





Annual Report 2026

Communities In Schools®

Kalamazoo



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What does it really mean to be present?

In this special Being Present Matters conversation, Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo Chief Executive Officer James Devers sat down with Nivek, Rashod, and Nyomi from Lincoln International Studies School to talk about the importance of showing up—not just physically, but mentally and emotionally, too.

Through honest conversation and personal experiences, they explore how being fully present can impact learning, relationships, and success in and out of the classroom.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to hear the conversation.

This must-see video is just a click away!

99%

of students remained in school through the end of the 2025-26 school year.

BEING PRESENT MATTERS

Letter from Leadership

A Word from our Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer

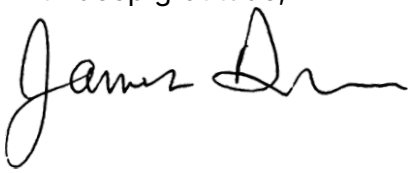
Dear Friends of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo,

We at Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS) continue to ground our work in five foundational pillars: 1) a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult; 2) a safe place to learn and grow; 3) a healthy start and a healthy future; 4) a marketable skill upon graduation; and 5) a chance to give back to peers and the community. Every person who is part of CIS works to ensure that the pillars are strong. As we reflect on the 2025-26 school year, we see that these were interwoven with our CIS mantra, **"Being Present Matters."**

Being present has been foundational to us in building and maintaining positive relationships between students and caring adults through our site and after school coordinators, volunteers, mentors, tutors and staff. We provide safe spaces to learn and grow by **being present** during and after school. From welcoming children on their first day of kindergarten to celebrating graduates as they step into their futures, CIS continues to **be present** at every stage of the student journey. **Being present** – consistent attendance – is the core marketable employment skill that we emphasize in all 23 CIS-supported school buildings by emphasizing consistent attendance at school. Through opportunities to give back, CIS students were able to **be present** for their peers and their community through initiatives like the Woodward Elementary Gratitude Club.

Because of your support, CIS has been what we've always been and continues to do what we've always done—support students on their road to academic growth, social emotional wellness and life achievement. Thank you for your generous and unchanging support.

With deep gratitude,



James Devers
Chief Executive Officer



Linnaea Thomas
Board Chair

"From welcoming children on their first day of kindergarten to celebrating graduates as they step into their futures, CIS continues to be present at every stage of the student journey."

Our Impact

STUDENTS

At 23 Kalamazoo schools, we walk side by side with students from kindergarten through graduation, encouraging and empowering them to reach their full potential. We believe today's students are tomorrow's leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, artists, and community builders, and their success helps shape a stronger future for us all.

Students thrive when they are in environments where they feel safe, respected, engaged and valued. When students feel safe, they respond with enthusiasm and commitment. When students are engaged, they strive to succeed and learn more effectively. When we show students they are valued, they embrace their potential and create stronger futures for themselves and their communities.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

Every student's success story reflects the power of a strong support system. Schools, principals, teachers, school support staff, and community partners are among our most important partners in helping students succeed.

Together, we identify and remove barriers to learning, strengthen family connections, and foster supportive environments where all students feel valued and engaged. As a result, schools see improvements in attendance, graduation rates, and student success, creating stronger outcomes for every student.



99%
of students remained in school through the end of the 2025-26 school year



66%
of students with an academic goal met or made progress towards their goal



95%
of seniors graduated



74%
of students with a social and emotional learning (SEL) goal met or made progress towards their goal



58%
of students with a attendance goal met or made progress toward their goal



66%
of students with a behavior goal met or made progress towards their goal



95%
of K-11 students were promoted to the next grade



83%
graduates went on to some form of postsecondary education

Outcomes reflect CIS case-managed students for the SY2025-2026.

Students

Students are at the heart of everything we do. Each young person comes to school with their own strengths, experiences, and challenges. While their circumstances may differ, every student deserves access to the support, resources, and caring relationships that help them overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

CIS provided 110,098 student support hours during the 2025-2026 school year.

