



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. 14
Success Coach Training

Nov. 27
Giving Tuesday

Nov-Dec
CIS Holiday Cards

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Newsletter for Friends of CIS | Fall 2018

SENIOR SNAPSHOTS



Smiles, tears, excitement, pride, relief... so many emotions well up during high school graduation season, for both the graduates and their parents. The same is true for our Site Coordinators, some of whom have children of their own and some who do not, but who all feel as if their CIS students are their own children, too. This past year, they have laughed, cried, cajoled, pushed, and encouraged 561 students to stay the course and reach this important milestone. They didn't do it alone, however. Teachers, parents, counselors, mentors, volunteers, partner agencies, and CIS donors together have helped make it possible for 561 CIS students to call themselves members of the "Class of 2018." Communities In Schools is proud of each and every one. Below are just a few of our CIS graduates we'd like you to meet – and you will see that our future is in very capable hands!

KATELYN

Katelyn is a graduate of Myers Park High School where she was in the National Honor Society, participated in the Student Government Association all four years, and served as a "Mustang Ambassador." She has also enjoyed participating in competitive dance for 13 years. Now she is a freshman at N.C. A & T University, majoring in Biology. Her dream is to become a pediatrician.

(continued on page 3)



PRESIDENT-CEO MESSAGE

Social Capital is Charlotte's new buzz phrase. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force named social capital the "secret sauce" for improving economic mobility, and many organizations are talking about how to build it. So what is Social Capital? It's the idea that relationships and networks have value, and when those networks are shared, they will expose people to new possibility and open doors to opportunity. Think about the people in your life who connected you to a new experience or introduced you to someone who helped you advance. Maybe it was a childhood conversation when you learned you could work as an artist or a banker. Or when you realized you could own your own business. Perhaps it was when someone made a call or sent an email on your behalf. Or maybe it was an internship that someone set-up so you could experience and experiment within the work world. Maybe it was simply seeing that a future existed that you had never thought possible.

Kids can't *be* what they can't *see*, and all young people need exposure and opportunities to meet a wide range of people and careers, so that they might find a connection, an experience, a person – that could truly be life-changing. And when adults exchange social capital with kids, we benefit, too.

This is why Communities In Schools is so grateful and excited about the recent announcement from Albemarle Corporation and Bank of America that they are jointly donating \$20 million to 17 local nonprofits. CIS will receive \$2.5 million over the next five years, a truly momentous gift. A significant portion of our funding will go to supporting our city-wide social capital initiative, where our team works to connect students with companies and individuals to give them access to new social, cultural, and work-life experiences.

Social capital is an exchange that benefits everyone involved and will benefit our city's future. As you'll read in this newsletter, Albemarle Corporation, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, LPL Financial, Sonic Automotive, and the McColl Center understand this. Please join these and many more companies and individuals who have recently stepped up and made a commitment to our CIS model of *surrounding students with a community of support*, and more specifically, our social capital movement. You could be changing the trajectory of a student's life – or your own.



Molly Shaw, President & CEO

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Morrison to lead CIS Board



Suzanne Morrison with Wells Fargo is the incoming Chair of the CIS Board of Directors. Suzanne is an executive vice president and the division manager for the Carolinas Division with Wells Fargo and manages the Middle Market Banking teams. Suzanne joined the CIS Board in 2013 and has served on the board's Executive, Governance, and Development/Major Gifts committees. In addition to the CIS Board, Suzanne serves on the boards

of the Charlotte Regional Partnership and the British American Business Council of North Carolina. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Suzanne and her husband, Harvey, have two daughters.

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

Niles Brown
Grant Thornton

Veronica R. Calderon
Aldersgate CCRC

Mike Fleming
Civic Leader

Karen Morgan
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Federico Rios
City of Charlotte

David Ryan
Albemarle Corporation

Rad von Werssowetz
Berkeley Capital Advisors

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 dedication to the organization and the students we serve.

SENIOR SNAPSHOTS (continued from page 1)



EMELY

Emely is an outstanding student who was on the A-B Honor Roll all four years at Garinger High School. She received scholarships to attend Appalachian State University, where she is now a freshman. Her #1 goal for the future is "To be my best self," which is aligned with her favorite quote by St. Jerome: "Good, better, best. Never let it rest, til your good is better and your better is best!"



TREVON

Trevon is a graduate of Phillip O. Berry Academy, where he was a drumline leader and in the Yearbook club. Now he's a freshman at Winston-Salem State University, studying Mass Communications. Trevon's favorite quote is, "You have to trust the process." One of the most important things his Site Coordinator taught him, he said, was "to be humble."



ELICIA

Elicia graduated from West Mecklenburg High School with a 3.96 GPA - wow! Now at UNC-Greensboro, she is studying biomedical engineering. Elicia was also in our Safe Journey program for teen moms and is mother to 3-year-old daughter Kamille. The most important thing her Safe Journey Case Manager taught her? "To always be my daughter's first and best teacher."

