



## CREATION OF THE CLIFFORD STEVENS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

*How It All Began...*

### CREATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP



Genesis: Creating the Clifford Stevens Scholarship Foundation (CSSF): It all began over 10 years ago. Imagine, a scholarship fund for a male graduating senior from Chester Upland School District. This idea was first discussed among a few classmates from the class of 1982. Since then, multiple conversations occurred centering around ways to give back to the City of Chester, our beloved Chester High School, and most importantly our youth.

In December 2019 during an annual Christmas Party attended by our CSSF Founding Members, the topic of a scholarship was raised and began to get traction from other like-minded brothers from the City of Chester. During a round-table breakfast the following morning, the CSSF Founding Members committed to finally bring the scholarship idea to fruition, along with a quarterly fellowship to build upon and continuously improve our CSSF ideation process, along with our life-long friendships. We all recognized how blessed we were to come together at that moment. Our perseverance, school pride, and lasting friendships were the common threads that sustained our brotherhood over the years. In March 2020, our communications matured culminating with establishing a date for our first CSSF Board meeting.

We used Zoom video conferencing to hold our first meeting on March 25, 2020, refusing to allow the COVID Pandemic to disrupt our planning efforts. Our goal was to award a \$2,000 scholarship to a worthy male student who exemplified the drive, commitment, steadfastness, and school spirit embodied by all of our CSSF Founding Members. We conducted several rounds of video-conference interviews from a list of highly competitive seniors recommended to us by Chester High School administrators and staff. Our scholarship award criteria proposed to select a recipient who would otherwise not receive substantive scholarship awards for his secondary education.

Ultimately in 2020, we decided to award the runner-up with \$500 and the winner a \$2,500 scholarship for a total of \$3,000. In 2021, despite the ongoing pandemic, we raised a total of \$10,000 which was awarded to three deserving young men. Our team is dedicated and committed! In 2022, with our dreams and vision in support of our dedicated reverence for our phenomenal brother, Clifford Stevens, we continued to receive blessings abundantly. We added several new members to our core CSSF Membership Group and subsequently awarded \$2,500 to seven outstanding future leaders from Chester High School.

The CSSF Founding Members and extended membership body are continuing our plans to grow this effort each year with our expressed intent of positively impacting the amazing young men graduating from our high school alma mater as well as the amazing city in which all of our paths crossed and connected over forty years ago.

In closing, the CSSF was uniquely formed leveraging the collective life experiences of all our members representing a microcosm of the City of Chester, Chester Upland School District, and everything about our city that is positive, strong, and resilient. We stand today humble, grateful, and Blessed for this; our opportunity to give back and serve.

For more information or to apply for the CSSF Scholarship award, email our team at: [cliffordstevenssf@gmail.com](mailto:cliffordstevenssf@gmail.com)

Thank You. God Bless!!

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Clifford Stevens Scholarship Foundation Board