



Communities
In Schools®

Houston



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



**Communities
In Schools®**

Houston

Letter From the President and CEO



For 42 years, Communities In Schools of Houston has done *whatever it takes* to help our students survive and thrive.

In this first full school year impacted by COVID-19, our staff and students encountered uncertainty at every turn. Yet, even when it seemed that every aspect of this school year would be different from past years, our campuses could rely on one constant: CIS continued to show up each and every school day to serve students. Throughout the year, our wonderful staff demonstrated resiliency, creativity, and unwavering dedication to our students.

We know that many of you reading this letter have experienced significant challenges and losses in recent months. Our community mourns the loss of two long-time, beloved Board members and friends, Julie Crosswell and Steve Lasher, who passed away this year. Julie and Steve both cared deeply for our students and their families, and we all recognize that families faced incredible hardships this year - grief and loss of loved ones, loss of employment, food and housing insecurity, mental health issues, and tremendous challenges to their academic development. Although this year has been heart-wrenching for our entire

community, CIS continues to identify the gaps in services, gather resources, and mobilize our community partners to meet a broad range of needs.

In the face of challenging circumstances, CIS has proven to be an effective and adaptive organization that provides critically needed services. When the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in school closures during the 2019-2020 school year, CIS pivoted from our traditional on-campus service model to a remote service model that enabled our staff to engage with students and families virtually. As schools reopened during the 2020-2021 school year, CIS shifted again to a hybrid service model, providing in-person support to students who attended classes on campus and remote support to students who attended classes virtually. By making these strategic adjustments to our traditional model, CIS is now ideally positioned to meet students where they are.

We also invested time and resources into examining and strengthening our organization's culture this year. Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Team facilitated trainings, monthly dialogues, and other opportunities for community members to consider these core principles in relation to our mission and to take strategic steps towards fostering a more inclusive, equitable climate throughout CIS and across school campuses. We continue this work with a sense of urgency, recognizing that our students who belong to communities of color are disproportionately impacted by social and economic inequality and by the COVID-19 Pandemic, which has exacerbated existing education gaps.

We are excited to celebrate the achievements of our 254,989 students with you. 95% of our 7,314 pre-K through 12th grade case-managed students were promoted to the next grade level, 98% of our seniors graduated, and 99% of our students stayed in school. Despite all the challenges and disruptions experienced this school year, our students continue to model persistence and inspire hope.

We are so grateful to you, our supporters. This year, you recognized the increased need and you trusted CIS to put your dollars to work in an effective and efficient way. We appreciate your continued investment in our organization and your tireless commitment to our students.

Thank you,



Omar Reid
President of the Board

Lisa Descant, LPC-S, LMFT-S
Chief Executive Officer

What We Do



Communities In Schools (CIS) is a national nonprofit recognized for its evidence-based model that works to ensure every student, regardless of race, gender, ability, zip code, or socioeconomic background has what they need to realize their full potential in school and beyond. We support students by removing academic and non-academic barriers to their success through our comprehensive student support model.

Because CIS believes in the power of relationships, we provide on-campus integrated student supports that empower students to succeed in school and achieve in life.

Working directly on 169 school campuses

across Houston, CIS supported and connected students to caring adults and community resources to help them see, confront, and overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future. Together, we build a powerful change movement made up of students, CIS Student Support Specialists, school faculty, community partners, and CIS alumni committed to building an equitable path to education for future generations.



2020-2021 Services Include

Supportive guidance and Counseling

Conflict resolution and Crisis intervention

Basic needs support

Parent engagement and Home visits

Academic support

College Readiness and Career Exploration

Field trips and Enrichment activities

Who We Serve

The students we serve face a myriad of obstacles that were exacerbated

by the pandemic, such as poverty, lack of access to resources, systemic issues of equity, emotional trauma, and more. At Communities In Schools of Houston we see potential in ALL students and work within the school system to advocate for students and create access to resources and opportunities that help them reach the bright futures they each deserve.

