



Communities
In Schools®

The Heart of Texas

2022 Annual Report



The mission of Communities

In Schools of the Heart of Texas is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

I believe one of the greatest opportunities we have as people is the ability to learn—to stretch our minds, question our understanding, and to experience the world and those around us through an ever-sharpening lens. Each day we have a chance to shape ourselves anew with the knowledge and experience of yesterday.

For 33 years, **Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas** has had the incredible opportunity to walk alongside and support children, youth, and young adults in the spirit of learning. Our dedicated team of site coordinators, case managers, career coaches, administrators, interns, volunteers, and partners go above and beyond daily to ensure our students have the support they need to achieve in both school and life.

I have the privilege of witnessing their impact and dedication every day and want to express my heartfelt gratitude to them for all they do to give life to our mission. They represent the best of who we are as an organization—the heartbeat, hands, and feet of our work.

As we begin a new year I think it is important to celebrate the successes of the past year, in which we:

- **Expanded CIS services** to 10 new school sites, providing case management services to more than 900 additional students compared to the 2020-21 school year;
- **Placed 71 youth in paid internships** with local businesses, providing almost \$50 thousand in wages;
- **Awarded 37 CIS graduating seniors** with the Stephana High & Robin McKee Student Success Scholarships, totaling \$18,500 in support;
- **Received the largest donation** in our organization's history, a \$2 million gift from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott;
- **Purchased our downtown Waco office** creating a permanent home for CIS for the first time since our founding.

In the same way, it is important that we reflect on the ongoing challenges facing our students and communities as we plan for the future. While we are more than two and a half years removed from the first closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic we still feel and see the devastating impact it has had on our communities, families, and students. Economic uncertainty places increased pressures on families and exacerbates the impact poverty has on student educational achievement. We continually increase our awareness of the trauma and mental health needs of our students, while acknowledging and working against systemic barriers that impact their access to high-quality care. There is much work to do.

The start of a new year brings renewed purpose to meet the challenges facing our students and to dream alongside them, creating a vision of a better tomorrow. To start the 2022-2023 year, CIS has begun a strategic planning process that will help us capture this vision and provide a roadmap for the innovation, creativity, learning, and steps necessary in making it a reality. Despite all the challenges, both past and future, we remain resolved in our mission and committed to our students' success.

We are so grateful to you, our supporters, donors, and partners, for your unwavering trust and belief in our work. We are all in this together.

Thank you,
Aaron Mize, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer



The 4 main programs that we offer:

CIS Core Model

We use an evidence-based approach to meet our students' and communities' needs. On all of our partner campuses we place a highly trained social service professional to provide academic, behavioral, attendance, and social support. Every student that we serve through our core CIS program is assessed and has a personalized service plan created to meet their individual needs. Our CIS team then walks alongside the students to ensure that they are empowered and on the path toward success.

Workforce Development

Our Workforce Development program provides career coaching to youth ages 16-24, both in and out of school, to assist them in educational attainment and reaching their post-secondary goals. We accomplish this through academic assistance, GED preparation, career exploration, assistance with entry into post-secondary education, and job placement opportunities.

Community Youth Development (CYD)

The CYD program provides juvenile delinquency prevention services to youth in the 76704 zip code in Waco. Program services include youth leadership development, mentoring, academic support, and the Youth Advisory Committee.

Tutoring and Mentoring

We believe that all children need a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult. Mentoring and tutoring give the community a chance to get involved and invest in the lives of our youth.

Student Impact

Stephana High & Robin McKee Student Success Scholarship

This annual scholarship for graduating high school students honors the memories of two dearly-loved members of the CIS family. Stephana High was the site coordinator for Mexia High School from 2017 to 2020 and Robin McKee was the site coordinator for Chilton Elementary from 2019 to 2021. Through this scholarship, their impact on the lives of students lives on.



2022 Stephana High & Robin McKee Student Success Scholarship Recipients

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anette Jaimes Avellaneda | Quadirik Wright | |
| Daylen BreJon Sauls | Marlen Marez | |
| Judy Devora-Chavez | Marisabel Lerma - Torres | |
| Tabitha Bass | Grecia Nicole Jimenez | |
| Madison O'Neal | Da' Janique Shaw | |
| Esther Thomas | Kendall White | Marly Cook |
| Ty'Quan Wagner | Dana Rodriguez | Yesenia Gonzalez |
| Madyson Scurlock | Ruben Lopez | Ja'Brian Davis |
| LaKreshia Stocks | Stephanie Andrade | Raven Yarborough |
| Kaitlyn Rene Rhymes | Jhoana Estrada-Cruz | Sadie Isbell |
| Isaiah Thomas | Jonessa Martinez | Serenity Walker |
| Honestea Talley | Averie Hutchings | Leilani Vences |
| Damiyah Alexander | Auralleus Allen-Smith | Evelyn Lizeth Serrano Solis |
| Kerlyn Dariana Quiroz | Jasmine Romero-Perez | William Alexander |

