CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS!

ABC

Communities In Schools®
Chesterfield

2019-2020 Impact Report
Communities In Schools' (CIS) mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

CIS's national research indicates three primary risk areas for dropping out: Attendance, Behavior, and Course Completion (ABCs). When a child struggles with one or more of the ABCs, their chance of graduating on time decreases. That is why CIS of Chesterfield is focused on supporting our students in these three areas.
Dear Friends,

We want to dedicate this recap of our 2019-2020 school year to you, our supporters. We are extraordinarily thankful to the many partners and individuals who rallied around us. You stepped up to provide food and supplies so our students were safe and could continue learning. You advocated for our work and contributed financially so we could expand services to fill important gaps. You committed to our mission through remote volunteer opportunities. For all this and more, thank you. Without you, this school year would have looked very different for our families.

When we reflect on the last year, it is with a mix of emotions. The abrupt school closures in March made for a challenging end to the year. But it was, in many ways, still a year worth celebrating. We expanded to two new schools (Falling Creek Elementary and Bird High School) and are serving 2,681 more students and families. We brought on incredible teammates and community partners. We launched a new signature event, Gallery of Giving. Best of all, we again saw the impact of the relationships and programs we create - make sure to check out our outcomes on page five!

The pandemic hit our families hard. So many of our students rely on school for more than just academics. In a bigger way than before, the community has seen the tremendous gaps that exist for our neighbors. While the CIS model is designed to be implemented within our schools, our incredible team of Site Coordinators stepped up to continue and enhance our services in whatever ways necessary. From check-in phone calls to Covid-safe home visits, they identified students’ most urgent needs and connected them to solutions. They led the way in offering social-emotional supports and worked harder than ever to build family engagement. We could not be prouder of their innovation, flexibility, and passion to support our 9,000+ students during a global crisis!

With gratitude,

Ashley Hall
Executive Director

Joanne Huebner
Board Chair
On March 13th, Chesterfield County Public Schools announced the closure of schools due to the pandemic. While the health of our students and families was necessarily the primary consideration, there were unfortunate repercussions to closing schools. For our students, school is often where they access basic and critical resources - ones that CIS is there to facilitate and provide - including food, positive relationships, and behavioral interventions to address trauma. These needs were ones that could not go unaddressed. The CIS of Chesterfield team quickly and creatively adapted to ensure continued, and even expanded, supports for our students and families. These included:

- delivering weekly groceries to 375 students and families in-need through a partnership with Bridging RVA.
- connecting regularly with students by phone and through home visits to coordinate wrap-around services, monitor student progress, and serve as a resource for teachers and staff.
- hosting book clubs, student leader events, and more.
- implementing a Cards of Encouragement project to keep caring adults connected with students.
- connecting over 400 families who were financially impacted by COVID-19 with family crisis funds in partnership with CEF, Robins Foundation, and CCPS.

These supports (and many more) continued over the summer months and into the 2020-2021 academic year.

When the pandemic hit, the CIS team was a true force of support. The interventions and resources they’ve provided have been essential and game changing for our students and families. We’re so thankful for this partnership!

- Dr. Daugherty, CCPS Superintendent
WHO WE ARE

Leadership Team
Ashley Hall, Executive Director
Wendy Lively, Program Director
Devan Colley, Director of Development & Outreach
Amy Harbert, Office and Finance Manager
Alexa Augone, AmeriCorp VISTA Mentor Coordinator

Site Coordinators
Emily Davidson, Ettrick Elementary School
Dalila Medrano, Falling Creek Elementary School
Jessica Smith, Chalkley Elementary School
Elizabeth Stowers, Bellwood Elementary School
Chloe Carter, Salem Church Middle School
Kimberly Reynolds, Falling Creek Middle School
Cecelia Greenwood, Meadowbrook High School
Talaya Oxendine, L.C. Bird High School
Mary Thompson, Carver College & Career Academy

WHY WE DO IT

We have 9,000+ reasons to do the work that we do. Ultimately, though, it is to see each of those 9,000 students graduate - the greatest outcome we work towards. Joanne Torres, is one of the many students we supported and who achieved her goal of graduating.