66,795	*CIS coordinator hours*
29,284	*CIS in-school supplemental team hours*
10,944	*Volunteer hours*
2,075	*Partner hours*
2,000	*Intern hours*

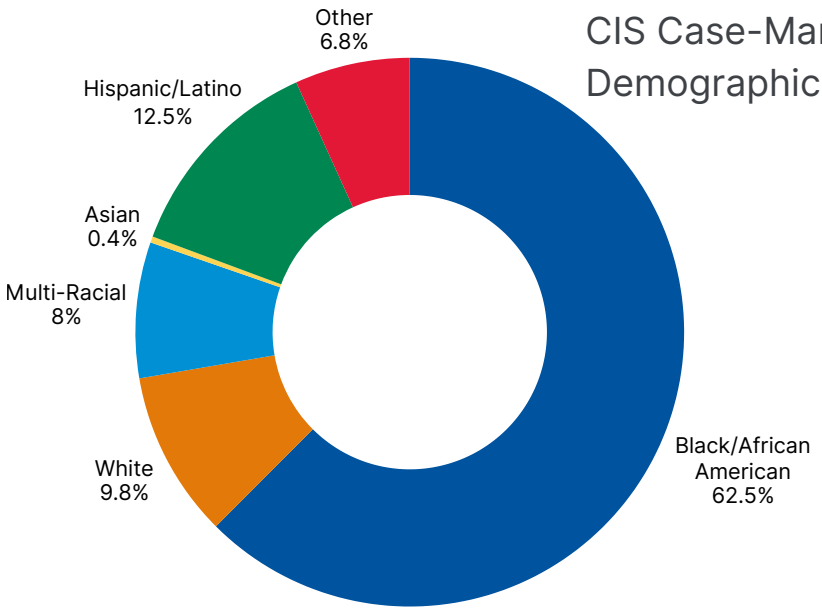
1,047 case-managed students



501 after-school program students

The CIS After-School program is designed to provide an extended day experience for students at select Kalamazoo Public Schools sites to expand their academic achievement, improve behavioral skills, and increase their school day attendance.

CIS Case-Managed Student Demographics



Meet River

A Phoenix High School Student



Phoenix High School 2026 senior River Ford is stepping into her next chapter prepared, hopeful, and full of possibility. At this year's Champs Celebration, River took center stage to share what it has meant to have CIS in her corner—and to recognize the people who showed up for her consistently, including Ms. Tinsaye, Ms. Naz, and Ms. Best, who are past and present CIS coordinators who supported her from middle school through high school.

Before the celebration, River also guided us through a video site visit of Phoenix High School—offering a glimpse into the place where she grew, persevered, and kept moving forward. River is now looking ahead to attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College to explore furthering her education in the field of child support so she can give back in the same kinds of ways she has been supported.



River with her site coordinator, Tinsaye at the 2026 Champs Celebration

River shared, "Ms. Tinsaye has always been there to keep me mentally and physically safe, encouraged me to push forward, and told me to try when the mental or physical trip was scary. The moment I've stepped into this school, I've always known that I've had someone there for me."

"The moment I've stepped into this school, I've always known that I've had someone there for me."

Watch River's Video

Our Model

We are embedded in schools to connect students with resources related to basic needs, academic assistance, physical health, social emotional health, after-school and summer programs, and college and career exploration.

TIERED MODEL OF INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

TIER 1: SCHOOL-WIDE SUPPORT

Programs and services available to all students and designed for school-wide impact.

EXAMPLES

Vision and dental screenings, parent engagement opportunities, school supply and food distribution programs, and attendance incentives.

TIER 2: SMALL GROUP SUPPORT

Targeted supports provided in group settings to referred students with a common need.

EXAMPLES

STEM and leadership programs, small group tutoring, and social support groups.

TIER 3: INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Intensive, one-on-one interventions for students with specific needs.

EXAMPLES

One-on-one tutoring and academic supports, mental health supports, mentoring, and individualized goal-setting and improvement plans.



VISION

100 students received vision support services, which includes vision assessments and/or frames and lenses.



FOOD

14,484 visits were made to the CIS food pantries and 24,445 food packs were distributed. Food pantries and packs are supported through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.