Student Demographics

*Based on CIS PreK-12th grade Case Managed Students

26%	BLACK
64%	HISPANIC/LATINO
6%	WHITE
3%	ASIAN
1%	OTHER
56%	FEMALE
44%	MALE
61%	RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
94%	RECEIVED FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
41%	HAD LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY



Schools

ALDINE ISD	1	SPRING ISD	1
ALIEF ISD	41	SPRING BRANCH ISD	39
FORT BEND ISD	4	SOUTHWEST CHARTER SCHOOLS	4
HOUSTON ISD	64	LONE STAR COLLEGE CAMPUSES	15

ALDINE ISD

Teague Middle School

ALIEF ISD

Albright Middle School
Alexander Elementary School
Alief Learning Center
Alief Middle School
Best Elementary School
Boone Elementary School
Budewig Intermediate School
Bush Elementary School
Chambers Elementary School
Chancellor Elementary School
Collins Elementary School
Crossroads High School
Cummings Elementary School
Elsik High School
Elsik Ninth Grade Center
Hastings High School
Hastings Ninth Grade Center
Hearne Elementary School
Heflin Elementary School
Hicks Elementary School
Holmquist Elementary School
Holub Middle School
Horn Elementary School
Kennedy Elementary School
Killough Middle School
Klontzman Intermediate School
Landis Elementary School
Liestman Elementary School
Mahanay Elementary School
Martin Elementary School
Mata Intermediate School
Miller Intermediate School
O'Donnell Middle School
Olle Middle School
Outley Elementary School
Owens Intermediate School
Smith Elementary School
Sneed Elementary School
Taylor High School
Youens Elementary School
Youngblood Intermediate School

COMMUNITY CENTER

Boys & Girls Club –
Spring Branch

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Lone Star College –
Atascocita Center
Lone Star College –
Conroe Center
Lone Star College –
Creekside Center
Lone Star College – Cy-Fair
Lone Star College –
Cypress Center
Lone Star College –
East Aldine Center
Lone Star College –
Houston North Fairbanks
Lone Star College –
Houston North Greenspoint
Lone Star College –
Houston North Victory
Lone Star College – Kingwood
Lone Star College – Montgomery
Lone Star College – North Harris
Lone Star College – Tomball
Lone Star College –
Tomball Health Science
Lone Star College –
University Park

FORT BEND ISD

Arizona Fleming Elementary
Blue Ridge Elementary School
Christa McAuliffe Middle School
Ridgegate Elementary School

HOUSTON ISD

Atherton Elementary School
Attucks Middle School
Austin High School
Bastian Elementary School
Black Middle School
Bonham Elementary School
Carnegie Vanguard High School
Challenge Early College
High School
Cook Elementary School
Coop Elementary School
Cullen Middle School
Deady Middle School
Durkee Elementary School
Edison Middle School
Fondren Middle School
Fonville Middle School
Forest Brook Middle School
Foster Elementary School
Gallegos Elementary School
Gregory-Lincoln Education Center
Hartsfield Elementary School
Heights High School

Highland Heights
Elementary School
Hilliard Elementary School
Hogg Middle School
Houston Academy of
International Studies
Jane Long Academy
Kennedy Elementary School
Key Middle School
Lamar High School
Lantrip Elementary School
Lawson Middle School
Madison High School
McNamara Elementary School
MC Williams Middle School
Middle College High School
at HCC Gulfton
Milby High School
Mitchell Elementary School
Navarro Middle School
Neff Early Learning Center
Neff Elementary School
North Forest High School
North Houston Early College
High School
Paul Revere Middle School
Pershing Middle School
Port Houston Elementary School
Scarborough High School
Shadowbriar Elementary School
Sharpstown High School
Sterling Aviation High School
Sugar Grove Academy
Middle School
Sutton Elementary School
Thomas Middle School
Walnut Bend Elementary School
Waltrip High School
Washington High School
Wesley Elementary School
Westbury High School
Wharton Dual Language Academy
Whittier Elementary School
Wisdom High School
Worthing High School
Yates High School
Young Elementary School

