

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Hello Friend,

Since joining the CIS team this past October, I've been amazed by our coordinators' work both inside and outside of the school setting. Whether it's inclement weather, a natural disaster or a global pandemic, our coordinators don't stop working when schools are closed. In fact, that's usually when our students and their families need us the most. We have garnered a reputation for reducing chronic absenteeism but that is just the beginning of what our coordinators do.

In this first edition of our newsletter, I'd like to reintroduce you to CIS by sharing some examples of how our coordinators work to meet the many needs of the whole child.

If a student...

- Is hungry, our coordinator will provide food from their CIS food pantry or connect them to a local food bank.
- Is in violation of the school dress code because they don't have a belt, CIS will provide one.
- Lacks transportation to a doctor's appointment, CIS will provide or arrange transportation.
- Is struggling with depression or other mental health issues, our coordinator will provide counseling and connect the student to a mental health professional if needed.

These are just a few instances, and you'll find more in this newsletter.

I feel fortunate to work with such a smart, committed team on our shared passion of making sure all students have the resources they need to be successful. I also appreciate the passion and talents of our school and community partners. It takes all of us to move the needle.

With gratitude,  
*Sam*

**Samantha Wigand**  
CEO

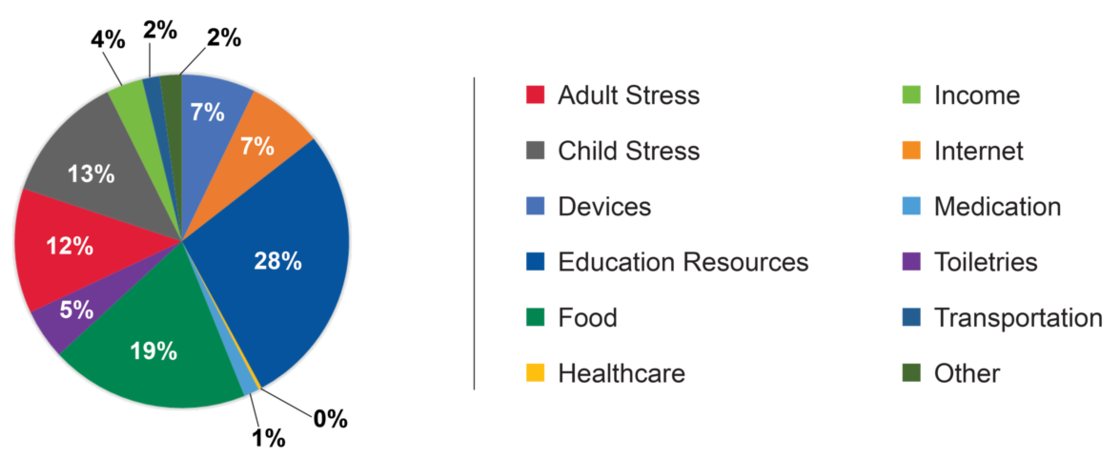
## UPDATE ON OUR RELIEF EFFORTS

### PIVOTING OUR WORK DURING COVID-19

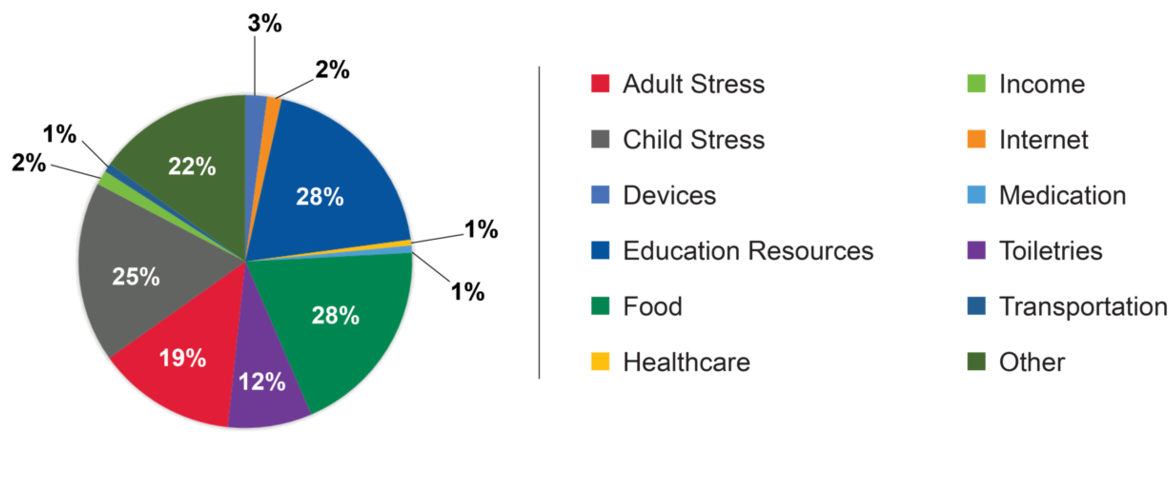
What makes the CIS model unique is our ability to tailor the services we provide based on the needs of the school, students, and surrounding community. As COVID-19 settled in, we quickly realized we would have to pivot both how we work and the kinds of needs we'd need to support. Here is a breakdown of the kinds of supports we have been providing in April.

