

Chairman's Corner

In 2018, the Cherry Scholarship Fund awarded \$50,000 to 20 individuals. Those are both all-time records, and we are very pleased to have achieved them. Since 2010, we have awarded more than \$320,000 to deserving scholars.

Thank you to all who made our 2018 Awards Dinner such a remarkable evening:

- Evanston Mayor Steve Hagerty for his opening remarks.
- Minister Fred Hunter III for delivering the invocation.
- Monique Parsons, president/CEO of McGaw YMCA for her keynote address.
- Susan Hope Engel for her film "The Cherry Story."
- Cherry scholars Jesse Chatz and Nathan Norman for their personal reflections.
- Dr. Everett McKissic for his kind remarks about the Cherry Fund.
- The Awards Dinner committee for treating us to a splendid event.

And of course, many thanks to all the supporters and friends who turned out for the event on April 29.

I invite everyone to join us at the Evanston Golf Club on Sept. 29, 2018, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Cherry Scholarship Fund.

In closing, I'd like to ask you to consider donating to the Cherry Fund. Even during challenging times, we have found ways to expand our program and reach more young men and women each year. We need your help so we can continue investing in the education of our youth.

A number of Cherry award recipients have gone on to become teachers, and without the Cherry scholarship their dreams may not have become reality. Thank you in advance for your support. Every contribution makes a difference.



Patty Cherry Reece



Cherry Scholarship Fund class of 2018 scholars. Not pictured: Adrianna Carter, Alanté Massie, Dajah Russell and Yuli Salgado. See insert page for photos and bios of each scholar.

Cherry funds 20 scholars

On April 29, friends and board members of the Cherry Scholarship Fund gathered once again at Maggiano's restaurant for the annual awards dinner. In 2018, awards totaling \$50,000 were made to 20 recipients — both all-time highs.

Cherry President Robert Reece opened the evening by welcoming the 170 people who attended the dinner and congratulating this year's scholars. He thanked the following foundations for their support:

- Denny and Sandy Vitantonio Cummings
- Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation
- Dr. Laurence A. Mack Fund
- Bart T. Rocca Foundation
- The Zelinski Family
- Paul and Mary Finnegan
- Seabury Foundation
- Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation

- M.J. O'Brien Family Foundation
- He also thanked Nicki and Greg Pearson for the floral centerpieces they graciously provided.

Evanston Mayor Steve Hagerty spoke followed by the invocation from Minister Fred Hunter III.

Keynote speaker was Monique Parsons, recently named President/CEO of McGaw YMCA. She began her remarks by honoring her mother for the support she provided and for having high expectations. She said that her upbringing in Evanston and experiences as a community member and leader helped prepare her for her role at the YMCA. "Action and intentionality mean more than titles," Parsons said. She encouraged the Cherry Scholarship recipients to persevere in the face of adversity.

"Stay motivated, stay focused,
—Continued inside

Don't Forget ...

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Warren "Billy" Cherry Scholarship Fund on September 29 at the Evanston Golf Club.



Mayor Steve Hagerty.



Jesse Chatz and Dr. Eric Witherspoon.



Filmmaker Susan Hope Engel.



District 65 Supt. Paul Goren, board members Bob Reece and Patty Reece, Mayor Steve Hagerty and District 202 Supt. Eric Witherspoon.



Board member Mimi Spivack, Eileen Cobn and board member Sandy Vitantonio.



Sue Ann Glazer and Allan Alson.



Dr. Everett McKissic, board member Bill Bridges and Barbara Bridges.



2017 and 2018 Cherry scholar Jesse Chatz.



Board member Fred Hunter.



Board members Pam Akins-Schanette and Gerri Sizemore.



2017 and 2018 Cherry scholar Nathan Norman.



Keynote speaker Monique Parsons.



Hecky Powell and Cheryl Judice.



Board members Nicki Pearson and Timon Jandora.



Dr. Everett McKissic.



Board members Timon Jandora and Ann Stevens, and 2018 scholar Nathan Norman.



Board member Bob Reece, Allan Alson and Chuck Lewis.



Board member Bill Speth.



2018 Cherry Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner.



Carmen Williams, Felisha Parsons, Lillie Parsons, Monique Parsons and Nia Williams.



Judy Iacuzzi, Ellen Butkus and Al Butkus.



Board members Timon Jandora and Anne Bodine, and Sam Bodine.

Awards Dinner

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keep working and writing your own story. The outcome will be better than you ever imagined," she said.

Jesse Chatz and Nathan Norman, both Cherry scholars for the past two years, shared their thoughts about the Cherry Scholarship Fund and the positive impact it has had on their lives.

Dr. Everett McKissic expressed his ap-

preciation to WCSF for awarding a scholarship in memory of his wife Rita, who passed away in November 2017.