SPRING ISD

Dekaney High School

SPRING BRANCH ISD

Academy of Choice
The Bear Boulevard School
Buffalo Creek Elementary School
Cedar Brook Elementary School
District Alternative
Education Program
Edgewood Elementary School
Hollibrook Elementary School
Housman Elementary School
Landrum Middle School
The Lion Lane School
Meadow Wood Elementary School
Memorial High School
Memorial Middle School
Northbrook High School
Northbrook Middle School
Nottingham Elementary School
The Panda Path School
Pine Shadows Elementary School
Ridgecrest Elementary School
Shadow Oaks Elementary School
Sherwood Elementary School
Spring Branch Elementary School
Spring Branch Middle School
Spring Forest Middle School
Spring Oaks Middle School
Spring Shadows
Elementary School
Spring Woods High School
Spring Woods Middle School
Stratford High School
Terrace Elementary School
Thornwood Elementary School
The Tiger Trail School
Treasure Forest
Elementary School
Valley Oaks Elementary School
Westchester Academy
Westwood Elementary School
The Wildcat Way School
Woodview Elementary School

SOUTHWEST SCHOOLS

Bissonnet Elementary School
Discovery Middle School
Empowerment High School
Mangum Elementary School

The Results of our Work

Our unique model is proven effective. CIS helps students stay on track to graduate, improve in attendance and academic performance, and have a better overall behavior in school and beyond.

Outcomes

99% in grades 7 through 12 stayed in school

98% of eligible seniors graduated

85% showed marked improvement in academics, attendance, and/or behavior

95% were promoted to the next grade level

COLLEGE OUTCOMES

71% re-enrollment, transfer and graduation rate

2.7 average GPA

2,420 credits earned

“

Through their evidence-based, strategic levels of support, CIS addresses the mental and emotional health of students as an essential component to their learning.

Pam Wells, Ed.D., Executive Director,
Region 4 Education Service Center



Impact

169 Campuses served

254, 989 students served through campus-wide events

36,238 students served through targeted intervention services

7,314 students served through intensive case-management services

2,237 home visits conducted to promote family engagement

4,010 crisis situations handled

514,099 referrals made to community agencies



Mental Health Initiative



Whether a student is struggling to cope with an emotional stressor at home or is dealing with complex trauma or grief, CIS provides students with comprehensive mental health and wellness support. Trained CIS professionals provide trauma-informed interventions that alleviate emotional and behavioral challenges, enhance coping skills, improve student social-emotional well-being, and in turn, scholastic achievement.

CIS provides more direct mental health services to students in schools than any other provider of mental health services in Texas.

The Communities In Schools of Houston Mental Health Initiative (MHI) is a three-part program consisting of:

- (1) CIS Master's Level, Licensed mental health professionals on campus full-time,
- (2) CIS-coordinated partner mental health agencies to counsel students, and our
- (3) Newly-created CIS Mobile Mental Health Team, as of 2019.

Mobile Mental Health Team

The CIS of Houston Mobile Mental Health team launched in 2019 to meet the growing demand for mental health support for students. Whether a student is struggling with anxiety over the return to in-person classes, recent loss, or dealing with other forms of trauma or any number of pressing issues, the CIS Mobile Mental Health Team works closely with CIS Student Support Specialists and educators at select schools to provide intensive mental health support to those students who need it most. The Team supported over 20 campuses across several major districts in the 2020-2021 school year with mental health counseling services.



The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute has worked with districts across the state to understand the real-world challenges students face, particularly those in crisis or who have experienced trauma. CIS ensures their students have access to the support they need to cope with mental health challenges and is a critical partner to student well-being in Texas.

Andy Keller, PhD, President & CEO
of Meadows Mental Health
Policy Institute

CIS Mental Health Professionals served 4,976 students and CIS Mental Health Partners served 187 students on 82 campuses, totaling 14,496 hours of mental health support for CIS students.



Testimonials



Jesus

Jesus was referred to CIS after lashing out in class one day. He was experiencing a lot of anger and emotion, and soon revealed to the teacher that he had lost his brother and it was the anniversary of his death. Jesus reached out for help because the anger and sadness were overwhelming him more and more every day. Jesus was referred to the **CIS Mobile Mental Health Specialist** assigned to the school, who provided weekly additional support for Jesus. During their sessions, Jesus was able to openly grieve the death of his brother for the first time and build the skills needed to talk about the pain of the loss with his family.



