

CIS News



Spring 2010



Communities in Schools of Greenville, Inc. P.O. Box 10308 Greenville, SC 29603 Executive Director, Susi Smith 864-250-6737

ReadNex Poetry Squad Visits CIS



“Hip Hop and Poetry Saved My Life” is the unusual name for the ReadNex Poetry Squad’s international tour of schools and afterschool programs that began in the fall. This talented spoken-word/hip hop group from New York City performed at the 21st Century Community Learning Center’s National Summer Institute last year. Amy Clifton, Director of After-school Programs, was inspired by their act and invited them down South where Communities in Schools of Greenville was chosen as the only southeastern stop on their tour! The 5-person squad spent two days each at Chandler Creek Elementary and Greer Middle schools and they hope to return for a third day this month.

The ReadNex led students in free-writing and brainstorming exercises as well as movement and communication activities. Students explored ways that poetry and music can be a positive and appropriate way for them comment on the world and inspire change. They also discovered how empowering writing and public performing can be as they were encouraged to read or rap their written poems and essays.



Both students and staff learned many valuable techniques for interacting with others at home and in the classroom. According to Sondra Bloxam, Site Coordinator at Chandler Creek, the students absolutely loved the experience and they were even featured on the WSPA news!

Funding for these visiting artists was provided by the Hollingsworth Foundation and the Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC). MAC receives funding from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, LLC, Michelin North America, Inc., SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina.

“Project Build”



CIS Greenville recently received a generous grant from the Hollingsworth Foundation for a venture dubbed “Project Build: Building Minds, Bodies and Futures.” Research shows that students with limited experiences struggle academically more than children with first hand knowledge about the world around them. Therefore, each afterschool site proposed using their allocated funds in ways that would increase students’ awareness. Projects have included Shakespeare workshops at the Warehouse Theatre; outdoor activities focusing on motion, energy, habitats, and landforms through rock-climbing, hiking and canoeing; creating self-portraits under the direction of a local mosaic artist; exploring Greenville businesses and landmarks for career options; college tours of Wofford and Clemson; and public speaking instruction through the Toastmasters organization. Each site has been recording these special experiences through photos and written essays that will be compiled into a hardback book.

Students at Duncan Chapel are using their Hollingsworth funds for Zumba lessons and CrossFit training. Site Coordinator Erica McCleskey has also arranged field trips to the Art Museum and Children’s Museum for special programs. After reading *Mice on Main*, they will try their hands at the Downtown mouse hunt and culminate their year with a celebration at Cleveland Park.

Site Coordinator Janice Sargent and her Monaview Elementary students recently had a very successful Family Night using their Hollingsworth funds. With 148 children and adults, they began with a catered meal from Moe’s Southwest Grill. After dinner, they enjoyed a family Zumba class led by Kari Garzon from Studio SI. Both kids and parents loved the combination of aerobic exercise and Latin dance moves.

Many thanks to the Hollingsworth Foundation for helping to create these wonderful opportunities for children to “build their minds, bodies and futures!”

Monaview Elementary



CIS at Monaview has had an incredible year! They served 65 students in the afterschool program and an additional 50 in their Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program. This means that CIS is serving 20% of the total population at Monaview! SES students have been receiving tutoring in math and reading through a computerized program called Compass Learning Odyssey. Each

student also has an Individual Learning Plan based on assessments and teacher input. Spring test scores indicated that the majority of the SES students had significant increases!

The Fun Friday Club activities have been expanded to include Girl Scouts and a Photography Club sponsored by Clemson Extension. The students also suggested starting an “Earth Club” to do things like plant flowers, pick up trash and weed the garden on school grounds.

This month, Cyd Brown from Clemson Extension will lead a new healthy lifestyles curriculum called “Quest 4 Health.” Through this program, students will enjoy physical activities and create nutritious snacks.

Finally, Monaview will be hosting SES Carnival on May 20th from 4:00 to 6:30pm. There will be inflatable amusements, face painting, treats and other activities for the children. Parents will be invited to a meeting where they will talk individually about student performance in SES. It should be a fun and informative evening for all!

CIS Supports March of Dimes



Under the direction of Site Coordinator, Sondra Bloxam, students at Chandler Creek Elementary spent several months on a service learning project for the March of Dimes. With the help of Duncan Chapel Elementary students, they collected coins to sponsor their participation in the March for Babies walk held in April. In addition to the \$476 they raised, each Chandler Creek student also wrote and illustrated a book that will be donated to March of Dimes Ambassador families while their babies are in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. About her students’ efforts, Mrs. Bloxam said, “I am so proud of all the effort and dedication my students have put forth for this. They have really shown me that they understand the value and importance of helping others in life.” Congratulations to all the kids for a job well done and a special thank you to Mrs. Bloxam for organizing this worthy undertaking.

