



Communities In Schools

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

The mission of Communities In Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Communities In Schools believes all students deserve five basic resources:

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community

SAVE THE DATES



April 21
Volunteer Training

June 10-16
CMS Graduations

June 21
Dine Out For Kids

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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Spring 2016

CIS-Charlotte Celebrates 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

In December, CIS-Charlotte celebrated 30 years of serving students in our community! A luncheon was held for staff, Board members, and former Executive Directors to mark the December 17, 1985 date when CIS-Charlotte was chartered. Since the 1985-86 school year when CIS enrolled its first students at J.T. Williams Junior High, CIS has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, helping them succeed in school, graduate, and achieve in life.



Today CIS-Charlotte provides case management services to 6,000 students annually in 42 CMS schools (including Jail North/Central), coordinating and connecting them to basic needs (food, clothing, housing), academic support, mentoring, tutoring, college/career readiness, physical and mental health services, parent engagement and service learning. An additional 30,000 students are served each year through school-based programming and in-kind resources such as school supplies, book donations, clothing/uniforms, after-school snacks, volunteer coordination, motivational/educational guest speakers, referrals for assistance and more.

Most importantly, CIS provides students with a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a key component of the CIS model and one CIS believes to be most crucial in helping students achieve their full potential.

As we look to the future and our next 30 years, we invite everyone in the Charlotte community to join us and give of their time, talent or treasure to help all students achieve!



This photo is from 1990, when CIS of Charlotte (then Cities In Schools) was named a "Point of Light" by President George H.W. Bush. The group was greeting President Bush at Charlotte-Douglas Airport. At far right is Cynthia Marshall, CIS-Charlotte's first executive director. Next to her is former board member Jim Flanders, and next to Flanders is DeeDee Dalrymple, a board member in 1990 - and who currently serves on the CIS Board today!

Executive Director Message

10,950 Days of POURING HOPE AND LOVE INTO KIDS

Remarks by CIS-Charlotte Executive Director Molly Shaw to staff and board members at the agency's 30th anniversary celebration in December:

30 YEARS = 10,950 DAYS.

"10,950 days of pouring hope and love into kids; 10,950 days of connecting services and people to students and families; 10,950 days of conversations - some of them motivational and inspiring, some celebratory, others direct or tough - all of them in an effort to move our children forward.

10,950 days of meeting with students, talking to families, coordinating resources, managing volunteers, connecting partners, planning workshops, traveling to dentist and doctor's offices, arranging field trips, visiting homes, visiting colleges, navigating schools, motivating kids, and documenting our work.

10,950 days of bringing the community into our schools and connecting our schools to the greater community.

And those are just a few - the list could go on, because for the last 10,950 days, Communities In Schools - YOU - have been not only working, but fighting for our kids.

That fighting has required soldiers - people who believe so strongly in the cause that they dedicate their lives, their own days to the mission. It takes a village to raise a child; it takes a community. YOU are that Community. Each of You is the Community in Communities In Schools. Please take a moment to recognize all that everyone in the room has accomplished for our children."



Site Coordinator Karen Neal with her students at Bruns Academy.

CIS Volunteer MIKE MUNAO MARKS 30 YEARS!



Mike Munao, Site Coordinator Gwen Thompson, and the student Mike is currently tutoring.

Not many can claim this accomplishment: being one of CIS-Charlotte's first volunteers in 1986, our first year in operation - and who's still tutoring and mentoring students 30 years later! That amazing volunteer would be Mike Munao, who currently volunteers at Nathaniel Alexander Elementary. Mike still has the original letter he received from CIS in 1986, welcoming him as a volunteer.

Here is a recent "Q & A" between Mike and May Johnston, PR/Marketing Director with CIS.

You've been volunteering with CIS for 30 years now. Wow! What keeps you coming back year after year?

The results – kids that gain something from my experience. And the opportunity to help them apply in real life what they are taught in the classroom. Showing them that we do care about their success and encouraging them to be themselves while complying with life's rules and peer pressures.

ANN CLARK Receives CIS DreamMaker Award



Ann Clark with CIS Executive Director Molly Shaw.

