

invest in kids' success



Communities In Schools

GEORGIA NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009



Approximately 20,000 Georgia students drop out of school each year. That's why **Communities In Schools** leverages community resources to support youth, improves graduation rates, academic achievement and job and post-secondary school readiness. CIS local affiliates served 173,093 students. These affiliates raised \$21.30 for every dollar in funds from the Georgia Department of Education.

Why **Communities In Schools** Works

The mission of CIS is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. CIS believes every child needs and deserves the five basics®:

- A personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community

Communities In Schools is a national network and is different from traditional education support organizations because local affiliates partner with school districts and community organizations to connect resources and services to both kids at risk of dropping out and their families. CIS is flourishing because our unique, scientifically-proven model empowers young people and their parents to take responsibility for their futures. The premise is to remove obstacles to learning, provide and coordinate social services directly in the community, and ease the burden on parents, which allows teachers to teach and students to learn.

According to a rigorous independent study by ICF International, CIS is one of a very small number of dropout prevention programs in the country proven to keep students in school and is the only dropout prevention program in the nation with research to prove that it increases graduation rates.*

*ICF International, April 2008. *Communities In Schools National Evaluation School-Level Report. Vol 2. Fairfax, VA: ICF International*

The state office, Communities In Schools of Georgia, provides technical assistance, training, program evaluation, fundraising support, advocacy and communications to 50 local affiliates. Each of these affiliates is independently incorporated, has an executive director and board of directors, and constitutes the foundation of Communities In Schools of Georgia. Local affiliates are successful because they work in their communities to meet the unique needs of each youth, which might include mentoring, providing social service referrals or a more intensive after-school tutoring program.

Partnership Solutions

Schools Can't

Strategic partnerships will play an increasingly critical role as we expand our services to individual students while also ensuring that education leaders understand the critical importance of non-instructional obstacles to student ability to learn and excel in the classroom.

Performance Learning Centers® (PLCs)

CIS of Georgia launched the first two PLCs in 2003. More than \$13 million was invested by Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the state of Georgia and several local foundations and corporations. PLCs are small high schools geared toward students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. PLCs are part of the local school system to ensure their sustainability, but CIS of Georgia created the model and continues to support their effectiveness and evaluation. The program's success led CIS National to replicate the model across additional states, with CIS of Georgia providing technical assistance. An important component of the PLCs is the Services Coordinator who helps students with non-academic issues that may affect their ability to learn.

Georgia's PLC model is recognized for its ability to provide failing students, or those who already dropped out, with the opportunity to graduate possessing the necessary skills to succeed in college or the workforce. The program simultaneously offers school districts

"For many years, I have personally been committed to working with organizations like Communities In Schools to help students succeed. At IBM, we also understand the importance of businesses, community organizations, government leaders and parents coming together to support our schools' efforts to increase the graduation rates in Georgia. By being involved and invested in Communities In Schools, we become part of a very effective organization that is committed to help youth develop marketable skills and prepare them to compete in a global workforce! By supporting Communities in Schools, we all benefit."



Ann W. Cramer

Director Americas,
IBM Corporate Affairs

Communities In Schools
of Georgia Board Member

a viable option for increasing their graduation rates. More than 4,000 students have graduated from PLCs since 2003, including 916 this past year alone.

Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

Georgia PIRC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. The GA PIRC provides parents and families with state and federal research-based programs and resources on parental involvement from early childhood through high school. Activities included:

Do It Alone

- Partnering with Georgia Appleseed to provide a training video to help parents understand the important components of No Child Left Behind.
- Conducting a joint conference with the Georgia Mentoring Partnership to provide training and introduce participants to new ideas, tools, and techniques in a cost-effective way.
- Conducting Parent Café meetings with Atlanta Public School System parents to provide opportunities to share best practices, support and resource information.
- Partnering with the Smart Start Georgia's SPARK program and the Children's Trust Fund to create the Georgia Parents as Teachers network.

Georgia Mentoring Partnership (GMP)

CIS of Georgia is the lead agency for the GMP, a coalition of public, private, non-profit and faith-based organizations. Its aim is to serve as an advocate for the expansion of mentoring programs, resources for mentors, and statewide mentoring initiatives. The partnership website provides an online system for registering programs and serves as a forum for networking and volunteer referral services.

Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA)

CIS of Georgia AmeriCorps VISTA is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Thirteen volunteers whose primary objective is mentoring work with six local affiliates and assist children and families in poverty through

academic and social support. They also work to recruit, train and place mentors into schools.

