



# 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



**August 1-31**

**School Tools Campaign**

**August 15**

**CIS Volunteer Orientation**

**August 26**

**First Day of School**

**September 21**

**Lowcountry on the Green**

## CONNECT WITH US



[www.facebook.com/cischarlotte](http://www.facebook.com/cischarlotte)



[www.twitter.com/cischarlotte](http://www.twitter.com/cischarlotte)



educate  
collaborate  
graduate

Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Summer 2013

## STUDENT AWARD WINNERS Shine in CIS End-of-Year Events

Spring is a busy but joyful time for CIS students, families and staff! All of our programming teams take great pleasure and pride in planning end-of-year events to recognize their students who have excelled or made great improvement in academics, attendance, citizenship, and leadership. Parents and guests attending the events were duly impressed with the creativity and execution of the programs - but most importantly, they were impressed with the caliber and accomplishments of the students! We wish we could uplift ALL of the 6,500+ students CIS worked with this past school year, but we are proud to highlight the following students who received the top "overall" award in their respective CIS program division.



*CIS staff (back row) with seniors from Independence High School at our annual Celebrating Our Graduates event.*



*CIS Leadership Award Winner Destiny Parker, left, with her mother after receiving the award at the "Celebrating Our Graduates" luncheon.*

### **Destiny Parker, CIS Senior Leadership Award Winner**

The Leadership Award goes to a CIS senior who exhibits excellence in Leadership and Academics. The student must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, meet grade level goals and expectations, have less than 5 absences, be an active participant in CIS learning/leadership activities, and be accepted to a 4-year college/university. Destiny Parker, a CIS graduate from Olympic High School, met all these requirements and more. Destiny was active in Student Government and was a member of the National Honor Society, the BETA Club, the Step Team, the Varsity Track Team, and Olympic's Choir group. She also served as a teacher assistant and tutored other students through the Senior Mentor Group at Olympic. Destiny graduated with a 3.8 GPA and will attend George Mason University in the fall.

*(continued on page 3)*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

## On My Desk: 6,678 Students

On my desk sit twelve pages of paper. Each page is packed full of names (6,678 to be exact), listed out in 10-point font. The pages contain the names of every student whom CIS served this past year – 6,678 extraordinary young people who are working to stay in school, graduate and prepare for their own extraordinary futures. The papers sit on my desk as a continual reminder of exactly why we do the work we do at Communities In Schools. We are about students, individual kids; so when I look over at the stack of papers, I see Justin, Laila, Rolando, Taylor, Ka-Mya and Ashanti staring back.

This year CIS embarked on a new strategic plan and after months of interviews, focus groups, surveys and discussion, CIS looks ahead with a commitment to the following:

- Improving Service Delivery
- Serving the Needs of Additional Identified Students
- Managing Performance

The plan includes strategies around staff development, partnership building, using data to drive decisions, fundraising, and piloting promising new ideas. We are aware of the significant impact that CIS already makes in the lives of students and cognizant of the need to continually improve. After all, everything we are doing, we do for the 6,678 children on my desk (so to speak).

As we move forward, with our students in mind, I also want to thank each of you for the part you have played in the past year's success. Your commitment to our students has helped change lives, and we (and they) are grateful.



*Molly Shaw, CIS Executive Director*

## CIS WINS \$50,000 GRANT in 'Flash Philanthropy' Experiment

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (CIS) participated in a bit of history-making on Friday, May 3 at Queens University of Charlotte's graduate programs commencement ceremony. Even better, a \$50,000 grant for CIS from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation was part of the result!

Earlier in the year, the Knight Foundation polled graduate students at Queens to discover what critical issues facing the community they deemed most important. Based on the poll results, the Knight Foundation then selected three charities – CIS, Goodwill, and Loaves and Fishes – that represented the students' top three concerns of education, jobs, and hunger. Students didn't know, however, that they would have the opportunity to participate in a "random act of philanthropy" during their upcoming graduation ceremony by voting via text message for their top choice among these three charities.

In addition to completing a grant application, each charity created a 45-second video (per Knight Foundation stipulation) that the audience viewed during the commencement. Queens graduates were then told to whip out their smart phones and vote "American Idol" style! Communities In Schools received the most votes, and with that honor



*Molly Shaw reacts when she realizes CIS is the top vote getter.*

came a \$50,000 grant from the Knight Foundation. Goodwill and Loaves and Fishes did not go away empty-handed, however; the Knight Foundation generously donated \$25,000 to each of them as well.

