



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



Nov. 20 - Dec. 13

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January 22, 2014

CIS Education Summit:
"How Children Succeed"

January 22-24, 2014

CIS National Leadership Townhall
in Charlotte

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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Fall 2013

Bechtler Museum Partnership: **SUMMER ARTS LEARNING FOR CIS STUDENTS**

For the second summer in a row, Communities In Schools has partnered with The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art to offer CIS high school students an intensive Art Studio Lab, led by Bechtler Museum staff and coordinated by CIS high school staff. Judging by some of the artwork coming out of the workshops, along with feedback from the follow-up surveys, the program is a hit for students, parents, and staff.

"This has provided such a positive outlet for our students," said Alexis Bibbs, CIS Site Coordinator at West Charlotte High School. "Art is a great form of expression, and the students who participated were exposed to multiple mediums and got to express themselves in many forms. I was also happy for them that they were doing something constructive with their summer break."

The Bechtler originally partnered with CIS two years ago to provide an arts workshop for youthful offenders at Jail North, where CIS partners with CMS and the Sheriff's Office to help students have a successful transition back to a CMS school or other educational setting.

"The Bechtler's arts workshop for our community's youthful offenders was amazing," said Molly Shaw, CIS Executive Director. "It was a unique experience that was inspirational and beneficial on so many levels."



Students are proud to share their artwork at the Art Studio Lab's final exhibition and reception.

The success of the program at Jail North led to the Summer Arts Camp idea for CIS high school students, first offered to CIS students at West Charlotte High School in the summer of 2012, and then expanded in 2013 to include CIS students from Garinger and Myers Park High Schools, too.

This summer, the Art Studio Lab consisted of three intensive one-week courses, each of which focused on a particular medium. The first week focused on printmaking and bookmaking, the second week on sculpture and mixed media, and the third week on drawing and painting. All lessons and projects were designed around the Bechtler's collection of mid-20th-century art. Bechtler Museum teaching artists Ginny Boyd and Amy St. Aubin were the instructors.

Erica Somerwitz, the Bechtler's School and Community Programs Manager, said students learned new techniques and

(continued on page 2)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Molly Shaw, CIS Executive Director

There is much to celebrate with the start of school: the amazing work being done with thousands of CIS students across the county; the launch of our new strategic plan; and the announcement of some special accolades – CIS is being recognized by others both locally and nationally. As you'll read on page 3 of this newsletter, CIS-Charlotte is the recent recipient of not one, but two "Awards of Excellence,"

presented by the Communities In Schools National Office. The Communities In Schools network includes nearly 200 CIS affiliates, so receiving even one award (or in our case, two) is no small achievement – especially when you consider that CIS National bestowed just 13 awards in total.

Our "Community of Excellence" Award is in recognition of our outstanding affiliate's work and, specifically, our partnership with CMS and Project LIFT in support of Charlotte's west side schools -- it was one of only four "Community of Excellence" awards given. The

"School of Excellence" Award we received was shared with Vance High School, who has partnered with CIS for more than a decade, for the successful implementation of the proven Communities In Schools model. The CIS National Office gave only five "School of Excellence" Awards. I am extremely proud of our team, whose passion for our mission and standards of excellence resulted in this outstanding showing among our peer CIS affiliates.

Closer to home, there are others who clearly recognize the value of our work as well: in the recent presentation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Strategic Plan 2018, CIS-Charlotte was cited as a key partner in Goal 3 of the plan: "*Cultivate partnerships with families, businesses, faith-based groups and community organizations to provide a sustainable system of support and care for each child.*" The inclusion of CIS-Charlotte by Dr. Heath Morrison in his strategic plan presentation is a testament to his belief in our program and the amazing work that our Site Coordinators do every day for our students. We stand ready to do whatever it takes to help CMS achieve its goals – and more importantly, the goals of the students we serve.

Thank you for indulging my desire to lift up our fantastic team, supportive partners and the extraordinary students we serve each day. I hope you are just as proud to be a CIS-Charlotte supporter!

SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM continued from cover

created art at West Charlotte High School's campus Monday through Thursday of each week, and then on Fridays, they traveled to the Bechtler. "In addition to touring the Bechtler, we offered a field trip to the Mint Museum, a walking tour of public art in Charlotte, and a photography lesson using iPads and apps to manipulate the photos," said Somerwitz. "We also secured several guest lecturers who spoke about their career paths in the arts field."

