



## Congratulations Class of 2021 for Going Beyond!



Communities  
In Schools®  
Tennessee



### Sarah's Journey

**We first started working with Sarah when she was a junior in high school.** Her year didn't get off to a great start when she got into a fight on the first day and was sent to alternative school. The alternative school's faculty and staff saw Sarah's anger and how she was struggling, so they referred her to Communities In Schools (CIS). The first time Sarah met with her CIS site coordinator, she asked, **"Do you really care about me or am I just a box you need to check off?"**

**Sarah's site coordinator checked in daily with her to assure her that CIS does care and is here to help.** As the weeks went by, Sarah became more open and willing to discuss her life. Her anger and lack of motivation were a result of a very turbulent home life. CIS helped Sarah get enrolled in a child and family counselling group provided by a CIS partner in the local community.

After working with CIS and the partnership agency, Sarah finished her Junior year and came back to begin her Senior year as a much happier, motivated, and self-assured young woman. **Sarah made it to graduation day and plans to attend college in the fall.**



### Madison's journey

**Madison was in tears.** It was her senior year and there was a possibility she wouldn't graduate with her class. She needed to retake two classes and complete credit recovery for three. Madison felt there was no hope of reaching graduation day.

**CIS was able to support and encourage Madison through completing her graduation requirements.** In May, Madison went into her last CIS check-in with a huge smile on her face. She was happy and better emotionally. She seemed like a new student. **Madison's determination to succeed is what got her to graduation day.**

**We are so proud of our seniors who remained resilient during a historically challenging year and achieved their goal of graduating high school.**

*Follow us on social media for more stories about our students and program*



### UPCOMING EVENTS



### SAVE THE DATE - A Mighty Voice

We're excited to join [Thisbe & Noah](#), [Move Inclusive Dance](#), and [Strick's Gift](#) to bring you a barbecue contest/fundraiser called **A Mighty Voice** on **Saturday, October 2nd** at **Oz Arts in Nashville** from **3-8pm**. If you love to BBQ or know someone that does and would like more information to learn more about the competition please contact **Leah Susi** at [lsusi@cistn.org](mailto:lsusi@cistn.org). Look out for more information coming soon!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

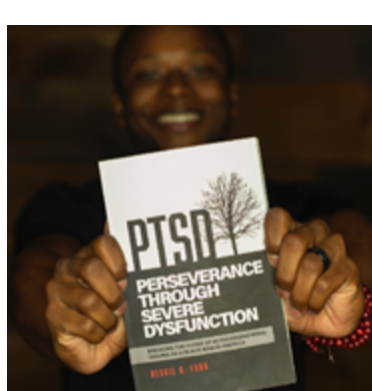


L to R: Ashley Cook, Deon Gaines, John Haubenreich, and Josh Hedrick

### Thank you to our outgoing board members

We want to say a special thanks to four outgoing board members who are completing their term with Communities In Schools. **Ashley** has served as a board member for 9 years and we are grateful for her ongoing commitment to public education. **Deon** has been a member for 8 years and we are grateful for his support and leadership during our expansion. **John** has served for 8 years and has provided legal guidance and brought in connections when our questions extended beyond his practice of expertise. **Josh** has been a member for 8 years and served as a committed member of our finance committee.

Each of you have helped us get to where we are today. **THANK YOU!**



### New book release from CIS board member Reggie Ford

Congratulations to our very own **Reggie D. Ford** on the release of his bestselling book, **Perseverance Through Severe Dysfunction: Breaking the Curse of Intergenerational Trauma as a Black Man in America**. Reggie serves on our board of directors and brings a wealth of knowledge and support to our organization. Thank you, Reggie, for all that you do and for sharing your story with us. Click the button below to order your copy today!

[ORDER NOW](#)

### STAY CONNECTED



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