Mary

Mary was coming to school each morning extremely tired and appeared to be irritated every day. Mary was failing multiple classes that she would easily pass in the previous semester. In addition, Mary would shout out in anger at her peers and teachers over minor mistakes or incidents. During a CIS meeting with Mary's father, we learned that the entire family had been evicted from their previous apartment complex a few months earlier. At the time, the family was living in a motel with the entire family sharing the same motel room. The CIS Student Support Manager on campus provided resources for housing/rental support and other basic needs resources, and also referred Mary to the **CIS Mobile Mental Health Team**. The Mobile Mental Health Specialist assigned to the school was available weekly to provide additional support for Mary as she tried to make sense of all the changes in her living situation, health challenges faced by her mother, and her feelings about what was going on in her life. Today, Mary is back on track with her academics and has made significant behavioral improvements from working through her emotions with CIS.

*The COVID-19 pandemic not only exacerbated pre-existing challenges faced by our students and families but also added barriers that impacted service delivery in our schools. One example is that many of our mental health partners were not able to provide in-person services on campus until late Spring. CIS was the only agency allowed on campus.

COVID In Schools and Beyond



After a virtual start to the school year for most of our campuses, they soon began to re-open for students to return in-person. CIS was on-campus ready to serve students attending in-person, and yet still reaching out to students who were learning virtually. We reached out to our students virtually, either by phone, text, email or via secure audio-visual conferencing. Wherever our students were, CIS was there to help. CIS remained flexible and implemented a hybrid model for supporting students in schools and at home. We continued to leverage community resources to provide emergency relief to families struggling to get by. We also saw a tremendous need for increased mental health supports for students dealing with the trauma of the pandemic, whether it be grief from the loss of a loved one, anxiety over in-person learning, and/or depression from social isolation. CIS Student Support Managers, Mental Health Specialists, and our partner mental health providers were always available to provide students with social and emotional support and help navigate through crises as they arose.

Our COVID-19 support consisted of:



- Virtual and in-person check-ins with students to assess their well-being
- Providing technology support and resources
- Reaching out to students who were not engaged in virtual learning to find a solution to help ensure they succeed in their learning environment
- Providing basic needs and direct assistance to students and their families
- Connecting families to community resources
- Conducting home visits
- Coordinating virtual engagement and enrichment activities for students and families

COVID-19 Recovery Impact

For over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting our communities, CIS of Houston continued to go beyond school walls to provide students and families with emergency relief funding, referrals to resources, supportive guidance and counseling, access to technology, and so much more as students continued to face the physical and mental impacts of the pandemic.

45,628 students served

388,833
referrals made to 235 partner agencies

162,674
hours of direct or virtual student supports

6,149 students provided with counseling and other mental health services

\$1,064,760 raised for COVID relief

\$97,875
contributed by individuals

\$66,135
donated by corporations and foundations

\$900,750
in funding from Harris County
COVID Relief Fund + Greater Houston
COVID-19 Recovery Fund

1,136 families received financial assistance for:



FOOD



HYGIENE/CLEANING PRODUCTS



INTERNET CONNECTION



UTILITIES



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

(*from March 2020 – March 2021)



CIS Specialized Programs



Legal Externship Program with the Houston Bar Association:

hands-on experience in the legal profession where students spend the summer working at Houston-area law firms

Nursing Externship with Houston Methodist and

Smithwood Medical Institute: completing immersive training and developing valuable skills to benefit them in their futures, often earning their CNA

Project MOVE: in partnership with the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston, provides preventive and restorative dental care, and oral health presentations to elementary school students

XY-Zone: leadership development and peer support for high school males

Wellness on Wheels (WOW): mental health and wellness cycling program for students in The East End

Reengaging Students in Learning

Students and their families experienced levels of instability, disruption, and stress beyond what any of us could have imagined when the prior school year began. More than 50 million students across the U.S. experienced a disruption to learning due to COVID-19. Family's lives were upended as unemployment skyrocketed and many found themselves unable to make rent and other bills. Our already underserved students, primarily students of color and living in poverty, faced the greatest barriers to their success in school, such as less online access to learning. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the crucial role our public school system serves for students as a source of food, support, mental health counseling and more.



