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We are thrilled to present to you the 2022-2023 Annual Report for Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS). Throughout the school year, the CIS team has remained steadfast

in our dedication to supporting students, serving more campuses across Houston than ever before, deepening our impact in the districts we serve, and touching the lives of over 174,000 students. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive, and your support makes that belief a reality.

In the pages that follow, you will find inspiring stories of students whose potential has been unlocked with the support of CIS, including Kimberly who excelled in our CIS Houston Bar Association Legal Internship Program. Kimberly certainly has a bright future ahead! We know it takes a community of support to empower our students to reach their dreams, and you will read about campus-wide impact CIS has made through events, support groups and strengthening parent engagement. The CIS model of evidence-based, campus based, Integrated Student Supports is aimed at achieving academic success by addressing the barriers students face in and out of the classroom. And within this report, you will

learn how the CIS model impacts the campuses we serve through our multi-tiered approach. These stories are a testament to the profound impact we have when we surround students with a community of support.

In our inaugural year of a five-year strategic plan, we made great strides in expanding our impact to reach more schools and students, as well as increasing the number of CIS professionals on existing campuses. We also developed comprehensive strategies to ensure financial stability for years to come, retain high-performing staff, enhance student outcomes and embody best practices in governance to advance our mission.

**For 44 years**, the heart of our organization has been our community of supporters. We are deeply grateful for your involvement, whether through volunteering, donations, or spreading awareness. Your dedication has allowed us to expand our reach and deepen our impact in students' lives.

As Omar and I reflect on the past year, we also look to the future with optimism. We have ambitious goals for the coming years, and we invite you to join this journey with us as we continue to champion student success and empowerment.

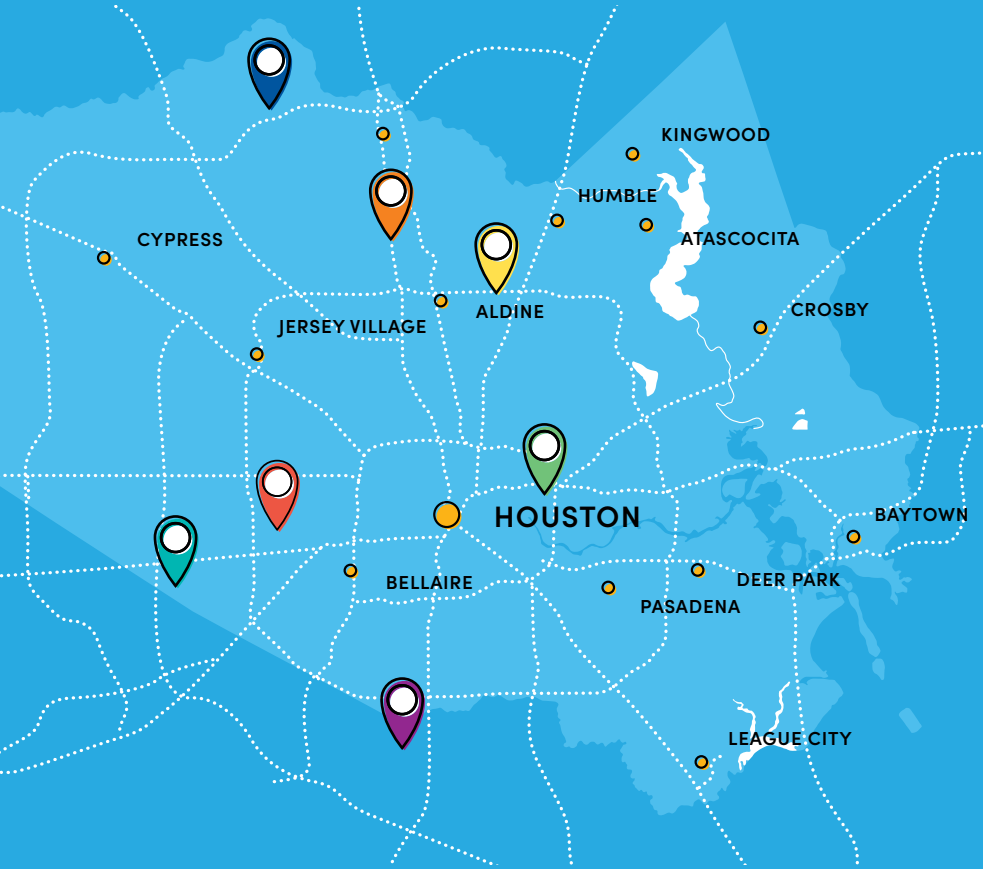
Our mission is not just a statement; it is a promise to the students and communities we serve. We believe that by surrounding students with support, we can empower them to overcome challenges and reach their full potential. Your partnership in this mission is invaluable. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of young individuals, and we continue to be grateful knowing you will persist in this essential and life-altering work with us.