Molly Shaw, Communities In Schools-Charlotte Executive Director, attended the commencement and was naturally thrilled with the voting results. "It was exciting to witness the voting and results in 'real time,'" said Shaw. "Flash philanthropy sets a new bar – tonight was groundbreaking for this community and for philanthropy. Communities In Schools is thrilled to be a part of such innovative thinking, and we are grateful to the Knight Foundation and Queens for making this opportunity possible."

## STUDENT AWARD WINNERS, *continued*



Bryce Macauley with CIS staff Shantiqua Neely (left) and Jessica Williams.



Dana Polson



Heather Cauthen (left) with Timisha Barnes-Jones, her Safe Journey volunteer mentor.

### **Bryce Macauley, Project LIFT Team's "This Kid Rocks!" Award Winner**

The Project LIFT Team at CIS held an outstanding awards program for students in Project LIFT zone schools in May. The inaugural event, titled "This Kid ROCKS!", was an impressive combination of video imagery, special guests in person and via pre-recorded video, entertainment, and a surprise appearance by Grammy Award-winning artist and Charlotte native, Anthony Hamilton. But most important was the presentation by each Site Coordinator to the top 5th and 8th grade students at their respective schools, giving the students deserving recognition and a chance to shine for their parents. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first-ever "This Kid Rocks" Award to the top 8th grade student among all the Project LIFT school sites. Bryce Macauley, an 8th grader at Ashley Park Academy, was the winner! Congratulations, Bryce!

### **Dana Polson, CIS Elementary Schools Team "Student of the Year"**

Dana Polson, a 5th grade graduate of Shamrock Gardens Elementary School, is this year's top "Student of the Year" Award Winner among all 5th grade students enrolled in CIS Elementary School sites. Lisa Carter, Dana's CIS Site Coordinator at Shamrock Gardens, said, "Dana is a bright young lady who experienced challenging life circumstances that could have drastically changed the course of her life. This year, Dana worked really hard to change her outlook on life. She is striving to accomplish personal and academic goals in hopes of graduating high school and college. Great job, Dana!!"

### **Heather Cauthen, R.I.S.E. Scholarship Award Winner**

The R.I.S.E Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to a member of the Safe Journey R.I.S.E ("Reaching Individual Success through Collective Efforts") Leadership Team. Candidates must be seniors in high school with plans to attend a four-year college or university. The recipient is selected based on her dedicated participation in Safe Journey/APP programming, academic performance, letters of recommendation from school and community partners, and her personal statement. This year's R.I.S.E Scholarship recipient is Heather Cauthen. Heather is a CIS/Safe Journey graduate from Philip O. Berry High School and will attend Gardner-Webb University in the fall.

## Graduations, Graduations, **GRADUATIONS!** Celebrating the Class of 2013

You know the saying, "a picture's worth a thousand words"? We agree, and feel the best way to recognize our graduating students this year is by sharing some of the wonderful graduation photos we received from staff. Below are two photos but lots more are posted on our Facebook page - plus success stories and other recent news about CIS. We hope you'll become our "fan" on Facebook (if you haven't already!). Even if you don't use Facebook, you can still view our graduation photos if you go online to <http://ow.ly/ncvEw>  
Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

 Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cischarlotte](http://www.facebook.com/cischarlotte)



Myers Park High School



Harding University High School



# Let's Go Bananas AND SUPPORT CIS

The Chiquita Classic • September 2-8, 2013

The Chiquita Classic has generously invited CIS to participate in Tickets For Charity, a fundraising opportunity that provides non-profit organizations the ability to sell tickets to the tournament. 100% of each ticket sale goes directly back to CIS. The Chiquita Classic is one of the premier annual stops on the Nationwide Tour, the "Official Proving Ground for the PGA TOUR."

The event is September 2-8, 2013 at River Run Country Club in Davidson, NC. Whether you are new to golf, or a dedicated golf fan already planning to attend the Chiquita Classic (but haven't bought tickets yet!), please consider buying them through the CIS portal on the Chiquita Classic website!

**To purchase tickets online:** Go to [www.chiquitaclassic.com](http://www.chiquitaclassic.com), click on "Buy Tickets" and then on "Purchase Now" — here you'll see the list of participating charities — scroll down midway to select "Communities In Schools" as your charity. Proceed with ticket purchase.

