

CIS News



Spring 2009



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



Spotlight on Fundraising

Upcoming Events:

- **May 29, 2009:** Swing into Summer. See flyer!
- **August 29, 2009:** The Annual Beach Ball event to benefit local charities. CIS is very honored to have been chosen as one of the primary beneficiaries this year. For ticket information, please contact Susi Smith or any board member.
- **September 14, 2009:** Annual CIS Golf Event at Green Valley Country Club. More details to come.

Recent Happenings:

- The **Beach Ball Foundation** donated nearly \$13,000 to CIS that was raised at their annual Beach Ball event last year.
- A Wine Tasting was held at **Northhampton** Wines in February to benefit CIS. Special thanks to Board Member Matt Tebbetts for coordinating this event.
- **Wal-Mart** in Traveler's Rest donated \$1000 for afterschool activities.
- The **South Carolina Department of Education** just awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant for summer programming.
- We received a grant from the **SC Tennis Association** to provide tennis instruction in one afterschool program.

MAY 29
7 PM TO MIDNIGHT

HOSTED BY THE GREENVILLE SHRINE CLUB,
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SUSI SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS, AT
864.250.6737.
WWW.COMMUNITIESINSCHOOLSGVL.ORG

Also...

Many thanks to **High Cotton Bar & Grill** for hosting Administrative Professionals Day on April 22. The event was designed for employers to pay tribute to their staff while also helping a local organization. Diners paid \$25 per person to enjoy a specially selected three-course lunch and all proceeds went directly to CIS. The turnout was tremendous and nearly all 158 seats were filled. CIS Staff were on hand to help out with seating and collecting money. High Cotton has already agreed to host the fundraiser again. Communities In Schools appreciates their generosity and looks forward to another successful (and yummy!) event next year.



Site updates

Tigerville Elementary

Tigerville's 21st Century Learning Center had a great turnout for the Tigerville Follies on February 19th. The afterschool students worked hard learning lines, memorizing cues, and creating stage displays for the seven skits they performed that night. The skits taught that "There's No Such Thing as Monsters," or is there? All anticipated the drama of "A Soup Opera" and discovered "Who's Playing Romeo?" These skits and others were wonderfully performed by the talented kindergarteners through 3rd graders. Site Coordinator, Kimberly Grisop, isn't sure who had more fun... the actors or the audience!



Tigerville Afterschool students perform in the Tigerville Follies.

Greer Middle

Greer Mayor Rick Danner spoke at one of Greer Middle School's recent Family Night Events. Pictured at right are Greer Middle Site Coordinator, Steven Weeks; Mayor Danner; and Greer Middle School Principal Scott Rhymer.



Greer Middle would also like to acknowledge one of the part-time employees that works in their afterschool program. Kim Davis was recognized with the WSPA "Caring for the Carolinas" award in the fall. After her 21 year old daughter was killed violently in December 2004, Kim decided to honor her by reaching out to the community. In 2007, she began soliciting donations and supplies for children in need of school supplies. Last year she provided book bags to over 150 kids; this year the total was over 600! Kim has also organized awareness events to bring attention to violence and how to stay safe. She has been an inspiration to many in her community and CIS is fortunate to have her skills at work in the Greer Afterschool Program.

Duncan Chapel Elementary

The Duncan Chapel Afterschool Program has recently begun a wonderful partnership with the Traveler's Rest High School Basketball team. Every Wednesday, the coach and 14 players travel to Duncan Chapel for one-on-one tutoring. For 45 minutes, they do homework, and practice multiplication tables, reading and other academic skills. The students (both old and young) love working together! Site Coordinator, Erica McCleskey, is grateful for the relationships the players are building with her students.



Duncan Chapel also continues to offer the Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen program on a regular basis. The latest presentation focused on healthy snacking options and how the students can help their parents in the kitchen. For hands on fun, they made trail mix and fruit smoothies. Each student received an apron and chef's hat. The Kids in the Kitchen program is a highlight for all the afterschool participants.

