

## Support Chess in the Schools Today – 30th Anniversary Annual Fund

For 30 years now, Chess in the Schools has proven that chess really does change lives – more than half-a-million lives in our case. However, our work would not be possible without the invaluable support of our donors. It is because of **you** that Chess in the Schools’ Scholastic Tournament Program is the largest of its kind in the entire nation. It is because of **you** that our School Program continues to provide high-quality chess instruction to nearly 12,000 students each year. It is because of **you** that thousands of New York City classroom teachers have now experienced our Project Chess Teacher Training Institute in order to begin their own chess programs. And it is because of **you** that our College Bound program has continued to provide college preparatory and job-readiness services to ensure that our students graduate high school on time and attend college.



We’ve come incredibly far, but there’s so much more work to be done and lives to change – **we hope you will remain by our side for the next phase of our journey!**

### How You Can Help

- **Donate** using the enclosed envelope (affix postage and mail it back to us).
- Visit [www.chessintheschools.org](http://www.chessintheschools.org) and **click on** “How You Can Help” at the top of the page.
- Simply **text** CISGIVE to 444-999 and follow the prompts.
- **Host** a Corporate Chess Challenge at your office – call 646-688-0724 for more information.
- Please **call us** at 646-688-0724 if you would like to adopt a school, give a College Bound scholarship or sponsor a tournament!

**“Chess is one of the things that saved my life.”**

*-Chess in the Schools Alum*

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For program information, tournament dates and registration, please contact:  
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520 Eighth Avenue, 2nd Floor  
 New York, NY 10018

CHES IN THE SCHOOLS



CHES IN THE SCHOOLS

sixty-four squares

Fall/Winter 2016

## Chess in the Schools Celebrates its 30th Anniversary!

**“Chess in the Schools works because chess is a metaphor for life.”**

*-Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson*



A historic photo of students in our School Program.



Our College Bound Students have enjoyed great success at USCF Nationals.

The 2016-2017 academic year marks 30 years since Chess in the Schools first began its extraordinary work of using chess as a tool to positively impact the lives of more than 500,000 of New York City’s most underserved youth. We have truly become one big *family* and have followed many students from elementary school into

adulthood. As we reflect upon our work and the lives we’ve touched, we see CIS alumni excelling in various sectors - from nurses and finance executives to educators and engineers. We are honored and extremely proud to know that what we do really does work; it truly makes a difference. In the words of one of our alums, “Chess has given me ambition. Chess has given me wonderful life opportunities. Being able to step out of the “hood” and see different parts of the country has exposed me to many elements of American life.”

Indeed, we strive to teach our students determination. We give them diverse opportunities they otherwise would never have. We teach them to be winners both on and off the chessboard. We guide them through the college application and admissions process to ensure that



A display of good sportsmanship during our Scholastic Tournament program.



NYC teachers learning the game of chess at our Teacher Training Institute.

they too receive the best possible education. But, we would not be able to continue fulfilling our mission without the incredible generosity of our donors. We sincerely thank all those who have supported Chess in the Schools over these past three decades!



### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The words to one of my favorite childhood songs are, “make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.” Maybe you know it too. It is sung as a round, and it can be challenging to get kids to stop singing it! The song teaches young people the importance of both expanding your network and honoring your oldest friendships.

You are one of Chess in the Schools’ treasured friends. As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we want you to know how important you have been to our history, growth, and accomplishments. To date, we have taught more than 500,000 low-income New York City schoolchildren the game of chess as a tool for learning. Through our tournaments, we have touched the lives of hundreds of thousands more. We have worked with nearly 300 high school students in our College Bound program and are proud to report our 100% high school graduation rate and 91% college matriculation rate. Also, we are proud to have equipped thousands of New York City teachers to implement their own chess programs through our Project Chess Teaching Training Institute, making our reach exponential.

I am a “new friend” at CIS, having joined in August as President & CEO. I am especially honored to lead this high-impact organization in its anniversary year and as we plan for our next 30 years. Building a successful future will take our hard work and your help. I hope you will be as inspired by the stories in this newsletter as I have been. Because of this, I’d like to have a role in deepening your relationship with this terrific organization. I invite you to please call, email, and better yet, meet with me and the wonderful team at Chess in the Schools. I want to get to know you and learn what inspires you about our work and how we can build a strong future for underserved children.

Thank you for being a “golden” friend of ours both now and for years to come!

Sincerely,

Debbie Eastburn  
 President & CEO  
 646.688.0726  
[deastburn@chessintheschools.org](mailto:deastburn@chessintheschools.org)

## 16th Annual Chess-in-the-Park Tournament

This year's Chess-in-the-Park Rapid Open on Saturday, September 17th hosted nearly 700 players ranging in age from 6 to 83 years old! Stretching beyond New York City's five boroughs, attendees came from as far away as Delaware, Maryland, Ireland, Scotland and Italy. Most of the day's participants pre-registered for the six-round tournament, though several lucky passers-by were able to park their bikes, join in the fun and jump into play.



Photo: Jenny Anderson



Photo: Jenny Anderson

In addition to the tournament itself, event highlights included an exhibition game with Grandmaster Maxim Dlugy and International Master Yuri Lapshun, and a giant chess board at which serious chess aficionados and some of New York's youngest soon-to-be chess pros gathered to play.