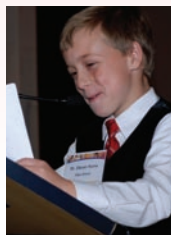
AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial

The CIS of Georgia AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial provides an opportunity for 38 part-time members to tutor low-achieving elementary school students and improve reading comprehension, vocabulary recognition, and basic writing skills at 15 local affiliates.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)

RIF is a federally funded family literacy program designed to encourage and engage students and parents in motivational reading activities. Thirteen CIS local affiliates receive RIF funds, providing more than 30,000 free books to over 10,000 kids up to 12 years old.

The Student Achievement Month (SAM) contest provides an opportunity for students who are sometimes overlooked and often expected to underachieve to excel. SAM helps students gain confidence and understand the importance of succeeding in school. Below, Steven Horne delivers a riveting speech during the celebratory luncheon. He tells the audience that his tutor helped him learn to read, and he helped his tutor learn to use the computer to administer an Accelerated Reader test.



Steven Horne
CIS of Fitzgerald/
Ben Hill County

AmeriCorps VISTA Highlight

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) is a national service program designed to fight poverty. Since 1998, CIS of Georgia has been able to provide AmeriCorps VISTAs to CIS local affiliates through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This partnership has allowed 34 CIS local programs to host more than 120 VISTA members. In FY 2008, CIS VISTAs in Georgia served approximately 11,766 hours and developed a variety of sustainable, educational services that helped increase graduation rates.

Karla Hudson has served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member for CIS of Hart County for three years. She has made a significant difference in the community by recruiting and coordinating over 340 volunteers. More than a third of these volunteers provide sustained mentoring and/or tutoring services to more than 240 students. Karla's dedication has made a difference in the students' academic careers and in their personal lives. Karla worked closely with the South Hart Elementary CIS school improvement team providing volunteers to help with programs such as Reading Is Fundamental and Dr. Seuss Day which helps improve literacy skills and promote a lifelong love of reading.



North Star Society Donors

Individuals who gave \$1,000 or more in 2008

CIS of Atlanta

Madeline and Howell Adams
Anne Cox Chambers
Bradley Currey, Jr.
Hakim Hilliard
Paula Hovater
Lawrence Humphrey
Sheri Labovitz
Lynne and AJ Land
Steve Leeds
Larry Lord
Patricia Pflum and Neil Shorthouse
Aldyn Royes

CIS of Athens/Clarke Family Connection

Bud and Lucy Allen
Bertis Downs
Katherine Downs
Carolyn Girard
Frank Girard
Emily Ingram
Leigh Anne Landers
Gwen O'Looney
Jan Stephens

CIS of Berrien/Berrien County Collaborative, Inc.

Dr. Jeffrey and Bebe Cox
Nancy and William S. Pegg
Allison and Erwin C. Reid
Ann Richbourg
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Tittle
Bruce B. Wilson

CIS of Colquitt County, Inc.

Phyllis Edwards
Larry Franklin
Dan and Felicity Jeter
Ben Marion
Mary Beth Watson
Dennis Zember

CIS of Glynn County

Linda and Phil Allen
James Bishop
William F. and Trey Brunson
Laura Cross
James and Nancy DeLong
Luther W. and Beth Fennell
Mike Hendley
Jack Kilgore
Don and Susan Myers
John Tuten
Bill Walker

CIS of Laurens County, Inc.

Jeffrey Alligood
Leard Daughtey
Lawton Davis
Penny Mackey
Claretha Pullin

CIS of Marietta/Cobb County, Inc.

Patricia and Michael Falotico
Alan Fey
Kathy Lewis
Terri Thomas
Jerry Warren

CIS of Turner County

Cheryle Bryan
Brenda Lee
Gloria Pylant

CIS of Wilkes/Wilkes County Community Partnership

Anonymous
Anonymous
Joey and Polly Fievet
Mary Fievet
Richard Seibert
Hilda Wright

CIS of Georgia (State Office)

Lilicia Bailey
Frank Barron
Charles and Eleanor Barton
M. Kathy and G. Dennis Berry
Zenda Bowie
Kerry Campbell
Ann and Jeff Cramer
Pat and Michael Falotico
Robert Hall
George H. Johnson
Linda Kelley and Erik Wilke
Chuck Lewis
Nikki Mercer
John and Sue Mobley
John Palmer
Raymond and Bobbie Ann Reynolds
Portia Shields
Neil Shorthouse and Patricia Pflum
Chris Womack

ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE PROJECT (AFL)

