



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

Dec. 3
Giving Tuesday

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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Fall 2019

Creating A Movement: THE DIFFERENCE MAKERS SOCIAL IMPACT SUMMIT



How does a group of 18 adult community leaders and 18 CIS high school students come together to create a movement? That was the ultimate goal behind a very special trip to Washington, D.C. in August, that was conceived and organized by Communities In Schools in partnership with The Gambrell Foundation.

The idea for the trip took shape last spring in a meeting between CIS-Charlotte President and CEO Molly Shaw and Laura Shepard with The Gambrell Foundation. CIS's vision to empower youth voice and create opportunities for economic mobility resonated with The Gambrell Foundation's focus on breaking down barriers and building bridges. Shaw and Shepard agreed that a trip to Washington, D.C. could be a transformational experience for adults and students alike, and pulled together a team to begin planning.

Over the next several months, while travel arrangements, consent forms, and all the myriad logistical details were ironed out, the idea developed into a jam-packed three-day adventure that participants described afterwards as "inspirational," "catalyzing," and "life-changing."

While for many of the students the trip would mean their first airplane flight and first hotel stay, this was no ordinary "sight-seeing tour." CIS-Charlotte and The Gambrell Foundation envisioned a student-centered experience that would help energize a social movement created and led by young people. The trip was soon dubbed, "The Difference Makers Social Impact Summit."

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT-CEO MESSAGE

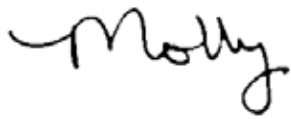
It is a difficult time to be a kid. Kids across the country have started this school year carrying more weight than ever before. Weight from fear and isolation and marginalization. Fear because last year alone, there were 104 incidents of gunfire on school grounds across our country resulting in the loss of 61 lives. Isolation because our kids are growing up in a world where the term “friend” is reduced to the acceptance of a Facebook or Instagram or Snapchat click and bullying can go viral in an instant. It’s horrifying, but not surprising, that 1 out of 5 middle and high school students in Charlotte have considered suicide. And our kids experience marginalization because our country and our community continue to grow more segregated. Our students of color wake up to headlines that leaders who look like them receive racist and hate-filled mail that continues to send the message that this world is not safe and they are not valued.

All of this could be enough to make our kids lose hope. And yet, they don’t. In fact, they shine.

They radiate brilliance and curiosity and openness and love, and they look to and lean on those adults who see them for who they are and can become. These adults come in many forms. They are parents and teachers, aunts, uncles and nanas, faith leaders, bus drivers, and volunteers. But I don’t think anyone sees our kids quite like our Communities In Schools Site Coordinators, Counselors and Case Managers. These team members wake up every morning and head to school before the yellow buses. They spend their mornings welcoming students and reminding them of their greatness with a high-five, or hug, a snack, or a talk. They spend their days working with families and community partners, to make sure our kids are connected to whatever they need to be successful – everything from the basics like food, clothing, housing, or dental care, to transformational opportunities like college tours or visits to their dream jobs. And each afternoon, our team members wave goodbye as our kids head home or to their after school jobs and they give encouragement to complete homework, write college essays or study for that exam.

Our team helps our kids see the greatness in themselves, navigate the world, create their plans, learn to follow-through, build healthy relationships, and shine their hope on others. In a world where our kids carry more weight than that which is in their backpacks, our team walks beside them, unloading each weight with intentionality and care, and replacing them with resources and support, high expectations and love.

And then our kids – our brilliant, game-changing, future-making kids, take all those gifts and all their hope and set out to change the world.



Molly Shaw, President and CEO

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Greg Hobby is New CIS Board Chair



Greg Hobby will serve as Chair of the CIS Board of Directors for the 2019-20 school year. This will be Greg’s sixth year on the Board. During his tenure he has served on the Finance, Governance, and Program Evaluation committees.

Greg was introduced to CIS through his employer, Bank of America. He recently retired from the bank in order to focus his

time on family and community issues and organizations important to him, including Communities In Schools.

“I continue to be energized by the power of this organization and its ability to shepherd young people toward success,” said Greg. “The importance of a caring adult in the life of a young person is so critical,

and CIS makes that possible for so many young people in Charlotte.”

Greg grew up in Raleigh and is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. He and his wife, Julie, have two children, Alex (18) and Rachel (16).

We are also pleased to welcome the following new CIS Board members, who began their three-year terms in August:

David “Dae-Lee” Arrington
Artist and Producer

Vida Harvey
JELD-WEN

Kathryn Black
Bank of America

Dwight Jacobs
Duke Energy

A complete list of the CIS Board of Directors can be found on the back page of this newsletter. CIS is grateful to all of our board members for their commitment and support.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS (continued from page 1)

Over the three-day trip, the group participated in a private tour of the National African American History Museum, visited Howard University and the Communities In Schools National office, and took a walking tour of the city's historical monuments. They dined together and heard presentations of various perspectives on important issues. One session centered on the words "hope" and "destiny," while a "Fireside Chat" challenged the group to create a "New Deal" in our society that mends broken links and regains interracial trust and reconciliation. The final presentation on Day 3 was centered on Creating Movements, with lessons from past social movements and the tools needed to galvanize a movement. Most importantly, the trip provided a unique opportunity for adult community leaders to spend substantial time with students, with both groups learning new perspectives from the other.

