

Chairman's Corner

I am proud to announce that the Cherry Scholarship Fund awarded \$42,750 to 18 young men and women in 2017 — both records. In the last six years alone, we have awarded more than \$220,000 to deserving Evanston scholars.

Thanks to all who made our 2017 Awards Dinner so memorable:

- Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl for her opening remarks and for continuing to support the Cherry Fund.
- Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, who gave the invocation.
- Our keynote speaker Kevin Brown, Community Services Manager for the City of Evanston.
- Gerald Daye, a 2016 Cherry scholar, and Matthew Hunter, a 2005 Cherry scholar, for their reflections.
- The Awards Dinner committee for making this another spectacular evening.

Please join WCSF on June 24 for the 24th annual Golf Outing and later this year in October for our annual Book Dramatization.

And my sincerest thanks to everyone who supports the mission of the Warren "Billy" Cherry Scholarship Fund. Your contributions have made a difference!



Patty Cherry Reece



Standing (left to right): Jesse Chatz, Avianna Dennison, Dajah Russell, Adrianna Carter, Alexandra Cesar, Jessica Garcia, Nathán Norman, Alan-té Massie; seated: Andrea Guy, Chyna Wright, Brezah Wade, Denise Clarke, Ryan Johnson, Jocelyn Becerra; not pictured: Jenica Mullins, Karen Reynosa, Anamaria Rosales, Yuli Salgado.

Awards reach all-time high

April 30 was a buoyant occasion as board members and friends gathered at Maggiano's restaurant to honor this year's recipients of grants from the Cherry Scholarship Fund. A total of \$42,750 was awarded to 18 finalists — both all-time highs.

Cherry President Bob Reece opened the evening with welcomes, recognitions and news. He thanked everyone who attended the event, with special appreciation for the Chicago Community Trust, Denny and Sandy Vitantonio Cummings, the Dr. Laurence Mack Fund, the Bart T. Rocca Foundation, the Lewis Sebring Family Foundation, Paul and Mary Finnegan, the Seabury Foundation, the Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation and the Zelinski family.

Special thanks are due to Nicki and Greg Pearson, who provided the

superb floral centerpieces.

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl made introductory remarks and Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors gave the invocation.

Kevin Brown, Community Services Manager for the City of Evanston, gave an inspiring keynote address. Quoting scripture, he emphasized the

Please turn the page to see photos from the Cherry Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner.

importance of accepting all people and working for the good of children. He told a story about a young woman who had endured an abusive childhood and gone on to college and a successful career. She had believed in herself, but she had also benefited

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Former mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor Steve Hagerty and District 65 Supt. Paul Goren.



Board members Abby Trueblood and Gerri Sizemore.



Board member and 2005 Cherry scholar Matthew Hunter.



Rev. Dr. Gessel Berry, Betsy Brown and Dudley Brown.



Board member Oliver Ruff, Denny Cummings and Steve Bernstein.



Board member Timon Jandora and Jeanne Cleveland Bernstein.



Former mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl (center) with board members Patty Reece and Bob Reece.



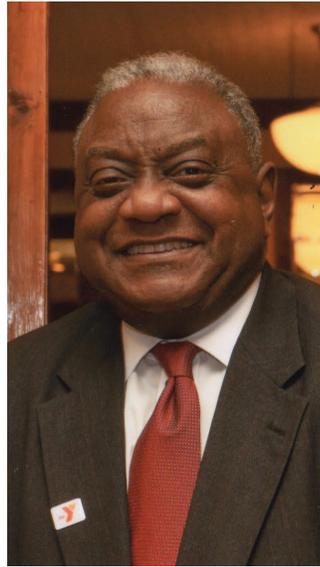
Matty Speth.



Chanda Rann.



Mary Heins and Eileen Cohn.



Mark Dennis.



Dr. Mabel Williams and Vincent Taylor.



Barbara Bridges and board member Ann Stevens.



Keynote speaker Kevin Brown and Cheryl Brown.



2016 Cherry scholar Gerald Daye.



JoAnn Wilkin.



Mickii Abrams, Dr. Felisha Parsons and board member Lun Ye Barefield.



2011 and 2012 Cherry scholar Bethany Mullins Speth.



2017 Cherry Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner:



Board member Bill Speth with new scholars.



Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, former mayor Lorraine Morton, board member Bob Reece and District 202 Supt. Eric Witherspoon.

Awards Dinner

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from help from others along the way. In closing, Mr. Brown assured the scholars that they too are supported by a community that will be with them every step of the way.