With deep gratitude,

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

**Omar Reid**  
President of the Board

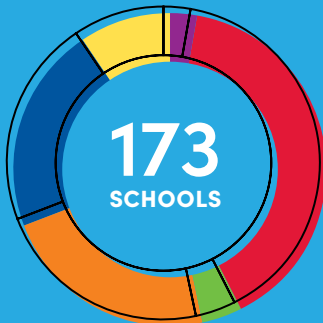
# WHERE WE SERVE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



## SCHOOLS

	ALDINE ISD	7
	ALIEF ISD	41
	FORT BEND ISD	4
	HOUSTON ISD	56
	LONE STAR COLLEGE CAMPUSES	16
	SPRING ISD	10
	SPRING BRANCH ISD	37
	TEXAS CONNECTIONS ACADEMY	2

## EDUCATION LEVEL



	PRE-K	5		MIDDLE SCHOOL	39
	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	69		HIGH SCHOOL	37
	INTERMEDIATE/OTHER	7		COLLEGE	16



At Communities In Schools of Houston, we recognize the untapped potential within every student. Our mission is to champion students from within the school environment, opening doors to vital resources and opportunities that pave the way for the bright futures they rightfully deserve.

Each day, students arrive at school carrying a multitude of challenges, concerns, and obstacles, often grappling with trauma that impacts their educational journey. Our commitment is to stand alongside students, addressing the barriers they face, which may include poverty, hunger, stress, anxiety, resource limitations, and more. We strive to provide the support and resources necessary to empower them not only to succeed in school but also to thrive in life.

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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

60%	FEMALE
41%	MALE
63%	HISPANIC/LATINX
29%	BLACK
5%	WHITE
3%	ASIAN
92%	RECEIVED FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
61%	RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
40%	LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
15%	INVOLVED IN FAMILY CONFLICT OR CRISIS



## WHAT WE DO



**Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS)** is an organization that empowers every student, regardless of race, zip code, or socioeconomic background, to realize their potential in school and beyond. CIS places at

least one full-time staff member on each partner campus to deliver direct services and to connect students and families with needed community resources.

We collaborate with more than 300 community partners each year to help students see, confront, and overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future. CIS works alongside students, families, alumni, and stakeholders to create meaningful change that impacts lives today and generations to come.

The mission of  
**Communities In  
Schools of Houston** is to  
surround students with  
a community of support,  
empowering them to  
succeed in school and  
achieve in life.



CIS PROVIDED

**305,187**

**HOURS OF  
INTERVENTION  
SERVICES IN  
OUR SIX CORE  
COMPONENTS**

CIS SIX CORE SERVICES:

- 01 Academic Support
- 02 Supportive Guidance & Counseling
- 03 Health & Human Services
- 04 Parent & Family Engagement
- 05 Enrichment Activities
- 06 College & Career Readiness



### KIMBERLY: DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE

Meet Kimberly, a remarkable young woman whose journey with CIS has not only enriched her life but also opened doors to a world of possibilities she once thought were out of reach.