**One-Day Access Tickets are \$15**

**4-Day Access Tickets (Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 5-8) are \$45.**

***Let's go bananas for CIS!!***

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

Focus Determination Drive Chiquita

Rupert Henley  
Chiquita Classic Champion  
Class of 2012

web.com TOUR FINALS

Chiquita CLASSIC

LIVE UNITED  
United Way  
United Way of Central/Landless

River Run Country Club at Davidson

100% of your General Admission ticket purchase will benefit charities in your local community.  
Your ticket purchase will benefit the following 2013 Charity Partner:

Communities In Schools  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg

**September 2-8, 2013**

For tickets and information visit: [www.ChiquitaClassic.com](http://www.ChiquitaClassic.com) or call 877-597-8855

## HAWTHORNE HIGH STUDENT wins 2013 P.E.E.P. Scholarship

Candace Ross, a graduating senior at Hawthorne Innovative Cooperative High School, was named the winner of the 2013 P.E.E.P. Essay Scholarship Contest at the annual PEEP Luncheon earlier this spring. P.E.E.P., created by Pride Magazine, stands for "Pride Entrepreneur Education Program" and partners with Communities In Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and other community organizations to identify African-American youth who have demonstrated a skill, talent or interest in becoming an entrepreneur or achieving the mindset of an entrepreneur.

Kimberly Barringer, Candace's CIS Site Coordinator at Hawthorne, said Candace was an A-Honor Roll student and actively involved with CIS for two years. At Hawthorne, Candace was enrolled in the Career and College Promise Dual Enrollment Program offered at Central Piedmont Community College. This fall Candace will attend Johnson C. Smith University and plans to major in Chemistry. She later wants to pursue a medical degree and open a medical practice to serve men, women, and children who do not have access to healthcare. This summer, Candace is working part-time at an assisted living facility.

We are extremely proud of Candace's success and wish her well on her academic journey!



*Candace Ross (right) with her brother, Travon, who is also in CIS at Hawthorne High School.*



*Yanick Gomez (right) on the Garinger High School campus with Bernard Samuel, his CIS Site Coordinator.*

## CIS Senior Wins **BILL & MELINDA GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP**

We're so proud of CIS student Yanick Gomez, a recent graduate of Garinger High School. Yanick is one of only three students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to win a Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship this year. The competitive scholarship is awarded to 1,000 students across the country and provides full tuition and expenses for undergraduate and graduate school, as well as leadership programs and related opportunities. Yanick will attend North Carolina A&T University in the fall and plans to study aerospace engineering. He's always dreamed of flying aircraft and hopes to have some lessons this summer.

Yanick was 13 years old when he came to the U.S. with his family in 2009 from Niger, West Africa. He didn't speak English and was placed in an ESL class at Garinger in the 9th grade. By the end of the year, he had placed out of ESL and was mainstreamed into regular and honors classes. Since then, he has never looked back, in terms of academics and accomplishments.

"Yanick is a very smart young man, yet he is so humble," said Bernard Samuel, Yanick's CIS Site Coordinator at Garinger. "But what really impresses me the most about Yanick is his kindness and concern for others, especially his peers and those experiencing difficult circumstances. Yanick is going off to college and will do great things, but I know he won't forget about his school friends and the Garinger community, and will always do what he can to make things better for others."

As Garinger's graduation approached in June, Yanick was excited about seeing his father, who would be traveling to the U.S. for Yanick's graduation. (His father had to remain behind in Niger to work and care for his ailing mother, when the rest of the family came to the U.S. four years ago). Yanick still has one of his favorite toys from childhood that his father gave him, a toy airplane. It has come full circle - from toy airplane to aerospace engineering. Congratulations, Yanick!

## **NASCAR DRIVERS** make surprise visit to Reid Park Academy

As part of its "10 Days of Giving" tour in honor of the 10th Anniversary of NASCAR DAY, The NASCAR Foundation made a surprise visit on May 16 to Reid Park Academy, where CIS students from Sedgfield Middle School and Reid Park were gathered to hear a "guest speaker."

The guest speakers turned out to be NASCAR Nationwide Series drivers Johanna Long and Parker Kligerman, who talked with the students about their sport and the many career opportunities available in the motorsports industry. (By the way, Johanna Long is the only other female driver besides Danica Patrick in the Nationwide Series.)

The students asked questions, chatted with the drivers, and got autographs and photos - and then came the final surprise - free tickets to the May 17 race at Charlotte Motor Speedway! Parents were notified ahead of time and asked to keep the surprise. In all, 100 tickets were donated to CIS families. NASCAR has some new fans!