As a member of Meadowbrook High's class of 2020, Joanne did not have the graduation she expected, due to Covid, but that did not stop her from dreaming big. As a recipient of one of the five CIS graduation scholarships awarded to seniors, Joanne's scholarship essay told us just how big those dreams are!

One of three kids, Joanne's mother raised her and her siblings as a single parent. “My biggest dream is to make her proud and show her that all her sacrifice was worth it,” Joanne said. "I've always known I wanted to go to college, but I didn't always believe in myself. Now, I am able to go to top colleges because of my hard work and dedication, which is important not only to me, but to my mom.” Joanne is now attending Randolph College, with the goal of studying biochemistry in preparation for entering the dental profession. We have no doubt Joanne will make her mom very proud!
How We Do It

CIS is not a program in the traditional sense. Instead, we deliver wrap-around services in our schools, all designed to achieve our mission. The services provided look unique in each school, as each school has unique challenges. However, the common thread is our belief in the Five Basics. Developed by CIS's founder, these are essentials that every child needs to succeed:

1) a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
2) a safe place to learn and grow
3) a healthy start and healthy future
4) a marketable skill to use upon graduation
5) a chance to give back to peers and community.

Our programs and interventions are rooted in delivering on these Five Basics. Examples include: matching mentors with students for one-on-one relationships, partnering with Conexus to get students eye-glasses for a healthy start, career readiness programs that equip students with skills to use after graduation.

Our Results

In a year with unprecedented challenges, we are especially proud of our 2019-2020 outcomes. During this school year, our case-managed students experienced the following improvements:

- 92% Improved Attendance
- 86% Improved Behavior
- 87% Improved Academics
- 97% Improved College & Career Readiness
- 100% Promoted or Graduated
ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT

Ronald, a fourth grade student at Ettrick Elementary, was late or missing in class often. His teacher was worried about the impact his absences would have on his academics. Ronald was not the only student at Ettrick battling absenteeism. Rather than focusing on specific students, the CIS Site Coordinator introduced a school wide program in the 2019-2020 school year to bring awareness to the link between attendance and student achievement.

With the support of Ettrick leadership, teachers and parents, our Site Coordinator brought the ZERO HERO program to life! Designed to get all kids to school (Here, Everyday, Ready, On time) through weekly individual and classroom prizes, students were incentivized individually and together to earn Zero Hero recognition and rewards. With school wide support and excitement, the energy behind the program grew and students inspired one another to be a HERO!

*a pseudonym has been used to protect the identify of the student

BEFORE ZERO HERO

351 students had 1 or more absences (Sept 3- Sept 29, 2019)

AFTER ZERO HERO IMPLEMENTED

260 students (91 less) had 1 or more absences (Sept 30- Oct 24, 2019)
You’re so funny, kind, a great mentor, and I’m really happy I got to know [...] you. You introduced me to so many activities, programs, and more. You watched over me and my friends - I really miss you Ms. Carter.

These were the words of a student written to our CIS Site Coordinator at Salem Church Middle (SCMS). Though she has moved on to high school, she was so impacted by Ms. Carter, she was compelled to reach out. This demonstrates the power of the relationships our Site Coordinators build with students and how those relationships allow for behavioral and mental health interventions. So many of our students have faced or continue to face trauma, which often manifests in behavioral challenges in school.

When schools closed due to Covid, Ms. Carter was suddenly separated from her students - she knew that those struggling with stress, anxiety, and behavioral issues were not necessarily getting the trauma-informed care they needed.

In response, she put together Mindfulness Kits to mail home to her case managed students and those participating in the mentor program. The kits included items connected to the 5 senses, which are shown to be helpful in self-soothing. The items included stress balls (touch), snacks (taste), "52 Responses to I'm bored" Cards, and more. The kits were also likely the first personalized item these students received since schools closed, helping to keep their connection with Ms. Carter and the services she provides. Those one-on-one connections are so crucial to building an maintaining relationships, which lead to trust and the ability to open up and share emotions.

As the pandemic progressed, Ms. Carter found additional ways to support her students' mental health and promote social-emotional learning, like front porch visits to have those personal moments to check in on her students!

