scholar
in every school in the United States.**



The Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund
Third Annual Awards Luncheon Agenda

- 11:45 Sponsors' photograph opportunities
- 12:00 Welcome Remarks: Sally Wiggin of WTAE-TV Channel 4
- 12:15 Blessing: Mrs. Fran Donahue
Advisory Board Member, Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund
- 12:30 Lunch
- 12:45 Introduction of Pittsburgh Chapter: Dr. Alfonso A. Costa
*2nd Vice President, Carson Scholars Fund National Board
President, Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund*
- 1:00 Introduction of Mr. Jerome Bettis

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jerome Bettis
2006 Super Bowl Champion Running Back
- 1:15 Introduction of Dr. Benjamin Carson & Mrs. Candy Carson
Co-Founders, Carson Scholars Fund

Keynote Address: Dr. Ben Carson
Head of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Medical Institute
- 2:00 Presentation of the 2007 Pittsburgh Carson Scholar Awards
Dr. Ben and Candy Carson
- 3:00 Closing

Thank you - Dr. Alfonso A. Costa
President, Pittsburgh Chapter

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is always a privilege to be in the presence of such remarkable people. Today, we celebrate and reward the academic and humanitarian achievements of eighty Pittsburgh-area students. Although I am sure they have felt discouraged or misguided at times, these students have realized their potential and have excelled in their schools and communities. We are inspired by their strong will and commitment, and I am honored to present them today as the 2007 Carson Scholar recipients.

We are privileged to have Dr. Ben and Candy Carson joining us this afternoon. Ben and Candy exemplify the essence of remarkable people. Together they have dedicated a great deal of time and effort into nurturing the lives of young people. Ben and Candy have a genuine concern for people that is unmatched. Their mission to champion academic success and community involvement with genuine enthusiasm should be an inspiration to us all. I am honored to consider Ben and Candy part of my family and am dedicated to helping them achieve their dream of having a Carson Scholar in every school in the United States.

We are also fortunate to have Jerome Bettis, whom I consider my brother, here today. Jerome and Trameka Bettis have unselfishly spent much time and energy in ensuring the success of the Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund. Jerome inspires so many in Pittsburgh and throughout the country through numerous charitable organizations including his own, "The Bus Stops Here" Foundation. I would like to thank Jerome for offering his words of encouragement to our 2007 Scholar Recipients.

Today's banquet is made possible through the support of many benefactors, both individual and corporate. I applaud all of you who have made this day possible. Without your generous contributions and constant support, we would not have had the ability to honor these well-deserved students.

Dr. Ben Carson once said: "I am living proof that even those who seem to be without hope have the potential to do anything they want." It is with the help of everyone here today- the Carsons, Jerome Bettis, Carson board members, parents, teachers, and friends- that these students will persevere and continue to recognize their potential and have the hope to continue to believe that they can achieve anything.

Most sincerely,



Dr. Alfonso A. Costa

President, Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund
2nd Vice President, Carson Scholars Fund National Board

*The Rosalia Costa-Clarke
Memorial Award*



Rosalia "Lilly" Costa-Clarke

Throughout her life within her home, workplace, and community, Rosalia "Lilly" Costa-Clarke displayed compassion for others and a selfless commitment to humanitarian involvement. Lilly's life was tragically cut short on September 29, 2004, when she died suddenly while working as counsel for labor and employment at Wachovia Bank. Lilly's passion for helping others in all aspects of her life is a shining example for all of us to follow.

To honor her memory and her many good works, Lilly's siblings Dr. Alfonso Costa, Dr. Maria Costa-Greco, Mrs. Antoinette Costa-Barbuto, and Dr. Frank Costa, and her husband, Mr. William Clarke, created an endowment fund in her honor. Each year, the Rosalia Costa-Clarke Award honors a student who exhibits kindness, a zest for life, and a love of animals that our dear friend, sister, and wife displayed every day of her life.

This year's Rosalia Costa-Clarke Memorial Award recipient is :

Mary Kate Freeman

Mary Kate is in the fifth grade at Concord Elementary School.

A special Thank You to our sponsors

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Thank you to the Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund, Advisory Board

Dr. Alfonso A. Costa

Trameka Bettis

Mary Costa

Frances Donahue

Dr. Gerald Loyacona

Christine Olson

Sarah Piccione

Teresa Rooco

Dr. Frank Sessoms

Sally Wiggin

Special Thanks

To the organizations and individuals who helped make the third annual awards banquet a success, especially for the schools, parents, teachers, and principals, thank you.

