



2008/2009 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

As we look back on the 2008/2009 school year and on Communities In Schools' 30 years of service to Houston's children, we realize we could not be where we are today without supporters like you. We rely on the generous help of our volunteers, mentors, partner organizations and funders to keep children in school and learning. During these difficult economic times, we must continue to join together to ensure all of our children, and in turn our society, flourish and grow to their greatest potential in the years to come.

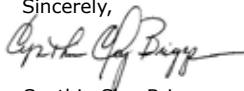
CIS Houston began 30 years ago with one program in the Acres Homes community and has grown to serve nearly 40,000 children in five school districts and charter campuses across the Greater Houston Area. Whether the children we serve need a little positive adult guidance or struggle from overwhelming socio-economic or psycho-social problems in the home, our staff members are there to do everything they can to help. When a child's needs fall outside of our Six Core Service model, or when another community agency already exists to meet their needs, CIS develops a partnership to avoid duplication of service.

In the 2008/2009 school year, CIS had a call to action from Spring Branch Independent School District. In recognizing CIS' success on SBISD campuses, Superintendent Duncan Klussmann invited CIS to place full-time staff on every Title I campus (those with high percentages of students from low-income families) in the district. As we continue to receive requests to expand outside of the central Houston region, we realize that students leaving school before graduation is not just an urban problem.

In this report, you'll read highlights from an exciting Summer Youth Employment Program, marking the beginning of a partnership between CIS and the Houston Bar Association. We are also pleased to note that CIS received stimulus funding through the Houston-Galveston Area Council that allowed us to recruit and employ nearly 200 students to work in local organizations for the summer, with their wages paid through the stimulus bill.

We are all ultimately responsible for the education of Houston's children and our community's economic success. We invite you to join us as we strive to empower our community's children to succeed in school and ultimately in life. As you review CIS' annual report, I hope you know your support makes an enormous impact on the lives and futures of our community's most underserved children. We sincerely appreciate you and look forward to another 30 years of keeping children in school and learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Clay Briggs', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Clay Briggs
Executive Director

Six Core Services

Supportive Guidance: CIS students often face an overwhelming number of emotional obstacles that make it difficult to concentrate on school, adjust socially, or consider their futures. CIS' trained caseworkers provide both individual and group supportive sessions to help these students deal with challenging family and personal issues and the stresses experienced by children growing up in poverty.

Academic Support: CIS concentrates heavily on providing tutorial, remedial, and learning support services. CIS offers after-school homework sessions, one-on-one tutoring with community volunteers and parents, and specialized programs to improve students' performance in their core subjects.

Health & Human Services: CIS serves as the single point of entry on campus for service provision. Students with needs that CIS staff cannot address directly are referred to other community agencies that are better equipped to provide the specific service. Our partnerships with other community agencies make it possible to effectively meet the wide range of needs of at-risk students and their families without duplicating services.

Parental Involvement: CIS works to involve parents in the school community by giving them opportunities to volunteer and get involved in their child's education. CIS parental involvement activities also enable parents to take part in classes dealing with literacy, employment, financial planning, and family issues.

Cultural Enrichment: The students CIS serves often have few opportunities to engage in the community outside of their immediate neighborhoods. Cultural enrichment includes a variety of activities, from field trips and guest speakers to celebrations and sports. CIS staff provides students with experiences that will expand their view of the world and motivate them to take their places in it.

Career Awareness: CIS begins career awareness activities with younger students by helping them understand the important connection between school success and life success and the need to plan for the future. CIS provides older students with job readiness training and summer and part-time job placements.

Who are CIS students?

Demographics:

56% female

44% male

91% receive free and reduced lunch

60% Hispanic

37% African American

2% Caucasian

1% Asian

Living Situation:

49% live only with mother

32% live with both parents

8% live with another relative

3% live in a residential placement

1% is homeless

Who We Are

Communities In Schools Houston (CIS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1979 to provide student support services to at-risk youth. CIS provides effective and comprehensive services designed to remove barriers to student learning. With programs in **over 110** schools in the Aldine, Alief, Fort Bend, Houston, and Spring Branch school districts, as well as several charter campuses, CIS is able to touch the lives of nearly **40,000** students and their families annually.

What We Do

The mission of CIS is to remove obstacles to learning by providing and coordinating social services directly on the school campus, empowering students to stay in school and prepare for life. CIS' dedicated staff is committed to providing services that result in improved academic performance, attitudes and behavior, and improved graduation and retention rates. CIS reaches students at the greatest risk of dropping out of school. As a Texas Education Agency (TEA) program, CIS identifies at-risk children according to the following TEA guidelines:

- Failing one or more grade level;
- Having limited English proficiency;
- Failing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test;
- Previously dropping out of school; and
- Pregnant or parenting students.