Monaview Elementary

Monaview has some great things going on! Twelve Afterschool students are now meeting twice per month in the new photography club offered through Clemson 4-H. They were provided with digital cameras and are in the process of compiling a portfolio. With the help of Amber Sargent, a senior majoring in Fine Arts at Clemson, they will hold a Spring exhibition to display the young artists' work. Special thanks to Cyd Brown from Clemson Extension for making this wonderful opportunity possible! Monaview continues to offer their other clubs including Wii Club, Cooking Club, Dance Club and Games Club. The Games Club has been especially fun lately with the new equipment donated by the Greenville Hospital System's 'CATCH' program (see story on page 3).

Other recent Monaview activities consist of making Valentines cards for Children's Hospital patients and planting their spring garden with plants supplied by the Greenville Organic Foods Association.

The students are hoping to learn a lot through the 4-H curriculum that goes along with this endeavor. Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen program has also been a big hit. The kids learn about healthy eating habits and make nutritious snacks.

Monaview families were also treated to a meal from the Olive Garden courtesy of Health Initiatives (formerly known as Healthy Connections). This was provided in conjunction with a Medicaid seminar conducted by Health Initiatives Director, Kim Mahaffey. About 30 families participated with a crowd of over 100 for dinner!





Healthy Hoops Upstate Challenge
Saturday, May 9, 2009 9:00am-3:00pm
Caine Halter Family YMCA

Health Initiatives is once again partnering with Select Health of SC, Inc. and other community organizations to host the Healthy Hoops Upstate Challenge. This is a community based program to educate children and their families living with asthma and weight management issues. The event is conducted under the guidance and supervision of celebrity basketball coaches and medical experts. There will be information and activities dealing with asthma control, BMI screenings, professional development, weight management education, and cardio vascular training in basketball skills.

There is a great need for volunteers throughout the day, especially with Health Initiatives staff in the toddler room. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Mahaffey as soon as possible at kmahaffey@mindspring.com or 250-6740.

St. Francis Department of Community Ministries



For the past two years, the Department of Community Ministries at St. Francis has generously supported CIS' Health Initiatives (formerly Healthy Connections) program. It is with their support that Health Initiatives has been able to provide outreach to over 2000 children in our community.

St. Francis exists for one reason – to serve the local community. Whether they serve by healing an ill patient, comforting a hurting family or bringing health care to an underserved population, they constantly strive to be “good help to those in need.”

They recognize that those who are in need are not just the people within their walls. Their Community Ministries department serves as the “hands and feet” that bring St. Francis' mission to life in the community. Working alone or in collaboration with others, Community Ministries delivers services designed to promote enhanced community health through:

- Advocacy
- Health Outreach
- Community Research
- Grant Writing
- Community Benefits Reporting
- Improved Access to Preventive and Primary Care
- Self-management of Chronic Diseases

Please help us in recognizing and congratulating Community Ministries on their continued dedication and support of our Health Initiatives program, and in turn, the school children of Greenville County. We thank them for believing in our mission and partnering with us to make certain vital resources are brought to those who need them most – “thank you” St. Francis!

Site Swap



The Afterschool Site Coordinators recently participated in a ‘Site Swap’ where they spent an afternoon visiting each of the other sites to observe programming and share ideas. Feedback has been enthusiastic and coordinators have already started implementing new concepts into their own programs. It also facilitated better communication between coordinators who may only see each other once a month during staff meetings. A formal evaluation and feedback system is now underway to help the coordinators share information more effectively. To kick off the Site Swaps, New Board Member Tim Pecoraro spoke to the afterschool coordinators about how to ‘Put the Extra into your Ordinary.’ Tim encouraged them to take advantage of their own specific skills and personalities and inspired them to go the extra mile for their students and families.