*NASCAR Nationwide Series drivers Johanna Long and Parker Kligerman with CIS students at Reid Park Academy. CIS Site Coordinator Dianne Carter is at far right.*

# THANK YOU for making Every Bite Count!



Dine Out For Kids®

On June 18, individuals and groups all across the Charlotte region celebrated Communities In Schools by dining out, and this year, there were more than a dozen new restaurants to choose from! The 14th annual Dine Out For Kids® provided resources for the CIS mission: to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Thank you for making every bite count!

## MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



**The Charlotte Observer**  
charlotteobserver.com



Greater Charlotte  
Hospitality & Tourism  
Alliance



## MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Please remember to patronize these restaurants during the rest of the year, and thank them for participating in Dine Out For Kids®.

Alexander Michael's  
Applebee's  
Aria Tuscan Grille  
Bad Daddy's Burger Bar  
BRAVO! Cucina Italiana  
Brio Tuscan Grille  
Brixx Wood Fired Pizza  
Bytes Café  
Charlotte Knights Baseball-  
June 18th Home Game  
City Smoke  
Crepe Cellar  
Dilworth Neighborhood Grille  
Don Pedro  
Dressler's  
Eddie's Place  
Fitzgerald's Irish Pub  
Five Guys Burgers and Fries  
Harper's Restaurant  
HMSHost - Charlotte Douglas  
International Airport

Jason's Deli  
Johnny Burrito  
Kennedy's Premium Bar & Grill  
Kickstand Charlotte  
Burgers -n- Bar  
Loco Lime Mexican Inspired Grill  
Mama Ricotta's  
McAlister's Deli  
The Melting Pot  
Mert's Heart & Soul  
Midwood Smokehouse  
Mimosa Grill  
Nothing but Noodles  
Paco's Tacos & Tequila  
Showmars  
Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q  
Taste Café  
Upstream  
Village Tavern



Restaurant staff at Kickstand  
Charlotte Burgers -n- Bar



CIS Board member  
Mike McNamara  
threw out the first  
pitch at the Charlotte  
Knights game.



CIS Board member Astrid  
Chirinos (left) dined out at Don  
Pedro restaurant.

## SCHOOL TOOLS CAMPAIGN 2013

The first day of school is right around the corner - CMS opens August 26th! Please join Communities In Schools, WSOC-TV, and Classroom Central to provide school supplies to kids in need in Charlotte and surrounding counties by contributing to the School Tools Campaign. While donations of new school supplies from businesses, groups, and individuals are still greatly appreciated, Campaign coordinators are encouraging cash donations online [www.9schooltools.com](http://www.9schooltools.com) - and new this year - \$10 donations via mobile giving. 100% of all cash donations will go directly to the participating School Tools counties to purchase supplies for economically disadvantaged students. Thank you for helping students have a great start to the school year!

- Visit [www.9schooltools.com](http://www.9schooltools.com) to learn more and donate online
- Text "BUS" to 20222 to make a \$10 donation via your mobile phone
- Drop off school supplies on **Thursday, August 15!** at **WSOC-TV's "Collection Day"** at their studios, 1901 N. Tryon Street.





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Leslie Bridger Montclair Elementary

With a mother who volunteers at CIS in Wilmington and a sister majoring in Elementary Education, it was only a matter of time before Leslie Bridger found herself helping out the local public schools. After all, community service runs in her family. "I was lucky enough to grow up in a household where volunteerism was shown to me by practice regularly," Leslie stated. "There is so much need all around us that it is important to give back."

And give back she does. Leslie, a recent UNC graduate, signed up for United Way's Project 1,000 program, an effort to recruit a thousand readers, tutors, and mentors for children in need. After attending their information session and deciding that Communities In Schools would be "the best fit," CIS matched her with Marlin, a bilingual second grader at Montclair Elementary. The two have been pairs since January.

Through weekly visits, Leslie helps Marlin become a more confident reader. She's noticing, however, that Marlin's confidence is transcending the classroom. Though initially shy, Leslie claims Marlin has "blossomed into a very talkative young lady." In addition to talking about her big sister and dog Max, this young lady has something to say about her favorite teacher: "The best thing about Miss Leslie is she helps me figure out big words, and sometimes she brings me candy!"

Tracking Marlin's growth may be one of Leslie's favorite aspects of volunteering, but it's clear that Marlin isn't the only one benefiting from the pairing. After her Tuesday lunch visits, Bridger says she feels "reenergized." "The stress of that report that needs to be completed, bill that needs to be paid, or phone call I need to make vanishes. I remember what is important in our world-- Marlin has been such a blessing to me!"