KIDS CLOSET

19,520 items of clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies were distributed to students.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

99 students visited the Family Health Center's Mobile Unit, supported by CIS, for well-child exams and/or immunizations. 352 students visited the FHC Mobile Dental Unit for cleanings and sealants.



MENTAL HEALTH

265 students received 3,680 hours of professional mental health services, including individual counseling and/or small group services.

Schools

At CIS, our approach is grounded in the power of connections: connecting students with adults who care, connecting schools with resources that have been absent but are deeply needed, and connecting communities more closely with their schools.

Our site coordinators are embedded in 23 Kalamazoo schools coordinating over 66,000 hours supporting students—whether through partner connections, volunteers, tutors, therapists, or one-on-one goal-setting together.

ELEMENTARY

Arcadia Elementary
Edison Environmental Science Academy
El Sol Elementary
King-Westwood Elementary
Lincoln International Studies School
Milwood Elementary
Northeastern Elementary
Northglade Montessori Magnet School
Paramount Charter Academy
Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary
Prairie Ridge Elementary
Spring Valley Center for Exploration
Washington Writers' Academy
Woods Lake Elementary
Woodward School

MIDDLE

Hillside Middle School
Linden Grove Middle School
Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts
Milwood Magnet: A Center for Math, Science, and Technology

HIGH

Kalamazoo Central High School
Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program
Loy Norrix High School
Phoenix High School



Program Highlight

Attendance Madness at Maple Street Magnet Middle School Encourages Students to Be Present

Improving student attendance takes creativity, teamwork, and a shared commitment to student success. During the 2025/2026 school year, CIS Coordinator Phil McIntyre-Sexton, in collaboration with the Maple Street Magnet Middle School Leadership Team, launched Attendance Madness, a six-week, schoolwide initiative designed to increase attendance awareness and encourage students to be present and engaged every day.

Inspired by the excitement of March Madness, the program divided students into six teams, with two teams representing each grade level. Throughout the competition, teams competed weekly to achieve the highest attendance percentage, creating a fun and positive atmosphere around attendance. To keep students motivated, teams were reshuffled into new brackets every two weeks, giving all participants fresh opportunities to compete and succeed.

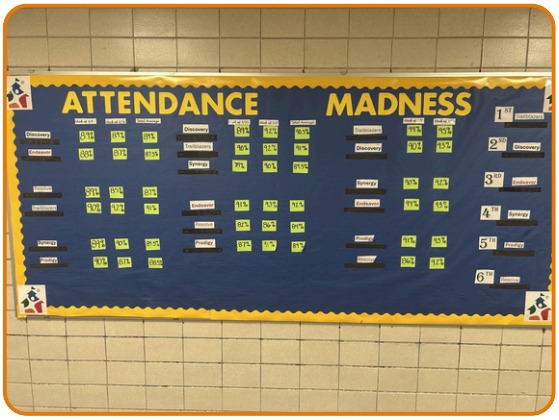
In addition to team-based challenges, Attendance Madness celebrated individual achievement. Each week, students who maintained perfect attendance with no tardies were entered into a drawing, and ten students were randomly selected to receive a complimentary snow cone courtesy of CIS of Kalamazoo.



The six-week initiative concluded with a pizza party for the winning team, recognizing their commitment to showing up and making attendance a priority.

Through innovative programming, student incentives, and strong collaboration with school leadership, Attendance Madness helped reinforce the message that every school day matters while creating a sense of excitement, connection, and school pride.

"Through Attendance Madness, the school's attendance average went up 5% by the end of the 6 weeks. I saw more students wanting to attend school and encouraging their friends to come."
- Phil McIntyre-Sexton



Our Community

Supporting the success of every child requires a collective effort. No single person or organization can meet all the needs of a child alone. By working together, we address barriers, connect students to essential resources, and create opportunities that help them thrive both in school and in life.

Our network of more than 60 community partners plays a vital role in this work by bringing services and resources directly to students where they are, in their schools. These partnerships create a mutually beneficial relationship: while our coordinators work closely with students to identify needs and connect families to community resources, our partners are able to reach and support those who need their services most.