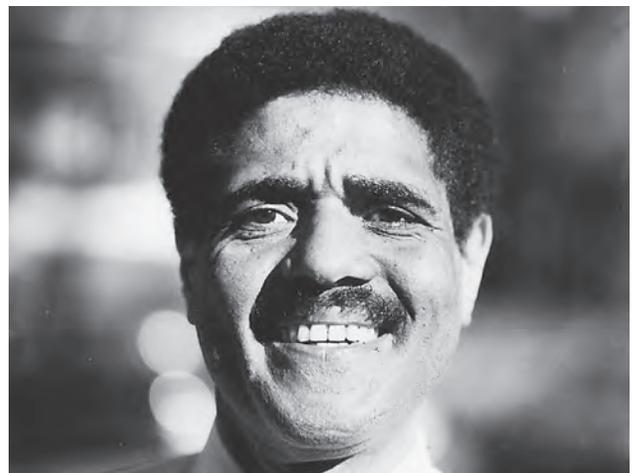
Cherry board members Ann Steven and Bill Speth then presented the awards to the 2018 recipients.

Special award

A special scholarship was awarded this year to Nathan Norman in memory of Rita McKissic, a valued committee chair, supporter and extraordinarily dear friend to the Cherry Scholarship Fund.

Cherry Board of Directors 2018

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The mission of the Warren "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.



Jocelyn Becerra



Shaquerra Blackwell



Adrianna Carter



Jesse Chatz



Mylisha Harvey



Ryan Johnson

Meet the 2018 Cherry Scholars

Jocelyn Becerra is a junior at Dominican University in River Forest pursuing a nursing degree and focusing on pediatric/adolescent health. Volunteering in her community gives her great satisfaction. Once a week, Jocelyn works at a local hospital and is given responsibility for one of the patients. She serves on the executive board of First in the Family Organization, a support group for first-generation college students. She also volunteers at her church and helps local high school students improve their college application essays.

Shaquerra Blackwell is a child care worker at Willard School in District 65, and plans to study recreational/occupational therapy at Northeastern Illinois University. She has a passion for arts and recreation and has used them to help children with autism, Down syndrome and other disabilities while working at the Maine-Niles Association for Special Recreation. She also is a counselor at Camp Lightbulb, where she creates healing activities through arts, poetry and dance.

Adrianna Carter is a junior at the University of Southern California studying biology and pursuing a master's degree in global medicine. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school and become a pediatrician. She hopes to provide quality healthcare to young people in underserved communities. Adrianna volunteers in her school and community, as a reader for preschool children in the Jumpstart program and as volunteer coordinator for African

Americans in Health, a support group for students pursuing a career in healthcare. She also volunteers at St. Vincent's Medical Center supporting patients' families.

Jesse Chatz is studying business management at National Louis University. He is also manager of Corporate Partnerships, Volunteer Engagement and Special Events at the McGaw YMCA. His passion is helping youth bridge the opportunity gap, and working to build a more equitable Evanston. Despite a full schedule, Jesse has taken in and mentored a young man from Evanston for more than six years. He also is as an advisor for a number of youth programs in his community.

Mylisha Harvey is a junior at Dominican University in River Forest majoring in sociology and black world studies. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in sociology. She plans to work with high-risk youth and would eventually like to start her own nonprofit organization for youth involved in the legal system. When her mother took her to a DCFS child center at the age of 5, Mylisha realized that she wanted to work with children. A first-generation college student, she hopes to come back to Evanston and help kids overcome difficult situations and advocate for themselves.

Ryan Johnson is a freshman at DePaul University studying elementary education with a minor in journalism. Her goal is to become a primary grade teacher and teach students to build lifelong relationships, network and use their resources wisely. Ryan

is active in her school and community as a member of the Black Student Union and of S.T.R.O.N.G., where she collaborates with peers about issues facing women of color. She is also a member of the Theatre Club at DePaul.

Alando Massie is a graduate student at Northwestern University studying sports administration. He believes his calling in life is to give back to the community. He hopes to become a school principal, direct a community center or start his own nonprofit organization. Alando is a FAAM coach and mentor for young people. He is a living example to young African-American males that it's never too late to go back to school.

Alanté Massie is a junior at the University of Missouri studying marketing and education, focusing on Spanish as a second language. He would like to teach in a grade school or become a community center director like his father, Alando. Working with young children and coaching basketball give Alanté great personal satisfaction. He has volunteered at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center as a basketball ref and coach and is a mentor and tutor at the Boys & Girls Club.