GHS Pediatric Residents



The Pediatric Residents of Greenville Hospital System have been visiting CIS afterschool sites on a weekly basis since last school year. They recently made a generous donation of curriculum and equipment for the CATCH program to every site! CATCH stands for Coordinated Approach To Child Health. It is an extremely user friendly course and the kids and staff are having a blast! Each site received:

- 1 dozen Frisbees
- Batting tees, baseballs, bats, and bases
- 24 foot parachute
- 3 dozen jump ropes of varying lengths
- Bean bags
- Cones for obstacle courses and relay races
- 2 dozen hula hoops
- Footballs, soccer balls, & playground balls
- Weights
- Volleyball nets and balls
- Badminton gear
- Field hockey equipment for the middle schools

Each Afterschool Coordinator has committed to provide the CATCH curriculum at least once per week in order to improve fitness, team-building, and healthy choices. Joana, a student at Duncan Chapel Elementary, says it best in her thank-you note:

“Thank you for the CATCH curriculum. Thank you for caring for the kids. Thanks you for the fun activities. Thank you for spending your time. You are very special people.”



In the News...

- Students from Duncan Chapel and Chandler Creek Elementary recently participated in the 3rd Annual Buzzing Spelling Bee which is specifically for students in after-school programs throughout Greenville county. The final County Bee was held April 24 at the Greenville Tech Auditorium. It was open to the public and served as a family field trip for Duncan Chapel and Chandler Creek families. Special thanks to Board Member Curtis Harkness for securing the location and Redeemer Episcopal Church for providing a meal for the contestants and their families. Duncan Chapel student, Dezhane, was also invited to appear with other local spellers on Your Carolina with Jack and Kimberly on WSPA. During the live broadcast, they participated in a mock spelling bee with silly words. Dezhane went on to become the overall 5th grade runner-up and Janet, a student from Chandler Creek, was the overall 4th grade runner-up. Congratulations to both students!



Dezhane (2nd from L) and other spelling bee contestants during a live taping of Your Carolina with Jack and Kimberly.

- Kyah Moore, a 3rd grader in the After-school Program at Chandler Creek Elementary, was the third CIS student to win the annual United Way thank-you note design contest. The theme was 'A Happy Day.' Copies of Kyah's card will be sent to everyone who donated money to the United Way this year. Congratulations, Kyah!
- Congratulations to Feaby Vera Cruz on the birth of her daughter, Antelise Nora on January 30th. Feaby is the Health Initiatives Site Coordinator at Lakeview Middle and Tanglewood Middle. Feaby and her husband, Moses, also have a 3 year old son, Kekoah.



Let's Get to Know....

Lisa Hughes

CIS Operations Manager

How long have you been with CIS:

Just over 3 years

Family: Happily married for 23 years to Paul; two daughters, Andrianna, 20, and Elizabeth, 19

Hometown: Evanston, IL

Other places you've lived: LaGrange, IL; Upper St. Clair, PA; Winston-Salem, NC; Cary, NC; Lenoir, NC

Education: Washington & Jefferson College, BA History

Best part about your job: Being part of such a talented and caring staff

Worst part about your job: Telling someone there is no money left in their budget

Favorite vacation spot: Murren Switzerland and Sunset Beach, NC

Favorite Restaurant: Bangkok Thai and Bin 112

Hobbies/Interests: Traveling, tennis, running, jewelry making & any kind of art

Influential person in your life and why: My father. He came to the states from England when he was 22 to get his PhD at Northwestern University– he was brilliant. I've never met anyone smarter. He was adventurous, charming, afraid of nothing and enjoyed everything. He instilled in me the belief that there is nothing you can't do– and if you want to do something, do it and enjoy it!

Other organizations you're involved with: I am on the local US Tennis Association board and involved with philanthropy at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

A talent or skill you wish you had: Glass blowing

Favorite music: Alternative and Classic Rock

Favorite movie: I don't like movies– much to my husband's dismay!

If you could have dinner with any 3 people, who would they be?: Pablo Picasso, Winston Churchill and my husband. It would be a great evening of eating, drinking and story telling!

A memorable moment: The birth of my daughters– and they continue to make memorable moments for me.

Favorite way to unwind after a stressful day: By running or doing something artistic.

Something about you that most people don't know: I studied in Oxford England for 5 months my junior year of college. It was an amazing place to study history -and to celebrate your 21st birthday!