In a surprise presentation at Communities In Schools' 30th Anniversary celebration in December, CMS Superintendent Ann Clark received Communities In Schools' special DreamMaker Award, which the agency has historically given to local community leaders who have demonstrated an extraordinary contribution to the education and welfare of children.

The award is molded from the hand of a former CIS

student grasping a diploma, illustrating the pride and accomplishment felt upon reaching graduation.

Below are CIS Executive Director Molly Shaw's remarks from her presentation to Clark:

"Each of you [speaking to the room full of CIS staff and Board members] is also a 'DreamMaker.' Someone who has helped us meet the needs and build the dreams of our children. In the past we have celebrated some key leaders who have committed their lives - their time, talent and treasures to DreamMaking for our CIS students. Leaders like Bill Milliken (CIS National Founder) and our

CIS-Charlotte founders Cynthia Marshall, John Tate, Jr., and Ed Crutchfield, as well others in the community, including Barb Pellin, Hugh McColl, George T. Lewis and John Tate III, to mention a few.

Today we celebrate another person who has dedicated her life to education and ensuring that every student has access to quality education and opportunity to succeed. Ann Clark, current Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, has worked for more than 30 years as teacher and leader for our kids. She has supported CIS over the years as a member of our Board and close partner in our work. She has always kept students at the forefront of the conversation as we have grown to support more students and evolved intentionally in our service delivery. She is the voice that everyone stops to listen to, and she is a leader who has inspired by example.

In celebration of our 30th anniversary and for all that you have made possible, I am thrilled to present the Communities In Schools' DreamMaker Award to Ann Clark."



How did you first learn about Communities In Schools?

I was introduced by an IBM office mate that was talking about this new program IBM and CMS were initiating in Charlotte. At the time I was heavily involved with coaching soccer with CMS and thought this might be another avenue for me to help my community. Once I met Cynthia Marshall [CIS-Charlotte's founding Executive Director] – well, "no" was just not an acceptable answer for her!

How do you spend most of your time when working with a student?

I try and provide a good mix of both common interests and academic requirements. I restore antique cars and am a big sports fan, so I try and connect with those interests along with applying school to those subjects to grow our relationship. I will bring in newspaper or magazine articles to help with reading and to apply math. If they understand how to apply what they learn, they are

more motivated to grow. For example: How well did LeBron James do last night with his shot percentage, or if I give you \$20 and you go to Walmart to buy 3 CD's at \$8 each – do you have enough money and if so, what should your change be? They very quickly can see how school applies to real life.

How have you benefited from volunteering in this way?

Personally it grounds me. I love seeing the kids grow. It keeps me current with new teaching methods and helps me remain sharp on current events (works my brain). It reminds me of what is important in life – caring and sharing knowledge and experience with the next generation. Every new student opens up a different world to me that I normally would not get to experience (good and bad). I also was on the CIS Board of Directors back in 1992 and 1993 representing IBM. Great experience for me.

Safe Journey Receives **BLUE RIBBON DESIGNATION** from Parents As Teachers (PAT)



Our Safe Journey/Adolescent Parenting Program staff were recognized as a Parents As Teachers (PAT) "Blue Ribbon Affiliate" at PAT's national conference in November. L-R: Robin Roberts with PAT and Safe Journey staff LaKia Roseborough, Shannan Dean-Wilson, Megan Kennedy, LaToya Gettings, Judy Sanders-Bull, and Steffanie Lewis.

We're so proud of our Safe Journey/APP program director Judy Sanders-Bull and her team for receiving the "Blue Ribbon Affiliate" designation



from the national Parents As Teachers (PAT) organization! To receive the designation, the program or affiliate must undergo a rigorous endorsement and improvement process conducted by national PAT staff and meet or exceed 17 essential requirements as well as meet at least 75% of additional PAT quality standards. CIS-Charlotte's Safe Journey staff were recognized at PAT's national conference in November.

Parents As Teachers is a leader in the early childhood and family engagement field and uses evidence-based models to deliver parent education, primarily through personal visits and group meetings, to equip parents with the knowledge and resources needed to prepare their children, from birth through Kindergarten, for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. The internationally recognized organization serves more than 212,000 children in all 50 U.S. states, more than 100 Tribal organizations, schools and communities, and six other countries.