Of the **6,092** students who received intensive services through case management in 2008/2009, including an in-depth needs assessment and action plan, **78 percent** demonstrated measurable improvement in the areas of academics, attendance and/or behavior, **83 percent** of case managed seniors graduated, and **99 percent** of case managed students in grades seven through 12 stayed in school.

How We Do It

CIS places full-time staff directly on each campus/location we serve. Staff facilitate programming based on the needs of each school's students and families through a combination of **Six Core Services**.



Focus on Partners: Houston Bar Association

The CIS Legal Internship Program expanded this year through a partnership with The Houston Bar Association (HBA) to create the **HBA/CIS Summer Legal Internship Program**. The program allowed students to work in legal internships in local law firms, corporate legal departments, and public and nonprofit legal institutions.

Students gained professional experience and exposure to the many possibilities available to them beyond graduation. Participating firms provided mentors, exposed the students to a professional environment, and assisted with professional development workshops. Students developed their debate skills over the summer, and many participated in a mock trial in front of an audience at the end of the program.

In the summer of 2008, 13 CIS students received placements from 10 participating law firms. Thanks to our partnership with HBA, in 2009 the program grew dramatically, with 48 students placed at 22 sites.

Between the 1985-1986 and 2005-2006 school years, the estimated cumulative costs of the 2,533,169 public school dropouts in the state of Texas were in excess of \$730 billion in foregone income, lost tax revenues, and increased job training, welfare, unemployment, and criminal justice costs (IDRA, 2006).



Anthony and Dede participated in the HBA/CIS Summer Legal Internship.

Career Awareness

CIS' Career Awareness activities aim to help students understand the important connection between school success and life success. CIS trains students in job skills and professional behavior and coordinates summer and part-time employment opportunities. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 11,356 hours of Career Awareness activities.**

CIS partnered with several hospitals this summer for different student internship opportunities. Placements included working in the volunteer services area at Texas Children's Hospital, training as Patient Care Assistants at St. Luke's Hospital, and training as Certified Nurses' Aides at The Methodist Hospital.

Special Programs & Community Partners

CIS was excited to participate in the 2009 **Summer Jobs for Youth Program** through the **Houston-Galveston Area Council**, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We were able to place nearly 200 of our students in fulfilling positions over their summer break. This special funding allowed CIS to dramatically expand our annual Summer Youth Employment Program and utilize stimulus funds to meet our students' and families' most pressing needs.

CIS collaborated with many community organizations to coordinate employment for students at dozens of local nonprofits, hospitals, law firms, corporate legal offices, and public legal institutions. CIS students from many local high schools and Boys & Girls Clubs worked in a variety of jobs that provided a minimum wage and inspired students through hands-on job training and work experience.

CIS could not provide the level of services it does for nearly **40,000 at-risk youth** annually without the help of more than **1,100 volunteers**. **In addition, over 250 partners provide invaluable services to our youth. Last year, the value of these volunteer hours totaled nearly \$1,000,000!** Among these partners are the Aldine, Alief, Ft. Bend, Houston, and Spring Branch Independent School Districts, that host CIS programs in **over 110 schools**.

To see a complete list of our partners, visit www.cishouston.org.



Project E! E-Mentoring is an innovative electronic mentoring program designed to empower students who are “on the brink of success” by providing them with a professional adult role model. The program’s goal is to elevate students to the next level while promoting Excellence through Advocacy, Direction, and Support. Participating students communicate with their mentors via a Blackberry device throughout the year, and attend a variety of group college and career awareness activities with their mentor.

During the 2008/2009 school year, **66 students** from Reagan and Lamar High Schools participated in the program with mentors from Deloitte, Solvay Chemical, community volunteers, and members of the PTA. Project E! was generously funded by Ralph Eads, and through in-kind support from Verizon.

In addition to the Six Core Service model, CIS delivers a variety of **special and emergency services** to meet needs identified in the community. CIS provides health services in partnership with UT Dental Branch through a mobile dental van with Project MOVE (Mobile Operations Vehicle for Everyone) and intensive mental health treatment through Intervention Support Services. CIS also provides one-time financial or in-kind assistance to needy families through the Emergency Needs Fund and delivers Santa Sacks to provide some of Houston’s most underserved children with gifts during the holiday season.