Kimberly's story is intertwined with the voices of those who believed in her potential, including her CIS Student Support Manager, Martha. Martha recognized her untapped talents and guided her towards the HBA/CIS Summer Legal Internship Program, an opportunity that would change the trajectory of her life.

Through this program, Kimberly had the privilege of interacting with influential lawyers who became her mentors. Under their guidance, she honed her skills and prepared for a moot trial, an experience that was entirely new to her. Kimberly shared, "At my high school, I had never been introduced to anything like debate or public speaking, however, CIS bridged the gap between my academic skills, and now my professional skills". With her sights set on "expanding the boundaries set for a Latina young woman in the legal field", Kimberly continued her journey in the legal program and is set to be a part of the class of 2027 at Barnard College of Columbia University.

Kimberly is now a proud advocate for CIS, a program that not only wishes for her success but actively supports her in reaching her goals. Her story embodies the spirit of determination, resilience, and the power of mentorship. With CIS by her side, there's no limit to what Kimberly can achieve, and her journey is an inspiration to us all.

### DANIEL'S STORY:

In the early days of the school year, CIS met Daniel, a determined senior referred to the program by his mother, a proud CIS graduate herself. Facing homelessness, Daniel's family needed urgent support.

CIS swiftly stepped in, securing shelter through emergency funds, connecting them to vital resources, and ensuring Daniel's stable academic environment with uniforms and transportation assistance.

Throughout his journey, CIS provided unwavering support, from mental health assistance to advocacy for his educational needs. Daniel's resilience shone bright, allowing him to overcome significant challenges and graduate on time. His story is a testament to the power of determination and CIS support.

“

In the early days of the school year, CIS met Daniel, a determined senior referred to the program by his mother, a proud CIS graduate herself.

”

# INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS:

It's a simple idea. Surround students with a community of support. Provide them with access to people and resources they need when they need them. That's integrated student supports (ISS) and it's how every student, regardless of race, gender, ability, zip code, or socioeconomic background has access to what they need to achieve their full potential in school and beyond. Simple and effective.

## The evidence has never been more clear

CIS has more than 40 years of consistent, compelling data that demonstrate the positive impact of ISS at both the school- and student-levels.

### SCHOOL-LEVEL IMPACT

**173** SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SITES SERVED  
ACROSS GREATER HOUSTON

**174,256** STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH CAMPUS-WIDE EVENTS

**40,556** STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH WALK-IN SERVICES



**1,609** COMMUNITY PARTNERS, REPOSITIONED STAFF, VOLUNTEERS,  
MENTORS AND INTERNS SUPPORTED CIS CAMPUSES WITH **25,763**  
SERVICE HOURS, VALUED AT **\$735,276**

### STUDENT-LEVEL IMPACT\*

*\*outcomes based on K-12 case-managed students*



**9,821** STUDENTS RECEIVED  
INTENSIVE CASE-  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES



**99%** STUDENTS IN GRADE 7-12  
STAYED IN SCHOOL



**96%** STUDENTS WERE  
PROMOTED TO THE NEXT  
GRADE LEVEL



**98%** OF SENIORS GRADUATED



**86%** OF STUDENTS SHOWED  
MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN  
ACADEMICS, ATTENDANCE,  
AND/OR BEHAVIOR



# A PROVEN MODEL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

## Delivery of Integrated Student Supports

Our evidence-based approach adapted to meet each community's unique needs is the basis of our success. Students often face challenges both inside and outside of the classroom. Our model places a CIS Student Support Specialist inside the school building to strategically align, coordinate, and deliver direct services and needed resources so that students can focus on learning and actualize their goals in life.

A school-based approach to promoting student academic success through the development and coordination of supports that target both academic and non-academic barriers to achievement in school. CIS provides support on campus through our six core services, delivered through a three-tiered model.