Rosalyn Allison-Jacobs with ROI Impact Consulting, said the trip was a "flawless three days of pure inspiration." She was especially impressed with the students, stating: "I was blown away by their insights, vision for their own future, poise, and leadership skills already in evidence. More than once, I pondered what I could possibly offer them, in the way of mentoring. In truth, they inspired the adults to stand a little taller in the face of our community's challenges, and to model leadership when it is neither popular nor comfortable for others. I look forward to remaining

connected to this little community that we built in three short days. Thanks for a life-changing experience!"

CIS Board member Suzanne Morrison, who was also on the trip, echoed Allison-Jacobs comments about the student participants: "Our students amaze, motivate and inspire me! Our time together was filled with open, candid and real conversations about our past, what we can do in the present and how we can alter the course of the future. We focused on opportunities, connecting, and actions we can all take. The experience, our students, and our CIS team really shifted my center of gravity – I am so grateful to have been a part of it."

Mikayla Gaston, a CIS senior at Vance High School, said, "Everyone was so welcoming and open. Every hour I spent on the trip was better than the last. The experience and memories I made on the trip could never be matched."

Trip organizers say that the trip was just the beginning of what they hope will continue to grow into a true student-led movement here in Charlotte, with a focus on increasing opportunity and economic mobility for young people and their families. Stay tuned as these young leaders help shape the future of Charlotte!

"I AM A DIFFERENCE MAKER BECAUSE..."

Student Voices - Difference Makers 2019



"Being a Difference Maker means stepping out of your comfort zone to change how people see you and change how people see each other."

"I am a Difference Maker because I want to help people."

"I am a Difference Maker because I am wise, I am open, and I am ready to change and find solutions to the problems in my community."



"I am a Difference Maker because I would like to create opportunities and show people that things aren't always impossible just because it hasn't been done before."



"I am a Difference Maker because I keep myself inspired to persevere no matter what the circumstances and the outcomes may be."

"I am a Difference Maker because I see a need in my community for a leader and I have the aspects to be one."



SOCIAL CAPITAL AT WORK: Laila Winslow



Laila Winslow is a CIS senior at East Mecklenburg High School.

Laila Winslow was excited but nervous when she learned that CIS had arranged a week-long internship for her in the IT department at Duke Energy, in partnership with Accenture.

“I was nervous because I didn’t know what to expect,” said Laila. “Would they like me? Respect me? Include me? Be patient with me?”

Laila said it did not go the way she thought it would, but instead exceeded her expectations.

“The team leads, Randy and Marcus, made me feel like I

The internship benefited her most, said Laila, by placing her in a “real life” professional environment and giving her experience in a field she wants to pursue. She also appreciated the encouragement and insights that others on the team gave her, especially advice from team-mate Brittney.

“Brittney told me to ‘not limit myself,’ and reminded me that I am the only one who decides what I can or can’t do,” said Laila. “As a woman in IT, there may be those who want to put limits on me and make me believe that my capabilities are limited. But I need to believe from the bottom of my soul that this is not true and that women can master the same skills as everyone else, that women excel in all types of careers, including those with a predisposed bias against women. Brittney told me to not lose sight of this.”

Laila is a very busy senior enrolled in Honors courses at East Mecklenburg High School and has been in CIS since the 9th grade. She appreciates the opportunities and exposure to different career fields and networks CIS has provided. College is her next goal, with future aspirations to earn an MBA, because “with a business degree, you can do anything,” she said.

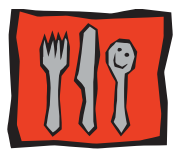
CIS believes you can do anything, too, Laila - way to go!

belonged there,” said Laila, “and the rest of the team treated me as an equal, asking for my opinions and giving serious thought to them as if I was really a part of the team.”

Laila was selected for the internship through her involvement with the Social Capital Youth Advisory Board at CIS and because she had expressed an interest in coding.

DINE OUT FOR KIDS June 18, 2019

A BIG Thank You to everyone who dined out on June 18! We are especially grateful to our Dine Out For Kids® sponsors and all of the participating restaurants. See you next year!



Dine Out For Kids®



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McNinch House
Mert's Heart and Soul
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Nothing but Noodles
Paco's Tacos & Tequila
Parry's Pizza

Reid's Fine Foods
Rosemont
Sonny's BBQ
TRUE Crafted Pizza
Upstream
Village Tavern
YAFO Kitchen

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Brandon Neal

Brandon Neal has been supporting CIS-Charlotte in multiple ways over the last several years, through volunteering his time as a mentor and social capital investor, as well as through his financial support as a donor and a recent party host for our Lowcountry event.

In August, Brandon participated in the “Difference Makers” trip to Washington, D.C. (story on page 1), where he met Dominick McPhail, a CIS senior at Phillip O. Berry Academy. The two hit it off and have stayed in touch. In addition, Brandon participated in the “Men for Meck” mentoring program two years ago, led by CIS at West Charlotte High School.