Thanks to our partners at the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC), CIS was able to help hand out brand new school supplies to every student at Atherton Elementary School on the first day of school.

Health & Human Services

Our partnerships with other community agencies make it possible to meet the needs of students and their families effectively. By not duplicating the services of other social service providers, we find that we can keep our costs low and our clients' needs met. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 28,089 hours of Health & Human Services.**



Project MOVE (Mobile Operations Vehicle for Everyone)

Kayla is a second-grader in the Houston Independent School District. Kayla and her family relocated to Houston with a host of pressing psycho-social problems. While being examined in CIS' mobile dental van, Kayla winced whenever a tooth on the upper right side was touched. She said that she hadn't been eating much because she felt pain when she chewed. Upon further exam and x-rays, it clearly showed that Kayla had a serious infection and needed immediate help.

MOVE staff immediately contacted her mom to discuss Kayla's condition. Her mom stated that it had been pretty rough for the family after arriving in Houston. The family had been living out of boxes in a small apartment room and every day was a serious challenge in survival. Dental care had to stand in line behind food, clothing, and shelter needs. Dr. Godwin, the UT doctor staffing the van that day, devised a treatment plan and gave Kayla antibiotics to start immediately. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Godwin extracted the infected tooth and provided follow-up care. Kayla is doing great and has been promoted to third grade! Congratulations!

In 2008/2009, Project MOVE Dental served nearly 2,000 children.

In addition to dental services, the Project MOVE Intervention Support Services (ISS) program offers individual and group counseling to address the needs of students referred for a variety of emotional, developmental, behavioral, and/or social problems. This program is made possible through partnership with St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities Healthy Neighborhood Initiative and DePelchin Children's Center. **In 2008/2009, ISS reached nearly 100 children.**



Budget and Expenses

Operating Budget 2008/2009

\$9,075,511

Revenue:

Public = 73%

Private = 27%

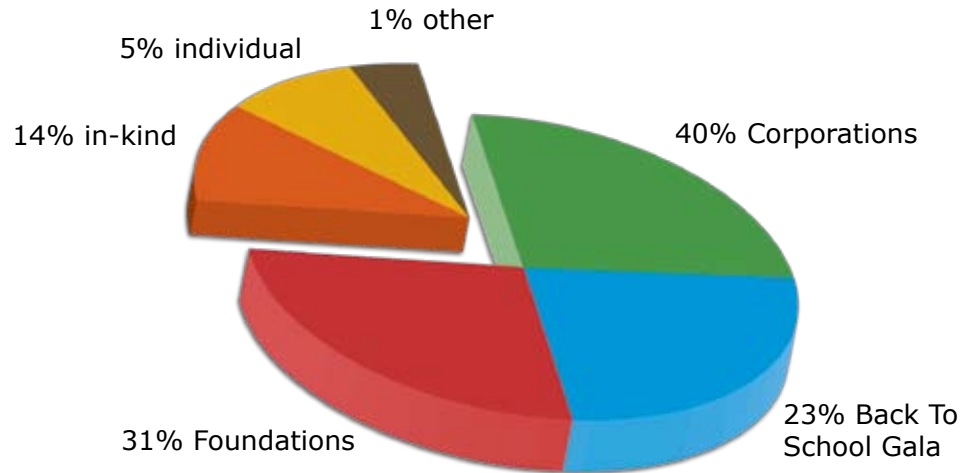
Expenses:

Program Services: 87%

Administrative Services: 9%

Fundraising: 4%

Private Revenue



How is CIS Funded?

CIS is truly a public/private partnership. The school districts we serve, as well as the state of Texas, are fully committed to the CIS program and accounted for over 70 percent of our cash funding in 2008/2009. The generosity of foundation, corporate, and individual supporters provided nearly 30 percent of our funding. Please visit the CIS website (www.cishouston.org) for the organization's most recent audit and IRS 990.

CIS has a 30-year history of programmatic and fiscal excellence. Over **87 cents of every dollar** is directed to programming, keeping our costs low and students' needs met. CIS received a **3-star rating** from Charity Navigator and meets all **20 of the Better Business Bureau's Standards** for Charitable Accountability. This assures you that CIS performs at a level that meets or exceeds other charities and that dollars donated to the organization are well-managed.

Dropouts are four times less likely to volunteer, half as likely to vote or participate in community projects, and represent only three percent of actively engaged citizens in our country today (National Summit on America's Epidemic, 2007).