A few students had never been to an art museum before. When asked if they noticed a difference with viewing art in person rather than in a book or on the internet, one student said, "Yes, because looking at art in person actually shows the process of the work. Every brushstroke and color can be seen." Others said, "If you view art only in books, you don't receive the whole experience or capture the essence of the actual work of art," and, "You gain a new respect for something when you see it in person."

"Overall, I think that this second iteration of the camp was extremely successful," said Somerwitz. "Students were exposed to many

facets of the nonprofit arts sector while also gaining experience and improving their art skills."

The highlight of the Art Studio Lab was the "showcase" at the end of the program, where parents and friends were invited to a reception and exhibition of the students' artwork. "It's extremely rewarding to watch a student point to their finished piece of artwork in the exhibition, and explain it to a friend or family member, with pride, and a smile," Somerwitz added.



CIS Site Coordinator Alexis Bibbs proved to be a popular "model" when the students were working on portraits.

CIS-Charlotte receives 2 NATIONAL AWARDS of EXCELLENCE



Welcome New CIS BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Franklin of Duke Energy to
lead CIS Board of Directors



*Brian Franklin,
CIS Board of Directors*

We're pleased to welcome the following new members to serve a three-year term on the CIS Board of Directors:

- Daniel Araujo**, Creative Player, Inc.
- Rich Bovard**, Deloitte
- Trevor Beauford**, Friendship
Missionary Baptist Church
- Andy Kalbaugh**, LPL Financial
- Suzanne Morrison**, Wells Fargo Bank

Brian Franklin is the new President of the Board. Brian is Associate General Counsel with Duke Energy and has served on the CIS Board for the past six years. Brian is a graduate of Morehouse College and Columbia Law School. He and his wife Rogina have two children that attend CMS schools.

Welcome to all of these members, as well as our returning board members. A complete list of board members is on the back page of this newsletter.

CIS-Charlotte is proud to share that it has won two "Awards of Excellence" from the Communities In Schools National Office. The awards are newly established this year to spotlight successful efforts by local community partners and/or schools to achieve collective impact by partnering with Communities In Schools. Out of nearly 200 CIS affiliates nationwide, CIS National bestowed just 13 awards, two of which went to CIS-Charlotte. A "Community of Excellence" award recognized CIS-Charlotte's partnership with Project LIFT, and a "School of Excellence" award went to Zebulon B. Vance High School for its successful implementation of the proven Communities In Schools model.

"It's very gratifying that our affiliate has won two of these awards, especially since just 13 were given nationwide," said Molly Shaw, CIS-Charlotte Executive Director. "More importantly, we are grateful to our partners, Project LIFT, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Vance High School, for their critical support of our program. We're proud to share this recognition with them."

Representatives from CIS-Charlotte, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Project LIFT, and three other Communities In Schools community partners from around the country, will receive their awards during a special ceremony in Charlotte on January 23, 2014. The national office of Communities In Schools is hosting a "Communities In Schools Leadership Town Hall" for the CIS network of affiliates around the country and has selected Charlotte as the location.



CIS Site Coordinators Michelle Price (left) and Ariel Corbett (right) chat with a representative from Right Moves for Youth.

CIS + CMS Partnerships RESOURCE FAIR

More than 52 agencies and community resource organizations participated in a collaborative CIS + CMS Partnerships Fair, held September 9 for CIS and CMS employees at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Andrew Ladd, VP of Planning and Agency Partnerships with CIS, worked with Assistant Superintendent LaTarja Henry and the CMS Community Partnerships and Family Engagement office to plan the event.

Safe Journey Health AND EDUCATION FAIR

Safe Journey and the Adolescent Parenting Program (APP) hosted a new Health and Education Fair for program participants on October 19. This new event combined two events previously hosted by Safe Journey - BLOCKFest and annual health screenings, as well as a new literacy exhibit – to provide a fun-filled learning experience for mothers and children.

Volunteer nurses screened children's vision, hearing, and overall indicators of healthy development, and took time to answer questions from moms about child development, illness prevention, and accessing healthcare in the community. Librarians from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library volunteered their time by hosting story-time and helping with the literacy stations.

Mothers and their infants under four months participated in a "HUG Your Baby" workshop, while the toddlers spent most of their time having fun with BLOCKFest, an evidence-based traveling exhibit that promotes block play as an integral part of science and math learning for young children.

The event was made possible by the support of over 30 volunteers from Elevation Church, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, and registered nurses specializing in pediatrics and labor and delivery.



The BLOCKFest exhibit helped parents learn fun ways to incorporate math and science concepts and vocabulary during developmentally-appropriate play.