Jasmine Medina graduated from ETHS in 2018 and plans to study Spanish and secondary education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She would like to teach Spanish. Volunteering gives her tremendous satisfaction. She is vice president of Latin Q.U.E.S.T., a club that

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Alando Massie



Alanté Massie



Jasmine Medina



Nayeli Mejia



Jose Morales-Martinez



Jenica Mullins



Nathan Norman



Jasmine Perez



Jennifer
Rodrigues-Gomez



Jaydlin Rogers



Dajah Russell



Yuli Salgado

Cherry Scholars

Continued from previous page

promotes leadership, cultural awareness and academic excellence for Latinx students. Jasmine also participated in Global Glimpse, a leadership program that offers cultural immersion in Nicaragua.

Nayeli Mejia is studying global studies and global community health at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She has a passion for community health and seeks to reduce food insecurity and hunger for children and youth in poverty-stricken areas. Nayeli is actively involved in La Linea: A Helpline for the Community, a group that assists immigrants; in SOAR as a tutor serving bilingual students; and in Women in Leadership at the YWCA, where she has worked on videos about childhood obesity.

Jose Morales-Martinez graduated from ETHS in 2018. He plans to attend DePaul or Illinois State and major in environmental science. He would like to be a science teacher. Jose's goal is to improve his environment and his community and resolve issues related to climate change, pollution and carbon intake. Jose is involved with Books and Breakfast at Dewey Elementary and is a classroom assistant at the Joseph E. Hill Early Childhood Center.

Jenica Mullins is a junior at Northern Illinois University majoring in elementary education. She is obtaining endorsements in ESL and special education and hopes to teach in Evanston. She wants to be a teacher who goes above and beyond for her students and helps all of them realize their potential. Jenica is active in her school community as a member of the Educator's Club; S.I.S.T.E.R.S., a service organization for the empowerment of African-American women; and Educate US, a program created to offer teaching experiences in other parts of the United States.

Nathan Norman is working toward an associate's degree in liberal arts at Oakton Community College and plans to get a bachelor's degree in public administration from Northwestern University. He works

for the City of Evanston in the Youth and Young Adult Division. After graduation, Nathan will continue mentoring children and young adults. He has overcome setbacks to become a community leader and role model — a late bloomer like Warren Cherry himself.

Jasmine Perez plans to study nursing at DePaul or North Park University in fall 2018. She is interested in pediatric nursing, and a career as a labor-and-delivery nurse. She developed her passion while shadowing a pediatric nurse as part of a career exploration project in her senior studies class and seeing the support and compassion that a nurse can provide to a baby and mother. Jasmine's family means everything to her — especially her mother, who taught her to always work hard but have a smile on your face.

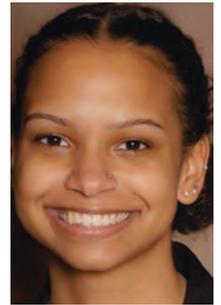
Jennifer Rodrigues-Gomez plans to study elementary education and Spanish in college and pursue a career in education. Having come to the U.S. knowing only Spanish, she understands the value of bilingual education and integrating diverse culture into the classroom. Jennifer has been active outside of school as a teacher assistant in District 65 and a member of Latin Q.U.E.S.T.

Jaydlin Rogers plans to pursue a double-major in African-American studies and English at DePaul University. She hopes to earn a master's in secondary education and ultimately a doctorate in African-American studies. Her goal is to become a university professor and share her love of East African culture. As a young community leader, Jaydlin is the CEO of Help a Brother, Help a Sister, her own volunteer program to support black K-5 students.

Dajah Russell is majoring in Youth Development with a concentration in education at Western Illinois University. She wants to become a teacher and have a positive impact on children and teach them leadership. Dajah is active in her school and community as academic chair of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; the fundraising chair of the WIU Beyond Beautiful Conference, which helps in-



Sarita Smith



Caitlin Strickland

spire women to network and break down barriers; and a member of the Western Centennial Honor College.

Yuli Salgado is majoring in elementary education and communications at the University of Illinois Springfield. She plans to teach K-3 students in Evanston or Springfield and study bilingual/bicultural education. Yuli has been active as a member of Leadership for Life — which requires at least 40 hours of service work per semester — the Christian Student Fellowship and the Organization for Latin American Students. She is the first in her family to attend college.

Sarita Smith will be attending University of Illinois at Chicago in fall 2018 to pursue a master's degree in social work. She hopes to become a high school dean. As a parent and youth advocate, Sarita has seen that youth face social-emotional challenges, and she wants to help them navigate these challenges and stay in school. She is Senior Director of Youth Development at the YMCA and volunteers as a restorative justice facilitator with the Evanston Police. She also works with Evanston Cradle to Careers, which helps students plan for life after high school.

Caitlin Strickland plans to study secondary education with a primary focus on social science at college in the fall. Her goal is to teach in or around Evanston. Giving back to the community and encouraging youth is her passion. She works as a recreational aide and after-school care facilitator at the Robert Crown Center; and leads youth groups for the South Side Christian Community Center.