Jerome Bettis

Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Carson

Mrs. Teresa M. Romano, *Pittsburgh Public Schools*

J. Kaye Cupples, Ph.D., *Pittsburgh Public Schools*

Rabbi Mordechai Nissel, *Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh*

Rev. Kris D. Stubna, S.T.D., Dr. Robert L. Paserba, Dr. Ronald T. Bowes, & Sr. Mary Jo Mutschler, S.C., Ph.D., *Diocese of Pittsburgh*

Sally Wiggin, WTAE-TV Channel 4

Stephanie McClintock

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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1725 Grandview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
(412) 381-9600

To all of today's volunteers, who have generously donated their time to us today.

Mrs. Amy Warner, Mr. Marty Eaton, and everyone at the Carson Scholars Fund's national office who are so gracious in helping us throughout the year.

Violinists Lisa Joseph and Annie Monger, both graduate students in violin performance at Duquesne University. They are actively booking dates for upcoming events. They also offer private violin lessons and looking to take on new students. (412) 728-1433



Rebecca Bosetti
8th Grade, Assumption School

Rebecca enjoys reading, writing, playing basketball, and participating in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. She plans to pursue a career in journalism. Rebecca is a two-time Carson Scholar.



Michael Brown
6th Grade, Holy Redeemer School

Michael's interests include playing basketball and reading. He plans to pursue a career in marine biology.



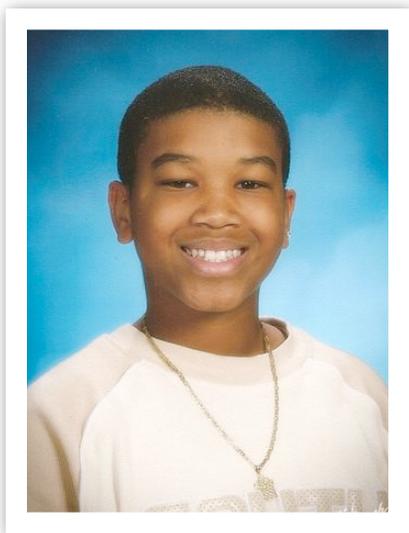
Tymesia Brown
11th Grade, Langley High School

Tymesia is an avid reader and writer and participates in her school's broadcasting and book clubs. She is also editor-in-chief of her school's newspaper. She hopes to study psychology and neurology.



Devann Brunn
12th Grade, Mt. Abernith

Devann enjoys reading, playing volleyball, and softball. She plans to be a physician's assistant. Devann is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



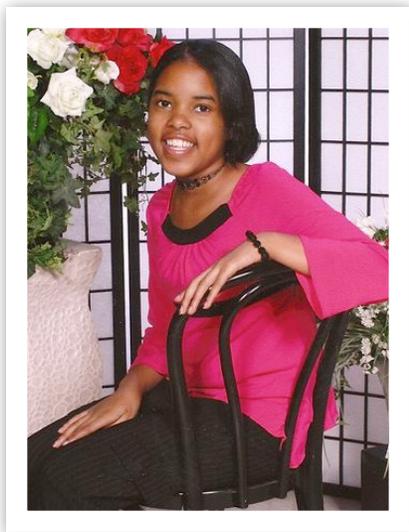
Darryl Bryant
8th Grade, South Hills Middle School

Darryl likes sports, especially basketball, and enjoys reading, music, and video games. He would like to study architecture in college.



Zoe Burch
7th Grade, Mifflin Elementary

Zoe's interests include playing soccer, reading, and writing. She hopes to be a writer after school.



Jacqueline Clarke

7th Grade, Frick International Studies Academy

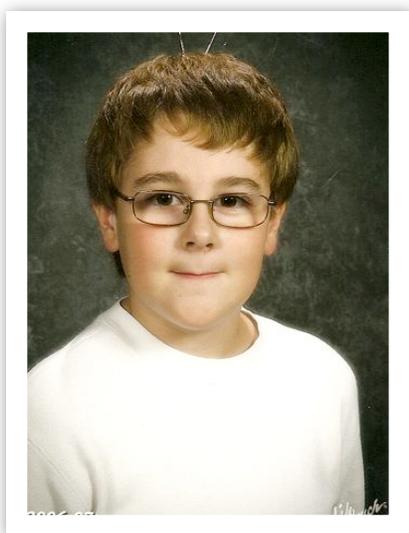
Jacqueline is involved in National Junior Beta Club, student council, and cheerleading at her school. She volunteers at her school and church. Jacqueline is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Nicholas D'Antonio

9th Grade, Elizabeth Forward High School

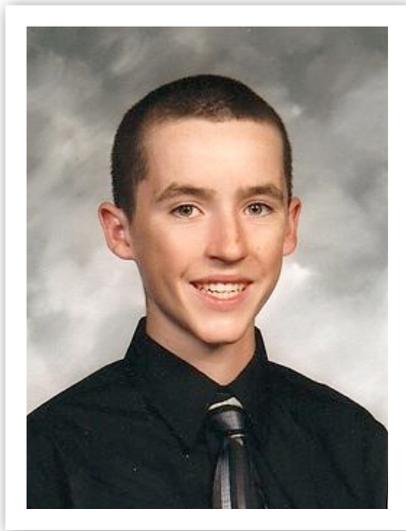
Nicholas's interests include reading, playing basketball, performing in a sinfonietta. He plans to pursue a career in engineering. Nicholas is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Jesse Dewald

5th Grade, Banksville Elementary

Jesse enjoys writing, drawing, and playing soccer. He would like to be writer, artist, or computer programmer.