*a pseudonym has been used to protect the identity of the student*
COURSE COMPLETION SPOTLIGHT

There is no greater example of course completion than high school graduation! **We believe that supporting students to reach graduation begins in kindergarten,** which is why we prioritize school feeder patterns to serve students as they matriculate from elementary through high school.

Carver College & Career Academy is a unique high school in the county, and its smallest. This allows an environment for each student to stand out, whether that’s in academics, athletics, or any other aspect of student life. For Christian, a 2020 graduate, Carver was the perfect place for him to reach and achieve his goals.

Prior to coming to Carver, Christian **had struggled in school and experienced barriers from his home environment** that made it difficult for to focus on his academics. Fortunately, he had a CIS Site Coordinator in middle school, who was able to create a **smooth transition between him and the CIS Site Coordinator at Carver,** Ms. Thompson. Instead of starting from scratch to support Christian, Ms. Thompson was armed with the information and data necessary to continue CIS services and interventions for him - allowing him to make the middle school to high school shift with less stress and difficulty.

Christian is just one example of the many students that Ms. Thompson supported in the 2019-2020 school year, **all of whom graduated!** To celebrate, Ms. Thompson worked closely with partners to bring special graduation items to her students, including adonation of **beautiful graduation gift baskets from partner, Divine World Changers,** who also provided five scholarships to Carver students! In a year when nothing was normal, it was especially meaningful to bring a sense of normalcy to our students and Ms. Thompson’s celebration of her graduates was a wonderful way to do that!

*“Ms. Thompson and the CIS model are instrumental for success at Carver. Not only does she uplift individual students but Ms. Thompson helps build a community culture at the school.”*  
- Dr. Hackett, Carver Principal

*a pseudonym has been used to protect the identity of the student*
### Our Donors

#### CIS Society

**$5,000 and Above**
- Abbvie
- Altria Contributing Together
- Bank of America
- Capital One
- The CarMax Foundation
- Chesterfield County CDBG
- Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond & Petersburg
- CultureWorks
- Memorial Foundation for Children
- Nelson Family Foundation
- Richmond Association of Realtors
- Ralph and Betsy Saunders
- TowneBank Richmond Foundation
- Bobby and Jayne Ukrop
- United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- WestRock Foundation

#### CIS Champions

**$1,000 - 4,999**
- Richard and Amy Bartilotti
- Brandermill Rotary Club
- Katherine Busser
- Jean Cauble
- Communities In Schools of Virginia

Beyond the incredible folks listed here, there are hundreds of others who gave anonymously or below $500. Our thanks to everyone who has supported us!

- Columbia Gas of Virginia
- Katherine Curtis
- Chris and Emily Dibble
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Brian and Lisa Elliott
- Martha Frickert and Rev. Stephen C. Booth
- Barbara Goodman
- Ashley Hall and Lincoln Saunders
- Kristin Henshaw
- Joanne and Bob Huebner
- Bob and Peggy Innes
- Debbie Johnston
- Kiwanis Club of Midlothian-Chesterfield
- The Links Incorporated Petersburg Virginia Chapter
- Matt and Wendy Lively
- Angela Matthews
- Matt and Megan McDonald
- Midlothian Rotary Club
- Eileen and Todd Morrissett
- David and Judy Naquin
- Lisa Nardell
- Brendan and Jackie O'Toole
- Everett and Vanessa Patterson
- Charles and Julia Piper
- Publix Super Market Charities
- Tricia Puryear
- Queen of Virginia Skill & Entertainment

### Friends of CIS

**$500 - $999**
- Jamie Accashian
- Wanda Brazee
- Lewis Bryant
- Timothy and Andrea Bullis
- Jana and David Carter
- Matthew Clarke
- Clementine
- Ellisha and Jamaal Ellison
- George and Lisa Fearnow

Richmond Christmas Mother Fund
Sedona Taphouse Midlothian
South Richmond Rotary
Village Bank
Virginia Credit Union
Walmart
Wells Fargo Foundation
Eileen Yost

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**I started donating to CIS after I mentored at Chalkley Elementary. I witnessed first-hand what CIS and the Site Coordinator could do for a student and knew it was work worth investing in.**

- Communities In Schools Donor


**OUR DONORS**

*Continued*

Bridget Fitzpatrick
Gail Harris
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Geancarlo Marti
Dallila Medrano
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Doug Pick
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Denise Sandlin
Ingrid Sell
Lynn Snow
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Ellen and Harry Trimble

**OUR PARTNERS**

Our partners help us bring the community into our schools!

