

# WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP...

# BUILDING LIVES ONE CHILD AT A TIME



Communities  
In Schools

Nassau County

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



## A Message from our Executive Director

Since 1993, the Nassau community has surrounded our most vulnerable youth with a community of support to help them to succeed in school and prepare for a productive life. We know there are no town boundaries when it comes to the needs of children and we now serve students from Fernandina Beach, Yulee, Callahan, Hilliard and Bryceville.

We know you'll agree that a child with a dream (and the coaching and support to achieve it) is more likely to get up in the morning, come to class, succeed in school, graduate and become a positive and productive member of society. And we believe the progress of our young people, made possible by your ongoing commitment of time, talent and treasure, truly makes a difference here in Nassau County.

Please join us in surrounding our community's most vulnerable kids with the services they need to succeed in school and in life.

Susan Milana, Executive Director



## A STRONG FOUNDATION

### The CIS 5 Basics

To ensure that all students have the resources to help them succeed in school and in life

- 1 A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- 2 A safe place to learn and grow
- 3 A healthy start and a healthy future
- 4 A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- 5 A chance to give back to peers and community

## Why Does Nassau County Need Communities In Schools?

Schools alone cannot solve the complex problems faced by today's youth. Too many of our young people are:

- Struggling academically
- Feeling overwhelmed or confused
- Succumbing to peer pressure
- Turning to drugs, alcohol and/or crime
- Dropping out of school

## What is Communities In Schools?

(CIS) is a private, non-profit organization that connects much needed resources with at-risk youth. CIS helps to remove the obstacles that block a child's path to success. By utilizing the power of partnerships, CIS serves children, their families, schools and communities by delivering and connecting much needed services and support.

## Why CIS?

CIS maintains thorough and timely data on each child we serve, proving positive results in grades, attendance, test scores, behavior, and promotion. Studies show that CIS is the nation's leading program, both in reducing drop-out rates and increasing graduation rates. When our students have graduated prepared for a productive life, the tax-payer burden of welfare, incarceration, healthcare, and other social services is greatly reduced.

## How Does CIS Work?

CIS works with principals, teachers, counselors, students and parents to develop a comprehensive strategy to assist those youth most at risk of falling through the cracks. CIS provides ongoing case management plus one-on-one and group services within the schools. What CIS cannot provide, we source from the community and bring into the schools, where they are most accessible. CIS does not duplicate services, instead we leverage the power of partnerships to provide our children and their families with the resources they need to succeed.

## BECAUSE OF YOU ...

Many of our most vulnerable youth receive the help they need. Your investment helps those who do not initially qualify for scholarship mentoring programs because of low grades and test scores and who need coordinated case management and more one-on-one support, coaching and academic remediation than a club alone can provide.



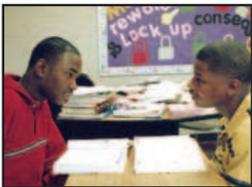
## UNDER CONSTRUCTION - THE PROCESS



**1** A child struggling for any reason is referred for CIS services by school or parent/guardian



**2** School-based CIS coordinator meets with student and parent/guardian to discuss challenges and needs



**3** CIS coordinator works individually with the student to set realistic goals and action plans for improvement



**4** Prescriptive services provided directly and/or coordinated with partners at the school and/or sourced in the community



**5** CIS site coordinator monitors student performance and meets individually to coach and reinforce student progress

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE CIS PROGRAM

- Individual Goal-Setting & Coaching
- Before- and After-School Tutoring
- Classroom Support
- Collaboration with Teachers
- Parent Conferences & Family Support
- Summer Academic Remediation
- Behavior Management and Healthy Lifestyles
- Family Meals & Student Recognition
- Career Exploration
- Skills & Assistance in Finding Jobs
- College & Technical Training Research
- Community College Visits
- Summer College Experience



## IN OUR STUDENTS' OWN WORDS

My name is Shira and I was held back in first and third grade. By seventh grade, I was really angry about being behind, and kind of gave up on all of my schoolwork. But my teachers and the people at Communities In Schools believed in me, and let me join the three-month CIS Summer Acceleration Program...It was really hard work, but I didn't miss any days and finished all my work before it was due. Now I'm in regular ninth grade classes, making all B's and C's. I like CIS, because the adults really care about us and help us how we need it. Now I'm in the 9th grade and when I need more help or have some type of problem in my life no matter what I can go to them and they listen and help me make things better.



My name is Ronnie and I've been part of CIS for two years. Sometimes my family can't afford everything we need, and worrying about that makes it harder for me to work on schoolwork. When I am frustrated...I feel like I can't control my anger. The people at CIS don't just help me with my schoolwork; they help my family get the things we need like food and clothes, and teach me how to control how I feel and act. I feel calmer, and now I'm starting to get A's and B's! Last year I failed Science, but I worked really hard and with the help I'm now getting an A!



My name is Keesha and I want to be a veterinarian or work for NASA. I know that to do those things I have to get good grades. I've been a part of CIS for a couple years, and my grades keep getting better. I even got my Language Arts grade to a 100! I...have been through a lot in my life...Home can be pretty stressful, so CIS helps me with my hectic life. To me CIS is more than help with just my schoolwork, because they help me keep down the stress. They listen to me when I've had a hard weekend or don't feel like coming to school. Sometimes I come to school because I know I can go to the CIS office before class. They also give me food for my family and clothes for me to wear to school. They don't just say we have this to help but they find out what our problems are and it's about me personally not just a group.