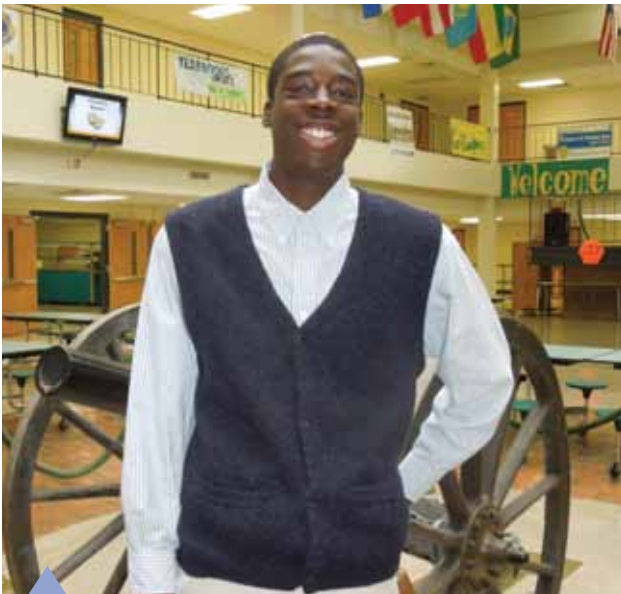
Looks like the literacy stations are working well for this youngster!

CHARLOTTE INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW - NOV 21-24

A portion of ticket sales will benefit CIS



Calling all car enthusiasts! Communities In Schools will benefit from ticket sales to this popular Charlotte event, November 21-24 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The Charlotte International Auto Show is an annual event produced by the Greater Charlotte Automobile Dealers Association, an Association of over 100 new car dealers in the Greater Charlotte area. The Auto Show offers consumers and car enthusiasts an opportunity to view 2014 models of cars, trucks, SUV's and crossovers from all manufacturers, all under one roof. Visit www.CharlotteAutoShow.com for hours, discount tickets and more information. Zoom on over to the Convention Center and check it out!



Deandre Pendergrass

CIS Student Profile

Say Hello to... **DEANDRE PENDERGRASS**

How you are as a man is determined by how you live your life and how you help others," stated Rev. Trevor Beauford during Communities In Schools' "Man Up" Summit this past spring.

Judged against these standards, Deandre Pendergrass, one of the workshop's attendees and a current senior in CIS at Independence High School, is a man who also happens to be one cool kid. With extracurriculars ranging from JROTC to miming to liturgical gospel music at his church, First Baptist West, Deandre is a leader whose faith drives him to give back.

Inspired by his involvement with the Youth Council of Mecklenburg Ministries, an interfaith, interracial, and multi-ethnic organization that seeks to unite diverse communities, Deandre decided to design his senior project around ways to create more start-up groups "to combat stereotypes and promote acceptance."

His experience as a summer camp counselor at the McCrorey YMCA through the Mayor's Youth Employment Program was equally inspirational to Deandre. After struggling to control one camper prone to physical outbursts, Deandre decided to sit down with the child one-on-one to discuss the source of his anger. He discovered that the camper currently lived with his grandmother, and Deandre shared with him how he too grew up without biological parents. This commonality not only allowed the two to move forward and have a successful summer, it stands out in Deandre's mind as a particular "point of influence" and fuels his dream to one day open a daycare for youth in similar situations. "I just want children to know there is somebody who cares for them," Deandre said. "Every child needs to believe they can do anything in life."

Deandre's present decision to 'Man Up' is even more striking in light of a past that could have easily pushed any 'man down.' Deandre lived with his foster mother from the time he was 21

months old until her tragic passing when he was just fourteen. The loss struck him hard. "My greatest regret was that I didn't appreciate her for what she did, even though I knew she was a good woman," Deandre stated. "Only after she was gone did I realize that I had the most wonderful mother a child could wish for."

From that moment on, Deandre decided to never take anything for granted, including school. Only three days after her funeral, he retook a reading EOG he had previously failed and passed; "I knew doing well academically would be what she wanted."

At Independence, Deandre is a member of Communities In Schools' Leadership team and participated in the CIS Speaking Contest last spring. His CIS Site Coordinators, Bianca Harvey and Andrana Lee, helped him prepare for the event by encouraging him to practice in front of his JROTC class and giving him constructive criticism. Ms. Harvey and Ms. Lee's help, however, goes beyond public speaking. "They helped my family secure bedding," said Deandre, "something we haven't had since we were forcibly removed from our home." Deandre, who currently lives with his foster mother's biological daughter and twin sister, is thankful for the resources CIS helped to supply and now uses his strengthened oratorical skills to champion the need for relationships between organizations like Charlotte Housing Authority and CIS.