Parental Involvement

Parental Involvement on a CIS campus allows our at-risk families the opportunity to have a voice on the school campus and in the community. The parent center at Cage Elementary School is run by CIS and parent volunteers. On a daily basis there are anywhere from 35-40 parent volunteers. Parents engage in health and fitness classes, knitting classes, ESL, and financial literacy. In addition, parents often join their children for after school tutorials and use the knowledge gained in the ESL class to support their children. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 43,786 hours of Parental Involvement.**

Core Service

Cultural Enrichment



The youth we serve often have few opportunities to engage with the community outside of their immediate neighborhoods. CIS provides our students with Cultural Enrichment through a variety of programs. This year, students from Spring Woods Middle School participated in a social etiquette class sponsored by Rienzi at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. The class culminated in a visit to Rienzi with a luncheon and tour. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 74,741 hours of Cultural Enrichment.**

CIS Program Sites

HOUSTON ISD (53)

Atherton Elementary School
Attucks Middle School
Austin High School
Bastian Elementary School
Braeburn Elementary School
Burrus Elementary School
Cage Elementary School/
Project Chrysalis
Contemporary Learning Center
Cullen Middle School
Davis High School
De Zavala Elementary School
Deady Middle School
Eastwood Academy
Edison Middle School
Field Elementary School
Fleming Middle School
Fonville Middle School
Foster Elementary School
Frost Elementary School
Hamilton Middle School
Harris Elementary School
Hartman Middle School

Hogg Middle School
Jackson Middle School
Janowski Elementary School
Kashmere High School
Kennedy Elementary School
Key Middle School
Lamar High School
Lee High School
Liberty High School
McNamara Elementary School
McReynolds Middle School
Madison High School
Milby High School
Oates Elementary School
Patrick Henry Middle School
Port Houston Elementary School
Reagan High School
Robinson Elementary School
Ryan Middle School
Sam Houston 9th Grade College Prep
Sam Houston Math and Science Center
Scott Elementary School
Sharpstown High School
Smith Education Center

Thompson Elementary School
Tijerina Elementary School
Walnut Bend Elementary School
Washington High School
Wheatley High School
Woodson Middle School
Yates High School

SPRING BRANCH ISD (30)

Buffalo Creek Elementary School
Cedar Brook Elementary School
District Alternative Education Program
Edgewood Elementary School
Hollibrook Elementary School
Housman Elementary School
Landrum Middle School
Northbrook Middle School
Northbrook High School
Pine Shadows Elementary School
Ridgecrest Elementary School
School of Choice
Shadow Oaks Elementary School
Sherwood Elementary School
Spring Branch Elementary School

Spring Forest Middle School
Spring Oaks Middle School
Spring Shadow Elementary School
Spring Woods Middle School
Spring Woods High School
Terrace Elementary School
The Bear Boulevard Pre-K
The Lion Lane Pre-K
The Panda Path Pre-K
The Wildcat Way Pre-K
The Tiger Trail Pre-K
Thornwood Elementary School
Treasure Forest Elementary School
Westwood Elementary
Woodview Elementary School

ALIEF ISD (17)

Best Elementary School
Boone Elementary School
Bush Elementary School
Chambers Elementary School
Collins Elementary School
Elsik High School
Elsik Ninth Grade Center

Hastings High School
Hastings Ninth Grade Center
Hearne Elementary School
Horn Elementary School
Klentzman Intermediate School
Landis Elementary School
Olle Middle School
Owens Intermediate School
Sneed Elementary School
Taylor High School

FORT BEND ISD (5)

Armstrong Elementary School
Hodges Bend Middle School
MR Wood Alternative School
McAuliffe Middle School
Missouri City Middle School

ALDINE ISD (2)

Nimitz High School
Nimitz Ninth Grade Center

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS (8)

George I. Sanchez High School

Sanchez After School Program
KIPP Dream
KIPP Houston High School
KIPP 3D Academy
KIPP Shine Prep
KIPP Spirit
Southwest High School

PRIVATE SCHOOLS (1)

Small Steps Early Learning Center

Other Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs (2)
Houston's Kids

Core Service



Academic Support

CIS students are afforded additional Academic Support and mentorship opportunities with the support of our volunteers. Through our partnership with the Jewish Community Center we facilitate the Foster Grandparents program on six of our campuses. Foster Grandparents support students who need additional support in reading and math. In addition, they provide a consistent healthy one-on-one relationship. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 84, 842 hours of Academic Support.**

2008/2009 Major Donors

Valedictorians (\$250,000+)

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
United Way of Greater Houston

Salutatorians (\$100,000-\$249,999)

AT&T Foundation
Mr. Ralph Eads
Houston Endowment Inc.