Health Initiatives

Health Initiatives C.I.S.T.A.M. 4 Change (**C**ommunities in **S**chools **T**aking **A**ctive **M**easures for Change) has had an exciting spring semester at both Tanglewood and Lakeview Middle Schools. They have partnered with two community businesses to bring eight weeks of personal teen development programs:

Master Kim's World Class Tae Kwon Do



is working with a group of 7th grade boys at Tanglewood Middle School. A native of Seoul, Korea, Master Kim and his wife, Michelle, are award winning 6th and 4th degree black belts respectively. Both are international champions with decades of teaching

experience that readily equips them with the knowledge and skills to positively affect lives through Tae Kwon Do training.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Master and/or Mrs. Kim come out to Tanglewood to teach the boys. The intense physical regimen not only helps to improve physical fitness, energy and levels of activity, but it also helps the boys learn the importance of treating others with courtesy and respect. They learn the value of self-control and the power of cooperation and also gain the ability to set and achieve goals, all while learning basic skills that will help them to persevere through any challenge life presents them.

It is with the help of their school-based coach, Mr. James Griffin, that Health Initiatives is able to offer such a partnership on site.

The Millie Lewis Modeling School and Agency

is working with 8th grade girls at Tanglewood Middle and 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls at Lakeview Middle school, bringing to them a Teen Personal Development course. The girls meet one day a week with their Millie Lewis coaches to work on both inner and outer



beauty, exercise, and nutrition, etiquette, poise, and other social skills that will enhance their chances of setting and meeting personal goals. The agency is owned by George and Barbara Corell, who have focused efforts on creating programs aimed at building strong self-esteem in children, teens and adults. Their philosophy is that through encouraging a person's feelings of self-worth and helping them to build their inner confidence, they provide a gift that will last a lifetime. The teen instructors from the agency are Ms. Jenny Woods and Ms. Annie Guarcello, and the school based coaches are Ms. Tomasa Quiles and Ms. Catherine Manley, from Tanglewood and Lakeview respectively.

On the Tuesday or Thursday that the girls are not with Millie Lewis coaches, they are working with the school-based coach on various topics of interest. The Tanglewood girls have been working on ideas such as self-identity and creating a teen-based recreational center. They recently had a professional photography session with CIS' own Director of Afterschool Programs, Amy Clifton (representing Amy Clifton photography). The "Just Girls" Lakeview students have been focusing on a running-based program, recently completing their first race—the Furman University 5K.

Health Initiatives is proud to facilitate programs such as these and has requested funding to be able to do similar year-long programs at both schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Should you have an interest in supporting or volunteering to be part of these programs, please contact Kim Mahaffey, Director of Health Initiatives at 864-250-6740.

Let's Get to Know....

Kimberly Esbenshade Site Coordinator at Tigerville Elementary

How long have you been with CIS: Since August 2006

Family: Husband Karl, son Jackson

Hometown: Travelers Rest, SC

Other places you've lived: currently Asheville, NC

Education: Furman University, geology

Best part about your job: getting to know the kids and watch them change and grow throughout the 3-4 years in the program

Favorite vacation spot: mountains - either Appalachian or Watauga ranges

Hobbies/Interests: whitewater canoeing, mountain biking, hiking

Influential person in your life and why: Kese's mom - a 75-year old woman who carried my 3-year old son on her shoulders during a hike - I had no idea she was that age until later in the day. She said that she had never done anything active until the age of 55. She began running at that age and eventually started and was still running marathons. She reminds me that it's never too late to set goals in life and that age just a number not a state of mind.

Other organizations you're involved with: Team River Runner (gets disabled veterans involved in whitewater sports)

A talent or skill you wish you had: playing the guitar

Favorite music: The Grateful Dead, Eddie Vedder, and the Who

Favorite movie: The Last of the Mohicans

How do you unwind after a stressful day?: Running on the Mountains to Sea Trail

One piece of advice you'd like to give children today: Like I learned from the 75-year old woman - it's never too late to set goals

Administrative Professionals Day at High Cotton

For the second year in a row, High Cotton Maverick Bar and Grill hosted a 3-course lunch on Administrative Professionals Day in April. All proceeds from the event went directly to Communities in Schools programs. The approximately 122 diners were given a tasty menu of choices including sweet corn and crawfish chowder, house salad, Roast Chicken Saltimbocca, American Shrimp and Grits, Niman Ranch Prime Top Sirloin, and of course some yummy dessert options. Stephanie Norton, a diner who brought the Administrative Assistant from her church said "The CIS luncheon at High Cotton was wonderful. Not only was the food out of this world, but also what a great way to support kids and to honor the administrative professionals who are so valuable to us!" Thanks to High Cotton for opening their doors once again to celebrate Administrative Professionals and the work of CIS.



Coming Soon... Camp CIS

CIS has received another Summer Enrichment Program grant from 21st Century Community Learning Centers to operate Camp CIS 2010. Similar to last summer, this will be a 7 week camp held during June and July at Lakeview Middle school. This year's theme is "You Are What You Eat," and will help students understand some important aspects of food such as:

- Where does it come from?
- How does it get to our tables, stores and restaurants?
- How does it affect our health?
- How can we cook it?
- How can I make healthy choices with diet and exercise?
- How can my food choices affect my physical and mental health?

