



Communities
In Schools®
Tennessee

Newsletter | December 2022

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Hello and Happy Holidays!

We are counting our blessings here at CIS-TN after an action-packed first semester of school.

Our site coordinators have been busy implementing new and innovative programming. At Bellshire, 40 students learned how to tie a tie at the inaugural "Donuts and Dudes" male mentoring program meeting; you'll get to meet two of the student leaders of that program below.



I've been fortunate to visit eight of our schools this fall, and it is always inspiring to see our team in action. These visits also help bring to light emerging challenges, and at nearly every stop, the topic of mental health came up. While not a new concern, it is clear that students have been through a lot in the last few years and need our support now more than ever.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our friends and partners, and I am so thankful for your continued support this holiday season.

Enjoy your holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Sam".

STUDENT & SCHOOL UPDATES

BROTHERS CARSON & CAM

Carson and Cam struggled with behavioral challenges that often kept them out of class at Bellshire Elementary and caused them to struggle academically. The site coordinator at Bellshire, Mr. Gibson, noticed this pattern and recruited them onto his caseload. He helped them enroll in Rites of Passage, a program that teaches male students how to shift their negative behaviors to become leaders in their communities, and put into place attendance incentives to help motivate them to want to be at school and in their classroom learning.

Just a few months later, "I've seen so much improvement," Mr. Gibson says. "I never hear their names involved in negative situations. I'm very proud of them and who they are becoming!" Both boys recently took on leadership roles at the first "Donuts With Dudes" meeting, a new mentoring program at Bellshire.



TOM JOY ELEMENTARY



Genesis Career College gave students at Tom Joy fresh haircuts before students and their families were able to get holiday portraits made by a professional photographer.

WHITEVILLE ELEMENTARY



LaKenia, our new site coordinator at Whiteville, hosted a Grandparent Donut Day to connect with the students and families she will be serving.

HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL



Students at Hancock County High School partnered with a local organization to prepare 50 Christmas Cheer Packs that will be sent to children in Guatemala.

[READ MORE STORIES](#)

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report chronicles the barriers faced by our students and highlights the success CIS-TN achieved during the previous school year. Last school year, CIS-TN

served over **19,000 students** in **40 schools** across **16 counties**. In 2021-22, as our students made it back to the classroom, we continued to focus on the social-emotional well-being of our students, ensure students have their basic needs met and make certain that our students see their potential for a bright future.



2021-2022 Annual Report



READ THE REPORT

IN THE NEWS



The Tennessean: This school restocks family pantries to reward attendance. Here's how.
Chronic absentees have been a challenge for most of Metro Nashville Public Schools. Though it is improving, some schools are looking for new ways to help. Warner Elementary School has found a creative way to incentivize parents to bring their children to school: the Warner Exchange.

[Read the story.](#)

Morgan County News: Rep. Windle visits Communities in Schools program at WCHS

CIS of Tennessee works with four high schools in Morgan County: Wartburg Central High School, Coalfield, Oakdale, and Sunbright. All four site coordinators met with Rep. Windle during his visit to WCHS.

[Read the story.](#)



92.3 WNPC: Communities In Schools Gets Visit

From State Representative Jeremy Faison

State Rep. Jeremy Faison was at Cosby High School Thursday morning to meet with representatives and coordinators with the Communities In Schools program. The program operates in numerous school systems across the state, including right here in Cocke County at both Cosby & Cocke County High Schools.

[Read the story.](#)



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: KIPP NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are so fortunate to partner with KIPP Nashville Public Schools to serve the children and families in their communities. In 2015, CIS of Tennessee and KIPP Nashville Public Schools launched their partnership serving two of their sites. In 2018, we expanded into three schools: KIPP Academy, KIPP College Prep, and KIPP Collegiate. To learn about CIS of Tennessee's partnership with KIPP Nashville Public Schools and how our coordinators are partnering with their students and families, check out their [magazine on pages 23-24](#) and a few recent highlights below.



Our KIPP site coordinators came together to host a Thanksgiving Potluck featuring performances by the school's band and choir, and a turkey cooking competition.



Within the first few weeks of school, one of our KIPP site coordinators was able to help two families – four students – stay in their homes because of our generous gift from Amazon's Right Now Needs Fund.

FEBRUARY 23: BINGO + BOURBON



Please join us for our 2nd annual
Bingo + Bourbon event!
Enjoy a night out for a great cause while playing bingo, winning great prizes, bidding on some unique bourbon and whiskey, and most importantly, helping CIS-TN raise funds for the important work we do with students across the state.

[Tickets on Sale Now for Bingo + Bourbon](#)

Thank you to our sponsors

When: February 23 from 6:00-10:00 pm
Where: Sinema (2600 8th Ave S.)



CAPITAL ALIGNMENT
PARTNERS

[DETAILS &
TICKETS](#)

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL'S WISH LIST

NEW! By clicking this button below, you will be taken directly to an individual school's wish list. These items will get sent directly to that school. Thanks for being All in for Kids!

SHOP OUR SCHOOL'S WISH LIST

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Communities In Schools of Tennessee | 1207 18th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37212

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