One piece of advice you'd like to give children today: Believe in your dreams – and know that the work you do is directly proportional to the opportunities that will unfold for you to make those dreams come true. Dreaming alone will not get you there.



In Appreciation...

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

- Renee Keisacker – provided Christmas assistance
- Padgett & Judith Johnson – provided Christmas assistance
- Thomas & Ashley Reynolds – provided Christmas assistance
- David & Barbara Collins – provided Christmas assistance
- Eloise Gardner – provided Christmas assistance
- Kathleen Sims – provided Christmas assistance
- John & Adrienne McCarter – provided Christmas assistance
- John Holland – provided Christmas assistance
- Arthur & Pamela McCurry – provided Christmas assistance
- Randy & Mari Shamburger - provided Christmas assistance
- Chris Graves - provided Christmas assistance
- Angela & Cesar Pagan - provided Christmas assistance
- Sherwood & Deborah Mobley - provided Christmas assistance
- Reimer Priester, C. Braxton Ballew & Greenville Symphony Orchestra - provided Christmas assistance
- Jennifer Britt– provided Christmas assistance
- Jonathan Carter & Redeemer Episcopal Church - provided Christmas gifts for over 40 students; provided a meal for spelling bee contestants and their families
- Larry & Gail Clifton—provided Christmas assistance
- Heather McSwain - provided Christmas assistance
- Anna Wilder - provided Christmas assistance
- Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church; Samaritan Sunday School Class & Homemakers Sunday School Class - provided Christmas assistance
- Kevin Krause - provided Christmas assistance
- Henson Family - provided Christmas assistance
- Miles Family - provided Christmas assistance
- Hudson Family - provided Christmas assistance
- Pittman Family - provided Christmas assistance
- Lee Family - provided Christmas assistance
- Appalachian Council of Governments/Family Caregiver Support Program - provided Christmas assistance
- John Holland - provided Christmas assistance
- Postcards From Paris - provided Christmas assistance
- Resa Watson - provided Christmas assistance
- Eric Williams & Fundamentals 4 Success – provided students with activity bags with balls, socks and other athletic gear
- Tigerville Baptist Church – hosted the St. Francis/ Greenville Tech Mobile Dental Unit
- Choice Hills Baptist Church – hosted the St. Francis/ Greenville Tech Mobile Dental Unit
- City View Baptist Church - hosted the St. Francis/ Greenville Tech Mobile Dental Unit
- Beach Ball Foundation – donated \$13,000 from their annual Beach Ball gala
- Traveler's Rest Wal-Mart - awarded \$1000 grant for use in afterschool programs
- High Cotton Bar & Grill - hosted the Administrative Professionals lunch with all proceeds going to CIS
- Northhampton Wines– hosted wine tasting fundraising event
- Cyd Brown, 4-H Clemson Extension Agent – conducted seminars on nutrition and healthy habits
- Grace Church – provided a spaghetti dinner for Monaview families in December
- Amber Sargent – mentoring and organizing an art show for Monaview students
- Greenville Hospital System Pediatric Residents - generous donation of CATCH curriculum and equipment
- Bon Secours St. Francis Health System Department of Community Ministries – continued support of CIS
- Greenville Organic Foods Organization (GOFO) - provided plants for student gardens
- Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen program- led activities for afterschool students
- Mart Martin from Scratch Concepts, Inc.- provided healthy snacks during an afterschool session
- Traveler's Rest High School Basketball Team - tutored afterschool students
- Greer Mayor Rick Danner – spoke at Family Night at Greer Middle School

A Very Special Thank-You to Upstate Business Services

for their generosity in
printing this newsletter.
Call them for all your printing needs!
864-275-1730

How can YOU help?

If your organization would like to participate or sponsor door prizes for school Health Fair events, please contact Health Initiatives Director, Kim Mahaffey at 250-6740 or kmahaffey@mindspring.com

Communities in Schools is always looking for donations of time and resources.
For more information, please contact Executive Director, Susi Smith at 250-6737 or cissusi@mindspring.com.

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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

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