

Frequently Asked Questions

Walking With Purpose:

What is Walking With Purpose?

A month-long challenge to walk, as a community, 12,000 miles to raise awareness and funding for the mission of CIS: to empower students to success. Each mile has meaning: we walk in honor of the 12,000 students who are enrolled in CIS supported schools in Kalamazoo.

Participants can establish a team, lead by a team captain, or walk individually for Kalamazoo kids!

How many people should I recruit for my team?

Team of two, team of twenty, or any size in between; it's up to you how many members you want to recruit.

Do I need to be on a team?

Through this initiative, you can walk on a team, individually, or one-time during the month.

Do I need to document all my miles walked?

At the initial sign up, we ask you to pledge your monthly miles instead of "turning in" your walked miles. We will have a few check in points to see how all participants are meeting their goals along with sending encouragement. However, we are leaving the tracking up to you.

Walking With Purpose Fundraising:

Do I need to get my miles sponsored?

It's up to you! Some walkers choose to ask supporters for a certain amount per mile, and others simply ask for a specific amount (for example, a donation of \$100 will provide professional mental health for a student). Whatever you decide, we do hope you will raise funds to help us meet our goal.

Are there other ways to raise money?

Yes! In addition to donations, you can also generate funds through our Cider and Scenery event or any of the creative ideas listed in our fundraising guide (or something new you think up!). Funds generated in these ways can be credited to you and displayed on your page using the offline donations feature.

Fundraising (continued):

What if someone doesn't want to give online?

No problem. Checks to CIS of Kalamazoo can be mailed to us at: CIS of Kalamazoo, 180 E. Water Street, Suite 2000, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. We also can accept credit card donations via giving envelope or over the phone, as well as donations of stock.

Will matching gifts count toward my fundraising total?

They will! Send us a copy of the matching gift form, and we can credit your total using the offline donation feature.

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Can we fundraise as a team?

Yes! You can work as a team, individually, or both!

How can I get offline donations to show on my fundraising page?

Sometimes someone will give you cash or a check towards your fundraising initiative and you want to make sure to get credit for it. Contact Molly Kinnison at mkinnison@ciskalamazoo.org to make mailing or drop off arrangements. Offline donations can be entered into the system manually and we can make sure you get the credit. We will also be sure to credit the donor accordingly (if they wish) so that their gift is shared on your page.

There are more great questions on the 2nd page!

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Process to Sign Up:

How do I sign up as a team captain?

Here is a great step-by-step guide for signing up to be a team captain. Once you sign up, you will be provided lots of tools and resources to jumpstart your monthly activities.

How do I sign up on a team?

Here is a great step-by-step guide for all team members on a team. Be sure to sign up through the link or text code that your team captain will provide.

How do I sign up to walk by myself?

If you prefer to walk independently, we would love to have you! Just follow the Team Member step-by-step guide (link above) and sign up. You can pledge your miles, fundraise, and attend all the activities. You will still be given a unique page URL and text code that you can send out to donors.

What do I do if I walk one time, but want my miles counted toward the 12,000 goal?

You can be a guest walker! We can provide you with a link to a form to record your miles. Your miles will be added to the overall mileage goal. Want to give your miles to a specific team? No problem—there will be a space on the form to specify the team of your choice.

CIS and KPS:

How do CIS and KPS work together?

KPS is one of the founding organizations of CIS. KPS hosts CIS in 21 school buildings. CIS site staff work closely with principals and teachers to ensure support is coordinated for students that need them the most.

What is the relationship between CIS and the Kalamazoo Promise?

The Kalamazoo Promise provides KPS graduates with the opportunity to pursue tuition-free college and/or employment training credentials. CIS helps to remove barriers that would prevent students from graduating and supporting students so they can utilize the Promise.

The CIS Model of Support:

What is the role of a site coordinator?

Site coordinators are trained professionals who work with school administrators to assess needs, develop a plan, and build a team to provide supports to schools and students.

What makes CIS unique?

CIS is proven to keep kids in school and increases graduations rates. Using a school-based approach, CIS secures and coordinates supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement so students are empowered to succeed.

How does CIS evaluate program effectiveness?

CIS utilizes goals that are specific, measurable, accurate, relevant, and trackable. CIS seeks to improve outcomes in the baseline data represented in attendance, academics, and graduation.

Does CIS offer after-school programs?

CIS facilitates after school programs in 15 KPS buildings. Funded through the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers), the program extends the learning day for many students, along with providing a meal and enrichment opportunities.

Community Partners:

In what ways does CIS bring the community into schools?

Partnerships with organizations help to provide students and families much needed services in a place where they already are — at school. Students have access to resources like food support, mental and health support, and basic essentials through CIS community partners.

CIS community volunteers and partners allow for interaction and provides more connections with caring adults in the community.

How is the work of CIS funded?

Our work is funded through philanthropic support from all parts of our community. Our core program is funded by local foundations, local businesses, individuals and families, family foundations, the City of Kalamazoo, and KPS. Our after-school and summer programs are funded by a federal grant.