TIER  
I

SCHOOL-WIDE  
SERVICES



Services that ALL students on the campus benefit from such as prevention and awareness initiatives



This can look like Red Ribbon Week, mental health education, service-learning projects,

cyber-safety, bullying prevention, and college and career fairs.

TIER  
II

TARGETED  
PROGRAMS



Targeted activities and small groups – students with similar needs meet in a small group setting to achieve similar goals

This can look like groups for healthy relationships, anger management, self-esteem building, goal setting and leadership development.

TIER  
III

INDIVIDUALIZED  
SUPPORT AND  
INTENSIVE CASE-  
MANAGEMENT



Intensive case-management for students who are identified as at-risk, meaning they are facing barriers or difficulties with academics, attendance, behavior and/or access to social services. Students, with parental consent, opt-in to receive services from CIS and are provided individual support throughout the school year.

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Offering tailored tutoring sessions to students who need focused assistance in areas such as test-taking, study skills, or specific subjects, empowering them to excel academically.

## K-12 OUTCOMES

- 99%** OF STUDENTS IN GRADE 7-12 STAYED IN SCHOOL
- 96%** OF STUDENTS WERE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL
- 98%** OF SENIORS GRADUATED
- 86%** OF STUDENTS SHOWED MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMICS, ATTENDANCE, AND/OR BEHAVIOR

## COLLEGE OUTCOMES

- 68%** RE-ENROLLMENT, TRANSFER, AND GRADUATION RATE
- 2.88** AVERAGE GPA
- 3,566** CREDITS EARNED



## COLLEGE INITIATIVE

Young adults, despite overcoming high school challenges, still require vital support as they transition into college and careers. Acknowledging this need for ongoing assistance, CIS launched the College Initiative. This program not only tackles the pervasive issue of low college completion rates nationwide but also aligns seamlessly with our mission to

empower students for success in education and life. Over the past few school years, we have expanded our services to reach 16 Lone Star College campuses. By addressing students' social, emotional, and basic needs that often act as barriers, we are significantly enhancing their persistence and completion rates.

## PARTNERS



## SUPPORTIVE GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

Empowering students through personalized guidance, counseling, and support groups, equipping them to navigate emotional challenges, foster positive peer interactions, and tackle issues including grief, depression, self-esteem, anger, anxiety, and concerns related to substance use.



### MENTAL HEALTH

**7,569** STUDENTS SERVED BY CIS LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

**642** STUDENTS SERVED BY CIS MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERS

**100** TOTAL CAMPUSES WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED AND COORDINATED BY CIS

**25,000+ hours** OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FACILITATED FOR CIS STUDENTS

### THE CIS MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (MHI)

With the MHI, CIS implements targeted efforts to collectively address the growing mental health needs on CIS campuses. The MHI provides students with trauma-informed interventions that alleviate emotional and behavioral challenges, enhance coping skills, improve student emotional and physical health, and in turn, academic achievement.

The MHI is a three-part program: (1) **CIS campus-based mental health professionals** who provide mental health counseling and support groups and referrals to students and their parents, (2) **CIS Mobile Mental Health Team** who serve campuses throughout the Houston area seeking additional mental health support from CIS, and (3) **CIS-coordinated partner mental health agencies** who also provide services to students on campus.

### PARTNERS



Bo's Place



THE COUNCIL  
ON RECOVERY



DePelchin  
CHILDREN'S CENTER



Family  
Houston



MHA  
Mental Health America  
of Greater Houston



the  
Montrose  
Center



NBHP  
Network of Behavioral Health Providers



Nict Finnegan  
COUNSELING CENTER



re:  
MIND  
DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR SUPPORT

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Connecting students via referrals to local service agencies to meet basic needs involving food, clothing, housing, transportation, employment, rent and utility assistance, as well as referrals for crisis intervention, medical, dental, and mental health issues.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

CIS PROVIDED **306,233** AGENCY REFERRALS TO STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, ENSURING THEY RECEIVE THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT THEY NEED.