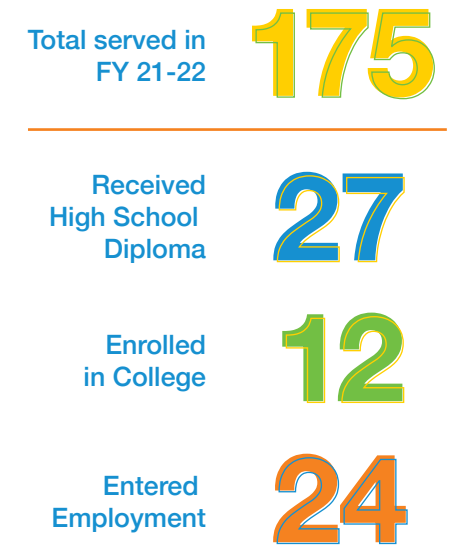
Kendra Hayes enrolled in the Workforce Development program as an in-school youth in March of 2021 with low income and basic skill deficiency eligibility. She graduated High School in June, 2021 and participated in the Work Experience Program in June and July of 2021. Kendra's internship supervisor reported that she was always on time to work, dependable and with a pleasant personality. She met her program goals of completing High School and enrolling in college. She currently attends the University of Houston and maintains employment at Walmart during college breaks. Kendra is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Management and reports a positive GPA. She is kind and respectful when contacted, very polite and appears to be maintaining her career goals well. Kendra begins her Sophomore college year this month.



Workforce Development youth participants

Student Impact

Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas is the primary provider of youth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in region. Through Workforce Development programming, CIS is able to support youth and young adults in addressing barriers to education and employment setting them on a path to achieve in life.

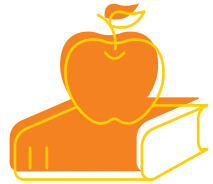




28
Campuses served



4,006
Case Managed Students (CMS)



17,087
Total students receiving at least (1) CIS Service



88,230
Total service hours provided

Who We Serve

55.2% Female
44.8% Male

42.8% Hispanic/Latino
39.3% Black or African American

16.9% White

0.5% Asian
0.4% American Indian or Alaskan Native
0.1% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific

4,164
Total students served (Pre-K-12)

2,078
Total students in grades 7-12

Pre-K	2.5%	6th	9.6%
Kindergarten	3.4%	7th	12.8%
1st	4.8%	8th	10.6%
2nd	5.9%	9th	9.3%
3rd	5.8%	10th	7.4%
4th	6.4%	11th	6.8%
5th	7.1%	12th	7.7%



40.7% of CMS targeted for Academics
88.9% improved



7.7% of CMS targeted for Attendance
80.2% improved



52.7% of CMS targeted for Behavior
82.3% improved



98.7%
Students promoted to next grade (3,771)



97.3%
Eligible students who graduated (292)



99.6%
Stayed in School

Community Youth Development

819 Youth served
87% Youth showing improvement after program participation

Workforce Development

\$48,453 Total wages paid to PWE participants
175 Total youth served through career coaching
80 In-school youth served
95 Out-of-school youth served
71 Paid Work Experience (PWE) placements



CIS AFFILIATES

Hire and train site coordinators, bring the CIS model to schools in need and mobilize partners to provide resources.

SITE COORDINATORS

Trained professionals who work with school administrators to assess needs, develop a plan and build a team to provide supports to schools and students.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Schools, businesses and community agencies all work together with site coordinator to deliver supports to students and families.

1 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Analyze multiple sources of data to identify the key needs of the school and individual students.

2 PLANNING

Site coordinators lead their school support team to develop a plan to prioritize supports that address academic and non-academic needs.

3 INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

Site coordinator and partners deliver tiers of support to the school, students and their families.



4 MONITORING & ADJUSTING

Site coordinator continuously monitors student and school progress and adjusts supports to optimize results.

5 EVALUATION

Continuous assessment of partners and student supports by the CIS affiliate to demonstrate results and improve practice.

6 PROVEN SUCCESS

We increase graduation, reduce dropout, and improve attendance for schools in need.

Service-Learning Project

For the 2021-2022 service-learning project, students from the Youth Advisory Committee from Waco High and Carver Middle Schools wanted to do something to bring awareness to suicide prevention.

The mural project was created to bring awareness and to normalize going to counseling, having a buddy system, knowing whom they can talk to, and knowing the signs of depression in our friends and family.

With the help of our CYD Program Coordinator, CYD Case Managers, and VASA, the mural was designed by professional muralist Devin Watlington to inspire and foster a sense of hope for those in the community.



