

When Financial Trauma and the Holidays Collide



Next month, the season of light and giving begins, and Hoosiers seek hope in the midst of the current economic and health crisis. For those directly impacted by the crisis (which are many of the students and families served by Communities In Schools of Indiana), this holiday season may be filled with anxiety and despair.

Communities In Schools of Indiana works to find solutions to the challenges and barriers facing our students, and the pandemic and economic struggles are no different.

Since the pandemic, CIS site coordinators have doubled their responsibilities to ensure student needs are met, including: increased home visits, home food deliveries, and oversight of food pantries. Staff also coordinate socially distanced small groups to assist students in coping with social and emotional challenges.

But, this is not enough. COVID-19 and its effects have brought on new and heightened challenges for our families. As we see these needs increase, we know the needs for our families, especially around the holidays, will be extreme. Many families who need us most will not be able to provide the basics for their children, including holiday gifts.

Currently, CIS of Indiana is coordinating resources to ease the financial hardship for families during this holiday season. The CIS of Indiana Holiday Drive will provide clothing, coats/shoes, and special gifts for the families we serve in MSD of Decatur Township, Lafayette School Corporation, MSD of Lawrence Township, Monroe County Community School Corporation, MSD of Pike Township, and Randolph Central School Corporation.

In order to meet the needs of as many of our 37,000 students we serve across the state, we are asking our community to step up like never before. Please consider sponsoring a child or family this holiday season to make the holidays a little brighter for someone in your community. Learn more and give today.

Be well.

Darlene Vaughn, Executive Director
Communities In Schools of Indiana