



**For Immediate Release
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**COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CENTRAL TEXAS
VOLUNTEER JP RODRIGUEZ HONORED
DURING AUSTIN ISD LATINO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY**

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) – Communities In Schools of Central Texas Volunteer JP Rodriguez was honored by Austin ISD during an awards ceremony on Saturday, May 10th. The ceremony recognized outstanding Latino students in sixth through 12th grade and three community members. JP was the honoree in the Latino Community Volunteer category for his 18 years of dedicated volunteer service as a mentor for Communities In Schools.

For 18 years, JP Rodriguez has driven every week to an Austin elementary, middle school, or high school to mentor a young male student as part of Communities in Schools' on-campus program for at-risk youth. JP's service exemplifies the Communities In School's model of bringing the community into the school to surround students with support. JP currently volunteers at Volma Overton Early College Prep in Austin.

As a mentor, JP doesn't preach *to the kids* because, he believes, "it doesn't take many words" to impart his core message: "I want to be your friend, and I'm here because I want you to understand that education is important."

In addition to his volunteer service on school campuses, JP and his wife, Liz, have been financial contributors of the Communities In Schools signature annual fundraising event, [Food for Thought](#), since 2002, and have hosted an annual holiday event to provide CIS families with holiday assistance.

ABOUT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

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. In the 2012-2013 school year, we served 45,155 individuals in 56 schools across 6 districts with services ranging from mental health counseling to crisis intervention, basic needs assistance, mentoring, and academic intervention. 5,877 students received intensive case management. Of the children we serve, 99% stay in school and 87% improve their grades, attendance, or behavior.

Learn more about our programs online at ciscentraltexas.org and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

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Photos available upon request.

