WHATEVER IT TAKES

ONE Community. ONE GOAL. ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE.
When we say Communities In Schools changes the lives of at-risk students, it’s hard to comprehend the desperate nature of those risks. Homelessness, neglect, violence, drug addiction, pregnancy, grief, suicidal thoughts—these are just a few of the obstacles our students face. Throughout this report we share some of the personal stories of our students in order to better understand the challenges many kids in our community face each day.

Monte | 13 YEARS OLD | INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Monte is a middle school student who stays with various friends in order to escape physical abuse from his mother’s boyfriend. He is never sure where he is going to sleep or eat his next meal. Monte’s CIS caseworker follows his safety and emotional needs closely, providing counseling, basic needs assistance and a safe after-school group to help ease his burden.
AS WE LOOK BACK AT THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR, WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT the community has once again supported Communities In Schools to help thousands of young people in pursuit of their education and a happy and productive adulthood. On behalf of the board, staff and our students, thank you.

Children who engage with our programs engage with caring adults. With nearly 200 professional staff and eager AmeriCorps members in our local schools, CIS was able to closely serve thousands and thousands of youngsters with an array of evidence-based programs. This annual report back to you, our important stakeholder, is full of remarkable numbers intended to measure success.

The many student successes that we measure at Communities In Schools are much more than numbers. They are the excitement engendered in a child who was scared, at his third new school in just one semester, when he participates in a CIS field trip and makes friends. They are the peace felt by the introverted girl who comes to the calming CIS office every day for a few moments of quiet because she lives in an apartment with fourteen other people. They are the smiles of children who are working harder in class because they are being encouraged by their caseworker who genuinely believes in them. And they are the young people who come to school each day knowing that they have a safe haven at school even if no other place feels safe.

Communities In Schools serves campuses with high concentrations of students living in poverty and assists those students who are struggling the most. We serve alongside dedicated teachers who work hard to ensure that their students reach ever-rising academic standards — and we endeavor to support them as well as their pupils.

Whether our students are receiving a snack or a pat on the back or intensive counseling, they know that Communities In Schools is there for them. We believe in and support the whole child so each one will believe in himself or herself. So when you look through this report, please remember that each of the service numbers represents a whole, wonderful and capable child.

Respectfully,

Suki Steinhauser
Chief Executive Officer
Revenue: $7,970,948

PUBLIC:
A FEDERAL  |  13%  |  $998,013
B STATE    |   6%  |  $513,160
C LOCAL    |  21%  |  $1,641,351
D SCHOOL DISTRICT MATCH |  22%  |  $1,808,526

PRIVATE:
E FOUNDATIONS |  24%  |  $1,936,092
F CORP/INDIVIDUAL |  7%  |  $537,351
G UNITED WAY  |   7%  |  $536,455

Expenses: $7,745,017

A FUNDRAISING  |  5%   |  $409,114
B MANAGEMENT & GENERAL |  9%   |  $684,899
C PROGRAMS    |  86%  |  $6,651,004

Note: $225,931 carried over to fund future programming
2012-2013 Service Coverage:

56 Campuses
- 23 elementary schools
- 18 middle schools
- 15 high schools

5 Independent School Districts
- Austin ISD – 40 campuses
- Bastrop ISD – 1 campus
- Del Valle – 1 campus
- Hays Consolidated ISD – 10 campuses
- Lockhart ISD – 1 campus
- Manor ISD – 3 campuses

4 Counties
- Travis County – 44 campuses
- Hays County – 10 campuses
- Caldwell County – 1 campus
- Bastrop County – 1 campus

ADDITIONAL Program Coverage

In addition to the individual student support on the campuses listed above, Communities In Schools provided a variety of services at nearly 30 additional school campuses, 4 public housing sites and home-based support for families of children we service.

Total Clients Served: 45,155

Jessica | 10 YEARS OLD | INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Jessica is an elementary school student who began failing several of her classes due to parental fighting and chaos at home. She and her CIS counselor have formed a very close bond, which reinforces that she is not alone. Through CIS she is learning skills to manage her stress and receiving tutoring to help with her grades. She now feels that success in school is possible.
BEGINNING WITH PRESCHOOL AND CONTINUING THROUGH GRADUATION, Communities In Schools meets kids where they are, and many of them are in a very difficult place. There are 120,000 children in Central Texas facing serious challenges to academic success.* Many have little or no caring adult support to help them overcome those challenges. Without that support, too many children—1 in 5—will not graduate high school.

This is where we step in.

