

Newsletter | October 2023

It's a busy fall at Communities In Schools of Tennessee! In our latest newsletter, we highlight:

- CIS student volunteers in Hancock County meet the Governor and First Lady
- Recent stories from our schools
- Help us restock the Warner Exchange
- A recap of our All in For Kids Breakfast
- Partner Spotlight: CAA

Keep reading to learn more...

CIS Student Volunteers Meet Gov. Lee

Students in our Girls on a Mission volunteer group at Hancock County High School had the honor of handing out nearly 1,000 coats alongside Governor Bill Lee and First Lady Maria Lee several weeks ago as part of the First Lady's Tennessee Serves initiative. The students, who were the only volunteers at the event that morning, were chosen to participate in the Girls on a Mission group based on their dedication to learning ways to better themselves with the ultimate intent of using that to help and serve others. The students also met Rep. Gary Hicks at the event.

Read more about this visit [here](#), and learn more about our rural pilot program, a partnership with the state that serves students at 23 schools across the state, [here](#). Our rural pilot continues to transform lives; last year, 95% of our rural seniors graduated, and 73% improved their attendance. Thank you, Gov. and First Lady Lee, for your leadership and support!



Stories From Our Schools

Great things are happening in our schools! From college fairs to major steps in students' lives - our program managers are making a difference for our students and their families. Catch up on just a few of the many amazing activities going on in our schools below:



Bledsoe County High School

Congratulations to Bledsoe County High's New Student of the Month! Our program manager brought donuts to celebrate the nominees and winners.



Coalfield High School

"I think it's important that all students have the same opportunities that other kids in different counties have." Read about the recent college fair our program manager at Coalfield High School organized in the [Morgan County News](#).



Middleton High School

Our program manager hosted the largest college and career fair in Middleton history. Students had a great day learning about their options after high school.



Clay County High School

After a student's parents were tragically killed in a car accident, he was left in limbo, with no legal guardian as an 18-year-old. His CIS program manager stepped in to help him sort through critical paperwork and processes that ensured he was able to stay in school and obtain health insurance. [Read the full story.](#)



Madison Middle School

The homeroom with the best attendance last month had a pizza party and received a trophy. Schoolwide, students with perfect attendance in Q1 received ice cream at lunch to celebrate; this was a significant jump from 94 students with perfect attendance at the same time last year.



Grundy County High School

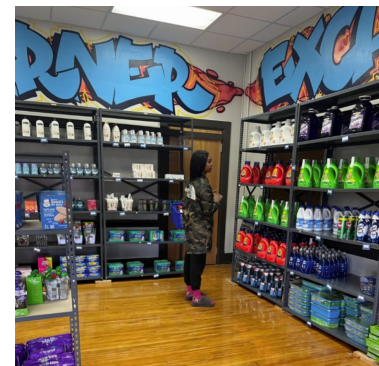
Avery hadn't had health insurance since she was a toddler. Yet, her work based learning class required it. Her CIS program manager helped her get insurance, which proved critical just a few weeks later. [Read the full story.](#)

Help Restock the Warner Exchange

The Warner Exchange is an innovative partnership between CIS and Warner Elementary that has transformed student attendance; since the Exchange started, chronic absenteeism has dropped from 46% to 38%.

How it works: parents earn "Warner Bucks" for bringing their child to school each day, and can spend their Warner Bucks in the Exchange at the end of the month to purchase necessities like diapers, cleaning supplies, food, and other basic needs items. [Read more about the Exchange here.](#)

As we enter the holiday season, Warner needs our help restocking the Exchange; an Amazon wish list is below, and they are in particular need of trash bags, mouthwash, TIDE, Swiffer mops, Dove body wash, and Vaseline lotion. If your company would like to host a drive, please contact Leah Susi



Thank You For Being *All in for Kids*

\$65,000 Raised for Kids: We are grateful for the support of everyone who attended our annual breakfast, allowing us to continue our work to help students across the state stay in school and achieve in life. At our *All in For Kids* breakfast, we heard from motivational speaker, best-selling author, and former CIS-TN board member Reggie D. Ford as well as Megan, a graduate of our rural high school program who is now in college studying to be a teacher. Thank you, Reggie and Megan, for sharing your stories with us.



Partner Spotlight: CAA

Thank you so much to our friends at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) for hosting this year's Young Nashville Party benefitting Communities In Schools. With this event, CAA raised more than \$45,000 for Communities In Schools of Tennessee! Thank you to all who came out (in costume!) to support us.



We had fun talking about our partnership with CAA in two interviews: check out our conversation with Local on 2 [here](#), and Today in Nashville [here](#).



Save the Date:

Your next opportunity to have a good time for a great cause: February 21, 2024, at our 3rd Annual Bingo + Bourbon fundraiser!



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