Eric Dian
9th Grade, North Catholic High School

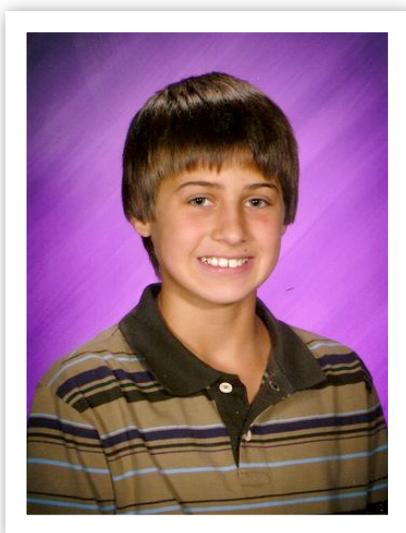
Eric is a member of the cross country, basketball, and baseball teams at his school.

In addition to sports, he is interested in engineering and architecture. Eric is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



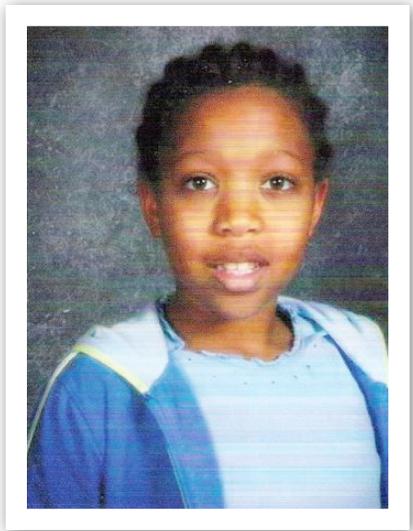
Elizabeth Enz
8th Grade, Sunnyside Elementary

Elizabeth loves art, reading, and writing. Her career goal is to become a pediatrician.



Jacob Ferguson
7th Grade, Butler Catholic

Jacob enjoys reading, basketball, baseball, and swimming. He hopes to either become a professional athlete or to pursue a career in the medical field.



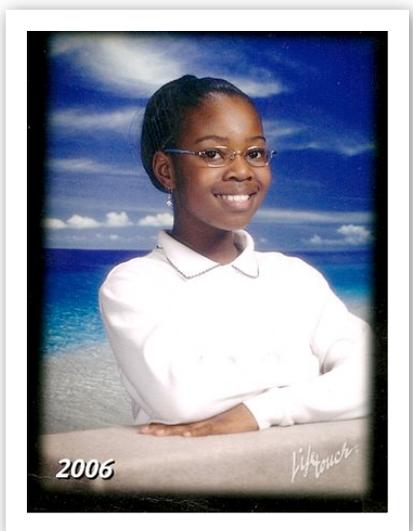
Miciah Foster
4th Grade, Linden Academy

Miciah is very active in the community, using her time and energy to volunteer with the Pittsburgh Project, where she packed sweaters for Hurricane Katrina victims and school supplies for the tsunami victims.



Mary Kate Freeman
5th Grade, Concord Elementary
2007 Rosalia Costa-Clarke Memorial Award Winner

Mary Kate enjoys reading, music, dance, and collecting pressed coins. She plans on being a veterinarian.



Jade Gaines
5th Grade, Allegheny Traditional Academy

Jade is skilled in drama and the violin, and she also enjoys writing and dancing. She is involved with volunteer work through the Humane Society and church.



Megan Gallagher
8th Grade, St. John of God

Megan plays piano, clarinet and softball. She participates in forensic science and belongs to Pittsburgh Cares, volunteering at the Food Pantry and Rid Up.



Joseph Gault
8th Grade, St. Raphael School

Joseph enjoys playing guitar and has received honors in science. He aspires to be a musician or mathematician.



Meagan Gemperlein
11th Grade, St. Joseph High School

Meagan participates in stage productions at school and is a six-year member of the cheerleading squad. She also represents St. Joseph High School as a student ambassador.