'SHE PERSISTED': Safe Journey Graduation

Our Safe Journey program for teen mothers held its graduation ceremony on June 2, 2018, with 26 young women being celebrated for "persisting" and staying the course to graduate. The Safe Journey team decided to incorporate the theme "Nevertheless, she persisted," throughout the celebration because they felt it captured the spirit and determination of their graduates so well.

Among the highlights was hearing from special guest and keynote speaker Lisa Carter, a CIS Site Coordinator at Shamrock Gardens Elementary. Carter shared her own story of teen pregnancy and overcoming very difficult obstacles as a young girl. Her story clearly hit home, as she received a standing ovation!



LISA CARTER | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lisa Carter was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a community plagued by drugs, violence and poverty. Her mother struggled with alcohol and drug abuse. At twelve, Lisa was removed from her home and placed in foster care. Shortly after, she became pregnant and lost her mom to drug addiction one month before her son was born. Lisa strived to not allow her story to end like her mother's. She advocated for services needed to succeed in school and worked as a Teen Advisor at the Adolescent Teen Pregnancy Prevention Network in Boston. Later, she accepted a position at Boston Medical Center's Teen & Tot program, where she worked with a medical team to ensure young parents received the services needed to parent effectively. Meanwhile, Lisa worked towards a degree in Human Services. and after years of hard work and determination, she earned her bachelor's degree. Lisa joined Communities In Schools in 2012 and is a Site Coordinator at Shamrock Gardens Elementary.



Visit vimeo.com/cischarlotte to see a new CIS video featuring Lisa.

CORPORATE DONORS

increase Investment in CIS Students

In addition to the recent \$20 million community grant from Albemarle Corporation and Bank of America that is going to 17 Charlotte nonprofits (including CIS) over the next five years, CIS-Charlotte has recently received increased support from two major corporate donors, Wells Fargo and LPL Financial. CIS is most grateful to these companies for their generous support and investment in our students.

CIS-Charlotte receives \$200,000 from Wells Fargo

Long-standing supporter Wells Fargo Foundation recently made a \$200,000 grant to Communities In Schools, which represents an additional \$100,000 investment in CIS-Charlotte to continue to strengthen and deliver wrap-around services to students through its enhanced differentiated services programming model, now in its second year of implementation.

Wells Fargo has been a major financial and thought-leadership supporter of Communities In Schools and was one of the original corporations (then First Union National Bank) that helped initiate Communities In Schools in Charlotte in 1985. Jay Everette, Senior Community Relations Manager with Wells Fargo Social Responsibility Group, said the company is proud to support CIS and its mission to provide thousands of local students with the resources they need to be successful in school and in life.

"Wells Fargo believes that CIS-Charlotte has the vision and a strong plan to help students and their families make life-changing progress," said Everette. "On a broader level, we believe that CIS-Charlotte's differentiated services approach will not only support improved outcomes for students and their families in the short-term, but can ultimately lead to more systemic change for future generations. This is one of the anticipated outcomes we are most excited about."

**WELLS
FARGO**

LPL Financial increases gift and continues employee volunteer support



LPL Financial has generously increased its support to CIS-Charlotte to \$120,000 this year. Funding will continue to support the CIS model of delivering integrated support services to students across the district, and the increase will fund an Educational Career Coach site coordinator role at South Mecklenburg High School. In addition, LPL Financial continues to provide career exposure and college prep experiences for CIS high school students through various learning and social capital exchange opportunities. LPL Financial will sponsor two events for South Meck students in partnership with Junior Achievement. The company also welcomes CIS students to their corporate campus for an event called "Explore Your Future," where LPL Financial employees get to know students, share their career paths, and broaden horizons for our students.

A VISIT FROM CIS NATIONAL

On October 9, CIS-Charlotte hosted a visit from CIS National President & CEO, Dale Erquiaga. Pam Hartley, head of CIS-North Carolina, also joined Erquiaga for a full day of school visits and meetings with CIS-Charlotte board members, donors, and staff. Erquiaga shared that while CIS currently has 133 affiliates in 25 states that together serve more than 1.56 million children, there are still thousands more that need access to the "integrated student supports" (ISS) that CIS provides.

"We believe there's a moral imperative to grow CIS so that every child is able to write his or her story in the way that they wish," said Erquiaga. He announced that the national office will soon be offering grants to help affiliates add more schools, while the national team will be working to expand CIS to other states.

A highlight of the day in Charlotte, said Erquiaga, was the visit to Harding University High School to hear from the CIS team there. "It was an unbelievable experience," he said. "I was blown away by

your team and think that you have a lot you could teach the rest of the network about the best ways to serve kids."



Dale Erquiaga (right) with CIS-Charlotte Board Chair Suzanne Morrison and CIS Social Capital FVBS ->VSV George Metz.

