

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
State Farm Gives to CIS of Indiana**

Communities In Schools of Indiana has received \$29,750 from State Farm Companies Foundation to support surrounding students who need us most with the support needed to achieve in school and life.

Across the country 1 in 5 students live in poverty. With drastic shifts in the job market, young people have less opportunity to graduate from high school and earn self-sustaining employment. Without individuals to clearly define and address these needs, students often fall farther behind due to learning gaps, social and emotional challenges, and family disengagement.

“When we look at the landscape of the communities we serve, most of which have been hit hardest by the pandemic, we know that our current students and so many more need the services of CIS to not only level the playing field for them but also empower our students to reach higher in life,” said Executive Director, Darlene Vaughn. “The contribution from State Farm makes an investment to remove barriers facing today’s most vulnerable children while building stronger, healthier and more economically stable communities in these trying times.”

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. Alongside school employees, church groups and community volunteers, site coordinators have become crisis responders, leading local efforts to support vulnerable students. We have seen basic needs heighten with the current COVID-19 health crisis.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, CIS of Indiana is working with students who have been identified to have the highest needs to assess student and family needs and connect students and their families with basic needs resources and services within the community. The site coordinator also connected to students weekly to provide support toward academic progress, such as providing academic tutoring and connecting students with resources to complete assignments.

Site coordinators provide life skills supports by helping students, especially those with social and emotional challenges build strategies in adjusting to their “new normal” during this time of uncertainty.

“As we look to the future, we know that students will have new or heightened needs due to the country’s crisis and we are preparing for those challenges when school re-opens. We are determining school and student needs now and working with community resources to align resources for the uncertainty facing our students in the upcoming school year,” said Darlene Vaughn.

CIS of Indiana currently serves over 13,000 students throughout the state and provide intensive one-on-one support to over 1,200 students in 30 schools.

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 to identify 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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