Emily Golling
7th Grade, St. Bartholomew

Emily swims competitively and plays piano. She is a Girl Scout and altar server at her church. She plans to be a veterinarian after school. Emily is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



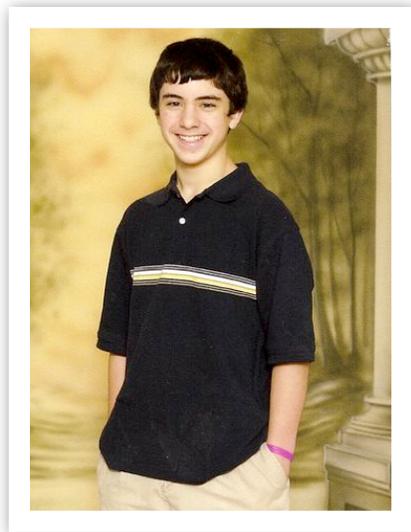
Jenna Grachen
10th Grade, Norwin High School

Jenna is interested in art and music and participates in her church youth group. She plans to attend Wake Forest University to study music.



Stephanie Guerdan
11th Grade, Quigley Catholic High School

Stephanie enjoys theatre, singing, and history. She volunteers at Sharon Regional Hospital and Habitat for Humanity. Stephanie is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



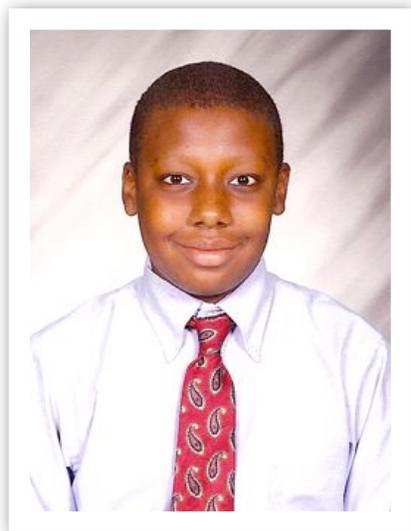
Benjamin Hammel
9th Grade, Riverview High School

Benjamin enjoys basketball, golf, biking, and music. He is an alter server and member of St. Irenaeus Church youth group. He hopes to become a graphic designer. Benjamin is a two-time Carson Scholar.



Lindsay Hayes
11th Grade, Schenley High School

Lindsay's interests include playing basketball and piano. She is also class president and is working toward her Gold Award with the Girl Scouts.



Aaron Horne
6th Grade, St. Bartholomew

Aaron enjoys playing basketball and singing. He serves as a junior deacon at church, sings in the youth choir, and has volunteered for many community service projects.



Brian Horner

8th Grade, Sacred Heart Elementary School

Brian plays soccer and basketball and has an interest in art. He is also involved with student council and volunteers through youth group.

His career goal is to become a lawyer.



Rachel Kuffman

6th Grade, Schiller Classical Academy

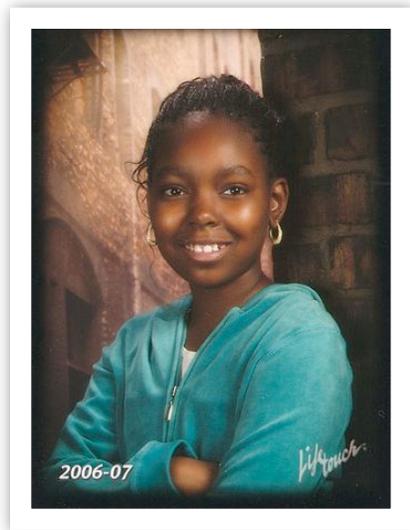
Rachel enjoys playing soccer, softball, and the violin. She would like to become a music therapist. Rachel is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Alexis Jackson

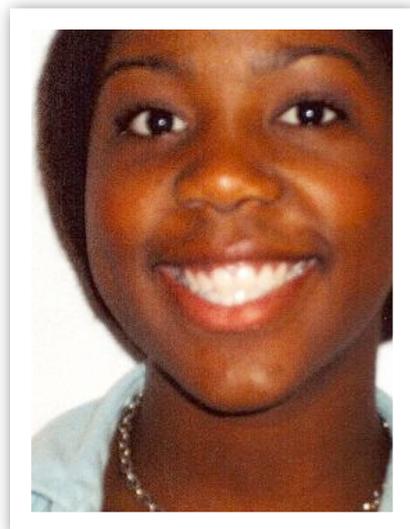
9th Grade, Peabody High School

Alexis's interests include reading and playing softball. She plans to be a biomedical engineer after school. Alexis is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



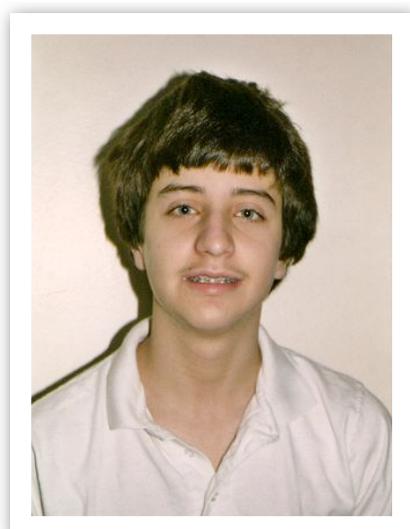
Richai Johnson
4th Grade, Spring Hill Elementary

Richai's interests include cheerleading, playing the drums, and dancing. She would like to become a designer.



