



Communities
In Schools®

Kalamazoo

CIS 2020 **Annual Report**



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A Note From Leadership

Dear Friends of Communities In Schools,

Our recurring theme throughout the 2019/2020 school year was—and remains—
“One Great Team.”

Times like these call for both teamwork and flexibility. When the pandemic hit, thanks to
your support, our team was in place and quickly adapted to continue connecting the right
resources, to the right kids, at the right time.

CIS site coordinators established and continue to maintain close contact with families by
phone and email. We’ve worked closely with Kalamazoo Public Schools to distribute Chrome
books for online learning, collaborated with Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes to ensure students
had access to food, transitioned the CIS after school program online, hosted mentoring and
tutoring sessions, and opened virtual office hours for students to connect with their peers
and caring adults.

We did this, and more, because our community chose years ago to create the CIS integrated
system of support that surrounds our children. This system, embedded within the Kalamazoo
Public Schools, continues during these unprecedented times. Our team will continue to
connect students and their families to resources they’ll need in the days to come.

This annual report is a testament to the resiliency and generosity of our community. Thank
you for your commitment to kids and being a part of our One Great Team.

With deep gratitude,



Namita Sharma
Board President



James Devers
Executive Director

Former CIS Student Now Giving Back as CIS Staff

Jayda Fair was one, one out of every five students who report being bullied (*National Center for Educational Statistics, 2019*). Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school. But caring adults intervened early, and for that, Jayda is grateful.

“When my first-grade teacher Ms. Riley noticed I was getting bullied, she picked up on it,” says Jayda. “She comforted me, addressed the situation, and got my parents involved. She connected me to CIS. I was a quiet kid and CIS opened me up.”

Through CIS, the community surrounded Jayda with support throughout the rest of her twelve years with Kalamazoo Public Schools. That support looked different as she advanced through Woods Lake Elementary, Maple Street: A Magnet Center for the Arts, and Loy Norrix High School, and ranged from social and emotional support, to tutoring, and most recently, when Jayda learned she was pregnant, transportation support to prenatal checkups.

Whether at the elementary or secondary level, one thing remained the same. She credits CIS staff — from site coordinators to youth development coaches — with helping her to step out of her comfort zone. “Along the way, CIS staff pushed me to try new things,” she says. In elementary school, it was her CIS site coordinator connecting her to Kalamazoo Kids in Tune that helped her bloom. “My family is quite musical. But I was nervous to show that side of myself,” Jayda says. “CIS encouraged me to dabble in it. With that support [from Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra musicians] I started playing instruments like the flute and trumpet, and as I did, my confidence grew.”

When she entered high school, CIS Site Coordinator Montrell Baker took Jayda under his wing. “He became like a big brother to me, always there for me, and ready to listen when I needed to talk or wanted advice. He gave good guidance. I was so happy to have him there to support me and connect me to opportunities like Literacy Buddies. [Literacy Buddies, which began in 2011 thanks to a State Farm grant awarded to CIS, pairs high school students with second grade students in order to improve reading, writing, homework, and vocabulary skills. Acting as positive role models, high school students offer one-on-one support to help younger kids succeed in school.]



“Mr. Baker reached out to me and said I’d be a great fit for it.” He was right. Jayda’s leadership, warmth, and energy helped her connect readily with the younger students. It also got her thinking about her future and she realized she wanted to do something like this as a career.

“At different stages of my education, I’ve had different people caring and looking out for me. Each one made it more comfortable for me to be me. There was a time I didn’t want to go to school, but knowing that I had CIS changed that; I liked coming to school—I looked forward to it—knowing that I could stop by the CIS office if I needed to.”

Jayda graduated from Loy Norrix in the spring of 2020. A lot has happened since then. Navigating life and the curve balls it throws, Jayda has been learning to be a mom to Na’riyah, born during Michigan’s lockdown.

