



# 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-Dec**  
CIS Holiday Cards

**Nov. 28**  
Giving Tuesday

**Jan. 23, 2018**  
Success Coach Training

## CONNECT WITH US



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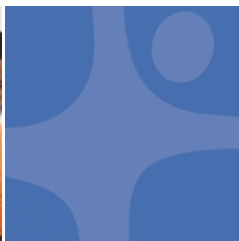
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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Fall 2017

# BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

## Providence Day School + Winterfield Elementary



Providence Day School and Winterfield Elementary School students in front of one of the murals they painted together. Third from right on back row is PDS senior Grant Abrams, standing next to Kristen Eatman, Winterfield's art teacher, and Anna Kennington, CIS Site Coordinator at Winterfield.

Walking the halls of Winterfield Elementary in east Charlotte, two things stand out: the amazing ethnic and cultural diversity of the students, and the colorful, inspiring artwork on the walls. One mural in particular – the one just outside the gymnasium – commands attention. This particular mural is special, as it was the brainchild and result of two school communities coming together to find common ground and learn from each other.

Two years ago, Providence Day School (PDS) student Grant Abrams, then a high school sophomore, was driving across town when he was struck by the great disparity in socioeconomic status he was seeing from one neighborhood to the next. Grant lives and goes to school in southeast Charlotte, yet a 15-minute car ride across town felt worlds away. He began brainstorming how he could bring two different areas of Charlotte together as a way to foster understanding and connections that would benefit everyone.

Grant shared his ideas with Kelly Brooks, a PDS parent and founder of SHARE Charlotte, and she suggested that he meet with Sarah Shifflet, CIS-Charlotte's Director of Resource Development. Shifflet shared information with Grant about Communities In Schools and several other nonprofits that might be interested in working with him to bring his ideas to fruition.

*(continued on page 3)*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

In early 2016, our Board of Directors led a comprehensive strategic planning process for CIS-Charlotte, with input from more than 1,300 stakeholders. The result was our strategic plan, VISION 2020, which provides a clear vision for student success over four years.

We are now beginning Year Two of VISION 2020. One of the key goals in Year Two is to *increase our impact through differentiated services, with powerful outcome measures*. To that end, we have begun to implement our differentiated services plan. Differentiated services consists of three levels of enhanced CIS intervention:

- Addressing chronic, crisis-ridden student and family situations.
- Ensuring attendance, academic and behavior support and stabilization.
- Providing academic and cultural enrichment, life skills coaching, post-secondary planning and options.

In a nutshell, differentiated services will allow us to provide students with the right kind of support, in the right amount, and at the right time. We are hiring more CIS Site Coordinators to fill critical gaps in schools with high concentrations of poverty, and providing additional training and specialized skill development for program staff. By taking our work to this greater depth and providing highly individualized services according to need, we believe our CIS students and families will make life-changing progress that will also lead to systemic change for future generations.

In September, we received a foundational gift from the Howard R. Levine Foundation, which will support the launch of our Crisis Care Initiative. This initiative is the lynchpin of our differentiated services plan, because it will allow us to hire qualified staff to serve as Intensive Case Managers, who will provide the deepest level of service for students experiencing crisis, complementing the other differentiated services roles. We are extremely grateful to Howard and Julie Levine for recognizing this critical need of student support and embracing our plan to address it.

As always, we are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and advocates for your unwavering commitment to our students and their future. Thank you for your support.



Molly Shaw, CIS Executive Director

## BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER *Continued from page 1*

Grant and Ms. Shifflet met with Eric Hedinger, the Head of Upper School at PDS, who fully supported Grant's desire to bring private school and public school students together to help build relationships and community. With input from CIS program staff, Winterfield Elementary rose to the top as a great "reciprocal" match to form a mutually beneficial partnership with Providence Day.

"It was important to build a partnership together that benefited both schools," Grant said. "We are not simply coming in and 'giving' to Winterfield — we wanted it to be a two-way street. Each school has something to offer and should have a positive impact on the other."

Last year, during the first year of the partnership, about 75-100 PDS students were involved at Winterfield in one way or another. They held soccer clinics (completely full with Winterfield students and parents!) participated in Spanish "conversation hours," tutored Winterfield Youth

Orchestra students, conceived and painted beautiful murals together, and the entire Winterfield 5th grade visited PDS to experience their *Alice in Wonderland* theatre production.