Cicely Kaikai
10th Grade, Perry Traditional Academy

Cicely enjoys dancing, singing, acting, and playing instruments like the alto sax and piano. Aspires to be a veterinarian or pediatrician. Cicely is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Christopher Kincak
8th Grade, Providence Heights Alpha School

Christopher's interests include reading, hiking, and playing sports such as basketball and football. He helps the community in many ways, including collecting and donating items for those in need.



Ayse Kizilkaya
10th Grade, Schenley High School

Ayse displays talents in art, writing, and speaking Japanese. Her interests include reading, drawing, and biology. Ayse's community service includes food preparation during the holidays through church. Ayse is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



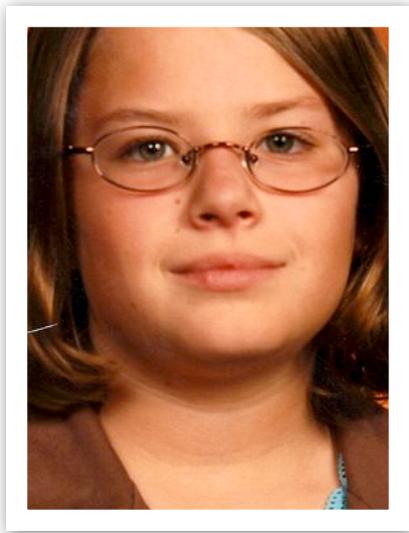
Claire Ruzajewski
7th Grade, St. Trenaesus

Claire plays the flute, basketball, and soccer. She has made honors band for three years in a row. She wants to attend the University of Pittsburgh.



Ellen Leibowitz
5th Grade, John Minadeo Elementary

Ellen participates in Girl Scouts and chess tournaments. She wants to be a teacher or a pastry chef after school.



Amanda Lenor
5th Grade, Roosevelt Elementary

Amanda enjoys reading, playing soccer, and participating in martial arts. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh and become a math teacher.



Claire Lichius
7th Grade, Divine Mercy Academy

Claire enjoys swimming competitively and playing the trumpet. She was selected for the North West District Honors Band and Regional All Star Band. She is also an alter server at both her church and school. She would like to be a writer after school.



Hannah Litterini
8th Grade, St. Rosalia Academy

Hannah enjoys playing the flute and singing. She plans to pursue a career in music.



Emily Lorence
8th Grade, Holy Child Catholic School

Emily enjoys drawing, reading, and writing. She plays soccer and basketball and participates in band and drama club. She would like pursue a career in which she will be able to work with children.



Annajane Lowe
5th Grade, Dilworth Traditional Academy for the Arts and Humanities

Annajane is interested in music, animals, and the environment. She enjoys playing the guitar and bass. She plans to be a musician.



Raenelle Lowery
8th Grade, Sterrett Classical Academy

Raenelle's interests include art, music, and swimming. She participates in the gifted students program and volunteers every Saturday helping students to prepare for the PSSA.



Elizabeth Maholic

9th Grade, Deer Lakes Senior High School

Elizabeth seeks a career in journalism or law. She enjoys reading, writing, and is a lector at church. She also participates in the GATE program at Deer Lakes High School. She is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Shannon Manley

8th Grade, St. Michael School

Shannon has played the flute since 4th grade and has played soccer for six years. She participates in mission trips through Reach Workcamps, where she helps to repair homes for needy families.



Kelly Mehal

8th Grade, Transfiguration

Kelly enjoys taking dance, playing the guitar and piano, and crocheting. She would like to pursue something in the arts, either music or dance, after school.



Nicolas Merzlak
8th Grade, St. Agnes School

Nicolas plays basketball and is involved in his church's folk group playing guitar and bass.



John Micklo
5th Grade, Murray Accelerated Learning Academy

John enjoys baseball, fishing, golfing, and playing the violin. He is actively involved at his church as an altar boy and volunteering at the homeless dinners. After school, he would like to be a professional baseball player. John is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



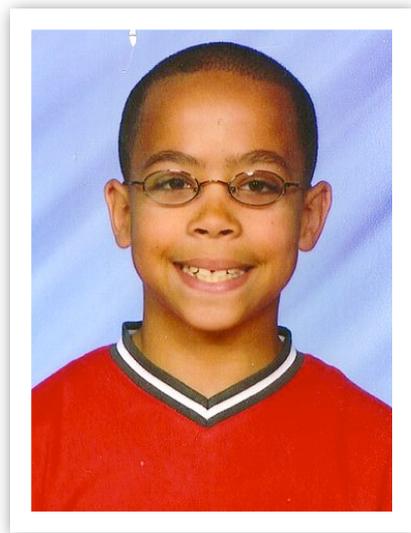
Amy Mitch
7th Grade, St. Wendelin School

Amy enjoys taking dance, playing the clarinet, and reading. She plans on pursuing a career in elementary education.