Action-Tech, Inc.
AKA Sorority - Chesterfield Chapter
Aleris
Backpacks of Love
Bon Air United Methodist Church
Boys to Men
Bridging RVA
Capital One
Chester Family YMCA
Chester Kiwanis Club
Chester United Methodist Church -Women’s Circle
Chesterfield CCHASM
Chesterfield County Mental Health – Prevention Services
Chesterfield County Parks and Rec.
Chesterfield County Police Dept.
Chesterfield County SAFE
Chesterfield County Social Services
Chesterfield Food Bank
Chesterfield Police Athletic League
Chesterfield Education Foundation
Children’s Museum of Richmond
Colonial Heights Baptist Church
Columbia Gas of Virginia
Conexus
Concerned Citizens of Ettrick
Defense Supply Center, Richmond
Delta Kappa Gamma, Beta Pi Chapter
DuPont, Bellwood Plant
DuPont, Spruance Plant
Embrace Communities
Ettrick American Legion Auxiliary
Ettrick Neighborhood Business Foundation
Faith and Family Church
Feed More
First Baptist Church, Centralia
Fit4Kids
Fort Lee Soldiers
Girls on Track
HandsOn Greater Richmond
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Industrial Turn Around Corp. (ITAC)
InSource Solutions
International Coach Federation, VA Chapter
Ironbridge Baptist Church
Journey Christian Church
Kingdom Life Church
Kingsland Baptist Church
Light in Goshen Outreach Ministries
Manchester Family YMCA
Martha Mason Foundation
MegaMentors

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OUR PARTNERS

Continued
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Midlothian Family YMCA
Parkway Baptist Church
Passport to Education
Richmond's First Baptist Church
Richmond Presbyterian Korean Church
RJ Smith Companies
Salisbury Presbyterian Church
Southminster Presbyterian Church
St. Ann’s Catholic Church
St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Stony Point Presbyterian Church
Sunday School Union of Chesterfield
SunTrust Hispanic Network
Sylvia's Sisters
The Chapel Midlothian
Tomahawk Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist
Union Branch Baptist Church
VCU Globe
VCU Service Learning
Village Bank
Virginia Credit Union
Virginia Extension Services
Virginia State University
Webber Memorial Baptist Church
Wells Fargo Foundation
Woodlake United Methodist Church

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

One of the immediate challenges to school closures was access to food. Given that schools often serve as a central location for resources for students and families, it was in our DNA for CIS to be part of the food insecurity response. Thankfully we had an existing partner who stepped up to support this effort.

Bridging RVA works to advance common good in the Richmond region. Prior to the pandemic, CIS worked with them through their 150 Beds for 150 Kids initiative—delivering beds to local children without one at home. Through their various initiatives over the past six years, Bridging RVA has amassed an army of incredible volunteers and have become experts at delivering resources directly to people's homes. When Covid began, Bridging RVA quickly launched their Drop-Knock-Leave Initiative, a Covid-19 food relief program. Every week since spring, Bridging RVA has purchased food, assembled groceries, and recruited volunteers to deliver groceries, cleaning supplies and PPE to families in need. "While we had the means to deliver, we had to rely on awesome community partners like CIS to identify the need. Working together is key to surviving a pandemic; and we greatly appreciate and value our partnership with CIS of Chesterfield," said Lee Ann Sawyer, Bridging RVA's Executive Director. In a crisis, partners like Bridging RVA allowed us to lessen the blow of the pandemic - and continue to deliver CIS supports to our students.
In the 2019-2020 year, we continued to diversify our revenue sources and be strategic in our expenses. While Covid impacted certain grants and all of our events, we were fortunate and grateful that our community stepped up to ensure we could continue, and even expand our services.

*in-kind is not included in revenue and expenses

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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