Bundles of Joy for.... **BUNDLES OF JOY!**

In other news with Safe Journey, they are excited to welcome Baby Bundles as a new partner! Baby Bundles is a local organization born from heartbreak, started by Charlotteans Emily Harry, Heather Leavitt, and Cat Long to help other new mothers while honoring their own babies they lost. They like to think of Baby Bundles as a "gift from their little angels."

The group's mission is to provide a bag full of newborn necessities such as baby outfits, blankets, a book and a toy to mothers in need as they leave the hospital, helping them begin parenthood on the right foot. The contents in each "bundle" are worth about \$125. Since its founding in 2010, Baby Bundles has delivered bags to families in and around Charlotte through partnering with Presbyterian Hospital, Nurse-Family Partnership, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Ronald McDonald House, and now our Safe Journey/APP Program. We are grateful for these little bundles of joy to give to our Safe Journey bundles of joy!



LOWCOUNTRY ON THE GREEN 2015

September 26, 2015 proved to be an incredible evening with a fantastic turnout of 400+ guests – a little rain certainly did not get this crowd down! The party was truly bigger and better than ever before! We are so grateful to our generous corporate sponsors, especially title sponsor Wells Fargo Advisors - and the MANY Silent Auction donors who donated some awesome items and packages.! What a fun evening! And now the date is set for this year's event, so mark your calendars and join us on **September 17, 2016!**

MANY THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Pat Flanagan

Myers Park High School

“Trustworthy.” That’s the first word that came to mind when Myers Park High School junior Bernard Bennett was asked to describe his CIS volunteer mentor, Pat Flanagan. “He’s always there for me and follows through with whatever he says he will do,” says Bernard.

Bernard and Pat met 18 months ago when Bernard was beginning his sophomore year at Myers Park. As the saying goes, sometimes it just “clicks.” That certainly seems to be the case for these two.

“We hit it off immediately,” said Pat. “He was quiet but honest, and willing to accept help with things that he knew he needed to become the man he wants to be.”

Stacey Weinstein, CIS Site Coordinator at Myers Park, who connected Bernard with Pat, says Bernard has had some “serious ups and downs” in school and with difficult family issues, but that he is a “smart and very capable young man.”

“I felt Bernard could benefit from a mentor such as Pat, who could be a positive, consistent presence in his life,” said Weinstein. “I’m so grateful they have developed a trusting relationship that I believe will last beyond Bernard’s high school years.”

The two text each other regularly and get together outside of school as schedules permit - going to school events, out to eat, even going to church together recently. But mostly, says Bernard, “we just hang out.”

Bernard is in the Jr. ROTC program at Myers Park and is considering joining the National Guard after graduation. He’s also interested in forensic psychology. Pat says he sometimes helps out with a few material things Bernard may need, but he encourages Bernard to work hard for the things he aspires to obtain.



“We talk about his goals and what he wants to do and how to get there by working hard, not getting things for free,” said Pat. “Mostly we just hang out and I ask questions and listen.”

Bernard’s family is supportive of their relationship and Pat made a point to meet Bernard’s mother, father and siblings early on. “I think that was important to show them that I didn’t want to replace anyone,” said Pat, “but just be a help with things as needed. I keep in contact with his mom regularly to make sure everything is OK.”

As a father of two Myers Park High School graduates and one current student, Pat says he has seen a lot of students at Myers Park and elsewhere who he feels “just need a little nudge or a little break to get over the edge.”

“Sometimes it doesn’t take much, and this is something that is not hard to do and is incredibly rewarding,” Pat added. “If anyone has the inclination to volunteer in this way, I promise it will be up there as one of the best things they have ever done.”

Interested in learning more about mentoring or other volunteer opportunities with CIS? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Courtney Peterson, at volunteer@cischarlotte.org.

It Doesn’t Take Much.... to Make a **BIG IMPACT!**

Many thanks to these volunteers from Carolinas HealthCare System for recently giving of their time and talents to Kindergartners and first graders at Bruns Academy. The kids loved the attention and spending time with them (we’re pretty sure it was mutual!) We always need more volunteers - YOU can make a difference! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Courtney Peterson, at cpeterson@cischarlotte.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities!