Home Visits

CIS works closely with the campuses and districts we serve to support student attendance and ensure students were able to participate in learning, either at home or in person. CIS conducted home visits to check in on students and families who were not participating in virtual learning. On one visit, CIS had reached out to a student and their family after the student had not been attending classes. Soon thereafter, our Student Support Specialist discovered that the student was having medical issues and the student's parents had lost most of their income as a result of the pandemic and were struggling financially, unable to afford to take him to be seen by a doctor. **CIS leveraged the support of a community partner and used emergency funds provided by generous donors to CIS so they could get the student seen by a doctor. The student was able to receive the care they needed and did not have to miss any more school.**



Prioritizing student engagement has become the critical driver of cultivating more equitable school climates this school year and beyond. As school systems work to maximize learning during and after the pandemic and to reengage the school community,

understanding and accommodating the students they serve will be even more essential than before the pandemic. By remaining flexible during the pandemic, CIS stayed connected to students and families helping them access the supports they need to survive and eventually thrive.

Community of Support

The unique CIS model is made possible through our community-based approach in which we partner directly with local businesses, social service organizations, physical and mental health providers and community volunteers establishing a network of support inside schools and beyond to connect students and their families with valuable resources and basic needs.

CIS partners with over **696** community businesses, organizations, academic institutions, and more.



1,028 community partners, repositioned staff, volunteers, mentors and interns supported CIS campuses with **13,550** service hours, valued at **\$386,728.69**.



Partners

WHERE WE SERVE



SUPPORTIVE GUIDANCE & COUNSELING



ACADEMIC SUPPORT



PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



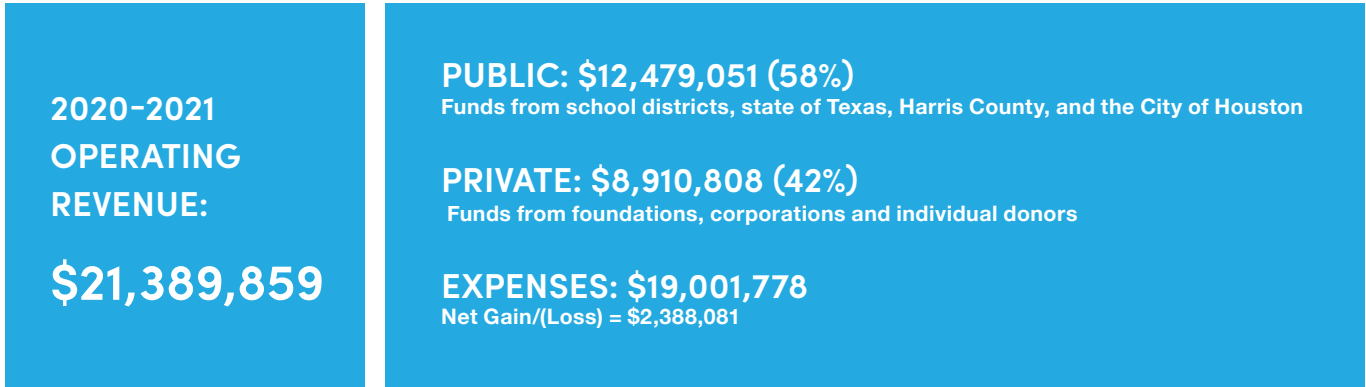
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



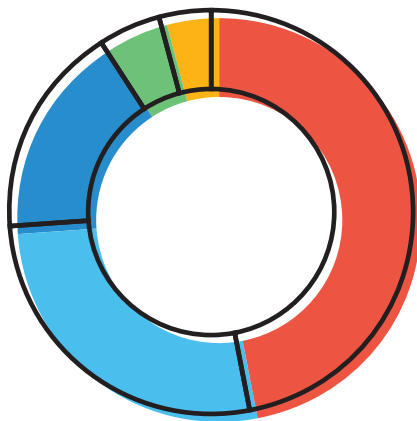
Financials

Communities In Schools of Houston demonstrates a true public/private partnership. 58% of CIS total revenue comes from public funds, specifically support from school districts, state of Texas and Harris County. 42% of CIS total revenue comes from the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

CIS has a strong fiscal responsibility, with more than 89 cents of every dollar going directly to program services.

