Calvin Allen-Crawford is a graduate of Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School in Washington, DC. Born in Fresno, California, he has been described as a leader among his peers, with a passion for social justice and a desire to be a positive change agent on his local and global communities. His community service efforts have included fundraising nearly $50,000 as a student representative for For Love of Children, planting trees, painting murals, speaking at events, mentoring youth, removing invasive plants, and walking for the homeless. He is hard-working, determined and enthusiastic about achieving his goals. We were truly blown away by Calvin’s scholarly references in his strongly written essays, and it was a pleasure to experience his honest, caring personality through our interviews! Calvin attends Old Dominion University.

William Cousins, Jr. graduated from Maurice J. McDonough High School in Pomfret, MD. He is a certified volunteer fire fighter in Maryland and has been described as pleasant, respectful, diligent, and well-rounded. He is also a leader, a self-starter, a positive role model and a valuable asset to any team that he belongs to. His teachers have indicated that he is able to lead, follow and cooperate during school interactions, and they are confident that he will fulfill the requirements of his future educational and professional endeavors. We were impressed by Williams exceptional community service and his endearing personality! William attends Chowan University.
Gabrielle Gould graduated from Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy in Washington, DC in June 2011. She is our only collegiate scholarship recipient, as she applied to ScholarCHIPS last year as a high school senior before we were completely prepared to review applications. Her application was so nicely put together that we decided to consider it as an exception in our inaugural year and after our review, she was voted a scholarship recipient. In high school, Gabrielle was a participant in a program called New Orleans and Back, where she helped to rebuild houses that were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. She was very proud of the feeling that she got from being able to really help someone else. She transformed into a hard worker, fundraiser, community planner and a strong leader of the program. Gabrielle had stellar grades in high school and is still maintaining a very strong GPA in college. We are very proud of her growth as a person and as a serious scholar! Gabrielle attends Winston-Salem State University.

Rayna Nkwanyuo graduated from Glenelg High School in Glenelg, Maryland. She has a passion for dance, and she was an officer on a dance team that she belonged to throughout high school. She is very proud that she is one of the founding members of a group that empowers youth against dating violence. These experiences taught her leadership, communication, and time management skills. Her mentors have said that Rayna is very intelligent, mature, determined and focused and that she has persevered through some very difficult personal circumstances. She has a very strong academic record and a purposeful attitude. The peer recommendation that was submitted on her behalf indicated that Rayna is a hard worker, a terrific person, a great student, and a sincere friend. We were truly impressed by Rayna’s resilience and optimistic spirit! Rayna attends Old Dominion University.
Mychelle Jackson graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC. She is interested in the area of Finance, and she currently interns at United Bank, where she is their youngest teller. She has also participated in the Academy of Finance, the Urban Alliance and an Entrepreneur Pilot Program, where she attended classes in business and finance, including accounting, entrepreneurship, corporate management, professional development and financial literacy. Her teachers have described her as eager to learn and passionate about her experiences, with a good natured and positive demeanor that is contagious and helped to make a difference at Wilson. We are proud of Mychelle’s academics and community service! Mychelle attends Montgomery College.

Sheniqua Kelly attended Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She has overcome significant adversity over the past few years when she and her six siblings had to move to this area from Ohio. She had to go to school day and night in order to graduate with her class. She enjoys sports and volunteering at a program for the developmentally disabled and at an animal shelter. But her greatest strength has been her fortitude under pressure. Her teachers describe her as “a hardworking, efficient and determined young lady who will succeed at whatever she strives for in her future college endeavors.” In speaking with her, we were impressed by her good character and confidence and by her intellectual growth while faced with huge challenges! Sheniqua attends Prince Georges Community College.
To’Nia Thomas graduated from Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, DC. She was a very active student and exceeded her school’s community service requirement of 270 hours through volunteering at her church and the Howard University Medical College; feeding the homeless at So Others May Eat (SOME), Food & Friends and Brainfood; and tutoring children at the Boys & Girls Club. She received a very strong recommendation from the debutante program that she participated in this year. There she learned leadership skills, sisterhood, etiquette, was exposed to diverse people, raised money, learned to be more open-minded, studied Bible scriptures, etc. We were proud to meet such a reliable, determined and mature young lady! To’Nia attends Pennsylvania State University.

Ja’Nea West is a graduate of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro, MD. Ja’Nea has persevered through some difficult experiences with a positive attitude. She strives to excel in school and is a member of the National Honor Society. She demonstrated great determination when trying out to become a member of her schools’ cheerleading team, eventually becoming the Varsity Cheerleading Captain. Ja’Nea really likes working with children and wants a career that involves helping children. She has been described as a motivated, diligent, dedicated team player who assists her fellow students, puts her education first, and consistently lives by remarkable standards. We were impressed by her good grades and her determined character! Ja’Nea attends North Carolina A&T State University.