#### SERVICES PROVIDED BY CIS

##### Nashville



##### Rural



Later this month, we will be sharing more data and stories to provide some insight into how COVID-19 has impacted our most vulnerable students and families. Our hope is this will help inform how we support students and families now and over the coming months. Stay tuned!

You can support our COVID-19 efforts by visiting our donation page and selecting **COVID-19 Response Fund** when asked where to designate your donation.

[DONATE TO COVID-19 FUND](#)

### NASHVILLE TORNADO

After the March 3rd tornado, CIS setup an emergency fund to help families impacted by the storm. We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions: anonymous, Melinda Balser, Integrity Staffing Solutions, Brent Clark, Priscilla Lenes, Joe Bass, Dale Erquiaga, and Creative Artists Agency.

#### How CIS connected a family to community resources

After the tornado caused severe damage to the mother's workplace she unexpectedly became unemployed and reached out to CIS coordinator Thomas for assistance. Thomas put together a care package for the family with hygiene products and food from community partner Second Harvest. He was also able to provide a mini refrigerator and a microwave – their previous microwave stopped working and that was the only way they could heat/cook their food. Before the stay-at-home order went into effect, Thomas purchased over \$200 worth of groceries and connected the family to another community partner who generously offered to pay the family's bills to help get them through the month.

#### How CIS reassured the school community after the storm

The day schools resumed, coordinator Cindy made a sign that read "Free Hugs" and stood at the front of the building hugging every person as they entered into the school. "I did this to give them a sense of hope and to reassure them to smile, we will all get through this!" said Cindy. This seemingly small act helped set a positive tone and reassured students that everything would be ok.

You can still contribute to this fund by visiting our donation page and selecting **Emergency Fund for CIS Families** when asked where to designate your donation.

[DONATE TO TORNADO VICTIMS](#)

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

### Anna's journey to senior year

As a classroom teacher, Anna was in the first group of freshmen that Kristin taught. Anna was quiet, shy and always smiling. "I had 200 kids that year, but Anna was special," said Kristin. Two weeks into the school year, Anna began missing class and by Christmas was absent two to three days a week. She loved school and making friends, but kept getting sick and missing. Kristin offered academic support and make up work, but Anna's name continued to show up on the docket at truancy court.

[Read more >>>](#)

### How a handicap ramp helped Kylie graduate early

After her mother had an emergency amputation, Kylie was thrown into the role of caregiver. Responsibilities at home caused her attendance to become sporadic and when she did go to school she was unable to focus. She constantly worried about her mother and if she would fall down the stairs while she was away at school.

[Read more >>>](#)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We are incredibly grateful to our donors who have enabled us to continue providing critical resources and support to more than 18,000 students across the state who are in need of our services. Thank you!



## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

### Make an online donation

We know the power that one individual can make in the life of a child – teachers, mentors and hopefully you! When you donate to CIS of TN you're investing in a child's life and your community.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

### Support CIS of TN when you shop

**Kroger Community Rewards:** Simply scan your Kroger Plus Card every time you shop and Kroger will make a donation to CIS of TN at no extra cost to you.

**AmazonSmile:** Select Communities In Schools of Tennessee as your preferred charity and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to CIS of TN.

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