Communities In Schools builds upon deep and trusting partnerships with schools to place highly skilled social service professionals, volunteers, interns and AmeriCorps members on school campuses. These individuals logged over 192,525 hours of service in 2012-13. In the last year, we worked with over 90 different organizations—non-profit, faith-based, universities, corporate and civic groups—leveraging thousands of dollars of assistance into the highest-need schools, directly benefiting the highest-need students.

CIS programs have been honed over the years to provide the most impact to children at every stage of their learning life. We live up to our name—Communities In Schools—by being based in schools and bringing community resources right to where the children are.

* Students considered at risk by the Texas Education Agency in 30 school districts in or surrounding Travis County.

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**Ramon | 15 YEARS OLD | XY-ZONE PARTICIPANT**

Ramon is the only English speaking member of his family and is being groomed to be a gang leader like his father. He feels pressure to commit violent acts and is working with his CIS program coordinator to develop positive support systems outside of the gang. He is participating in CIS’s male leadership program and is learning about college and career opportunities.
WE MEET KIDS WHERE THEY ARE WHATEVER IT TAKES

Our Programs REACH STUDENTS THROUGH EACH PHASE OF SCHOOL

Elementary School
Individual Student Support
Volunteer mentors & tutors
ASPIRE
Pebble Project
SmartKids
Care Coordination
AmeriCorps
Parent Education

Middle School
Individual Student Support
Volunteer mentors & tutors
SmartKids
Care Coordination
AmeriCorps
Parent Education

High School
Individual Student Support
Volunteer mentors & tutors
XY-Zone
SmartKids
Services for pregnant & parenting teens
AmeriCorps
The founding principle of CIS is to establish one-on-one relationships with individual students in order to support them beyond obstacles to success in school. In 2013, Communities In Schools staffed offices on 56 campuses throughout the Central Texas area. CIS Social Workers and Counselors connect personally with at-risk students who have been referred by teachers or administrators to improve student achievement. They create a service plan based on each child’s needs and then make that plan happen. They may provide crisis intervention, individual counseling or support groups, basic life skills, tutoring, mentoring or enrichment opportunities—whatever it takes to move the child up. The goal of all these services is to engage students into classroom and school activities.

2012-2013 Outcomes
99% of students served intensively completed the school year
94% were promoted to the next grade level or graduated
87% improved grades, attendance or behavior

Impact
5,877 case managed students served
20,425 additional students served
4,329 parents served

Client Ethnicity
67.8% Hispanic
21.7% African American
8.8% Anglo
1.7% Other

Other Relevant Demographics
27.2% were English language learners
5.8% had an incarcerated parent
8.2% were high school teen parents
11.8% were in special education
**ASPIRE**

**GOAL**  To break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty within families by providing comprehensive, integrated literacy services for the entire family.

ASPIRE serves families who have children 0-7 years old with parents in need of ESL and/or GED classes. Approximately 100 families per year.

**2012-2013 Outcomes**

- 100% promoted (K – 2nd)
- 97% met end-of-year reading standards (K-2nd)
- 93% parents demonstrated gains in parenting skills
- 126 families, 152 children served

**Impact**

ASPIRE raises literacy levels of adults and children while increasing parents’ ability and confidence in supporting their children’s literacy needs at home and in school. School district performance data indicate that ASPIRE children academically outperform their peers even years after having left the program.


**PEBBLE**

**GOAL**  To keep children “safe, strong, and free” through school-based workshops and community education.

The Pebble Project provides prevention training to thousands of children annually on approximately 40 elementary school campuses. They connect children to counseling services and other appropriate agencies in response to disclosed abuse or harm.

**2012-2013 Outcomes**

- 95% children and adults reported learning more about protecting children and the importance of reporting suspected abuse
- 100% children who disclosed abuse and/or difficulties received service referrals
- 5,153 children received child-abuse prevention information to avoid becoming a victim
- 576 adults received child-abuse prevention and reporting information

**Impact**

The Pebble Project prevents child abuse and neglect by empowering children to contribute to their own safety through recognizing abusive or dangerous situations, resisting bullies and telling a trusted adult if they have been harmed. “Pebble” refers to the ripple effect each person’s effort makes to prevent child abuse in our community.
**GOAL** | **To improve children's mental health using an intensively supportive approach with families.**

The Care Coordination program serves families at Allison, Andrews, Harris, Oak Springs, Ortega, Rodriguez, and Zavala Elementary Schools and Dobie, Kealing, Martin, Mendez and Webb Middle Schools. During FY 2012-13, Care Coordination served children identified by their school.

