

DC OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Opportunity Scholarships are a matter of justice

- Low-income children and their families (the average income is just \$24,000) gain hope for the future.
- Without the scholarships, 86 percent of the students would have to attend DC public schools that are not making adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind.

Opportunity Scholarships work

- Students are gaining academically. For example, the latest U.S. Department of Education study (April 3, 2009) shows statistically significant growth in reading.
- Parents are highly satisfied, according to studies by the U.S. Department of Education, Georgetown University and the University of Arkansas.
- Students are succeeding. Last year's valedictorian at Archbishop Carroll High School was an Opportunity Scholarship recipient, as is this year's Deputy Youth Mayor.

Opportunity Scholarships by the numbers

- Demand is high with over 1,700 children in the program and more waiting to get in.
- 879 of the students, most non-Catholic, have chosen Catholic schools.
- The scholarships are part of a three-sector approach to improving education across the city with \$20 million each for DC public schools and DC public charter schools annually and \$14 million for scholarships.
- The end of this program will cost the city \$80 million: \$54 million in lost federal funds annually for the three sectors and \$25 million for 1,700 children to go back into DC public schools.

Opportunity Scholarships transform lives

- "The DC Opportunity Scholarship Program has changed my life and has made me the successful young man standing before you now. I credit this program greatly for my success." - *Ronald Holassie, high school sophomore, testimony before U.S. Senate committee*
- "You have the ability to give other DC children the opportunity I had. My education gave me the chance at a successful future. Please don't end a program that worked for me and is benefiting tons of other children." - *Tiffany Dunstan, OSP recipient, high school valedictorian and current college sophomore*
- "It is difficult to envision what political advantage would outweigh - in the scale of human lives - these young people, their future and their hope. In making political choices, the faces, futures and the hopes of these kids must come first." - *Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl*
- "Every afternoon, I watch our children walk home through the most dangerous streets of our city and I pray that they will be safe. The difference we make in the lives of our children is a matter of life and death." - *Pastor from Washington, DC's Ward 8 on why Opportunity Scholarships matter*

Don't take away these kids' futures.

Support permanent full funding for the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program.