SOCIAL CAPITAL AT WORK

This summer, several CIS students experienced some fantastic social capital opportunities through paid internships at Sonic Automotive and The McColl Center for Visual Art. Both companies attended the CIS "All in for Social Capital" event last April and were inspired to provide these invaluable experiences for students.

George Metz, CIS Social Capital Coordinator, said the students learned some valuable life lessons, in addition to being paid for work for the first time. "Brandon and Greg opened checking accounts and learned about state and federal taxes," said Metz. "Brandon thought there was a mistake on his first paycheck, but I explained and congratulated him on becoming a taxpayer!"

Brandon, who worked as a car porter at Sonic Automotive, said his greatest lesson was the importance of customer service and how to respond to difficult customers. The internship also helped him confirm that he wants to work in the automotive industry.

Diamond, a CIS graduate from Harding, worked at The McColl Center for Visual Art. As a budding artist herself, she was grateful to learn about the "behind the scenes" work and the business side of operating an art gallery. One of the greatest benefits of the



Brandon at Sonic Automotive and Diamond (right) with artist April Marten.



internship, said Diamond, was getting to meet the artists-in-residence, one of whom offered to be her mentor as Diamond heads to Georgia State University this fall to major in art.

Social capital at work! CIS is grateful to Sonic Automotive and the McColl Center for their support and making these internships such wonderful experiences for these CIS students.

DINE OUT FOR KIDS June 19, 2018

It's a wrap for another fantastic year of Dine Out For Kids®! We are grateful to our corporate sponsors, participating restaurants, and all of YOU who dined out in June. What a fun – and delicious! – way to support kids!



Dine Out For Kids®



Many Thanks to Our Participating Restaurants

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BARINGS



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LOWCOUNTRY at The Fillmore

Our 10th annual Lowcountry party had some big – and fabulous! - changes this year! A big thanks is due to Party Co-chairs and Board members Lindsay Carter and Rad von Werssowetz who led the way for a record breaking year. The event was SOLD OUT with more than 500 attending – our best Lowcountry yet! One highlight of the evening was a new video featuring CIS Site Coordinator Lisa Carter. (Visit www.vimeo.com/cischarlotte to view it). Many thanks to all of our party hosts, sponsors, donors, and guests who helped make this year's event one very special evening!

MANY THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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LOWCOUNTRY

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LOWCOUNTRY at The Fillmore



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Ellen Grier Harris

Ellen Harris began volunteering at Montclaire Elementary 10 years ago through her church, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian, which has had a longtime partnership with the school. Harris, a former teacher who “retired” to care for her small children at home, has volunteered in a variety of ways at Montclaire. Then two years ago, when the CIS Site Coordinator at Montclaire was looking for someone to launch a literacy club, Harris offered to lead it. She began meeting weekly with a group of third graders, and with Harris’ personal passion for poetry, the group soon evolved into Montclaire’s Poetry Club! This year is the third year for the club, and many of the students who first participated two years ago are still participating today.

The kids seem to love it. “We get to act out the poems and read in different voices,” said DeCarlos. “We learn vocabulary words, too, like ‘stanza,’” said Angie, another student. “I didn’t know what that word meant, but now I do.”

“There’s a lot you can do with a great poem and a group of kids,” said Harris. “We read it, perform it, discuss it, and compare it with other poems we’ve read. We always run out of time!”

Harris explained that many of the kids at Montclaire are ESL (English as a Second Language) students, and in third grade in particular, several were still learning to read. “A poem is a very manageable piece of literature that builds vocabulary and connects people across time and culture,” said Harris. “I like to challenge them with the poems we read together, and they amaze me with their insights.”

Harris shared that, growing up, she learned from her family that being part of a community meant investing in *all* of the community’s children. “My mother and grandmother both volunteered regularly in the schools,” said Harris. “So today I volunteer because I want to give my time to students who might not have the enrichment opportunities I expect for my own children.”

Learn more about volunteer opportunities with CIS by visiting www.cischarlotte.org/volunteer.



Ellen Harris with two of her students, Angie and DeCarlos, in the Montclaire Poetry Club.

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg

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Charlotte, NC 28202

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



BE A CIS SUCCESS COACH!

November 14th | 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Join us on Nov. 14 for our next "Success Coach" training and help elementary and middle school students build aspirations and develop skills in goal-setting and decision making. This fun, interactive training ensures volunteers feel confident and equipped as they build relationships with students. To register, send an email to volunteer@cischarlotte.org.

CIS SCHOOL SITES, 2018-19

Elementary Schools

Albemarle Road
Allenbrook
Billingsville - Cotswold
Bruns
Dilworth - Latta Campus
Hidden Valley
Highland Renaissance
Merry Oaks
Montclair
Rama Road
Reid Park
Renaissance West
STEAM Academy
Shamrock Gardens
Statesville Road
Westerly Hills
Winterfield

K - 8 Schools

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Druid Hills
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STEM Academy
Thomasboro
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