In the Fall of 2008, Communities In Schools of Georgia received one of the four AFL Demonstration Grants awarded nationally through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AFL is designed to reduce the number of adolescents in targeted communities who are engaged in premarital sexual activity. There are 18 schools and approximately 6,000 students who participate in the AFL project in Burke, Douglas, Laurens, and Chatham counties. Key program components include abstinence education, small group mentoring, service learning, parent workshops, and evaluation. The AFL project supports, develops, evaluates, and utilizes curricula designed to provide students and their parents with abstinence information and activities. It integrates school-based abstinence education and small group mentoring. The outcomes of students receiving only abstinence education (control group) in comparison to those receiving both abstinence education and small group mentoring (treatment group) will be evaluated.



CIS of Douglas County

Student Spotlight

Antavious Grier and his mentor, **Judy Shaw**, started their mentee/mentor relationship when he was in the third grade, reading on a first grade level and acting out in school.

Mrs. Shaw said the relationship had its ups and downs initially, and she questioned whether or not she was the right person for Antavious. But as time progressed, so did the relationship. She started to see changes in his behavior and academic progress.

"CIS has had the biggest impact in my life. Mrs. Shaw came in my life at a rough time when my parents were breaking up and my grandmother was sick. She came every Tuesday or Thursday and gave up her lunch just to talk to me. It felt like she was not doing this because it was her job. She was doing this because she loved kids and she loved helping me. She taught me how to read and helped me in many different ways and aspects."

Antavious is now pursuing a business degree at Middle Tennessee State University.



Annual Campaign

In 2008, 14 CIS local affiliates and the state office participated in the Annual Campaign for Communities In Schools. The annual campaign seeks to build capacity across the CIS of Georgia network for raising new, unrestricted funds from individual donors to complement and leverage support from the state, foundations, and corporations.

Affiliates are eligible to receive challenge funds based on the number of gifts and pledges of at least \$1,000 that they secure from individual donors. These individuals are recognized as North Star Society donors across the state; and each North Star Society level gift is matched with \$1,000 from CIS of Georgia challenge funds.

In the program's first two years, 206 North Star Society donors delivered \$594,000 in new, unrestricted revenue for CIS programs. CIS of Glynn County leads the network with 37 North Star Society donors. A number of other programs have more than 10 such donors, including Atlanta, Athens/Clarke County, Berrien County, Colquitt County, Turner County, and the state office. Challenge grants paid to support the 2008 Annual Campaign totaled \$91,000.

Bridgebuilder Grants

With a financial grant from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, CIS of Georgia established the Bridgebuilder Grant program in 2008 to encourage collaboration between the network and other potential community partners. The guidelines strongly encourage evaluation and assessment to help ensure that the new programs generate additional stay-in-school models and best practices.

In September and November 2008, the Bridgebuilder committee awarded 23 grants to CIS affiliates, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, to support new and innovative programs that promote student achievement. Collaboration with other community members invested in school success is the key element in each of these new programs. New relationships are being formed through the grants program to strengthen the safety net for vulnerable students.

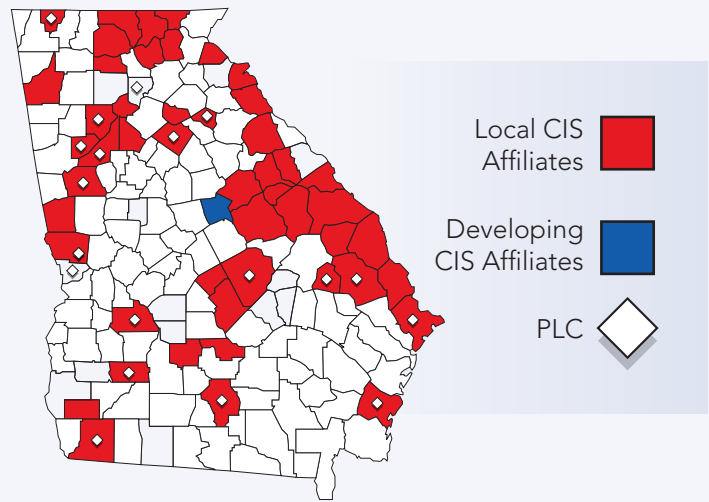
"I got involved with Communities In Schools for two primary reasons. First, they help at-risk children realize their potential so they can succeed in life. Second, CIS works with school districts to help students graduate and provide economic benefits to themselves, their families and community. Investing in Communities In Schools is a wise decision."

