

## Newsletter | February 2023

### Impact Stories



#### HOW ALEXIS GOT HER SMILE BACK

Alexis started missing school in 2020 after her great grandmother got custody of her and she became the nighttime caretaker for her great grandfather, who was very sick. Her attendance and mental health quickly went downhill.

*Read how our site coordinator was able to gain her trust and change the trajectory of Alexis' high school career.*

#### RESOURCE NIGHT AT MADISON MIDDLE



Our site coordinator at Madison Middle hosted a Resource Night where parents could come and learn about the different resources for their students that are available at the school and in the community.

#### YORK INSTITUTE LUNCH BUDDY PROGRAM



Students at York have a new safe, fun, informal place to connect and make friends through a new lunch buddy program created by our site coordinator. One of the most common indicators of chronic absenteeism is lack of connectivity to or friends at school.

[READ MORE STORIES](#)

## Next Week: Join Us For Bingo + Bourbon

Play bingo, win great prizes, bid on some unique bourbon and whiskey, and most

importantly, help CIS-TN raise funds for the important work we do with students across the state.

**When:** Thursday, February 23 at 6 pm

**Where:** Sinema (2600 8th Ave S.)

**We hope to see you next week!**

**DETAILS &  
TICKETS**



### **Bingo + Bourbon on TV**

Did you catch Leah Susi, our Chief Development Officer, on TV recently? To help get the word out about Bingo + Bourbon and the work that CIS does in schools across the state, Leah spoke to [Local on 2](#) and [Today in Nashville](#). Watch the interviews to learn more about this fun night out, and [come join us next week!](#)

## In The News

### **Mainstreet Nashville: Bellshire Elementary sees cultural transformation with help of Communities in Schools**

Read more about our work with Bellshire Elementary, which has made significant progress improving both attendance and school culture in recent years. [Read more.](#)



### **The Tennessean: Report: Nashville schools primed for growth after successful work-based learning pilot**

The [Nashville Chamber's Education Report](#) released last month highlighted our work with Warner Elementary to increase attendance through the Warner Exchange. [Read more.](#)



## Get Involved

Looking to get more involved with CIS-TN? We have a number of upcoming opportunities and would love to help you find a good fit for your interests and schedule. To learn more about how you can get involved at any time, please contact Michelle at [mfletcher@cistn.org](mailto:mfletcher@cistn.org).

### **February 21: Cookies for A Cause**

Come out and enjoy a delicious treat from Crumbl Cookies at Nashville West Shopping Center (6706 Charlotte Pike) from 3-6 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 21. CIS-TN will receive 15% of the proceeds, which will go toward basic need items for the Cumberland Elementary students and their



families.



### March 23: Visit Paragon Mills Elementary School

Join us for our next school site visit at Paragon Mills from 9-10am on March 23 to learn more about the CIS model and hear from our site coordinator and school staff about CIS-TN's impact. Want to get involved at Paragon Mills before then? The school hosts TCAP Trivia every Thursday from 11-12:30 pm and is always looking for volunteers. [Sign up here.](#)



### May 2023: Field Day

Do you have a group who is interested in partnering with one of our schools for their spring field day? 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: The Education Trust

Communities In Schools of Tennessee is part of the Thrive Community of Practice, a cohort funded by The Education Trust focusing on college access for underserved students in our state. Thank you so much to The Education Trust for supporting rural students and thank you to our Communities In Schools of Tennessee rural team (23 site coordinators and 3 managers) who work with our students every day to succeed in school and achieve in life.

*Pictured here is Tiffany Patton, our Chief Program Officer, who had the opportunity to present about our college and career work and our impact to the Thrive Community at Lipscomb University.*



The Education Trust



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