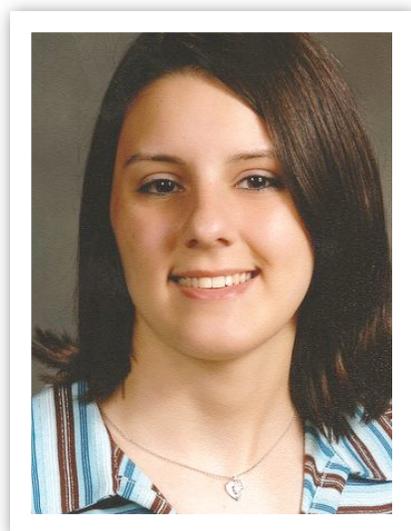
Amber Mullen
9th Grade, Perry Traditional Academy

Amber enjoys reading, playing sports, and taking dance. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field. Amber is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Zachary Neal
5th Grade, West Liberty Elementary

Zachary enjoys playing soccer, baseball, and flag football. He also participates in Boy Scouts. After school, he would like to be a computer technician.



Therese Nuttall
12th Grade, Langley High School

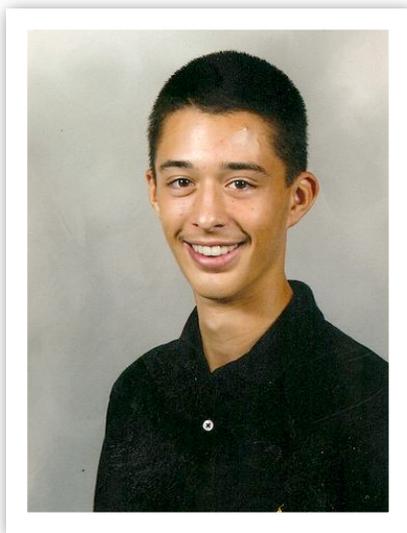
Therese's interests include playing soccer and softball and reading. She plans to pursue a career in interior design after school. Therese is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Logan O'Brien

5th Grade, Westwood Elementary School

Logan enjoys playing soccer and racing Go-carts. He is a black belt in karate and plans on being a monster truck driver. Logan is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Jordan Oeler

9th Grade, Serra Catholic High School

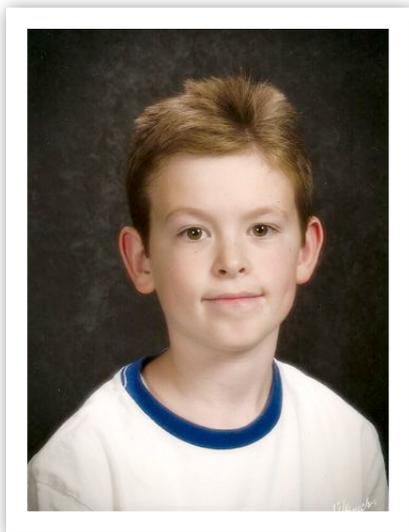
Jordan's interests include playing musical instruments and golf. Jordan is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Emily Onorato

7th Grade, St. Cyril of Alexandria

Emily enjoys cheerleading and playing soccer and basketball. She is also involved in student council. After school she would like to be either an architect or a teacher.



Gregory Paschel
6th Grade, Pittsburgh Classical Academy

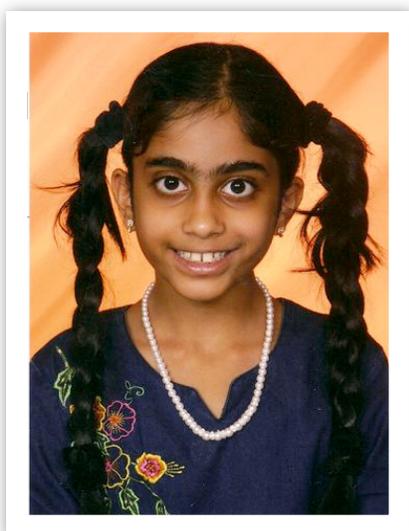
Gregory is interested in drawing and sports.

He plans to pursue Architectural Engineering after school. Gregory is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Gregory Pegher
8th Grade, South Brook Middle School

Gregory plays guitar and is involved the school theatre program and the gifted program. He aspires to be a writer one day.



Krithika Pennathur
4th Grade, Phillips Elementary

Krithika enjoys collecting postcards and dancing. She knows two languages and is learning two more. She would like to be a doctor.