**2011-2012 Outcomes**
- 94 families served intensively
- 91% of youth had improved functioning
- 96% of parents indicated improvement in the parent/child relationship
- 93% of parents indicated improved relationships with the school

**Impact**
Wraparound services “wrap” the child and family in the services and support that the family and their team choose, so the family can attain their goals and improve their quality of life.

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**GOAL** | **To support and guide adolescent males as they journey into manhood. This leadership development and peer support program fosters productive life skills in high school-age, at-risk males.**


**2012-2013 Outcomes**
- 92% of students served intensively were promoted or graduated
- 90% improved grades, attendance or behavior
- Participants significantly more likely to report improved school/community involvement after engaging in XY-Zone activities
- 700 served, 400 intensively

**Impact**
XY-Zone participants demonstrate improvements in academic achievement, attendance or behavior; they decrease risky behaviors, increase volunteerism, leadership and future aspirations, and they are challenged and empowered to aim high, get an education, and break the cycle of poverty.
GOAL | To support public housing residents in their journey to economic self-sufficiency, at school and in their own neighborhood, through educational enrichment and case management services. SmartKids is a partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA).

SmartKids Caseworkers provide case management and other supports to hundreds of students in seven elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. In addition to services at school, SmartKids Caseworkers provide after school programming and summer camps each year on four public housing properties.

2012-2013 Outcomes
• 89% improved in academics
• 93% improved in behavior
• 257 students participated in SmartKids after school program
• 399 students received school-based support services

Impact
SmartKids provides a continuity of programming from school to community, and the depth of service that allows students to work toward goals that are key to promoting self-sufficiency as adults.

GOAL | To create a mutually beneficial relationship with AmeriCorps members. By serving at-risk students, AmeriCorps members gain valuable skills and knowledge while strengthening communities and helping children succeed in school.

AmeriCorps members are an integral part of our ability to serve students. Each year our AmeriCorps members work with Kindergarten to 12th graders on 39 Communities In Schools campuses.

2012-2013 Outcomes
• 98 AmeriCorps members
• 90,370 hours of service
• 1,279 students served
• 75% of students served improved academic engagement

Impact
The CIS AmeriCorps evaluation clearly demonstrates that the members increase their knowledge and skill base. Students served by AmeriCorps members demonstrate improvements in grades, attendance and/or behavior.
A 2009 evaluation of dropout programs commissioned by the Texas Education Agency showed Communities In Schools to be the only dropout prevention program in Texas proven to reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates.

**GOAL**
To engage community members in the mission of helping kids stay in school and prepare for life. Volunteers are matched with a wide variety of volunteer roles that meet a real CIS need while utilizing their individual talents, skills and interests.

**2012-2013 Outcomes**
- 440 community members volunteered as Tutors, Mentors, Interns, Board and Leadership Circle Members
- 250 community members donated their time as special event volunteers through meaningful projects benefiting students
- 280 one-on-one volunteer mentor relationships

**Impact**
Each year, volunteers and community partners increase our agency capacity to provide students with relationships with caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, opportunities to give back and skills that prepare them for life.
### Thank You for Your Generous Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000 and More</td>
<td>Austin Independent School District, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, OneStar Foundation, Texas Education Agency, Travis County</td>
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<td>$100,000 - $499,999</td>
<td>Child, Inc., City of Austin Health &amp; Human Services, Hays Consolidated Independent School District, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Manor Independent School District, RGK Foundation, St. David’s Foundation, United Way for Greater Austin</td>
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<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>Daniels Fund/Gayle Greer, Kathryn and Beau Ross Foundation, Sooch Foundation</td>
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<td>Capital One Foundation, Communities In Schools National Office, Continental Automotive Group, For the City Network/Austin Stone Community Church, Mays Family Foundation/Linda and Congressman Michael McCaul, The Olsson Family, One Sky Foundation, Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation, Professional Janitorial Service, Seawell Elam Foundation, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Surveying And Mapping, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Laura Templeton/ Joni Elaine Templeton Charitable Trust/The John B. &amp; Ethel Templeton Fund, The University of Texas at Austin’s Division of Diversity and Community Engagement/Dr. Gregory J. Vincent Wells Fargo Bank</td>
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<td>$1,000 - $1,999</td>
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We were unable to list those who gave under
$100, but their gifts are very important and greatly appreciated.
Special thanks to all of our donors who purchased school supply kits for our students this year.