Dean's List (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Bank of America Foundation
Baylor/Methodist Community Health Fund
Episcopal Health Charities
The Methodist Hospital
Vivian L. Smith Foundation

Honor Roll (\$25,000-\$49,000)

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
CIS Building Leaders Founded by WACHOVIA
Devon Energy Corporation
Lillian H. and C.W. Duncan Foundation
The Fondren Foundation
The Frees Foundation
The George Foundation
LGR Foundation Community Fund No. 1
McGovern Foundation
M.D. Anderson Foundation
Rockwell Fund, Inc.
Spindletop Charities, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tate
The West Endowment

Medalists (\$10,000-\$24,999)

AIM Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Allen
Charles T. Bauer Foundation
Capital One
CenterPoint Energy
CFP Foundation
Christian Community Service Center*
Clayton Fund, Inc.
Cockrell Family Fund
The Comcast Foundation
Community Volunteer Fire Department
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John S. Dunn Research Foundation
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Grits Foundation
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The Simmons Foundation
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The Tapeats Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Harper Trammell
The Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc.

Advocates (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lollar
LOVE Advertising*
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Platform Partners
Randalls Food Markets
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Reagan High School Class of 2009*
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Mr. & Mrs. Don A. Sanders
The Saramco Foundation

Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.
Spectra Energy Foundation
Stedman West Foundation
The Trammell Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Weekley
Honorable & Mrs. Mark White

Mentors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

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Mr. & Mrs. Wallace S. Wilson

***In Kind Gift**





A CIS Success Story

CIS has collected thousands of stories illustrating the program's ability to coordinate social services that successfully keep kids in school and prepared for life. An example of the life-changing influence that the CIS program has on students can be seen in Manuel, a student whose personal hardship hindered his success in school.

Manuel was a high school student who lost both of his parents before the age of 15. He lived with family members for a while, but due to financial hardships and conflicts, they eventually sent him to Houston to live with his sister. After about a year, he began having trouble sleeping and eating due to abuse from his sister's boyfriend. When the situation did not improve, his sister asked him to move out of the house and left Manuel homeless and without food or money.

He was referred to CIS at Lee High School by a teacher, where he met Project Manager Neysa Gavion. Neysa assisted Manuel by coordinating a variety of social services to meet his needs. For example, she coordinated rental assistance through the CIS Emergency Needs Fund and the Christ Church Cathedral's At Risk Youth Fund. CIS assisted Manuel in finding a job that met his financial needs and allowed him to work reasonable hours that did not interfere with school. Academic support and supportive guidance services also assisted Manuel in overcoming past obstacles to achieve success in school.

Once on the verge of dropping out of school, Manuel earned a high school diploma in May 2009 with honors. He was accepted to three universities on scholarship and is currently attending Texas State University on a full scholarship. The CIS program gives students like Manuel, who frequently fall through the cracks, opportunities for success through the provision of basic social services.

If the 118,091 projected non-graduates for the Class of 2008 stayed in school, their total lifetime additional income would be \$30,703,733,125.

2008/2009 CIS Board of Directors



CIS Board President Carlos Duncan and Executive Director Cynthia Clay Briggs accept a donation from David Ruiz with Bank of America.

Communities In Schools is grateful for the dedicated support of our Board of Directors. In FY09, in addition to their time, resources, and expertise, 100% of **CIS board members contributed more than \$224,000 in support of our services.**

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Get Involved

Schools can't do it alone! It takes a whole community of people to help every child stay in school and prepare for life. If you would like to become part of our community at CIS, **there are many ways you can get involved:**

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Mentor

Join a CIS committee - CIS is always in need of knowledgeable and committed individuals to serve on a number of committees that help govern the organization. If you are interested in information regarding our program committees, please visit our web site at www.cishouston.org.

Are you part of a company or organization that might be able to become involved in a bigger way? Adopt a CIS school! Our 'Adopt-A-School' sponsors, besides helping to fund the CIS program on a specific campus, have the opportunity to develop relationships with the students and faculty on their campus through volunteer and mentoring programs. If your company or organization is interested in sponsoring a CIS program on a school campus, please contact Kristen Schlatre at kschlatre@cis-houston.org or 713.654.1515.



Supportive Guidance

CIS' trained Project Managers provide both individual and group Supportive Guidance to help students deal with challenging family situations, personal issues, and the stresses experienced by all children growing up in poverty. **In 2008/2009, CIS provided 125,556 hours of Supportive Guidance.**



Communities In Schools Houston, Inc.
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