Partners Highlight

Strategic partnerships strengthen our ability to meet the needs of young people we serve.

CIS Community Partners

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| A Champion's Shoes | Francesca Austin Campbell | |
| African-American Chamber of Commerce - Esther's Closet | Gold Star Transportation | |
| Baylor University | Grassroots Community Development | |
| Carenet | H.E.B | Texas Department of Family Protective Services |
| Caritas | Hawaiian Falls | Texas Education Agency |
| Carver Park Baptist Church | Heart of Texas Federal Credit Union | Texas State Technical College |
| Cooper Foundation | Hole in the Roof | The Cove |
| Creative Waco | Main Event | The Hat Stand |
| Devin Waitling | Mayborn Museum | The Roof Co. Waco |
| East Waco Library | McLennan Community College | Top Golf |
| Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation | Mentor Waco | United Way of Waco-McLennan County |
| ESC Region 12 | Methodist Children's Home | Vision 4 U |
| Excellence and Advancement Foundation | Planned Parenthood | Voice, Inc. |
| Family Abuse Center | Prosper Waco | Waco Founders Lions Club |
| Family of Faith Worship Center | Shepherds Heart | Waco Police Department |
| | Skate Waco | Women Infant Children |
| | STARRY Counseling | Workforce Solutions of the Heart of Texas |
| | Superior Healthplan | |



Workforce Development youth participant



Workforce Development youth participant

Major Donor



The gift is part of a \$133.5 million donation made by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to the Communities In Schools National Network. In addition to CIS of the Heart of Texas, the CIS National Office and 40 of its affiliate organizations in the network were also beneficiaries.

Aaron Mize, CEO of CIS of the Heart of Texas, said that Scott's gift is transformative. "This is the largest private donation in our organization's history," Mize said. "It will allow us to enhance the impact we have today and expand our vision for the future."

CIS of the Heart of Texas currently serves more than 4,000 students spread across 28 schools in nine districts. Scott's gift will help CIS continue to fulfill its mission of helping young people stay in school and achieve in life. During the 2021–2022 school year, 99.6 percent of students enrolled in CIS of the Heart of Texas' programs remained in school, and 97.3 percent of seniors graduated or received a GED.

CIS coordinates with schools and local service providers to meet the needs of students and their families, and Scott's gift will go a long way toward helping with necessities such as food, housing, healthcare and counseling, allowing students to focus on academics.

"We are humbled by Ms. Scott's generosity," Mize said. "This gift has emboldened in our mission."

Historic Gift Promises to Transform Young Lives

Communities In Schools began serving Central Texas-area children 33 years ago. The young people who were part of that inaugural group in 1989 have long since graduated from high school. Many went on to college, while others entered skilled jobs or military service. They embarked on successful careers, started families and became leaders in their communities. Three decades later, the influence CIS and its volunteers had on these young people is still resonating across multiple generations.

Recently, Communities In Schools (CIS) of the Heart of Texas received an unprecedented financial gift of \$2,000,000, which promises to impact local school children and their families for the next three decades and beyond.

School District Partners

Chilton ISD

Chilton Elementary School
Chilton Secondary School

EOAC Waco

Waco Charter School

Groesbeck ISD

H.O. Whitehurst Elementary School
Enge-Washington Intermediate School
Groesbeck Middle School
Groesbeck High School

La Vega ISD

La Vega Primary School
La Vega Elementary School
La Vega Intermediate School
La Vega Jr. High School
La Vega High School

Mexia ISD

Mexia Jr. High School
Mexia High School

Midway ISD

Castleman Creek Elementary School
Hewitt Elementary School
Midway Middle School
Midway High School

Rapoport Academy

Quinn Middle School

Teague ISD

Teague High School

Transformation Waco

Alta Vista Elementary School
Brook Avenue Elementary School
Carver Middle School
J.H. Hines Elementary School
Indian Spring Middle School

Waco ISD

Brazos High School
Cesar Chavez Middle School
Kendrick Elementary School
Provident Heights Elementary School
Tennyson Middle School
University High School
Waco High School



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Matthew McLeod

President, The McLeod Company

Dr. Rachelle Warren

Asst. Superintendent – Student Services & Support,
Waco ISD

Carlton Willis

Assoc. Executive Director, Mission Waco Mission World

CIS Equity Statement

We believe that one's race, socioeconomic status, gender, ability, age, religious affiliation, gender identity or sexual preference will not predict in a statistical sense, how one fares in improvement of attendance, behavior, grade promotion and access to social services. We aim to improve our policies, attitudes and cultural understanding to close gaps and eliminate barriers to student and staff outcomes. We are committed to creating a space of lifelong learning for the advancement and management of equitable systems that support and enhance belonging and inclusion for all staff, students, families and community partners that are empowered by our organization.





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1001 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas 76701
(254) 753-6002

info@cis-hot.org