“CIS is a movement that is all about empowering young people,” she explains. “CIS is there for you...it was there for me.” And now, Jayda is there for kids. At the start of this school year, Jayda began serving as a youth development coach for CIS, supporting students who attend the very same school she once did. Just like the coaches who helped her along the way to discover that “it’s okay to be yourself, and you don’t need to pretend to be someone you aren’t” Jayda is now giving back. That life has come full circle isn’t lost on Jayda. In fact, it was one of her dreams,

she said, “to work for CIS and give back, and help kids, just like they did for me.”

In working closely with Maple Street’s CIS After School Coordinator Phillip Hegwood, she enjoys connecting with the students—virtually for now—and supporting their academic efforts and CIS after school activities, like book club and math club. A positive influence, Jayda inspires both students and staff. Hegwood says, “Coach Jayda is amazing. She always has a smile on her face, is willing to help students on homework, and readily works on things that are asked of her. She is truly a breath of fresh air; her positivity always brings me up.”

“CIS helped me break out of that shell I was in,” reflects Jayda. “Without CIS, I wouldn’t be as connected now as well as I am.”

Jayda’s future plans? “Keep working as a youth development coach. And then next semester I’m going to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise and take some core classes in social work at KVCC. Then I’ll transfer to Western to finish a degree in social work. Other than that, I’m a working mom.”



Celebrating the Champs Among Us

This year many of you joined us virtually for our 13th annual Champs Celebration to honor and recognize many community partners and volunteers who have gone above and beyond to aid our students in realizing their full potential.

2020 Champs

Mikka Dryer

CIS volunteer at Milwood Magnet Middle School

Edison Science Club

Group of Zoetis-led volunteers at Edison Environmental Science Academy

Family Health Center

Preventative health care partner for Students of Kalamazoo Public Schools

Western Michigan University National Society of Black Engineers

Engineering student volunteers at Kalamazoo Central High School

2020 Gulnar Husain Volunteer Award

Howard Teichma

2020 Diether Haenicke Promise of Excellence

Dr. Sandy Standish

Our Sponsors

Thank you to our 2020 Champs Celebration sponsors. We are grateful for your generous support for students in our community.

Presenting



Champion



Award & Special



Cap & Gown



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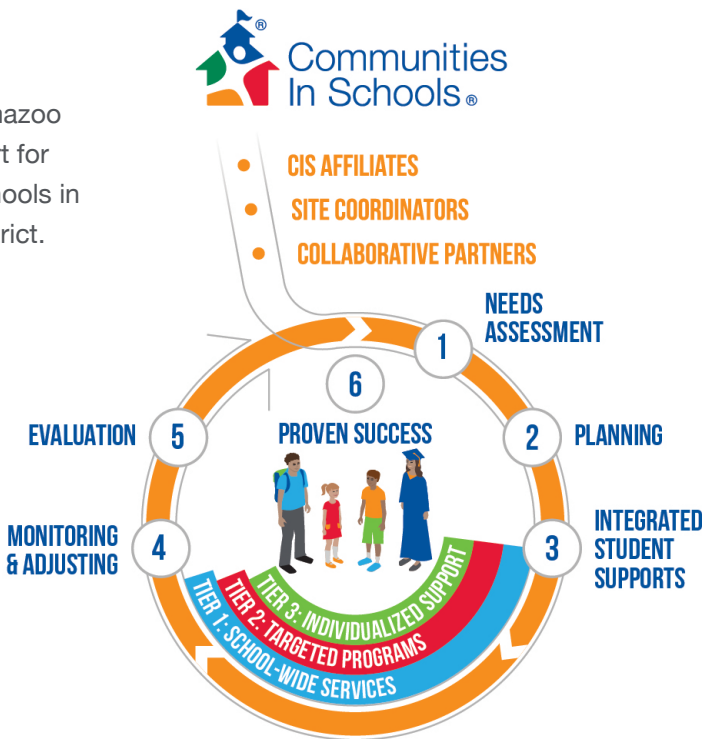
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With a Community of Support, Students are Empowered to Succeed

Our Model

Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS) provides multi-tiered support for students in 20 CIS-supported schools in the Kalamazoo Public School district.



