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BEING PRESENT MATTERS

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WAYNE COUNTY • JUNE 2025



KINDNESS GOES A LONG WAY

At CiS, we've seen firsthand how powerful students can be when given the chance to lead with heart. One shining example is Ms. Toni's Leadership Group at Test, a team of 12 amazing young girls who helped launch a **Kindness Campaign** in their school. They created and handed out bracelets and thank-you cards to students nominated for acts of kindness, and soon, their spirit spread throughout the building.

What started with one small group grew into a schoolwide movement. Teachers, staff, and other students joined in by making kindness posters and signs, turning the hallways into a celebration of compassion, gratitude, and community.

This is what CiS is all about: empowering students to lead, connect, and make lasting change in the places they learn and grow.

THANK YOU SITE COORDINATORS!

In May, we had the privilege of celebrating our outstanding site coordinators. We are so grateful for our incredible Communities In Schools Site Coordinators, who show up every day with open hearts and unwavering dedication to support our students and families. You are the bridge between needs and resources, the encouragers when times are tough, and the reason so many young lives are thriving.





Back To School

Supply Drive

HELP US FILL THE BOX!

Needed Items:

Corded Earbuds, Headphones, Trapper Keepers,
Body Wash, Deodarant, Socks, Leggings, Snacks!



BRING YOUR ITEMS TO VANVLEET INSURANCE:

MAY 19TH - JUNE 30TH



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP: THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

At Communities In Schools of Wayne County, we believe in the power of connection, and our partnerships with local school districts are at the heart of everything we do. As the 2024–2025 school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to our school partners: Richmond Community Schools, Centerville-Abington Community Schools, Nettle Creek Schools, Northeastern Wayne Schools, and Western Wayne Schools.

Each of these districts has opened their doors and hearts to CiS, allowing us to walk alongside their students every day. Because of their support, we've been able to provide vital resources, caring adults, and individualized support to help students stay focused, supported, and on the path to success.

Whether it's collaborating on school-wide initiatives, connecting students to mentors, or providing a safe space during tough times, our work is made possible because of the trust and collaboration we share with our district leaders, principals, educators, and support staff.

Together, we're building a stronger, more supportive community for every student. From all of us at CiS of Wayne County, thank you for your partnership, your dedication, and your belief in what's possible when we put students first.

2024 / 2025 STATISTICS

During the 2024-25 school year, CIS case managed **794 students across Wayne County**. Of those students,

- 88% improved academics**
- 96% improved behavior**
- 91% improved attendance**

3,795 Basic needs items were provided to both case-managed and non-case-managed students county wide.

- 53.9% Clothing/shoes**
- 4.8% Hygiene products**
- 35.3% Food**
- 6% School supplies**

71,278 Tier 1 (schoolwide) supports were provided. This number includes both case-managed and non-case managed students. **5,302 Tier 2 and 3 supports were provided to case managed students.**



Just when you doubt you are making a difference

This shows up in my email. Avril worked so hard to complete her diploma requirements this year. She is graduating a whole year ahead of her peers! On June 1st she graduated and will head to college in the fall. Avril is proof that with hard work, dedication, determination and guidance the possibilities are endless!

*Dear Maricela Lindahl,
When a student graduates from a Simon Youth Academy, Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) asks them to name someone who has impacted their life. For our new graduate, Avril Newsome, you are that special person.*

On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff, I

want to thank you for the role you played in helping Avril reach graduation day. You ignited hope by providing steadfast support in uncertain times, and all of us can learn from your example of care, grace, and love.

The Simon Youth Academy Avril graduated from is part of a national network of 32 Alternative Education Academies that strive to make learning accessible for all students. We are proud that Avril is joining more than 28,000 other graduates of our Academies and that you are now part of our extended SYF family. You can keep up with our work by following SYF on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

We want to know about important events in Avril's life, so please encourage them to keep us updated on their progress in their education and career activities and other milestones. Thank you again for the important role you played in Avril's educational journey and for helping ensure that SYF means graduation – no matter what.

Sincerely,

*Andrea L. Neely
President and CEO
Simon Youth Foundation*

Another example of how you never really know if you have made an impact on students until messages like this come across your inbox.

A text message from the mother of a former student. Preston is graduating from High school and has joined the military to serve our country.

I just wanted to invite you to Preston's graduation party! You were such an integral part of his success at Charles. We also wanted to say Thank you for what you did for Preston and to let you know we've never forgotten!

Being a student's advocate or voice is something that most people don't think falls under the "job description" of being a site coordinator. Often times people assume CIS can only provide resources for food, clothing and school supplies. This is definitely not the case. Site coordinators are advocates for their students and families and I am honored to be their voice.—Marci Lindahl





PIZZA PARTY!

At the end of the school year I posted a party for the students who had good grades and attendance for the last semester of the year. We had a great turn out and the kids loved it so much. I enjoyed seeing everyone together before summer. We've had such a wonderful year getting to know each other and have grown exponentially this year. I can't wait to see them all again in the fall! - Taylor Bane

CIS MENTORS

This year, we had the joy of honoring our 40 incredible Communities in Schools mentors, the heart of the support system that makes a lasting difference in students' lives daily. Your dedication, time, and care truly change futures, and we're so grateful for all you do! If you would like to become a mentor for the 2025—2026 school year, contact Susan Miller today!



WE'RE HIRING



Are you retired and looking for something to do to help students in your community while getting paid?



Are you a caring adult that wants to work helping students in need at school?



Are you a parent looking for work that has the same schedule as your child's school?

To apply, please send your resume to Becky Murray, Executive Director, at beckym@ciswayneco.org

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 / 2025 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS!

Dot Foods (Tracy Family Foundation)

Kiwanis Club of Richmond

TJX Foundation

Reid Health

Land O'Lakes

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United Way of Whitewater Valley

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Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation

IU East

THANK you
SO MUCH

DONATE



Every little bit truly helps!

Whether it's a small gift or a larger donation, your support helps us stay by students' sides every step of the way. Together, we can make a big impact, one student at a time. To give online, visit ciswayneco.org.

You can also donate by check. Please send your gift to
Communities in Schools of Wayne County at
1425 East Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374

LOOKING FORWARD



CIS of Wayne County Annual Event

September 25th • 5:30pm

Hartley Hills Golf Club

Join us as a sponsor and help make this year's event unforgettable. Contact us today to learn how your organization can get involved!
More information coming soon



FALL FLOWER FUNDRAISER



Stay tuned for more information

Christmas Sponsors Needed

The magic of the holidays is something every child deserves to feel, and with your help, they can. Last Christmas, thanks to the generosity of caring partners like you, Communities In Schools delivered joy to 301 students who otherwise would have awakened to an empty tree. This year, the need is even greater, and we're calling on compassionate businesses, organizations, and individuals to "adopt" a family and ensure no student is left out of the celebration.

Your sponsorship provides more than presents; it wraps students in the warmth of belonging and the hope of possibility. Ready to make spirits bright? Contact us today by emailing Sarah Scott, sscott@ciswayneco.org, or Christin Hampton, hampton@ciswayneco.org. Together, we can turn holiday wish lists into cherished memories, one family at a time.