

# One Family's Story...

The Charlotte Observer's Art and Entertainment feature story, "Gotta Dance" grabbed the attention of readers May 1, 2005. Staff writer, Kathy Haight described Silas Farley as "an uncommon talent from an uncommon family of 7 high achieving siblings raised by parents determined to nurture their talents and follow God's will in the face on any obstacle." As parents, the education of our children was the major obstacle. That obstacle was removed in the summer of 2000. After three and a half years on the waiting list it was thrilling to receive the letter welcoming us into the Children's Scholarship Fund's (CSF) family! We had homeschooled for eleven years and now five of our children were eligible for the scholarships. Resurrection Christian, First Assembly, Trinity Episcopal and Charlotte Christian Schools were eager to partner with the Children's Scholarship Fund to provide outstanding educational experiences for our children.

We asked our children to share their thoughts on what CSF has meant to them.

Joy is a freshman attending the University of North Carolina-Wilmington on a full ride consisting of academic and need based scholarships and grants. "I know without a shadow of a doubt that I couldn't be where I am today without the helping hands and feet of the Children's Scholarship Fund. I wanted to prove to those who supported my education that I was worth their time, love, and investment. I learned the true meaning of hard work and nothing brought me more joy than to see my efforts pay off when grades came back at the end of the semester.

In May, Charis, 22 graduates with honors from Appalachian State University where she majors in Public Relations/Corporate concentration and Business minor. "Many people think that because you don't have any money, you don't have anything to offer. I have resented this idea for as long as I can remember. People like me do have a lot to offer but often lack opportunity to have anyone take notice. My education assisted by the Children's Scholarship Fund, set the stage for the success of my college career and has given me the confidence to put my best foot forward."

Kenan, 20, works as a Collection's Analyst for Bank of America in Charlotte. "Working in corporate America can seem like a daunting task. The Children's Scholarship Fund allowed

me to receive a private school education. This is where I learned the necessary tools to excel in the workplace."

Matthias, a tenth grader at Charlotte Christian School is an enthusiastic athlete. "I play several sports and I've been on some great teams with great coaches who have been former NFL and professional soccer players. The Children's Scholarship Fund has had a major impact on my life and the lives of my brothers and sisters."

Silas is the youngest reaching for his dream to become a professional dancer. At 14, he lives in New York City and is on full scholarship at The School of American Ballet and The Professional Children's School. "I am deeply grateful for the eight years that I was a CSF recipient. What I was able to learn prepared me for the rigorous academics of my current school. The excellent education that I received through CSF also made it possible for me to skip the 8th grade."

Education and relationships are the two keys to help bring children out of poverty according to Dr. Ruby Payne, leading poverty consultant and founder of the AHA-Process. The

Farley children now possess solid educational foundations. We have been blessed with a supportive network that includes the Children's Scholarship Fund. At the core, we are propelled by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

*Hebrews 11:1*

Timon Farley is the oldest son. He graduated from Queens University of Charlotte assisted by academic and basketball scholarships. Timon is a writer and currently plays professional basketball in Italy.

Nathan is the second oldest. A football scholarship helped him earn a B.A. from Coastal Carolina. He is employed by the City of Orlando in the Water Treatment Division.

*The Farley Family (l to r): Kenan, Mark, Nathan, Joy, Falinda, Silas, Charis, Matthias, and Timon*