Through school-wide services provided by CIS, more than 11,500 students in 20 schools benefited from having CIS in their building. 1,435 students received targeted and individualized support. Targeted services include individual and small group tutoring, mentoring, participation in afterschool and summer academic enrichment programs, and mental and physical health services. CIS assesses students' needs, sets goals for improvement, identifies and connects resources to address needs, and monitors progress towards established goals in partnership with families and school staff.

Reading and Math*

39% of K-8 students improved in reading by **7** percentage points or more and **22%** met "catch up target" or greater.

34% of K-8 students improved in math by **7** percentage points or more and **20%** met "catch up target" or greater.

Graduation and Grade Level Advancement

66% of 9th – 11th grade students earned sufficient credits to advance to the next grade.

100% of high school seniors working with CIS graduated with their class in June 2020.

Attendance

44% of CIS case-managed students achieved the goal of improving attendance from the previous year.

Prior to the school shutdown in March 2020, students that were chronically absent during the previous school year improved their attendance by **11%**. With intervention, on average, chronically absent students attended **12** additional days of school. Twelve additional days of school equates to **72** additional hours of classroom instruction and **25** additional hours of enrichment time.



Through CIS, **732** volunteers dedicated approximately **12,000** hours, stepping up to empower students over the 2019-20 school year. Starting in March 2020, during the state shutdown, traditional CIS volunteer support was placed on hold; however, some volunteers continued to provide support virtually and assisted with food distribution/deliveries.



6,730 food packs were distributed while students were at school during the school year. Four full-service and four partial-service school-based food pantries also supported students by filling four-day food orders with a total of **10,070** visits. Starting in March, CIS staff helped distribute food during school distribution times, delivered food to homes without transportation and provided support at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.



2,109 students connected with professional mental health services, including individual counseling and group services, such as grief and loss, social skills, and conflict management. With students out of the school buildings, many transitioned to teletherapy support.



489 students visited the Mobile Health Clinic supported by CIS for health-related needs and **1,418** visited for dental care (exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings).



26 students received a vision exam and **28** received frames, lenses, or replacements.



23,962 clothing, personal hygiene products, and school supplies donated by the community were distributed to students to address basic needs.



119 community partners, in schools for kids, worked with CIS to deliver resources and services to students in **20** schools.

*Reading and math data reflects growth through mid-year. COVID closures resulted in the cancellation of year-end testing and reporting.

Loving and Growing with CIS

“Amazing! Amazing! Amazing! Period!”

That’s how Madison Vargas describes her experience with Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS). An exuberant fourth grader at Spring Valley Center for Exploration, Madison loves school, the Kalamazoo Promise, and her teachers [Mrs. Katie McKinley and Mrs. Mariah Martinez], though she misses being with her friends as Kalamazoo Public Schools is currently providing remote instruction due to the pandemic.

“CIS is a fantastic organization focused on student needs,” says Jennifer Dayton, Madison’s mom. “I can’t say enough good things about CIS, from the resources they provide, to the CIS afterschool program [funded by federal dollars awarded through the Michigan Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers], to the bonds my daughter has made with the staff.”

“I knew as a former teacher—having taught eight years with Kalamazoo Public Schools—the positive impact CIS had with my students and within our community. But it wasn’t until I had my own child that I really saw and could fully appreciate those benefits personally. My daughter needed counseling for family

issues and [CIS Site Coordinator] Ms. Martha connected us with Nicole Triplett for counseling. That support over these past three years has been most helpful.”

“As a single parent, CIS has been a tremendous support in providing us with resources and connecting to services like counseling. I didn’t know where to go to find a therapist and Ms. Martha bridged the gap for us. She connected us with the right counseling support and got all the paperwork pulled together. And the CIS afterschool program is fantastic! I’ve been very impressed with [CIS After School Coordinator] Ericka Stevens, and can’t say enough about how very accommodating she and the other CIS staff have been of my daughter’s needs. CIS has provided academic support by helping with homework and...”

