



For Immediate Release

Communities In Schools undergoes paradigm shift to serve Central Texas Students in their Homes

Austin, Texas – April 27, 2020 – Since March 23, the entire Communities In Schools of Central Texas (CIS) team has been working remotely to provide critical supports for students and families impacted by the coronavirus and school closures. Under normal circumstances, school-based CIS staff members provide case management for students on their campus, and bring outside resources into schools to help students and families. School closures have changed the paradigm. Now, the nonprofit is reaching beyond school walls to provide individualized support using the phone and other technology to reach students in their homes, help families navigate community systems of support, and provide emergency financial assistance. Since local schools closed, Communities In Schools of Central Texas has provided more than \$113,000 in direct assistance to families.

“Many Central Texas families are in survival mode during this uncertain period,” says Suki Steinhauser, CEO of Communities In Schools of Central Texas. “We hear from parents who have lost their jobs and don’t have enough money for gas to pick up food that is being distributed, and who can’t afford hygiene items and household supplies. The challenges faced by students and families with economic and social inequalities has increased during the coronavirus pandemic.”

To meet the growing needs of students and families, Communities In Schools of Central Texas partnered with Lyft to provide transportation assistance, and University Federal Credit Union for gift cards. A grant from Bank of America will provide for emergency housing assistance, food and household items, and other critical needs.

Communities In Schools of Central Texas partners with seven local school districts to support students and families: Austin, Bastrop, Del Valle, Elgin, Hays, Lockhart, and Manor ISDs. In the 2018-2019 school year, Communities In Schools provided intensive, ongoing supports for 5,981 students, and provided short term services for an additional 49,566 students. A Communities In Schools of Central Texas COVID-19 Response page is being updated regularly at ciscentraltexas.org.

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About Communities In Schools of Central Texas

Communities In Schools of Central Texas (CIS) works directly inside K-12 schools full time in partnership with teachers and administrators to address immediate student needs. 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. The organization serves 86 Central Texas schools in seven school districts (Austin, Bastrop, Del Valle, Elgin, Hays, Lockhart, and Manor) with services ranging from mental health counseling to crisis intervention, basic needs assistance, mentoring, and academic intervention.

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

Media Contact: Debra Joiner, Sr. Director of Communications, djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org