CIVICS 101: An Officer and a Site Coordinator



Turns out that Officer Teague not only has a big heart, he has connections with the “top brass” in our city-county government, too. Falcon was looking for career shadowing opportunities to give her students exposure to “real world” careers. . . . “How about a visit to the Mayor’s Office and the Chief of Police?” suggested Officer Teague. Might as well start at the top, right?! Students got to meet with Mayor Jennifer Roberts and CMPD Chief of Police Kerr Putney.

Officer Teague also arranged a career shadow day at Charlotte Country Club, where students were amazed at the many different jobs needed there.

CIS Site Coordinator Marta Falcon counts herself very lucky to have made the acquaintance of CMPD Officer Matthew Teague. Falcon, who is Site Coordinator at Merry Oaks Academy, met Officer Teague last year when he stopped by the school, which is located in Teague’s patrol division neighborhood. Officer Teague wanted to see how he might help the school in various capacities and build positive relationships with the students and families.

Teague was soon introduced to Falcon and CIS, and the two brainstormed ways that Teague could best support the school. Falcon leads a guidance class for 4th and 5th graders that focuses on developing good character and “doing the right thing.” Together they enhanced the idea and developed a program to recognize students weekly as well as choosing a 4th and a 5th grader each quarter who is exhibiting positive character traits.

Falcon says Officer Teague has been a “goldmine” of good ideas and valuable connections to companies and individuals in the community. “He has been a wonderful advocate for CIS and a friend and role model for our kids,” said Falcon. “For our ‘Do the Right Thing’ program, he has secured some awesome incentives that the kids are excited about, like gift cards and coupons from McDonald’s, QT convenience stores, and even Sky Zone Trampoline Park.”

Falcon also shared this little secret: the kids don’t know yet, but the top “Do the Right Thing” winner at the end of the school year will be receiving a family fun package to Great Wolf Lodge, courtesy of Officer Teague!

EMPOWER Your Volunteer Experience! “Building Connections and Motivating Students”

Join us for this special volunteer training opportunity led by Carrie B. Cook, VP Government Affairs with the Charlotte Chamber and founder of a local nonprofit, EmpowHERment. Cook, a graduate of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, is passionate about mentoring young people, especially teen girls. She founded EmpowHERment in 2012 to provide women and girls grades 6-12 with the resources, skills and networks to realize their full potential as leaders.

Bring a friend and introduce them to CIS! A light dinner will be provided. **Please RSVP to Courtney Peterson, cpeterson@cischarlotte.org by April 18.**

Thursday, April 21

6:15 – 7:30 pm

.....
**Children & Family Services
Center, 601 E. 5th Street**

.....
Training Room 1



Carrie B. Cook

Board of Directors

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Communities
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Charlotte-Mecklenburg

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Dine Out For Kids®

EVERY BITE COUNTS! Tuesday, June 21

Grab all your friends and hungry relatives and join us on Tuesday, June 21 as we "Dine Out For Kids" all across the city! More than 80 participating restaurants will donate a portion of their sales that day to benefit CIS and our mission to help kids stay in school and achieve in life. Visit www.cischarlotte.org to see a list of participating restaurants!

CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2015-16

Elementary Schools

Albemarle Road
Allenbrook
Billingsville
Hidden Valley
Highland Renaissance
Merry Oaks
Montclair
Nathaniel Alexander
Rama Road
Sedgefield
Shamrock Gardens
Statesville Road
Winterfield

PK - 8 Schools

Ashley Park
Berryhill
Brunswick
Druid Hills
Reid Park
Walter G. Byers
Westerly Hills

Middle Schools

Albemarle Road
Cochrane
Coulwood
Eastway
James Martin
Martin Luther King, Jr.
McClintock
Sedgefield
Whitewater

High Schools

East Mecklenburg
Garinger
Harding University
Hawthorne
Independence
Myers Park
Performance Learning Center®
Phillip O. Berry
South Mecklenburg
Vance
West Charlotte
West Mecklenburg

Jail North/Central – CIS also provides services to youthful offenders housed at Jail North and Jail Central