



## Coming to YBES this Fall!

### What is the Ben Carson Reading Project?

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity that was founded in 1994 by world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin S. Carson and his wife, Candy to motivate and reward academic excellence in young people.

The Ben Carson Reading Project is another program of the Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. The primary purpose of this program is provide funding and support to local schools, so that they can create a space where students can read in an inviting, quiet and secure feeling atmosphere. The Ben Carson Reading Project is also responsible for bringing students, faculty, their families and community together to raise the awareness of the importance of reading.

This space can be an empty classroom, a section in an existing library, or any area that can be designated as a "**Reading Zone.**" The one stipulation Carson Scholars Fund places on the choice of space is that the area must be a distinct area that is used exclusively as a Ben Carson Reading Room.

The Reading Room Program is not a curriculum-based program. The program encourages independent extracurricular reading. Children are encouraged to read and earn rewards for achieving various levels of significant improvements in reading grade levels, the number of books read, etc. The room should not be used for homework or denied as form of punishment.

The first Ben Carson Reading Room was established at Hall's Crossroads Elementary School in 2000. Since that time, we have established 38 reading rooms. Reading rooms can be found throughout Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. We recently opened 8 reading rooms in St. Louis, Missouri, sponsored by the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

Additional information about the Carson Scholars Fund and the Ben Carson Reading Project can be found at [www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org)

**Keep an eye out for more news about our October 24<sup>th</sup> Bull Roast Fundraiser to make our YBES Reading Room come alive!!**