“Don’t forget,” Madison reminds her mom, “they also have fun activities where you learn a lot of new things. Clubs like photography, drama, and cooking. Did you know I learned how to make Rice Krispie Treats?”

“And also,” Jennifer says, “CIS has helped to provide the materials my daughter needs to be successful in school.

“Yes!” agrees Madison. “They sent me an amazingly fantastic box of supplies that had markers, two packs of crayons, a bunch of pencils, a ruler, a bunch of paper, scissors. Oh, and we can’t forget the glue. Four glue sticks!”

While these resources have helped Madison grow academically, socially, and emotionally, it’s the people behind the supports—the one-on-one relationships with caring adults—that Madison and her mom really appreciate. “The bonds they have created with my daughter...”

“Ms. Martha,” interrupts Madison, heaving a big sigh. “I love her.”

“Yes,” agrees Jennifer. “She is very caring and goes above and beyond for families at Spring Valley.”

This love that Madison and her mom have for CIS, well, that feeling is mutual. Martha, who has served as Spring Valley’s CIS Site Coordinator for the past fourteen years, says it’s a joy to work with Jennifer and Madison. With students not currently in the school, Martha has made several home visits to

check in with the family and drop off various school supplies [provided by CIS donors as well as KPS materials]. “I love touching base with them,” she says. “Jennifer has been so open and appreciative of supports from CIS.”

“Madison loves school and is very attentive in class,” says Martha. “She has grown socially, built strong friendships, and has continued these connections during remote learning. She has learned to trust adults in the school that are there for support...At Spring Valley, we are one team.”

It’s that combined effort of the school, parents, and the community working together through CIS that empowers Madison and other students to succeed.

2019-20 Expenses & Revenues Fiscal Management

2019-20 EXPENSES	\$3,886,553
21ST CCLC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	\$1,745,967
INTEGRATED STUDENT SERVICES	\$1,235,550
VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIPS	\$176,949
GRANTMAKING & SCHOLARSHIPS	\$11,581
HEALTH	\$190,377
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	\$300,021
FUNDRAISING & MARKETING	\$226,108

2019-20 REVENUE*	\$3,148,840
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$438,539
FOUNDATIONS AND ENDOWMENTS	\$289,050
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$1,795,967
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$466,920
PROGRAM REVENUES	\$56,535
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$100,776
OTHER REVENUES	\$1,053

The CIS After School Program is funded by the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers) and in partnership with Kalamazoo Public Schools.

*Gifts Made to the Promise Me Campaign, launched in 2012, are used to cover 2019-20 operating expenses. Those gifts were accrued in a prior year’s revenue, but used against this year’s expenses.

*A foundation grant for the fiscal year 2019-20 was received and recorded in 2018-19. The grant was restricted for use in fiscal year 2019-20.

*CIS received a Paycheck Protection loan in May of 2020. The loan was recorded as a long-term liability in fiscal year 2019-20. Management believes that most, if not all, of the loan will be forgiven. At that time, the forgiveness amount will be recorded as revenue.



Committed to the Future.

Every Gift Keeping Kids in School. Thank You.

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This annual report recognizes those who gave financial gifts between July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. For a list of donors who gave in-kind gifts, including those made to the CIS Kids' Closet, visit our website, www.ciskalamazoo.org.

We make every effort to recognize our donors accurately. If we have omitted you or made a mistake in listing you, we need to know! Please accept our apologies for any oversights and contact us (269) 337-1601 or email [Felicia Lemons at flemons@ciskalamazoo.org](mailto:flemons@ciskalamazoo.org) with the corrected information for future publications.

Grants and Scholarships

As part of our legacy as the former Kalamazoo Public Education Foundation (KPEF), CIS continues to administer a small number of endowed grants and scholarships that benefit KPS students and staff. In 2019-2020 the following grants and scholarships were awarded.

Clara Harbeck Memorial Fund Grant

Conscious Discipline “Feeling Buddies”
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Thank you for your support.



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