The commitment of our broader community is equally inspiring. More than 570 volunteers invested 10,944 hours supporting students through tutoring, lunch groups, classroom assistance, and other meaningful connections.

Youth Transformative Leadership Summit

In partnership with Kalamazoo Valley Community College, we brought together 8th grade students from the four Kalamazoo Public Schools middle schools and Paramount Charter Academy for a day of learning and inspiration. Students engaged in breakout sessions led by local experts and motivational speakers around subjects like leadership, personal growth, and community impact.









Community Feast

During the Thanksgiving holiday, our community united to ensure that more than 1,000 meals reached families across Kalamazoo. Nearly 200 volunteers, ranging from pre-kindergarten students to adults, generously gave their time to prepare meal bags, load vehicles, and deliver meals directly to families' homes.





Walking With Purpose

Presented by Consumers Credit Union

Our month-long initiative to raise awareness and funds was a success last October. 40 team captains led over 480 participants during the month, which resulted in nearly $60,000 raised and more than 34,000 miles walked!

Visit our highlight online to see more photos and results.






Ugly Sweater Party

Presented by Kalsec, Inc.

The CIS Ugly Sweater Party and Fundraiser not only raised over $20,000 but also raised awareness for the mission of CIS. Guests enjoyed the energetic, cheerful atmosphere while networking, reconnecting with familiar faces, and forming new connections. The warm holiday spirit created an evening full of laughter, conversation, and community.

This year's sweater winners were:
1st Place - Kalsec, Inc.
2nd Place - Azon
3rd Place - JP Morgan Chase
Fan Favorite - JP Morgan Chase






Champs Celebration

Presented by Kalsec, Inc.

Our 19th Annual Champs Celebration brought together over 300 guests to honor individuals and community members who share the CIS vision—an engaged community where every child fulfills their promise.

This year's award recipients included (top left to right): Frank Rocco, Jim Cupper, (bottom left to right) Phil McIntyre-Sexton, and The People's Church of Kalamazoo.


