

Pacers Foundation Invests in CIS of Indiana

December 9, 2020

Indianapolis, IN – Pacers Foundation, awarded \$5,000 in support of Communities In Schools of Indiana. Communities In Schools is the largest evidence-based provider of comprehensive supports to meet the needs of both schools and individual students. Site coordinators are placed in school buildings to identify school and student needs, set goals, and coordinator resources to help schools and students succeed. Communities In Schools of Indiana serves over 37,000 students from 27 schools in 6 school districts around central Indiana.

“The needs of our students are great. Many of the families we serve are experiences not only multiple crises, but crises that they have never faced before. Our work has stretched far beyond the school wall to ensure our students (and their families) continue with some type of normalcy in their education and their lives,” said Darlene Vaughn, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Indiana.

In the face of this crisis, CIS continues to go beyond school walls, working at the ground level to meet students where they are and ensure that their basic needs don't go unmet. CIS site coordinators have doubled their responsibilities to ensure student needs are met during the pandemic, including: increased home visits, home food deliveries, and overseeing food pantries. Staff also coordinate socially distanced small groups to assist students in coping with social and emotional challenges.

Communities In Schools builds relationships in schools and communities through an evidence-based program model. CIS coordinators are assigned a school site to collaborate with school leaders, teachers, and community providers in identifying challenges students face in class or at home and coordinate community services. These efforts bring outside resources into schools and students' homes. From immediate needs such as food and clothing to more complex ones such as life skills coaching, CIS does whatever it takes to help students succeed.

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