Students will visit farms, grocery stores and farmers' markets; will practice yoga, tae kwon do and Zumba; will learn poise and etiquette from Mille Lewis; receive art lessons in a variety of mediums; and will go on exciting Field Experiences to places like the Biltmore House and Charleston to explore past and current agriculture and fishing industries. Students from Monaview Elementary, Duncan Chapel Elementary and Lakeview Middle will participate in this exciting summer program.



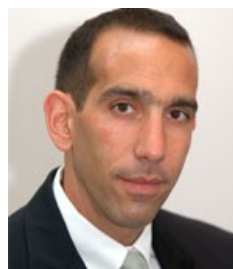
Families from Greer Middle and Chandler Creek afterschool programs register for the Martin Luther King day of service in January.

President Obama recognizes CIS

On March 1st, Communities in Schools President Daniel Cardinali represented the organization at a gathering of national education leaders with President Barack Obama at the White House. During his speech (excerpt below), President Obama recognized the work of CIS in addressing students' struggles:

"As my Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, says, our kids get only one chance at an education, and we need to get it right. Of course, getting it right requires more than just transforming our lowest performing schools. It requires giving students who are behind in school a chance to catch up and a path to a diploma. It requires focusing on students, from middle school through high school, who face factors at home, in the neighborhood, or in school that put them at risk of dropping out. And it requires replicating innovative ideas that make class feel engaging and relevant -- because most high school dropouts in a recent study said the reason they dropped out was that they weren't interested in class and they weren't motivated to do their work.

So that's why we'll build on the efforts of places like Communities in Schools that make sure kids who are at risk of dropping out have one-on-one support."



*Daniel Cardinali
CIS President*

In a congratulatory letter to all local CIS chapters, Cardinali attributed the agency's success to the "dedication, enthusiasm and tireless commitment" of its staff for the past 30 years. He encouraged everyone to continue their efforts in meeting the President's challenge to achieve excellence in the nation's schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

BEACH BALL 2010

August 28th at 7:00 pm
Private Greenville Residence

To benefit more than 23 upstate Charities. Featuring 25 of the areas finest restaurants serving their culinary specialties. Custom cocktails, cigar lounge, Carolina Ballet Theater Latin Dance Showcase with free latin dance lessons.

A premiere regional event, The Beach Ball, offers a number of Seating, Sponsorship, and Promotional Opportunities to reach this desirable upscale demographic. Opportunities range from Private Tables for Four or Ten, to Sponsorship Suites and Product Sampling.

For more information, visit www.beachballfoundation.org

GOLF CLASSIC, 11th Annual Event

To Benefit: **Communities In Schools**
BRINGING EDUCATION TO WORKING AND PROMISING FAMILIES

Presenting Sponsors:

Monday, September 20, 2010 Pebble Creek Country Club
9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start - Captain's Choice | 8:00 a.m. registration
Link Course

COURSE PRIZES:

- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place team prizes
- Hole-in-one prizes
- Longest drive, closest to the pin & longest putt prizes
- Raffle & Silent Auction

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

- Cart, range balls and course fees
- Team and individual prizes
- Breakfast and on-course refreshments
- Tax deductible contributions*
- Awards reception & cookout lunch

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR (\$3,000)

- Two complimentary golf teams (8 players)
- One tee and one green sponsor
- Name and logo to appear as sponsor in program
- Name and logo to appear in CIS's bi-monthly newsletter - for the year.
- \$3,000 provides 1 year of after-school care for 2 students or dental care for 5.
- Press release

GOLD SPONSOR (\$1,500)

- Two complimentary golf teams (8 players)
- One tee and one green sponsorship
- Company listed as sponsor in program

SILVER SPONSOR (\$1,000)

- One complimentary golf team (4 players)
- One tee and one green sponsorship
- Company listed as sponsor in program

BRONZE SPONSOR (\$750)

- One complimentary golf team (4 players)
- One tee sponsorship

TEE SPONSORSHIP (\$100)

- One tee sponsor

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES -

We welcome giveaway items for event distribution:
Contact Sue Ugenti at 864-918-3104 or email Sue.Ugenti@fluor.com

Don't forget to bring cash to buy mulligans, closest to the pin string, and of course, tips for the Beer Cart Girls!

Proceeds from both events will benefit Communities in Schools. For more information on ticket sales or corporate sponsorships, please contact Susi Smith at 250-6737 or cissusi@mindspring.com.

In Appreciation...

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who donated their time and resources to CIS and its participants during recent months.

- ReadNex Poetry Squad
- Hollingsworth Foundation
- Cyd Brown and Clemson Extension
- Master Kim's World Class Tae Kwon Do
- Millie Lewis Modeling School and agency
- High Cotton Maverick Bar and Grill



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Sign up to receive this newsletter via email.

Contact Susi Smith at
250-6737 or cis-susi@mindspring.com

A Very Special Thank-You to
Upstate Business Services
for their generosity in printing this newsletter.
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864-275-1730



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Our board is made up of volunteers from the community. We greatly appreciate the time they invest in our organization and their dedication to serving the children and families of Greenville County.

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