Frank Rocco with Alyssa Heffner


Kelly Leversee with Jim Cupper


James Devers with Phil McIntyre-Sexton

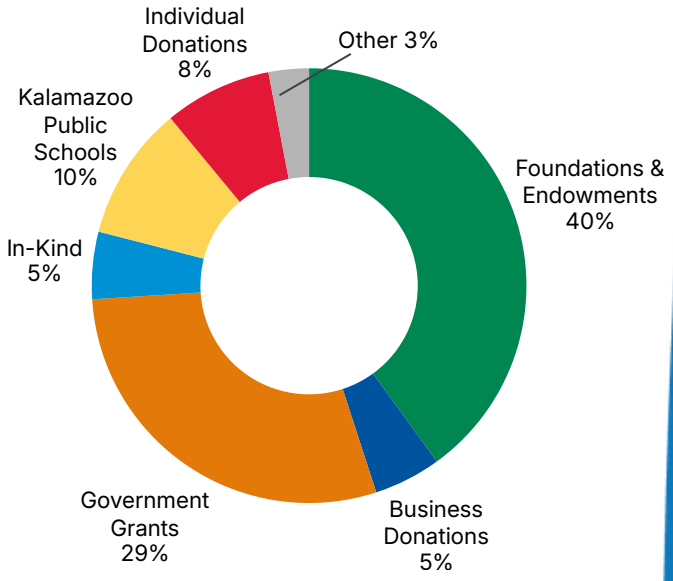

Rev. Rachel - The People's Church

Financials

2025 - 2026 FISCAL MANAGEMENT

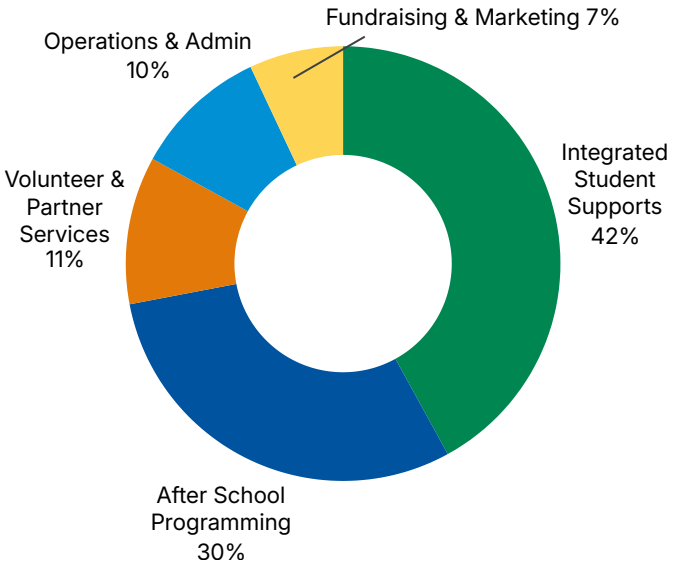
Revenue

40% Foundations and Endowments
29% Government Grants
10% Kalamazoo Public Schools
8% Individual Donations
5% In-Kind Contributions
5% Business Donations
3% Other Revenue



Expenses

42% Integrated Student Supports
30% After School Programming
11% Volunteer and Partner Services
10% Operations and Administration
7% Fundraising and Marketing



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

At the end of the 2021 fiscal year, CIS received a large multi-year capacity building grant for use in fiscal years 2022-2026.

Thank You Donors

Thanks to your support, CIS can be present for students. Your support is recognized on our virtual donor wall. Find it at ciskalamazoo.org/contributors or by scanning the QR code.

In addition to our community of families and individuals who commit to being present for students, we want to thank our foundation, business, and organization donors. Investing in student success is an investment in our community.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Allkins Family Foundation
Community Services Charity
Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation
ENNA Foundation
Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation
Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Stryker-Johnston Foundation
Suzanne U.D. Parish Foundation
The Burdick-Thorne Foundation
The Edward J. Fletcher Foundation
The Gambrell Foundation
The Gary Sisters Foundation
The Peregrine-Huff Foundation
The Hall Foundation
The H.P. and Genevieve Connable Fund
The Jim Keeler and Merry Ellen Eason Family Foundation
The Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation
The Mike and Sharon Seelye Family Foundation
The Millin Charitable Fund
The W.S. and Lois VanDalson Foundation
The William T. and Frances A. Little Foundation
Tyler-Little Family Foundation

BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Abbott Laboratories-Nutrition
Abonmarche Consultants Inc.
Advia Credit Union
Allegra Printing
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
Azon
Bell's Brewery, Inc.
Bronson Healthcare Group
Catalyst Development Co.
City of Kalamazoo
Coca-Cola
Consumers Credit Union
Consumers Energy
CSM Group
CWS Financial Advisors, LLC
Doerschler & Associates Wealth Management
Edwards Garment
Fatherhood Network
FEMA Corporation
First Congregational Church
First Financial Bank
Flowserve
Gardner Management
Greater Kalamazoo Fraternal Order of Police
Greenleaf Trust
Hardings Market
Humphrey Products
JP Morgan Chase
Kalamazoo County Association of Retired School Personnel
Kalamazoo Industries, Inc.
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Rotary Club Charities
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Kalsec, Inc.
Kendall Electric
Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo
Lake Michigan Credit Union
Landscape Forms
LKF Marketing
M60 Auto service
Macy's
Maestro
Mercantile Bank
Miller-Davis Company
National Heritage Academy
New World Flood
North Central Area Credit Union
Oasis Face Bar
Old National Bank
Pfizer
PNC
Premier Athletics for Youth Development
R.W. LaPine Inc.
Ron Jackson Insurance
Schupan
Skyridge Church of the Brethren
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Starr School Parent's Club
Stryker
The Kalamazoo Promise
United Way of South Central Michigan
Walbridge
Warner Norcross + Judd LLP
Welsh & Associates
Winchell Elementary PTO
WMED (WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine)
WMU-PI KAPPA ALPHA Fraternity
Zoetis

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Kalamazoo

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