**4,588** CRISIS SITUATIONS WERE HANDLED

### DENTAL CARE PROGRAM

Harris County faces a significant challenge with an exceedingly large number of uninsured children in Texas struggling to access routine dental care. This issue often results in extensive and unaffordable dental fees for families, impacting students' academic performance, attendance, and grades. In response, CIS partnered with the UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston in 1997 to launch a Dental Program for students across Greater Houston. This initiative aims to **remove dental issues as barriers to student success** by

offering preventative services like oral health presentations and dental care kits, as well as restorative services through a Mobile Dental Van Program and the annual Give Kids a Smile Event at the UTSD Pediatric Clinic. Remarkably, these services are provided at **no cost to families**, with CIS arranging transportation for students and parents to the Texas Medical Center, *ensuring that oral health doesn't hinder a child's educational journey.*



CIS Students at Give Kids a Smile Day at UTHealth School of Dentistry's Clinic

### PARTNERS



## PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Empowering parents through enlightening workshops and orchestrating meaningful volunteer opportunities at the school, fostering dynamic family engagement in their child's educational journey.

### HOME VISITS

CIS CONDUCTED

# 685

## HOME VISITS TO PROMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT

### FAMILY & SUCCESS

We recognize the vital role that family members play in their students' success, and we are dedicated to providing them with the necessary tools and resources to effectively support their student's academic success. This can include

offering after-school ESL or computer literacy classes to empower parents with essential skills, to hosting on-campus family night events that strengthen our sense of community, support, and engagement.



### PARTNERS



## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We go above and beyond to enrich our students' educational experiences by organizing transformative field trips to local museums, cultural events, and college campuses. Additionally, we curate impactful large-group events featuring inspirational guest speakers and health fairs, fostering a dynamic environment that nurtures curiosity, broadens horizons, and propels our students toward their limitless potential.

### ETHAN'S STORY

Ethan was referred to CIS for behavioral issues. Despite his consistent disruptions, it became evident to the CIS Student Support Manager that Ethan's grades were exceptional. A closer look revealed that his disruptive behavior in class stemmed from a need for intellectual stimulation upon being the first in class to finish his work.

Ethan began visiting CIS when he finished his assignments, to avoid further disruptions, and that is where **CIS introduced him to the game of chess.** After spending time playing chess, channeling his energy into a productive intellectual activity, his behavior significantly improved.



“ Chess not only brought about a positive Ethan's behavior but also ignited a passion for intellectual pursuits. ”

### PARTNERS



Building students' skills to prepare them for post-secondary education and careers beyond high school by providing workshops on essay-writing, college applications, resume building, job applications, successful interviewing and hosting college tours and career days.

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (WREDI)

The WREDI Externship provides CIS students with access to learn more about Mental Health professions and is a paid summer experience working in a variety of departments ranging from clerical, client intake, tours, and shadowing behavioral health professionals.

### THE CIS NURSING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Houston Methodist Hospital provides high school seniors with an 8-week Patient Care Assistant (PCA) Summer Externship Program upon graduation, which requires a 40-hour workweek commitment. Smithwood Medical Institute evening school is provided to seniors in high schools for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification, qualifying them to be employed in the nursing field.

### LAZARUS ENERGY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (LEEP)

LEEP Externship prepares high school juniors and seniors for the workforce. This program provides a transformational experience that expands the interns view of themselves and the opportunities available to them.



LEEP program components and benefits to the student are personal development, college exposure, career prep and energy exploration.

### CIS/THE HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION (HBA) LEGAL INTERNSHIP

Law firms, corporate legal departments, and public-interest agencies provide internships to high school juniors and seniors. The students attend a job readiness program and are mentored by local attorneys for eight weeks. Students experience sophisticated work environments in downtown Houston, expand their career opportunities, and broaden their vision of success, as well as experience a mock trial.