Anna Kennington, CIS Site Coordinator at Winterfield, says she is already seeing evidence of Grant's original vision of building bridges between their two diverse communities. "Winterfield is thrilled about the partnership and we're excited to see how it will develop and grow this year," said Kennington.

"Everyone at Winterfield and CIS has been so supportive," added Grant. "From the minute we started working with them, every teacher has been willing to get involved, and the administration, including Principal Grant [Winterfield's Principal Angela Grant], is incredibly enthusiastic and dedicated to making this happen. It's working out even better than I had envisioned."

# Howard R. Levine Foundation Gives \$500,000 to NEW CRISIS CARE INITIATIVE

In September, Charlotte's Howard R. Levine Foundation announced it will give \$500,000 over five years to CIS-Charlotte to launch its new Crisis Care Initiative, a key element of the agency's VISION 2020 strategic plan. The Crisis Care Initiative will deploy Intensive Case Managers in schools to support and provide wrap-around services for students experiencing severe circumstances and trauma.

"This generous gift means that our most vulnerable students will receive the deepest level of support from CIS Intensive Case Managers, said Molly Shaw, CIS-Charlotte Executive Director. "Students and families in crisis need immediate stabilization support as well as deeper

interventions to ensure they can navigate systems and create new cycles of generational success. Howard Levine's foundational gift speaks to his commitment to economic mobility and future generations. His support is instrumental to helping expand and complement our work."

This year, CIS-Charlotte will have three Intensive Case Managers at three CMS schools. The goal of the Crisis Care Initiative is to expand the number of Intensive Case Managers to serve as many as 10 schools by the year 2020.

"Building a strong team of Intensive Case Managers is key to Communities In Schools' vision," said Howard Levine. "Our community has complex challenges and we need thoughtful, bold, innovative ideas. I hope this gift can help start a movement to add deeper support for students in crisis and I hope others in the community will join the effort."

Howard Levine and his wife, Dr. Julie Lerner Levine, established the Howard R. Levine Foundation in 2010 as a donor advised fund held at Foundation For The Carolinas. Howard and Julie Levine have focused much of their support on nonprofit programs that help low-income people and struggling families in a myriad of ways, with the majority of grants staying within the Charlotte community.

*"I hope this gift can help start a movement to add deeper support for students in crisis."*

— Howard Levine

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS Andy Kalbaugh is CIS Board President



**ANDY KALBAUGH** is the new president of the CIS-Charlotte Board of Directors. Kalbaugh is the Managing Director and Divisional President for National Sales and Consulting with LPL Financial. He has served on the CIS Board since 2013. In addition to serving on multiple Board committees, Kalbaugh and his team at LPL Financial initiated the Tees For Tuition golf tournament that provides college scholarships to CIS students.

Kalbaugh and his wife, Anne, have five children and moved to Charlotte eight years ago from Florida. Kalbaugh says he feels very blessed with his family, career, and the opportunities he has had. "I want to help other

young people accomplish what they want in life," said Kalbaugh, "and I believe through CIS I can change lives and make a difference for generations to come."

### Other new board members include:

**Men Tchaas Ari**  
Mecklenburg County DSS

**Maxine Swayne**  
US Bank

**Mary Ellen Player**  
Google Fiber Charlotte

**Justin Wilkes**  
Elliott Davis Decosimo

**Robert Russo**  
Independent Advisor Alliance

A complete list of CIS-Charlotte's Board of Directors can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Many thanks to all of our Board members for their expertise, dedication, and commitment to the organization and the students we serve.



# LOWCOUNTRY at The Fillmore

We definitely turned it up at The Fillmore on September 16! It was an amazing evening, with a fantastic band, delicious food, and an incredible Silent Auction. Best of all was the debut of a new video about CIS Youthful Offenders counselor George Metz and his former student, West Charlotte graduate Dannei Gayle. If you missed it, you can find it on our website, [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org). Hope to see you at Lowcountry next year!

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Maxine Swayne  
Kippy & Blake Thompson  
Toccare Day Spa  
Topgolf Charlotte  
Toska European Spa  
Twine & Twig  
UNC Charlotte  
Windsor Jewelers  
Wolfgang Puck Kitchen + Bar  
Woo Skincare + Cosmetics  
Zen Asian Fusion

# CIS ALUMNI

## Sharing their Stories

Kiara Lee and Dannei Gayle are two CIS graduates who recently agreed to share their stories of how CIS has impacted their lives. We are so proud of them and grateful for their willingness to give back to CIS in this way.

