

Newsletter | April 2023

Impact Stories

Turning Lemons into Lemonade

Our site coordinator at Goodlettsville Middle School, Kelley, describes part of her role as helping families turn lemons into lemonade. "CIS has the best lemonade recipe ever," she says. "A lot of love, some creativity, a hefty dash of patience, and a nice serving of compassion makes the best batch of Lemonade one could ever imagine." When one of her families lost everything in fire, she set out to help them develop their own unique lemonade recipe.

[Read more about Kelley and the Ray family.](#)



New Glasses & a New Lease on Life



Last fall, a student at Grundy County High lost her glasses. Without the resources to purchase a new pair or visit the eye doctor, she spent several months unable to see correctly. Our site coordinator, Sara, noticed this and was able to work with the local Lions Club to help her obtain a new pair of glasses. Her student was beyond excited to be able to see clearly after several months.

Lunch Buddy Tutoring Program Leads to Improved Scores

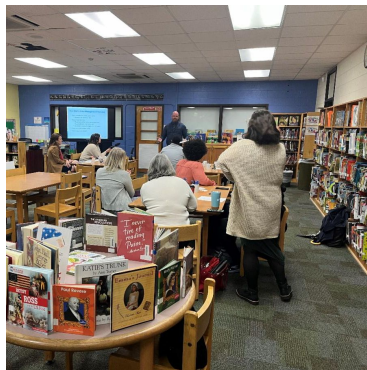


Our site coordinator at Whiteville, Lakenia, noticed some of her students needed extra support in math and reading. She decided to start a lunch buddy tutoring group to provide twice-weekly interventions and support. After just several weeks in the program, CIS-TN students at Whiteville had improved their IReady scores in reading and math.

In The Community

CIS-TN Takes To Capitol Hill

Last month, our Chief Program Officer, Tiffany Patton, visited the Tennessee General Assembly where she met with elected officials like Rep. Johnny Shaw, pictured here, to highlight the work we are doing in their communities to support schools and students. Rep. Shaw represents the home of two of our partner schools, Bolivar Central High School and Whiteville Elementary.



Site Visit to Paragon Mills Elementary

We recently hosted a site visit for about a dozen current and prospective partners and friends to learn more about the CIS-TN program at Paragon Mills Elementary School. Thank you to our site coordinator at Paragon Mills, Abby, Mr. Lyons, the school principal, Ms. Sikes and Ms. Cockerham, the assistant principals, and so many others for hosting such an informative tour.

In The News

THE TENNESSEAN

Nashville must make children and youth central to its vision | Opinion

We want to see specific commitments from Nashville mayoral candidates around what can be done to create a city that prioritizes children and youth in all aspects of decision-making.

13 nonprofit leaders Guest Columnists
Published 6:03 a.m. CT March 23, 2023



Introducing the Nashville Child & Youth Collaborative

Communities in Schools of Tennessee along with a dozen other like-minded Nashville-area nonprofits have united to call on city leaders to prioritize the needs of young people this election season. Read more about our goals in this [Tennessean op-ed](#), and stay tuned for more information, including about a mayoral candidate forum focused entirely on children and youth.

[Read the op-ed.](#)

Read Across America Day @ Bellshire

Thank you to the volunteers from Delta Dental of Tennessee and the Nashville Predators who came to Bellshire Elementary to read to students on Read Across America Day, and to News Channel 5 for joining us live - and then staying to reading to a class! To see more from this day, check out [Delta Dental's recap of their visit](#).





WKRN Visits Tom Joy Elementary School

Laura Schweizer, host of WKRN's Local on 2, recently visited Tom Joy Elementary School to read to students and learn more about Communities in Schools and ongoing volunteer opportunities. [Catch her story here](#), and keep reading for more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities



Since school started last fall, **147 volunteers** from organizations including HCA, CAA, and Fourth Capital have logged more than **500 volunteer hours** with CIS-TN, and we could not be more grateful for their support. Whatever your strengths and interests are - from reading and tutoring to organization, athletics, and much more - if you'd like to get involved, we can help you find the volunteer opportunity that is right for you.



April 2023: TCAP Proctoring at Bellshire

Bellshire Elementary is seeking volunteers to proctor the TCAP test. Proctors will be paired with a classroom teacher to help administer the test. Bellshire needs proctors April 18-20 and April 24-26 from 8:30am-11:00am. If you are interested, please click [here](#) to sign up.



May 2023: Field Day & Teacher Appreciation

Do you have a group who is interested in partnering with one of our schools for their spring field day or teacher appreciation? If so, please reach out to [Michelle](#).



Ongoing: Support a CIS-TN School Directly

Want to support a school directly? You can shop an individual school's [Amazon wish list](#) and have items sent directly to that school, or many of our schools have an ongoing list of volunteer projects that small groups can help with. Email [Michelle](#) to learn more.

Partner Spotlight: Anchor Impact



Through the Anchor Impact Fund, Communities in Schools of Tennessee has connected with Jaylen Mahoney, a rising senior at Vanderbilt and star defensive back on the football team. We are grateful for the time he has spent with our students, including a group of 3rd-graders at Paragon Mills Elementary School. Jaylen has gone above and beyond to engage with students, attend our events, and raise awareness of our work on social media and in the community, and we truly appreciate all of his support.

At the top left, Jaylen and CIS-TN Board Member and Vanderbilt football alumni, Reggie Ford, attended our Bingo + Bourbon fundraiser in February.

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