Robert Hall


President, HRH Consulting, Inc.
Communities In Schools of Georgia Board Member

CIS of Georgia Network


The CIS of Georgia statewide network (50 local affiliates) served 173,093 students in 54 school systems through Performance Learning Centers®, mentoring, parent engagement, literacy, youth leadership, tutoring and after-school programs.




Numbers Served

 CIS served 617 school and community-based sites throughout the state

617

-  CIS supported 173,093 Georgia students (unduplicated), including:
 - Intensive services to 28,911 at-risk students in need of ongoing support
 - “Whole-school” prevention and short-term intervention services to 163,813 students

173,093

-  CIS affiliates provide support to adults in their communities as a way to enable school and student success, including:
 - Direct services (such as parent education) to 9,748 parents
 - Parental involvement services to 48,007 parents
 - Additional offerings through our network of Parental Information & Resource Centers, with regional hubs delivering direct parent engagement services



9,748

- The CIS of Georgia network recruits and delivers volunteer resources to support students and schools, yielding:
 - 3,375 student mentors and 6,383 other volunteers (tutoring and other unique services)
 - 149,770 hours of volunteer services to students and schools
 - 63,320 hours of service by CIS of Georgia AmeriCorps and VISTA Volunteers
 - 210,090 total hours of volunteer support across Georgia
 - \$4,098,846 in volunteer equivalent value as estimated by *Independent Sector*



3,375

Student Outcomes

Attendance



- 3 out of 4 students missing 10 days or more prior to CIS improved their attendance
- Student average daily attendance rose to 91.4 percent from 87.7 percent prior to CIS intervention, an average gain of 6.7 days of attendance per year

Discipline



- 7 out of 10 students with disciplinary problems resulting in suspension prior to CIS improved their behavior
- Average student suspensions dropped from 3.1 per year to 1.7
- Over half of students with existing disciplinary problems remained suspension-free while in a CIS program

Academics



- Nearly two-thirds of CIS students with a history of academic failure improved
- Among middle and high school students with a past history of academic problems, 59.1 percent and 70.4 percent improved respectively
- 8 out of 10 PLC students improved academically, increasing their average from 70.7 points to 82.3 points, an average gain of 11.6 points.

Progress Toward Graduation



- 95.1 percent of at-risk high school students served by CIS stayed in school or graduated
- 916 students received their high school diplomas with the support of PLCs in Georgia
- 93.1 percent of at-risk elementary and 87.9 percent of middle school students served by CIS successfully advanced to the next grade

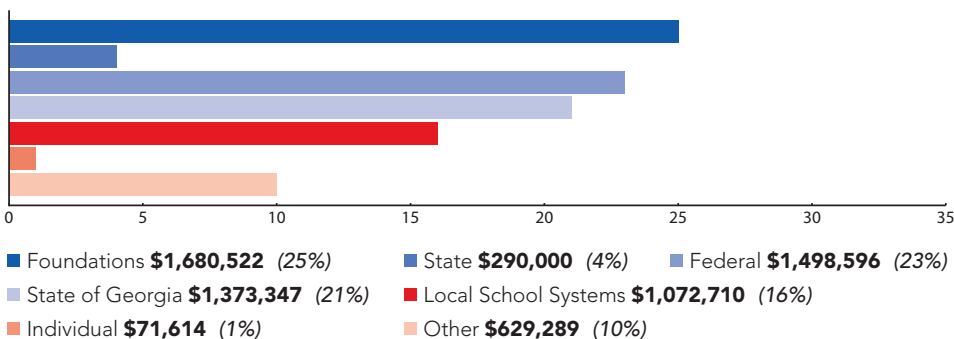
Communities In Schools of Georgia, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

	6/30/09	6/30/08
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,149,345	\$45,601
Cash held for restricted purposes	94,969	1,881,720
Total Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	1,244,314	1,927,321
Investments	-	-
Pledges and other receivables	161,333	339,090
Government grants receivable	595,509	280,084
Prepayments and other receivables	56,066	62,846
Furniture and equipment, net	62,960	86,249
Total Assets	\$2,120,182	\$2,695,591
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$711,361	\$830,119
Deferred support	85,762	132,799
Deferred rent	79,233	72,427
Notes payable	-	-
Total Liabilities	\$876,356	\$1,035,346
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	\$722,848	\$870,666
Temporarily restricted net assets	520,978	789,579
Total Net Assets	\$1,243,826	\$1,660,245
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,120,182	\$2,695,591

