



PRESS RELEASE
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TIAA-CREF donates 25 bicycles to Communities In Schools students

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - TIAA-CREF is supporting Communities In Schools' (CIS) efforts to help students succeed and stay in school by assembling and donating 25 bicycles that will go to CIS students with excellent attendance, grades, and citizenship.

TIAA-CREF's Law and Compliance division is meeting this week at the company's headquarters in Charlotte. George Madison, TIAA-CREF Executive Vice President and General Counsel, wanted to kick off the week with a community service project that would also provide a team-building activity for employees.



Communities In Schools

"TIAA-CREF employees have a proud history of volunteering in the communities where they live and work," said Madison. "Today we are thrilled to donate 25 bicycles - built by our employees - to Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., for the benefit of the children served by this important organization."

TIAA-CREF has partnered with Communities In Schools since 2001, when the company relocated its headquarters from New York to Charlotte. The company's own volunteer mentoring program, "Courage to Succeed," helps inner-city and at-risk youth develop marketable skills, self-confidence, and an understanding of the business community. TIAA-CREF approached Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Communities In Schools to implement the Courage To Succeed program in Charlotte and it is currently in place at Ranson Middle School. CIS works with TIAA-CREF employees and helps coordinate the program at Ranson, where approximately 35-40 students benefit from the program each year.

"Mentoring is such an important aspect of our organization," said Dr. Bill Anderson, CIS Executive Director. "It is one of the best ways to help support young people, especially those who may not have a consistent role model in their immediate family. We are grateful to TIAA-CREF for providing the Courage To Succeed program and mentors for our students at Ranson, and now for this creative donation of the bicycles," he added.

According to Anderson, the bicycles from TIAA-CREF – and similar donations – serve as powerful incentives for students to improve their attendance, behavior, and academic performance. Companies interested in supporting Communities In Schools in this way by donating similar items or by developing a mentoring program, should contact Dr. Anderson at banderson@cischarlotte.org.

About Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (CIS) is part of the nation’s leading dropout prevention network, helping young people stay in school, successfully learn, and prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with schools. Since 1985, CIS has mobilized locally existing resources and coordinated partnerships with health and human service agencies to help thousands of at-risk students overcome academic, social, and economic barriers. CIS currently provides services to more than 4,000 students in 33 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. CIS is funded in part by the United Way of Central Carolinas, Mecklenburg County, and the Charlotte Merchants Foundation, as well as corporations, civic and faith organizations, and individuals. www.cischarlotte.org

About TIAA-CREF

TIAA-CREF (www.tiaa-cref.org) is a national financial services organization and the leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields with more than \$436 billion in combined assets under management (12/31/2007).

Further information can be found at www.tiaa-cref.org.

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Photo caption (if needed):

George Madison (left), Executive Vice President with TIAA-CREF, presents 25 bicycles to CIS Executive Director Dr. Bill Anderson. The bikes were assembled by TIAA-CREF employees as part of a community service project and team-building exercise.