Cristina Perrotta
7th Grade, Lincoln High School

Cristina enjoys playing basketball and participating in jazz band. She plays both the flute and violin. After school she plans to be an orthopedic surgeon. Cristina is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Naomi Purnell
7th Grade, Frick International Studies Academy

Naomi's interests include drawing and playing volleyball. She is also an active member of her church. Her career goal is to become a teacher.



Edward Quigley
10th Grade, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Edward is a 3rd degree black belt in Tai Kwon Do. He is also in the Tai Kwon Do leadership program. He would like to go into the engineering field.



Darlyn Reaves

7th Grade, Rogers & A.P. A Middle School

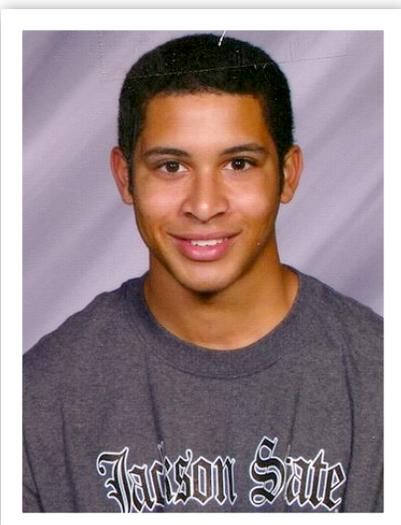
Darlyn is interested in working with people. She plans to become either a teacher or a psychologist. Darlyn is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Ronald Reha

8th Grade, Assumption School

Ronald plays baseball, basketball, and football. He is the student council President and wants to pursue a career in forensics.



Garrett Sandidge

10th Grade, Creative and Performing Arts

Garrett is a member of the Brashear High School and Kingsley Stingray Swim Teams, both in which he has received honors. He is also a Boyscout. After school he plans on pursuing a career in pharmaceutical science. Garrett is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



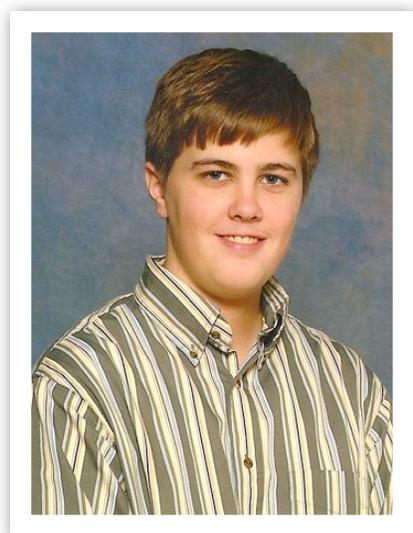
Regis Sauer
5th Grade, Whittier Elementary

Regis enjoys baseball, playing the trumpet, and computer games. He would like to become a professional baseball player.



Leora Skaist
10th Grade, Killel Academy of Pittsburgh

Leora enjoys theatre, needlework, leading her religious youth group, and volunteering at a senior center. Leora is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Joshua Smith
9th Grade, Vincentian Academy- Duquesne University

Josh enjoys playing golf and volunteers at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and CCD Program (Religious Education). He plans to pursue a career in the computer science field. Josh Smith is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Angela Snyder
10th Grade, Perry Traditional Academy

Angela enjoys taking dance and participating in both the marching and concert band at school. She plans to be a music teacher. Angela is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Carly Sommer
8th Grade, St. Germaine School

Carly's interests include playing volleyball and the piano. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field.



Chalice Streitman
8th Grade, St. Mary of the Assumption School

Chalice is Student Council President and is actively involved in the performing arts, especially singing and dancing. She also participates in volunteer work through church.

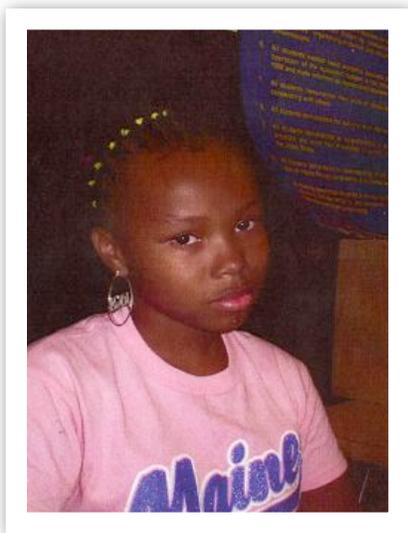


Juliana Stricklen

*9th Grade, Pittsburgh High School for the Creative
and Performing Arts*

Juliana enjoys singing, art, and poetry. She is a volunteer with The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, Amnesty International, and The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. She hopes to become a political analyst.