So what does the future hold for Deandre? He hopes an acceptance letter to Morehouse, a prominent, historically black men's college. After traveling with CIS's "Talent Search" program to Atlanta last summer, he admits that what drew him most to Morehouse was their "emphasis on becoming a man."

"A man provides for his family," Deandre stated when reflecting on the 'Man Up' Summit. But perhaps what is more significant is that Deandre's current actions and future goals are centered on being a provider... for people who aren't just his family. And at Communities In Schools, we ask ourselves and our partners to do the same, because students, leaders, and men like Deandre are not only worthy of our investment, they repay it tenfold.

To read more CIS student profiles, visit our website at www.cischarlotte.org/what-we-do/cis-student-success-stories.



L to R: Will Smoak, David Webb, Mark Caldwell, and Allison Dulin.

CIS MEET & GREET for Young Professionals

Threes Tap Room and Wine Bar at 333 W. Trade Street was the place to be the evening of October 24! CIS held a "Meet & Greet" networking event for young professionals and based on the turnout, there will be more to come!

"We were really pleased with the attendance," said Carell Brown, Development Coordinator with CIS. "The idea is to raise awareness about CIS, but also provide networking opportunities and information about nonprofits in general.

"This age group has a lot of untapped potential and we're hoping this group will be a place for people to gain experience and get involved."

For more information and to be notified about the next event, contact Carell Brown at cbrown@cischarlotte.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Robert Rogers, Sedgefield Middle School

As CIS Site Coordinator Reggie Robinson puts it, "He's my 'go to' person." 'He' would be CIS volunteer Robert Rogers, who is beginning his third year of volunteering at Sedgefield Middle School. "Dependable" and "consistent" are also words Reggie uses to describe Rogers. "I know I can always count on Robert, whenever I need anything," said Robinson. "And the kids he's tutored know they can count on him, too."

Robert Rogers first learned about Communities In Schools through his church, Avondale Presbyterian, which is just down the street from Sedgefield Middle School. He is a retired filmmaker and former news cameraman who went on to be a director/producer of television commercials and documentaries, working out of Charlotte since 1969. His three sons attended Sedgefield in the 1970's, back when it was "Sedgefield Junior High," and now he has two grandsons who are good students and avid readers carrying on "the family tradition for the love of reading."

When asked why he volunteers with CIS, Rogers said, "Students and teachers need all the support we can give, and I cannot think of a better way to volunteer than helping students improve their reading skills and encourage them to appreciate the value of good reading skills in their lives. It also gives me a chance to share my love of reading."

"Volunteering has been an important part of my life for many years," said Rogers. "I've been very blessed in my life and I'm thankful I have the time now to give back to my community, and especially at Sedgefield Middle School."



Robert Rogers with Sedgefield students and brothers, Royal (left) and Reggie (right). Robert was Reggie's reading buddy two years ago, and this year he will be working with 6th grader Royal. A new meaning for "The Three R's!"

DID YOU KNOW....

Dec 12 Volunteer Orientation

...that **about 20% of youth** – which represents 8.5 million youth across the country – do not have caring adults in their lives? YOU could be that caring adult and have a lasting impact on a child's life. Contact Courtney Peterson cpeterson@cischarlotte.org to find out more about volunteering with children and teens through CIS.

Upcoming CIS Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Children & Family Services Center
601 E. 5th Street, Charlotte, NC



LOWCOUNTRY ON THE GREEN 2013

Fabulous Fun, Food & Friends



CIS enjoyed a fabulous turnout for its 5th annual Lowcountry on the Green on September 21 -- despite the deluge of rain later in the evening! From dancing in the atrium, to bidding on favorite items in the Silent Auction and dining on delicious lowcountry cuisine, the crowd remained enthusiastic throughout the evening. Many thanks again to Wells Fargo Advisors, the event's Title Sponsor, and to all of our corporate sponsors and party hosts. Mark your calendar for next year's event on September 20, 2014!

Many Thanks to Our Event Sponsors



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Look, the glass ceiling is cracking...
Guess it's because I fulfilled my dreams

Quote from a CIS student who participated in this summer's Art Studio Lab led by The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. [See related article on the cover.](#)

CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2013-14

Elementary Schools

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

PK - 8 Schools

Ashley Park
Berryhill
Bruns
Reid Park
Thomasboro
Walter G. Byers
Westerly Hills

Middle Schools

Albemarle Road
Cochrane
Coulwood
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Garinger
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Hawthorne
Independence
Myers Park
Olympic
Performance
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www.cischarlotte.org
704.335.0601

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