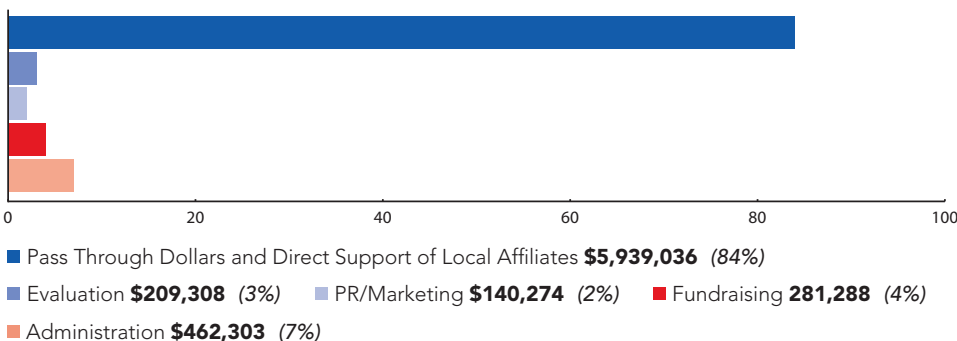
Communities In Schools of Georgia, Inc.

Consolidated FY 2009 Revenues **\$6,616,078**



Communities In Schools of Georgia, Inc.

Consolidated FY 2009 Expenses **\$7,032,209**



Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chris Womack, Chair
Southern Company

Ms. Kathy Berry

Ms. Pat Falotico
ibm.com Americas

Mr. Robert L. Hall
HRH Consulting, Inc.

Ms. Arlethia Perry-Johnson
*Kennesaw State University,
Office of the President*

Dr. David V. Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
Georgia Council on Economic Education

Mr. John H. Mobley II, Founding Chair
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP

Dr. Portia Holmes Shields

Mr. J. Neil Shorthouse
Communities In Schools of Georgia, Inc.

Dr. Peyton Williams

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Ms. Lilia Bailey
Manheim

Mr. Frank Barron

Dr. Stuart Bennett
Georgia Association of Education Leaders

Ms. Zenda Bowie
Georgia School Boards Association

Ms. Ann W. Cramer
IBM Corporate Community Relations

Dr. Stephen Dolinger
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Providence Missionary Baptist Church

Ms. Marie C. Gooding
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Mr. W. Chuck Lewis
One Georgia Bank

Ms. Nikki J. Mercer

Mr. Terry D. Smith
AT&T Georgia

Mr. Michael L. Thurmond
State of Georgia, Department of Labor

Dr. Wanda West

Mr. David Westerfield
Mohawk Industries, Inc.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Judy O'Brien
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP

Georgia CIS Local Affiliates

- Albany/Dougherty
- Athens/Clarke
- Atlanta/DeKalb
- Augusta/Richmond
- Baldwin
- Barrow
- Berrien
- Bulloch
- Burke
- Candler
- Catoosa
- Cochran/Bleckley
- Colquitt
- Cook
- Coweta
- Decatur
- Dodge
- Douglas
- Effingham
- Elbert
- Fitzgerald/Ben Hill
- Glascock
- Glynn
- Hancock
- Harris
- Hart
- Houston
- Jefferson
- Jenkins
- Laurens
- Macon/Bibb
- Marietta/Cobb
- McDuffie
- Miller
- North Georgia
(seven counties)
- Rome/Floyd
- Savannah/Chatham
- Screven
- Stephens
- Sumter
- Troup
- Turner
- Valdosta/Lowndes
- Walton
- Walton
- Washington
- Wilkes

Georgia State Office

CIS of Georgia provides training, technical assistance, program evaluation, fundraising support, advocacy, and communications to the above locally managed affiliates so that they are empowered to focus on serving the social and non-instructional needs of students.

Corporate and Foundation Donors

We thank and appreciate all our Network Funding Partners

AGL Resources Private Foundation
AT&T Georgia
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Borders Group, Inc.
CIS National
Cox Enterprises Foundation
Future Realty and Management Company
Georgia Natural Gas
Georgia Power Foundation
James M. Cox, Jr. Foundation
John A. Hartford Foundation
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
Luther and Susie Harrison Foundation
McGraw Hill Glencoe
R. Howard Dobbs Foundation
RBC Bank
Scott Hudgens Family Foundation
Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program

Media Sponsors

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
WSB-TV Family 2 Family

In-Kind Sponsors

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
PR1776
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
THP Graphics Group, Inc.



Communities In Schools

600 W. Peachtree Street, Suite 1200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

800.838.5784
(p) 404.888.5784
(f) 404.888.5789

www.cisga.org