## PARTNERS



## CAMPUS-WIDE IMPACT

### Knitting Together a Framework for School-Wide Support

Communities In Schools of Houston partnered with Houston ISD's Clemente Martinez Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year, responding to a request for comprehensive support.



#### CHALLENGE:

**Clemente Martinez Elementary, located in Houston, serves a community where 99% of students are economically disadvantaged and 73% are considered "at-risk."\* The campus faced daily adversities affecting students' lives.**

\*Source: The Texas Tribune



#### SOLUTION:

**Diana, our CIS Student Support Manager, aimed to enhance collaboration and support on campus. She focused on strengthening collaboration between various departments, improving parent engagement, and fostering a sense of community.**

## RESULTS

**Enhanced Collaboration:** CIS became a central point for staff, students, and parents, facilitating collaboration between departments, including the HISD Wraparound Specialist, teachers, and the FACE Department (Family & Community Engagement).

**Family Engagement:** Diana initiated monthly family events on Friday evenings, accommodating parents' preferred schedules. This empowered parents to engage in their children's education.

**PTO Revival:** CIS helped coordinate a campus PTO group, holding its first meeting after many years without one. Teachers also turned to CIS to connect with colleagues, students, and parents.

**5th Grade Leadership Group:** Diana established a 5th Grade Leadership Group, providing a platform for students to address campus improvement. They initiated attendance incentives and a mediation program to enhance school culture and stymie bullying and conflicts.

**Empowerment Through Music:** CIS partnered with Houston Boychoir (HBC), positively impacting students' academic, behavioral, and social development through music.



The story of Clemente Martinez Elementary is one which shows meaningful school-wide impact made by CIS of Houston. **Across 160+ campuses, we implement our evidence-based Integrated Student Supports Model, providing a school-based approach to develop academic success by tackling academic and non-academic barriers for ALL students.**



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

CIS has strong fiscal responsibility, with more than **86 cents** of every dollar going directly to program services.

## 2022-2023 OPERATING REVENUE:

# \$22,817,147

### PUBLIC

**\$13,786,114 | 60%**

Funds from school districts, State of Texas, Harris County, and City of Houston

### PRIVATE

**\$9,031,033 | 40%**

Funds from foundations, corporations, and individual donors

### EXPENSES

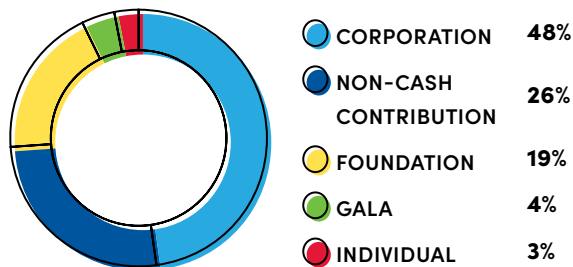
**\$23,361,441**

### NET LOSS

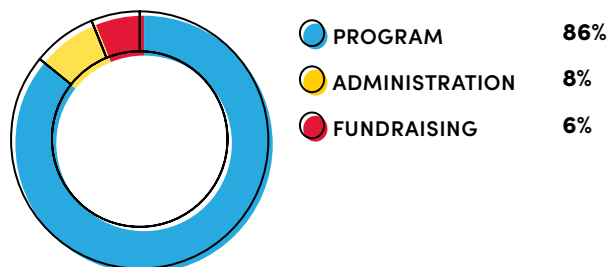
**\$544,294\***

\*CIS received a \$13 million donation from MacKenzie Scott in 2022 and created an 8-year implementation plan for this funding. Because that \$13M revenue was reported in 2021-2022, expenditures that are part of the 8-year plan exceeded the revenue for 2022-2023, as we use this gift strategically to invest in students, staff and the sustainability of the organization.

## PRIVATE REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## DONORS | THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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(\$250,000+)

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United Way of Greater Houston

### SALUTATORIANS

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Memorial High School PTA  
Memorial Middle School PTA



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