### Chess in the Schools-World Chess New York City Junior Championship – November 11, 2016

Chess-in-the-Park kicked-off the announcement of our special partnership with World Chess, in celebration of the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York City (November 11-30). The most prestigious chess event in existence, the contest is between current World Champion, Norway's Magnus Carlsen and Russia's Sergey Karjakin. On the opening day of the World Championship – November 11th – Chess in the Schools hosted the New York City Junior Championship at PS11 Manhattan.

## Try Our New Ten for \$10 Social Media Campaign

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat – whatever you use, you can put your social media to work in supporting Chess in the Schools' new **Ten for \$10 fundraising campaign!** Here's how it works: you send a message or make a post personally encouraging at least 10 of your social media followers or friends to give \$10 to Chess in the Schools AND to spread the word to their followers and friends. Every 10 people who give \$10 can support one student in our School Program!



You can donate by visiting our website [www.chessintheschools.org](http://www.chessintheschools.org) OR text CISGIVE to 444999.

**“We have hard evidence that Chess in the Schools works for \$100 a student.”**

*-William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States*

## Chess in the Schools Alums Going Strong at Webster University in St. Louis



Chess in the Schools boasts three alumni who have received scholarships to join the Webster University Chess Program, one of the top collegiate chess programs in the world. 2015 CIS graduate Shawn Swindell is now joined by Justus Williams and Kenneth Fernandez. Shawn, Justus, and Kenneth all began with Chess in the Schools in the 3rd grade. Justus, who spoke at the 2016 Benefit Celebration, which featured his role in Cadillac's "Dare Greatly" campaign, is one of the youngest African-American Masters in the history of Chess. While not a CIS alum, Josh Colas, the youngest African-American Chess Master also joins them – he honed his skills by playing in more than 40 CIS tournaments in elementary and middle school. Congratulations to each of these exceptional students!



Kwadwo (left) with fellow CIS alum Justus Williams at the 2016 Benefit Celebration. (photo: Jerry Lacay)

### Alumni Spotlight – Kwadwo Acheampong

Kwadwo, who first joined Chess in the Schools when he was in the 3rd grade, is now a successful finance professional at Prudential and a steadfast supporter of CIS. We caught up with him at Chess-in-the-Park 2016:

#### How has Chess in the Schools impacted your life?

It's given me a framework for leading my life: sacrificing short-term gain for long-term gain, thinking ahead, and thinking strategically about the relationships I develop.

#### Tell us a bit more about your career.

Immediately after graduating from Duke University, I was an equity prop trader at Goldman Sachs before working as a program manager for Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, where I recruited, trained, and mentored underprivileged college students of color for Wall Street internships. During that time, I ran my own event management firm for three years before pursuing my MBA at The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, where I concentrated in Finance, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Behavior. I currently work at Prudential Fixed Income where I advise institutions with \$1 billion or more in assets on fixed income investments.

#### What are your other interests?

Cooking, yoga, dance, basketball, music, and mentoring.

#### What's next for you?

For now, I am well-focused at my job. And, I am pursuing my CFA and CAIA designations.

#### Did you have a signature chess move and if so, can you still use it?

There's no signature move because every game is different.

#### What is your favorite midnight snack?

Coconut water and Terra Chips!

#### If you could tell current students one thing, what would it be?

Create a LinkedIn page now, reach out to the people you want to be like and ask them to mentor you. Do whatever they tell you to do.

### Tournament Program

On October 1st during our Brooklyn Chess Days, Bronwyn Condon, a third grader in our School Program who has participated in chess club and tournaments for the past two years, won her first medal! She scored 3½ points in the unrated section, having been taught by her father, Doug Condon, who participated in the CIS Teacher Training Institute. Her mother brought her flowers to celebrate her accomplishment. In Bronwyn's own words, "It's fun, and by playing people who are better than you, you learn and get better." Congratulations, Bronwyn!



To view our upcoming 2016-2017 tournament calendar, visit [www.chessintheschools.org](http://www.chessintheschools.org).

### CIS Announces GM Maurice Ashley as Our Newest Advisory Board Member!

Grandmaster Maurice Ashley has been appointed to the Chess in the Schools Advisory Board. Mr. Ashley, an author, commentator, and one of the world's top chess players, has the distinction of being the first ever African-American International Grandmaster, having achieved the title in 1999. An enthusiastic welcome to Maurice, who is sure to be an invaluable member of the CIS family.



## Then and Now

Earlier this fall, one of our College Bound freshmen, Jamie Marinez, came upon a photo in our offices and exclaimed, "Wow, there is still that photo of me at a tournament when I was little!" Much to our surprise, she referred to one of our promotional brochures, on which she is prominently featured. We are thrilled that the then 4th grade CIS tournament player would go through one of our successful School Programs to now come back, full-circle, to College Bound. Great to have you back, Jamie!

## SCHOOL PROGRAM IMPACT

To evaluate the impact of the *School Program*, we survey classroom teachers at the end of each academic semester. See what teachers had to say for the 2015-2016 year of programming:

**99%** of teachers reported that chess had a **meaningful positive impact** on their students.

**85%** of teachers reported that their students applied the lessons of chess **beyond the chess board**.

**98%** of teachers reported that practicing chess enhanced students' **cooperation** skills.

**89%** of teachers reported that practicing chess increased students' **self-esteem**.

**95%** of teachers reported that learning chess improved students' **analytic and logical reasoning skills**.

**95%** of teachers reported that chess developed their students' **social skills**.