## OUR MISSION

SURROUNDING  
OUR MOST VULNERABLE  
YOUTH WITH A COMMUNITY OF  
SUPPORT, EMPOWERING  
THEM TO STAY IN SCHOOL  
AND ACHIEVE IN LIFE.

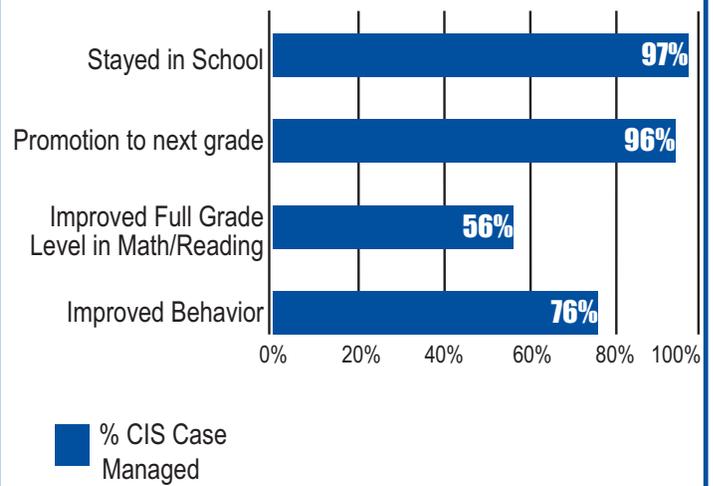
## A PROFILE OF THE TYPICAL CIS STUDENT

- Low Income
- Living with single parent or relative
- Dealing with family stress and disruption
- Behind in school
- Struggling with some combination of: low self esteem, negative peer influence, exposure to alcohol and drugs, school absenteeism, behavior or anger issues, attention problems, special learning needs and/or emotional issues.

## BEHIND EVERY STRUGGLING STUDENT, THERE'S A STORY...

- The girl who doesn't want to come to school because she doesn't have clothes that fit, or doesn't want to leave her baby at home, or
- The boy who's frustrated and acts out in class because he doesn't understand the work, much less the reason why his Dad is in jail, or
- The teen who wants to give up because the lights were turned off at home and he can't do his homework, or because he can't pass the FCAT, or thinks a job would be easier than schoolwork, or
- All the students who face multiple challenges in life that make success at school seem insurmountable.

## % CIS CASE MANAGED STUDENTS



**BUILDING FUTURES  
ONE CHILD  
AT A TIME**





## SERVICES & RESULTS ARE STACKING UP

**6** CIS programs providing school-wide support: Fernandina Middle, Fernandina High, Yulee Middle, Yulee High, Callahan Middle, Hillard Middle-Senior High School

**4,965** youth in Nassau County had access to CIS services at their school

**801** walk-in, referral, short-term or large group services provided

**12,838** duplicated students participated in 1 or more of these services

**1,131** hours of service provided

### Intensive Case Management Support

**550** students received sustained intensive services

**49,759** hours of one-on-one and small group support, tutoring and mentoring

**732** parents, Grandparents and/or Guardians participated in a least one service

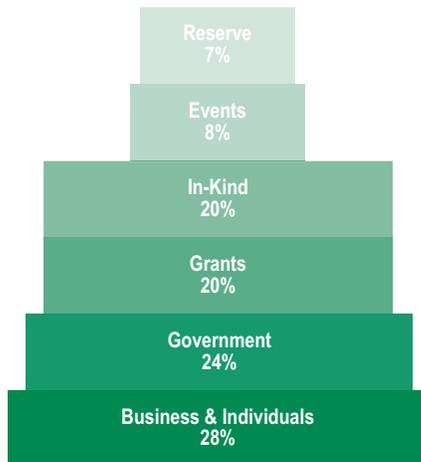
**100** students completed Summer Remediation for promotion to the next grade

**10** students benefitted from week-long Flagler College Experience

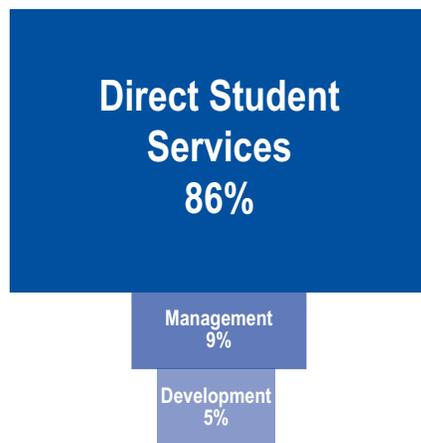
**50** Youth completed Jaguars Honor Rows Program



**INVESTOR RESOURCES  
FYE JUNE 30, 2012: \$492,856**



**INVESTMENTS  
FYE JUNE 30, 2012: \$492,856**



*“Communities in Schools has a focused mission, bringing resources to the place where children already spend their days - public schools. Programs and services are delivered in a caring, coordinated manner, yet in a way that is efficient, cost-effective and results-oriented.”*

Daniel J. Cardinali, National CIS President

**2011-2012  
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**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

You help our students succeed and build futures one child at a time.

You give tirelessly of your time in support of our youth.

Thank you for believing in the potential of our children.



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# WHEN IT COMES TO UNLOCKING A CHILD'S POTENTIAL... WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP



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