Now Leslie's encouraging others to reach out. She's even talking to her co-workers at United Healthcare about starting a book club at Montclair Elementary. "This community has so many different options that are available to different people at all different levels. So, any time you have—if you can take it to give to a child, I promise it will return to you tenfold."



*CIS volunteer Leslie Bridger with Marlin at Montclair Elementary.*



*Terrance Dixon at the "This Kid Rocks" Awards program with Diana Partlow, his CIS Site Coordinator at Ranson IB Middle School.*

## A POET Among Us

When Terrance Dixon has something to say, he expresses it best through poetry. The CIS 8th grader at Ranson IB Middle School won 1st place in Ranson's "Raise Your Voice" poetry contest this spring. Communities In Schools was so impressed with Terrance's poem about CIS, that he was asked to present it at CIS's "This Kid Rocks" Project LIFT Awards program, and then again at the Mecklenburg County Commission meeting in May. Below is Terrance's poem:

### **C.I.S. by Terrance Dixon**

*This is the group that really cares and sees the potential inside of me.*

*Instead of blocking me with a thousand stares, they eliminate every negative they see.*

*They take me on interesting trips; they arm me with the power of good.*

*They give me resource tips; they never make me feel misunderstood.*

*They are the secret voice I never had, the courage I could never seek.*

*Even when I feel a tad fatigued, they never make me feel weak.*

*C.I.S. is the group who knows that I will never sink while they are my vessel.*

*That's why I think C.I.S. goes, "Caring Is Special!"*

## Board of Directors

### President

**Brian L. Franklin**

Duke Energy

### Daniel Araujo

Creative Player, Inc.

### Trevor Beauford

Friendship Baptist Church

### Rich Bovard

Deloitte

### Robert William Chesney

PNC Bank

### Astrid Chirinos

Latin American Chamber of Commerce

### Ann Blakeney Clark

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

### Marcia Conston

Central Piedmont Community College

### Dee Dee Dalrymple

Civic Leader

### Edmund H. Driggs

Civic Leader

### George Dunlap

Mecklenburg County Commission

### Mike Harrell

Beacon Properties

### Jim Hazel

Elliott Davis, PLLC

### David Head

Bank of America

### Diane Hill

IBM Corporation

### Dwight Jacobs

Duke Energy

### Andy Kalbaugh

LPL Financial

### Katherine Annas Ketner

Carolinas HealthCare System

### Kelli Knoble

Grant Thornton

### Kim A. McMillan

City of Charlotte

### Mike McNamara

Greer & Walker, LLP

### Suzanne L. Morrison, CFA

Wells Fargo Bank

### Mtu Pugh

Family Dollar Stores

### John Richards

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

### Tim Rogers

Continental Tire

### John A. Tate III

Wachovia Bank, N.A.

### Glenda Wooten

Levine Children's Hospital



Communities  
In Schools

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

601 E. Fifth Street, Suite 300  
Charlotte, NC 28202

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



CHARLOTTE  
MERCHANTS  
FOUNDATION



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Charlotte, NC  
Permit No. 1210



# Save the Date! September 21

## Annual "Lowcountry on the Green"

Celebrate "back to school" and the return of fall with Communities In Schools on Saturday, September 21 at Lowcountry on the Green! This Communities In Schools fundraiser and "friendraiser" is known for serving outstanding lowcountry cuisine in a relaxed but festive atmosphere. The Mint Museum-Randolph Road is the perfect venue for holding this indoor-outdoor event. Throw in a live band, silent auction, and lots of cool people (any friend of CIS is cool!) - and the party is ON!

**TICKETS:** [www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org) (starting August 5)

**MORE INFO:** Elaine Rhodes - [erhodes@cischarlotte.org](mailto:erhodes@cischarlotte.org) | 704.943.9433.

## JOIN US! CIS Volunteer Orientation, August 15!

Interested in volunteering with CIS? YOU are needed! Join us on Thursday, August 15 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Children & Family Services Center, 601 E. 5th Street, to learn more about our organization and the volunteer opportunities we have for the upcoming school year. RSVP to Courtney Peterson at [cpeterson@cischarlotte.org](mailto:cpeterson@cischarlotte.org) or 704.943.9536. Please arrive a few minutes early to sign in and grab some refreshments. We look forward to seeing you!



[www.cischarlotte.org](http://www.cischarlotte.org)  
704.335.0601