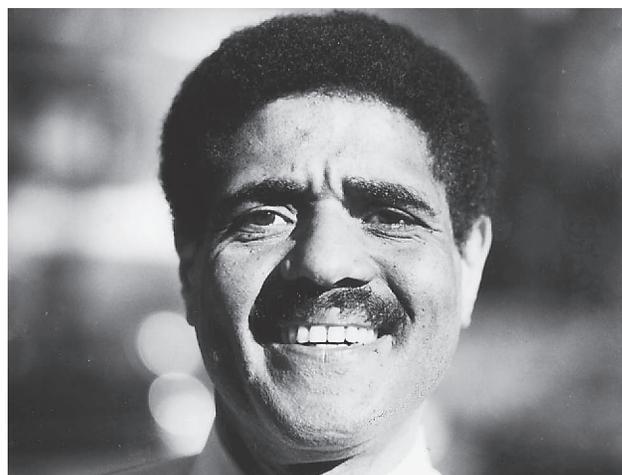
2016 Cherry scholar Gerald Daye shared reflections about the importance of the Cherry Fund in his life, and 2005 scholar Matthew Hunter delivered a magnificent rendition of the song "Hero."

Ann Stevens and Bill Speth then presented awards to the 2017 recipients.

Don't Forget ...

Catch up with old friends, meet new ones and support a worthy cause at the 24th annual Cherry Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 24, 2017, at Highland Park Country Club. For more information, call Bob Reece at (847) 424-1065 or Joe Keitel at (847) 530-0883, or visit the Cherry website: www.cherryscholarship.org. Online registration is available.

And keep in mind our book dramatization coming up in October 2017. More information will be forthcoming.



The mission of the Warren W. "Billy" Cherry Scholarship Fund, named in memory of a much-loved and respected Evanston educator, is to perpetuate his total acceptance of all people, his commitment to the highest standards of educational excellence, and his energetic dedication to enriching the children and institutions of Evanston. For more information, visit www.cherryscholarship.com.

The Cherry Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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Meet the 2017 Cherry Scholars

Jocelyn Becerra is a sophomore at Dominican University in River Forest where she is pursuing a nursing degree. She plans to attend graduate school and specialize in pediatric nursing. Volunteering in her community is one of the things that gives Jocelyn the most satisfaction. She is actively involved in America Needs You, a non-profit organization that fights for economic mobility for first-generation college students. She also volunteers at



Jocelyn Becerra

Books & Breakfast for District 65 elementary schools, where she helps children get a good start to their days.

Adrianna Carter is a sophomore at the University of Southern California where she is studying biology. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school and become a pediatric surgeon. Her goal is to work in underserved communities providing quality healthcare to young people. Adrianna is an active volunteer in her school and community, as a reader for preschool children in the Jumpstart program



Adrianna Carter

and for Friends & Neighbors where she travels to different locations in South Central Los Angeles to work in community gardens, help at food banks and visit homeless shelters.

Alexandra Cesar is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Chicago who wants to pursue a degree that will allow her to improve education and making society better for young people. She wants to empower young people and guide them to remain curious. Alexandra is actively involved in ESCCA and as a teachers' aide at Walker Elementary School. She also volunteers after school hours to teach math and writing to elementary school students in neighborhoods near UIC.



Alexandra Cesar

Jesse Chatz is attending National Louis University and studying human services and non-profit management. He is also working full-time as the manager of Outreach and Recruitment for the McGaw YMCA, where his work focuses on providing opportunities, services and support for young people and their families in Evanston. Despite a full schedule, Jesse has



Jesse Chatz

taken in and mentored a young man from Evanston for five-plus years. He still finds time to serve as an advisor for a variety of youth programs in his community.

Denise Clarke is a graduate student in the secondary education program at Concordia University in Chicago. As part of her



Denise Clarke

degree, Denise will receive a middle school endorsement that will allow her to begin working as an English teacher. Denise is currently developing her own non-profit program called Academics & My Other Passions, which exposes students to cooking, fashion, music and more that can drive success in the classroom. She is the first member of her family to attend college, get a degree and go on to graduate school.



Avianna Dennison

Avianna Dennison is a graduating senior at ETHS who plans to major in history at college. She wants to become a history teacher for secondary education students, using history lessons to help them discover and empower themselves. In addition to working several jobs, Avianna finds time to volunteer in her community preparing and serving meals for Soup@six and as part of Global Glimpse, a program that teaches cultural awareness and effective charity work through community service.

Jessica Garcia is completing an associate degree at Oakton Community College. She plans to transfer to Northeastern Illinois University to pursue a degree in bilingual education and/or elementary education. Her goal is to



Jessica Garcia

teach in the two-way immersion program in District 65, at Oakton School if possible. Jessica was a teaching assistant for three years at the Youth Job Center in Evanston helping in the summer tutoring program. She has also volunteered at Oakton School at the Y Readers Summer Program.

