



PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact:
May Johnston, Media Relations
704-943-9447
mjohnston@cischarlotte.org

Unlikely High School Graduates are on the way to College with a little help from the Wal-Mart Foundation and Communities In Schools

First Class of Wal-Mart Foundation Communities In Schools Scholars Announced

Charlotte, NC – Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., is proud to announce that **Taylor Mendelsohn** of Charlotte will be among the inaugural class of Walmart Foundation Communities In Schools Scholarship Program scholars. Taylor and his fellow students have all faced challenges that made college seem more like a dream than reality, some even dropping out of school. CIS' Performance Learning Centers® (PLCs), non-traditional academically rigorous high schools, have helped them get back on track to graduate. Now, thanks to a grant from the Walmart Foundation, Taylor and six other students from CIS' PLC network will receive resources, assistance and training to prepare them for success in college and beyond.

Taylor will receive \$10,000 over four years to help meet the cost of going to college. He will also receive comprehensive support services that will continue through college. Taylor has enrolled at Western Carolina University and plans to study

"CIS and the PLC here in Charlotte are very proud of Taylor and know he will be a successful college student," said Bill Anderson, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. "Taylor was challenged at his previous high school but excelled in the smaller PLC environment. He is a perfect example of why it's so important to have options for students who are not succeeding in a traditional high school environment."

In addition to the Scholars Program, the Walmart Foundation also supports the expansion of CIS' PLC network. Through support from the Foundation, two new schools will be opened in Pennsylvania and North Carolina; resources, assistance and training for college and career will be offered to students; and PLC and CIS staff will receive technical assistance and training.

CIS of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, CIS of North Carolina, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools worked together to open North Carolina's first PLC in Charlotte in the fall of 2006. Since then, four more PLC's have opened in across North Carolina.

About Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools is the nation's largest network of dropout prevention organizations, working in nearly 3,300 K-12 public schools. Today, more than 1.3 million young people annually receive direct services through almost 200 Communities In Schools local affiliates in 26 states and the District of Columbia. Between 80-90 percent of Communities In Schools' tracked students show improvement in academic achievement, attendance, behavior and promotion to the next grade level. Visit our website at www.communitiesinschools.org.

CIS of Charlotte-Mecklenburg currently serves more than 5,000 students annually in 41 Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools. For more information, visit www.cischarlotte.org

About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart – and its domestic and international foundations – gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

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Ed. Note: Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is the legal trade name of the corporation. The name "Walmart," expressed as one word and without punctuation, is a trademark of the company and is used analogously to describe the company and its stores. Use the trade name when it is necessary to identify the legal entity, such as when reporting financial results, litigation or corporate governance.