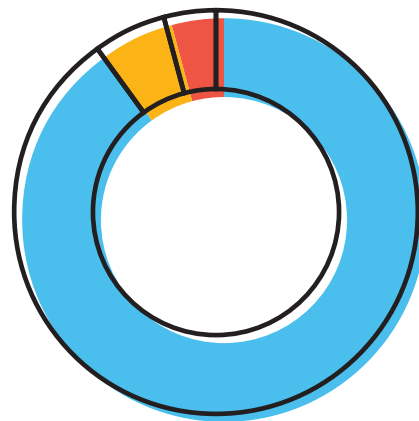


Private Revenue 2020-2021



- CORPORATION 35%
- NON-CASH CONTRIBUTIONS 31%
- FOUNDATION 24%
- GALA 3%
- INDIVIDUAL 7%

Expenses 2020-2021



- PROGRAM 89%
- ADMINISTRATION 7%
- FUNDRAISING 4%

Major Donors

The generosity, passion and commitment of our donors is undeniable. Whether funding a specific area of interest like the Mental Health Initiative, internship programs, or emergency relief, or investing in CIS' work as a whole, the impact of their contributions is felt throughout the school communities we serve. Their support makes a true difference for Houston's students.

VALEDICTORIANS (\$250,000+)

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Houston Food Bank*
United Way of Greater Houston
Victims of Crime Act

SALUTATORIANS (\$100,000-\$249,999)

Wayne Duddlesten Foundation
John S. Dunn Foundation
Harris County-Children's
Emergency Safety Fund
Hauck Charitable Foundation
Hess Signature Education Fund
Powell Foundation
Rockwell Fund, Inc.
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DEAN'S LIST (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Buum Foundation
City of Houston Mayor's Office*
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Humana
Memorial Assistance Ministries*
Phillips 66
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HONOR ROLL (\$25,000-\$49,999)

Brighter Bites*
CenterPoint Energy
Chapelwood U Methodist Church*
Christ Church Cathedral*
Beth & Bob Gower

Greater Houston Community Fdn*
George & Mary Josephine Hamman
Foundation
Marathon Oil
John P. McGovern Foundation
Memorial High School PTA
Lisa & David Sambrooks
YMCA*

MEDALISTS (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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Comp-U-Dopt*
Costco*
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Foster Family Charitable Fund
Melbern G. & Susanne M. Glasscock
Foundation
GRITS Foundation
William E. & Natoma Pyle Harvey
Charitable Trust
Houston Endowment Inc.
Sarah & William Hurt
Leon Jaworski Foundation
KHOU 11*
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Klinka & John Lollar
Kirby & Scott McCool
Memorial Hermann Health System
Memorial High School Booster Club
Operation School Bell*
Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation
Pat & David Rosenberg

Saramco Foundation
Judith & Henry Sauer
Kathy & Robert Stanton
Stratford PTSA
Susan Vaughan Foundation Inc.
Walmart*
Meg & Richard Weekley
Elizabeth S. Young

ADVOCATES (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Alief-TSTA/NEA
Birthday Bundles For Kids*
Callon Petroleum
Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Fdn
Thomas Doggett & Virginia Hoops
Anne & Donald Graubart
Robert G. Gwin
Johanna Holmes
Houston Girls Cotillion
Houston Heights Woman's Club*
KHOU 11
King & Spalding LLP
Kirby Corporation
Lang Family Foundation
Jack H. and William M. Light
Charitable Trust
Cathy C. Malone
Nancy Mills
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Kimberly & Duane Radtke
Jill Ramshaw
Second Baptist Church*
Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*
Vaughn Foundation
Gretchen & Jay Watkins

**In Kind Gift*

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+ Life Member
* Executive Board

Commitment to DEI



DEI Belief Statement

Everybody's welcome. At Communities In Schools of Houston, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging are the core of our DNA. Together, we nurture an inclusive, empathetic culture that celebrates the differences brought by our students, families, alumni, board members, employees, partners and communities we serve. Our diversity fuels our innovation strengthening our commitment to **build an equitable path to education for future generations.**



cishouston.org

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Look for us in Spring of 2022 at 1111 North Loop West, Suite 300 | Houston, TX 77008