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QuickPoint! – Scaling Down: The Power of One

By Kathryn Hickok

Is it truly possible for one person to make a positive difference in education in America? Darla Romfo has a good answer to this question. She is president of the [Children's Scholarship Fund](http://www.childrenscholarshipfund.org), which has helped more than 145,000 low-income children nationwide to attend private grade schools. [She wrote:](#)

“[Children’s Scholarship Fund founder] John [Walton] once told me...that giving the scholarships and meeting the kids and their parents grounded the whole effort of trying to reform the larger system. He knew no matter what happened with those efforts, he was having a direct impact on the lives of kids today....

“[A] caring adult who really invests in an authentic relationship with a child will bring enormous benefits to the child, to say nothing of the rewards to the adult....

“We can’t stop trying to get education right in America, but maybe we will get further faster if every adult who can gets involved in the life of a child who has a couple of strikes against them. Whether it is through a mentoring program, a scholarship program, a school-based program, or some other means, it could make the ultimate difference in a child’s life, and you don’t have to be up to speed on the latest education reform idea to do it and make it work.”

For more information about how you can help the Children’s Scholarship Fund make a difference today, visit scholarshipfund.org.

Kathryn Hickok is Publications Director and Director of the Children’s Scholarship Fund-Portland program at Cascade Policy Institute. CSF-Portland is a partner program of the New York-based Children’s Scholarship Fund.