### KIARA LEE

Kiara Lee is a 2014 CIS graduate from Phillip O. Berry Academy. Kiara had some very challenging times in high school, including homelessness at one point. She said her CIS Site Coordinator, Jamall Kinard, encouraged her to talk about her problems instead of keeping them in. "I believe CIS was a big factor in the person I am today," said Kiara. "CIS helped me gain leadership skills, and made me feel important. Networking, community service, community building, and 'knowing your why' [a constant mantra and personal ethic Mr. Kinard emphasized with his students] – I could never forget that or appreciate it any more than I do."

That's why Kiara, now a senior at UNC-Charlotte, recently signed up to volunteer as a CIS "Success Coach." "I want to change a child's life," Kiara said, "like CIS changed mine."

*At right: Kiara is featured in a Charlotte Will campaign message in The Charlotte Observer this fall.*

### DANNEI GAYLE



Dannei and Mr. Metz\_Sept2017

See all video stats  
Only visible to you

Dannei Gayle graduated from West Charlotte High School on July 14, 2017 – a day he calls "one of the best of my life." But just a couple of years ago, he never would have imagined where he is today – a high school graduate enrolled on scholarship at CPCC.

Growing up without a father and his mom working long hours, Dannei remembers high school in the 9th grade as a place he could basically look forward to getting a meal. That same year, he got in trouble and landed in jail. Dannei says he never would have made it if it hadn't been for George Metz, the CIS Youthful Offenders Counselor he met upon his return to West Charlotte from Jail North. Mr. Metz and Dannei recently sat down for a video interview. Check it out on our website, [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org) or on our Vimeo channel, [www.vimeo.com/cischarlotte](http://www.vimeo.com/cischarlotte).

## SHARED STORIES

### My life was changed

I'll always be grateful to Communities In Schools (CIS) and Mr. Kinard, my CIS Site Coordinator. During my darkest, most challenging times in high school, Mr. Kinard helped me understand that what I go through doesn't define who I am or who I can be. CIS gave me opportunities related to college and career, networking, and more. Today I'm a senior at UNC-Charlotte, and I recently signed up to volunteer with CIS. I want to be a great mentor to someone, so they can feel loved and encouraged like I did. I want to change a child's life – like CIS changed mine.

#### Kiara

Communities In Schools graduate  
and volunteer mentor



For more information about

**Communities In Schools**

Go to: [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org)

CHARLOTTE  
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Charlotte Will is an awareness campaign to support and bring attention to various community nonprofits that are dedicated to improving economic mobility, education and literacy.

**Leading on  
Opportunity**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Ken Cotner

### South Mecklenburg High School

CIS Site Coordinator Ebony Wilson says students at South Meck have repeatedly paid the highest of compliments to CIS volunteer Ken Cotner, who volunteers as a math tutor. Wilson noticed that her students would be uptight and a little nervous before meeting with Cotner for the first time. “I think they were intimidated and weren’t sure they liked the idea of a tutor,” said Wilson. “But nearly every time after their first meeting with him, the kids would come back to me and say, ‘He’s cool!’ Talk about someone who relates well with teens – Mr. Ken takes the prize!”

Cotner’s daughter graduated from South Meck a few years ago, and he had volunteered at the school as a South Meck parent. However, it was when he ran into Sarah Shifflet, a former colleague from Bank of America, that he learned more about Communities In Schools and the agency’s mission to provide resources and support to students in need. Shifflet, who is now Resource Development Director for CIS, connected Cotner to CIS Site Coordinators Wilson and Marta Falcon at South Meck. Mr. Ken has been in high demand ever since!

Cotner says he enjoys getting to interact with young people and seeing a student grasp a concept with which he or she has struggled. “Being around the kids gives me energy, and when I’m able to provide some actual help, I get a sense of accomplishment,” Cotner said. “I’ve also been blessed throughout my life with help from many people, and there is, I believe, an obligation to pay that forward.”

Wilson added that nearly all of her students’ math grades have improved. “We are so appreciative of his time and talents, and the students adore him,” said Wilson. “South Meck is definitely a better place because of him.”