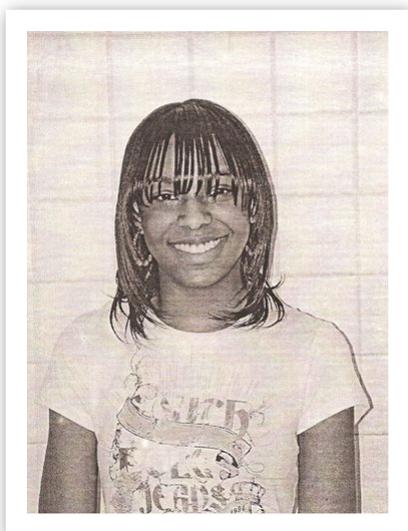
Juliana is a two-time Carson Scholar.



Rhonda Strozier

8th Grade, Rogers Middle School for the C. P. C.

Rhonda is a reader, a writer, and a dancer. She has recently been accepted into the High School for Creative and Performing for Literary Art. She wishes to attend Harvard for both undergrad and Law School.



Shalay Sturdivant

7th Grade, Colfax Accelerated Academy

Shalay is interested in poetry and plans to become a teacher. Shalay is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Goda Tarcijonas

6th Grade, Frick International Studies Academy

Goda likes to read, draw, swim, and speak different languages. She is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Luke Thompson

9th Grade, Canon McMillan High School

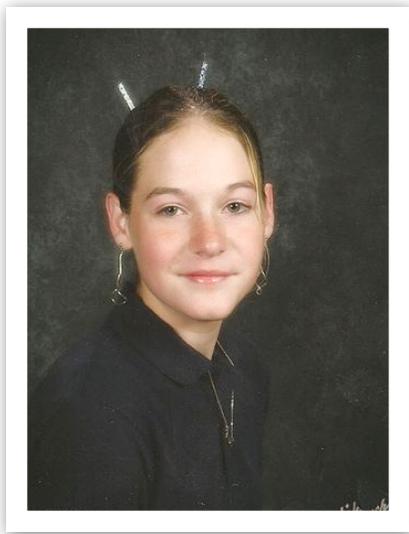
Luke enjoys basketball and is an alter server. He wants to study engineering or history. Luke is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Quoc Vo

Arsenal Middle School

Quoc enjoys playing board games and hanging out with his friends. He is interested in pursuing a career where he can work with people.



Rachel Volkman

8th Grade, Allegheny Traditional Academy

Rachel enjoys scrap-booking, basketball, reading, and dancing, and goes to the Sarah Hines house. Would like to pursue law, criminal profiling, or marine biology.



Henry Walther

9th Grade, Central Catholic High School

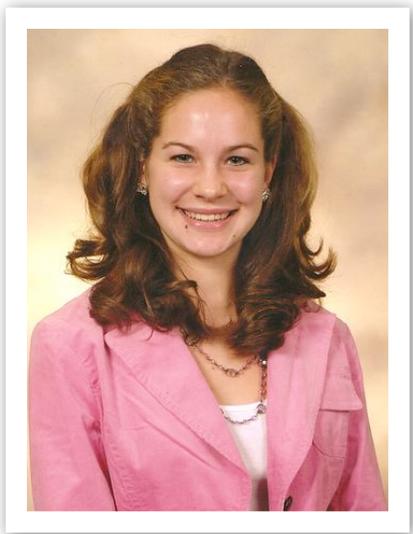
Henry enjoys rowing for Central Catholic's crew team and pursuing his Eagle Scout Rank. He participates in leadership training through Boy Scouts, and Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese. He hopes to become a ichthyologist or a film director. Henry is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Albree Weisen

5th Grade, Banksville Elementary

Albree enjoys music and soccer. She participates in Girl Scouts and volunteers as a Kindergarden helper at Banksville Elementary. She hopes to be a veterinarian after school. Albree is a two-time Carson Scholar winner and the 2006 recipient of the Rosalia Costa-Clarke Memorial Award.



Katherine Welsh
8th Grade, St. Joan of Arc School

Katherine's interests include reading, swimming, and biking. She wants to be either a podiatrist or an engineer. Katherine is a two-time Carson Scholar winner.



Sierra Welsh
7th Grade, St. Philip

Sierra participates in the school musicals, the school theater department, and the forensics program. She enjoys reading, knitting, and listening to music. She would like to become an architect.



Jamika Williams
11th Grade, David B. Oliver High School

Jamika is currently the secretary for student council. She also participates in Junior Achievement and takes CAS classes (Center for Advanced Studies).



Tyia Wilson
8th Grade, Stevens K-8

Tyia excels in math, science, and writing. She enjoys dancing and playing sports. Tyia also plans to attend a university.



Kate Zagar
4th Grade, West Hempfield Elementary

Kate enjoys karate, horseback riding, playing alto sax, baking, and reading. She is also involved in HEP (Hempfield Enrichment for gifted). Her career goal is to be a nuclear physicist.