



New Application Process for Scholarships!

To better serve our families and to ensure confidentiality we have changed our application process for the 2005 school year. The Children's Scholarship Fund is now utilizing the services of the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment program. The new process requires families to apply to the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment program and receive a FACTS Applicant ID number before applying for scholarship. FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment is different from the FACTS Tuition Management program and must be applied to separately.

Act 4 of 2001 & ACT 48 of 2003 of the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program

Pre Kindergarten Program:

\$5,000,000 set aside for Pre Kindergarten Scholarships

- ◆ Businesses will receive a 100% credit for the first \$10,000, and up to a 90% credit on the remaining amount of the contribution.
- ◆ Requires only a 1 year commitment!
- ◆ Businesses can apply for up to a \$100,000 in credits.
- ◆ The school must be within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

K through 12 Program:

\$26,666,666 set aside for K through 12 Scholarships

- ◆ \$13,333,333 to Educational Improvement Organizations.
- ◆ Businesses can increase their Credit from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per fiscal year for the K through 12 program.
- ◆ The school must be within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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The Children's Scholarship Fund



St. Joseph School
Lucinda, PA



Located in Lucinda, PA, St. Joseph School is committed to providing a faith-filled quality education. The school was founded in 1896. St. Joseph School is a Catholic elementary school providing classes for PK - 6th grade students. The faculty and staff commit themselves to the understanding of the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith, and to fostering Christian values as a way of life.

In addition to religious education, St. Joseph School offers a flexible and well rounded curriculum. Incorporated into this curriculum are opportunities for developing physical well-being, fostering creativity, promoting social awareness and instilling the appreciation of the fine arts. The school strives to provide a positive learning atmosphere. The faculty & staff believe that each member of the school community deserves respect. St. Joseph School is fully accredited by the Commission on Elementary Schools-Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. They follow a

Consensus Curriculum established by the the Catholic Diocese of Erie and based on the National Standards of Learning. Enrichment classes include Art, Music, P.E., and Computer Technology.

Sr. Monica Steiner is the principal at St. Joseph School she believes that the education at St. Joseph promotes the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical development of its students. The faculty and staff members are dedicated individuals who profess deep commitment to Catholic Education and the development of each child according to their God-given talents.

As St. Joseph School moves toward the future they accept the challenge of involving students to become responsible, productive and integrated persons in society, with global vision of life and its dimensions. Respecting and appreciating the diversity of the traditions of those we serve, while standing firm on our Catholic beliefs. " With faith in God and through the Holy Spirit, we venture into the Twenty-first century."

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Equitable Resources was a first year contributor to The Children's Scholarship Fund for Pre-K scholarships in 2004. Equitable Resources Inc., its divisions and its subsidiaries offer natural gas products and energy services to wholesale and retail customers through three business segments: Equitable Utilities, Equitable Supply and NORESKO. The service territory primarily comprises southwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, portions of eastern Kentucky and portions of western Virginia. Equitable serves more than 270,000 natural gas consumers.

Equitable Resources is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA and employs approximately 1500 individuals across the states of PA, VA, KY, WV, VA and MA.

Equitable Foundation is focused on supporting 501 c 3 charitable organizations that provide programs supporting students in grades K through 12 throughout our service territory. As well, our Foundation does provide charitable grants to applicable agencies that support senior citizen habitability.

"We expect no "direct" benefit from this program but firmly believe that an investment in our youth of today is an investment in our workforce of tomorrow. We also believe firmly that bettering our educational opportunities for our youth is not just a role of government. We believe strongly that a proper foundation towards education must be provided at home and each member of the community bears some burden in trying to better the opportunities for our youth."

Equitable Foundation is pleased to be part of the community in the five counties in which their monies have been distributed and honored to be a part of The Children's Scholarship Fund. We are happy to use our resources to help provide better educational opportunities for our youth so that together with the Clarion County community, we can together build a platform of success for our students.



Crooks Clothing, Co. is a contemporary men's & ladies retail clothing store servicing the Clarion community in it's downtown Clarion location at the corner of Main Street & 6th Avenue. FLCROOKS.COM can be accessed worldwide.

Jim Crooks, owner of Crooks Clothing, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the store's opening on April 6th, 2005. In 1905, F.L. Crooks, hosted its grand opening then owned by Jim's great uncle and has been passed through three generations of the family. One hundred years, and three buildings later, the business still thrives as a family-owned company.

Crooks clothing offers tailoring, wardrobe advice and gift wrapping in addition to it's in-store merchandise.

Mr. Crooks have been a participant in the EITC program since it's inception in 2001; donating funds to both scholarship and educational improvement programs. When asked why he participates his response was, "Families need as much help as we can muster." & "It's a great way to help kids get a good education". He has benefited through community friendships and new customers. He believes this program promotes, "Friends serving Friends".

Mr. Jim Crooks was presented with the 2004 Business of the Year Award for community service by Clarion Area Chamber of Commerce during their 2005 annual awards dinner.

www.thechildrensscholarship.org

The Children's Scholarship Fund

Update From the Department of Community & Economic Development

FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE EITC PROGRAM WERE EXHAUSTED JULY 1, 2005

Each year as businesses in Pennsylvania become aware of the EITC program, Act 4 of 2001 and Act 48 of 2003, more are likely to take advantage by applying early. For the first time since it's inception in 2001 the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program monies designated for scholarships were exhausted on July 1, 2005. It was unfortunate, but some of our participants were unable to secure their credits because they mailed their applications.

A business beginning it's first year cycle to the EITC program may begin to apply for tax credits beginning July 1st of the tax year in which their contribution would be made.

This year 1,325 applications were received by the DCED on July 1st with 1,018 being approved for tax credits and 18 being denied due to

insufficient funds. The total amount of tax credits approved on July 1st was in the amount \$29.3 million, with the additional funding being approved for the second year applicants which were able to apply beginning May 15th.

The DCED's policy for processing business applications for first year participants is provided on a first come first serve basis by the day. Each year The Children's Scholarship Fund offers to hand deliver first year business applications to the DCED on July 1st. Each and every business application delivered by our fund on the first day has received approval for tax credits. If your business would like to take advantage of this service please contact The Children's Scholarship Fund or Milissa Bauer at (814) 226-4160 ext. 106.

Farmers National Bank

presented Donna Gaydash, principal at Immaculate Conception School, and the Children's Scholarship Fund with a check in the amount of \$37,037.



Pictured, from left, are: (first row) Jim Crooks, Farmers National Bank board member, Donna Gaydash, Immaculate Conception School principal, Fred Port, Farmers National Bank vice-president corporate bank, Tim Slausenhoup, manager Farmers National Bank, Clarion branch. Second row - Cindy Nave, CSF secretary, Terri Corbett, CSF board member, and Milissa Bauer and Al Lander, CSF founders and co-chairs.

An Education is the Greatest Gift That One Can Give A Child