Brandon admits he has a special connection to CIS because his mother, Karen Neal, has been a CIS Site Coordinator at Bruns Avenue Elementary for more than 8 years. Brandon also shared, however, that CIS’s recent initiatives around social capital and developing talented student leaders has motivated him to get even more involved.

“I’m very passionate about ensuring that potential young leaders that may not have the same resources as others still have opportunities to achieve,” said Brandon. “I am a product of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the great beneficiary of amazing teachers, community leaders and business leaders who took a vested interest in me and provided mentorship, even in high school.”

“No one makes it all on their own and we can all attribute our success to someone who went out of their way to help us or believed in us when we didn’t even appreciate our own potential,” Brandon added. “Given this, it is never a question for me as to whether or not I should pay it forward. And dedicating time to help develop our next generation only serves to make our community and city a better place to live, work and thrive.”

Brandon said he also finds that his interactions with students are rewarding in unexpected ways. “I go in thinking that I will be the one sharing insight and providing all of the knowledge, but I always come away having learned something and feeling that the next generation has incredible potential,” he said. “It’s rewarding to know that the reality of the student leaders we have in CMS schools today far exceeds the narrative that often permeates our discussions on the status of our schools.”

Brandon is SVP and Chief Legal Officer with Novant Health. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University Law School, he and his wife, Kerbie, are both from Charlotte and were high school sweethearts at Independence High School. They have two children, Kennedy and Caleb.



Brandon Neal with Dominick McPhail, a senior at Phillip O. Berry Academy. The two met on the Difference Makers trip to Washington, D.C. (story on page 1).

CLT 2019 UNITY LETTER You can still sign!

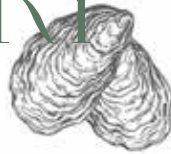
“We believe in justice, equity, fairness and opportunity for all. We embrace diversity in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. We stand against racism, bigotry and hate.”

These are the opening words of a letter to the community published in September, asking for Charlotteans who reject racism, bigotry and hate to take a stand by signing the letter, to show their support of our diverse community and that they will not tolerate racist words or actions. The letter was drafted by community leaders participating in the Difference Makers trip, in response to racist and hate-filled letters sent anonymously to elected and appointed leaders of color in Charlotte-Mecklenburg in August. More than 3,800 have signed the letter to date (5,000+ counting couples as 2), and signatures are still being collected. You can read the full letter and sign it at this link: cltunityletter2019.nationbuilder.com



LOWCOUNTRY

..... *benefitting Communities In Schools*



It was a beautiful fall evening for enjoying our Lowcountry event on October 5th! The event was a sell-out, and The Fillmore was packed with guests celebrating all things "CIS" and our students! We are especially grateful to our guests, Sponsors, Party Hosts, and Event Co-chairs, Lindsay Carter and Rad von Werssowetz, who led the way for a spectacular and successful evening!



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*CIS Board Member #Honorary Party Hosts

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Perry's at SouthPark
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Primus Villas
Rountree Plantation
Natalia & Robert Russo
The Sanctuary At Kiawah Island
Golf Resort
Shain Gallery
Julie & David Sheffer & Friends
Studio 1-on-1 Fitness Training
Sunflour Baking Company
Tabor CLT
Malu Tan
Team Penske
Kippy & Blake Thompson
Thrive Center for Personalized
Healthcare & Wellness
Twine & Twig
Wells Fargo
Earnest Winston
Woo

LOWCOUNTRY at The Fillmore



Visit our website to see lots more fun pics! www.cischarlotte.org/photo-gallery/lowcountry-2019

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPORT!

CIS would like to give a big SHOUT-OUT to all of the companies, groups and individual volunteers who supported our students and schools this fall by donating school supplies, uniforms, and other essentials that students and teachers need, as well as those who donated their time to help ready school campuses and classrooms for the first day of school. We'd also like to give a special thank you to WSOC-TV and the 9 School Tools Campaign for another record-breaking school supplies collection! We are so grateful to everyone who donated items or gave of their time this fall.



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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

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Communities In Schools

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

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We're excited to announce the launch of our new website! We hope you'll check it out, especially if you haven't visited in a while. Even better... share it with a friend or colleague! www.cischarlotte.org

CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2019-20

Elementary Schools

Albemarle Road
Allenbrook
Briarwood
Bruns Avenue
Cotswold
Hidden Valley
Highland Renaissance
Merry Oaks
Newell
Rama Road
Reid Park
Shamrock Gardens
Statesville Road
Sterling
Tuckaseegee
Westerly Hills
Winding Springs
Winterfield

K - 8 Schools

Ashley Park
Berryhill
Druid Hills
Governor's Village
Marie G. Davis
Renaissance West
Thomasboro
Walter G. Byers

Middle Schools

Albemarle Road
Cochrane / iMeck (6-12)
Coulwood
Eastway
James Martin
Martin Luther King, Jr.
McClintock
Quail Hollow/Ranson
Ranson
Sedgefield
Whitewater

High Schools

Butler
East Mecklenburg
Garinger
Harding
Independence
Mallard Creek
Myers Park
North Mecklenburg
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Rocky River
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