Andrea Guy is a junior at Lake Forest College where she is studying elementary education with a goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. She has worked for the Youth Job Center in Evanston and as a teaching assistant in District 65 and Family Focus. Teaching kids basic reading and counting skills reminds Andrea of how hard it was for her to speak and adapt to her new environment when she came to the United States from Jamaica. She is gaining valuable experience and learning about the strategies teachers can use to motivate students both inside and outside the classroom.

Ryan Johnson is a graduating senior at ETHS who plans to pursue a degree in elementary education. Her goal is to become a kindergarten teacher and incorporate her passion for theater into the classroom. Ryan has been active in school and the Evanston community, volunteering at Hilda's Place and Soup@Six, and at the NewLife Church Nursery. She has also served as a teaching assistant at the District 65 Pre-



Ryan Johnson

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Cherry Scholars

Continued from previous page

School Center and at the Student Success Center at ETHS.

Alanté Massie is a sophomore at the University of Missouri where he is pursuing a degree in business with a minor in Spanish. He plans to teach and mentor inner-city youth who aspire to enter the world of business and entrepreneurship. Working with young children and coaching basketball are two things that give Alanté great personal satisfaction. He has volunteered at



Alanté Massie

the Fleetwood Center and at Tra's Totts Daycare. His father, Alando, is also a Cherry award winner.

Jenica Mullins is a sophomore at Northern Illinois University majoring in elementary education. She plans to graduate with endorsements in ESL and special education and hopes to teach in Evanston. She wants to be that teacher who goes above and beyond for her students and inspire all of them to realize their true potential.



Jenica Mullins

Jenica is active in her school community as a member of the Educator's Club, the John Henrik Clarke Honor Society, and S.I.S.T.E.R.S., a service organization for the empowerment of African American Women.

Nathan Norman is working toward his associate degree in liberal arts at Oakton Community College, and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science. Nathan also works for the City of Evanston in the Youth and Young Adult Division. Upon graduation, he will continue engaging the at-risk population in Evanston,



Nathan Norman

helping the community and empowering youth. He has overcome personal setbacks to become a community leader and role model — a late bloomer like Warren Cherry himself.

Karen Reynosa is a sophomore at Augustana College where she is majoring in Spanish with a minor in Latin American studies. She hopes to work at an immigration center where youth from Mexico, Central and South America are detained,



Karen Reynosa

helping them communicate. Karen is very involved in her school and community as an active member of Latinos Unidos, the Black Student Union and Alpha Phi Omega, an international co-ed service fraternity dedicated to service to the community.

Anamaria Rosales is studying early childhood education with a concentration in Spanish at the University of Illinois and plans to teach in a school in Evanston. Anamaria is active in her community as a



Anamaria Rosales

member of the La Colectiva Mentorship Program and Epsilon Delta Professional Teaching Organization, and is the Academic Chair for the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority. She also gives back as a mentor for Evanston Scholars. In all, she has mentored 10 freshmen attending U of I.



Dajah Russell

Dajah Russell is in her second year at Western Illinois University where she is majoring in elementary education. After graduating, Dajah wants to become a teacher to make a positive impact on children and teach them leadership skills. Dajah is vice president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the fundraising chair of the WIU Beyond Beautiful Conference, which helps inspire women to network and break down barriers, and a member of the Western Centennial Honor College.

Yuli Salgado is a first-year student at the University of Illinois-Springfield where she is planning to major in education. Yuli lists volunteering as one of her favorite activities. She has been active in her school community as a member of Leadership for Life, which requires at least



Yuli Salgado

40 hours of service work per semester, the Christian Student Fellowship and the Organization for Latin American Students. Yuli is also the first person in her family to attend college.

Brezah Wade is a graduating senior at ETHS who plans to major in psychology and minor in sociology. She plans to go on to graduate school and attain a doctorate in psychology. With her degrees, Brezah will pursue her dream of helping children with mental disorders.

She wants to open a practice where children can receive therapy to help them find their identities as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Brezah was recently honored by Y.O.U. with the Catherine and Richard Art Award. She is also a member of WiSTEM, a group focused on social justice for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Chyna Wright is graduating from ETHS this year and plans to study history in college. She has some wonderful choices, having been accepted at the University of Illinois, Howard University and Elon University in North Carolina. Her goal is to change the world by teaching teens how to become leaders and activists in their fields or occupations. Chyna lists tutoring as an activity that gives her the most satisfaction; it makes her happy to see people understand something they were once struggling with. And please note: Chyna holds the ETHS school record in bowling with a high game of 285 and high series of 694.



Chyna Wright