*To find out more about volunteer options with CIS, contact Sarah Shifflet or Yeeva Cheng at [volunteer@cischarlotte.org](mailto:volunteer@cischarlotte.org).*



*Ken Cotner with Cecilia, a South Meck student he tutored last year.*



### #AllinforKids Marketing Campaign Debuts

We’re excited to share a sample billboard from the new CIS National #AllinforKids marketing campaign – that features our very own CIS Site Coordinator, Jamall Kinard (Independence High School), and his former student, CIS graduate Alina Glover. This past spring Jamall and Alina were selected to participate in the campaign photo shoot at the national office in Washington, DC. Now ads, posters, billboards, digital social media covers, and more will be appearing in cities across the country. Keep your eyes peeled for Jamall and Alina in the Charlotte area soon!



# DINE OUT FOR KIDS June 20, 2017

Lots of delicious food, generous sponsors and restaurants, and good friends cooked up the perfect "Recipe for Success" again this year! Thanks to all for dining out! Check out more photos at [facebook.com/cischarlotte](https://facebook.com/cischarlotte).



## Many Thanks to Our Participating Restaurants

204 North Kitchen & Cocktails  
Alexander Michael's  
Aria Tuscan Grill  
Bad Daddy's Burger Bar  
BRAVO! Cucina Italiana  
Brio Tuscan Grille  
Brixx Wood Fired Pizza  
Burger 21

Charlotte Knights Baseball  
City Smoke  
Crepe Cellar Kitchen & Pub  
Dilworth Neighborhood Grille  
Dogwood Southern Table & Bar  
Dressler's  
Eddie's Place  
Famous Toastery of Dilworth

Five Guys Burgers and Fries  
Haberdish  
Harper's Restaurant  
HMSHost – Charlotte Douglas International Airport  
Johnny Burrito  
Letty's on Shamrock  
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The Melting Pot

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## CONGRATULATIONS to these CIS Staff Members



Federico for taking on this important leadership role in the wider community.

We are proud to share that **Federico Rios**, our Program Director of the Northeast Learning Community and Newcomer Services, has been appointed to Charlotte's 19-member *Leading on Opportunity Council*. The Council will work to implement the recommendations set forth by the Economic Opportunity Task Force last spring. Congratulations and thank you to



and Garinger High School. The award highlighted her dedication to students over a lifetime. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Walker on our CIS team!

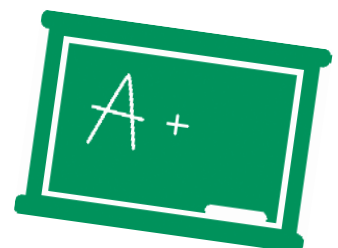
Congratulations to **Dr. Daisy Walker**, who was recently named The Charlotte Post's "Educator of the Year." Dr. Walker is the Volunteer Coordinator with CIS-Charlotte's Project LIFT Team at West Charlotte High School. She has worked as an educator for nearly 50 years, teaching at Randolph Middle School and serving as principal at Wilson Middle School

## SUCCESS COACH TRAINING January 23, 2018

Over 60 volunteers have participated in our interactive "Success Coach" trainings this fall and are currently being paired with CIS students!

Volunteers from a variety of companies and organizations, including from the **faith community**, **Accenture**, **Bank of America**, **LPL Financial**, **Vanguard**, and **CIS alumni**, are stepping up to support our students. Our next scheduled training is **January 23, 2018** – we hope to see you there!

Contact Yeeva Cheng, our Volunteer and Community Engagement Associate, at [ycheng@cischarlotte.org](mailto:ycheng@cischarlotte.org), for more information.



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Charlotte-Mecklenburg

601 E. Fifth Street, Suite 300  
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## CIS-Charlotte Named Charlotte Observer TOP WORKPLACE

We are proud to announce that CIS-Charlotte was recently named a Charlotte Observer 2017 "Top Workplace!" Hooray for an amazing group of people that make CIS an amazing place to work! Most of all, we feel honored to have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of thousands of Charlotte-Mecklenburg students each year.

## CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2017-18

### Elementary Schools

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

### PK - 8 Schools

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

### Middle Schools

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

### High Schools

East Mecklenburg  
Garinger  
Harding University  
Independence  
Myers Park  
Olympic  
Performance  
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