



Communities In Schools

HELPING KIDS STAY IN SCHOOL AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

Payless ShoeSource Donates New Shoes to CIS of Miami

Delone, 7 years old, was thrilled with her new Hannah Montana boots. For Delone and 200 other Communities In Schools of Miami children and youth, this holiday season was extra special thanks to Payless ShoeSource. "I am so grateful," said Ms. Worthy, a parent with children in the after school program. Another parent agreed, explaining that she not only has her children to provide for, but her nephew and nieces because their mother was deported to Haiti. "I didn't know what I was going to do this Christmas."

Students from COPE South took a field trip to the local Payless to choose their shoes. For these teen moms, it was a much-needed treat during the holidays, which is often a difficult time financially for them.

Tamarra, a North Miami Middle School student, eagerly shared her thoughts on getting free shoes, "I am very thankful... I am happy mainly because I love my shoes, I love the colors, and someone actually thought of me, making me like them more...The shoes that I bought are the nicest shoes I have in my closet... I came to this tutoring program so I can learn but instead I got more than that."

Payless ShoeSource donated over one million dollars worth of shoes to children across the nation.



CIS OF MIAMI CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGH ITS FIRST EARTH-FRIENDLY GREEN RAISING GALA

This year, Communities In Schools of Miami marks 20 years of making sure that Miami-Dade's students stay in school, prepare for life, and graduate. We invite you to join us in celebrating this special milestone of achievement.

2009 also marks a historic accomplishment for our country in electing its first African-American President. With this exciting change comes unprecedented challenges to be faced: a dire economy with a devastating impact on many industries and sectors, including education, and an urgent call to save an imperiled planet.

Clearly, there is no time like the present to be part of the change needed to protect the future of our country, and to act as forces of change within our communities. In this appeal to

service, please join Communities In Schools in our efforts to protect our children and youth—the most precious natural resource that we have as a nation. Let's make certain that they are not paying the price for the current crisis. Help us to ensure they are not denied the same opportunities we've been given.

On this note, CIS promises a special evening to come. Prepare yourself for a unique event that is eco-conscious and conscience-inspiring. Dine, dance and be dazzled by professional dancers and instrumentalists while you serve a greater good—providing a brighter future for our kids, for our Earth, and for all—at the **Green Raising Gala** May 9th, 2009. 6:30 PM at the InterContinental Hotel.

The Children's Trust's Spotlight on CIS of Miami

Bill Multack knows that math is not for everyone. At the Chicago high school he attended, Multack struggled with math – until he got to geometry with its focus on logic. Then his interest rocketed, and Multack went on to forge a successful career from his expertise with logic and numbers.

Multack is back at school – as a CIS math tutor and mentor. As he tries to pry open the math door for students and to connect with them, he remembers his own early struggles, because he knows: “If you’re not a math person, you kind of turn off.”

He tries new approaches constantly, such as using math puzzles, to encourage confidence and interest. His mentoring schedule fits easily into his retired life. The commitment fills a big part of his life. “When I started I worried about how I would interact. Now they all say ‘Hello, Mr. Bill’ in the halls. I enjoy it so much and get more out of it than the kids do,” he says.

Multack shares his skills with Communities in Schools in other ways, too. He’s helped develop data systems and spread sheets to facilitate data monitoring. “It’s a talent I have and it keeps my mind active,” he says. But tutoring is what he enjoys most.

“I always wanted to do something that meant something, and I’m really grateful for this opportunity,” Multack says.



CIS is spotlighted in an article by Michael Malone from The Children's Trust. It is adapted below. For original full article visit www.thechildrenstrust.org

Luis did not graduate high school. He is not among the quantitative data indicating success for Communities in Schools of Miami. Counselors and classmates felt Luis was a threat, a danger to himself and others. Yet Elizabeth Mejia, executive director of Communities in Schools, counts his case as one of the program’s most memorable and successful. “Everyone worried that he would do something,” Mejia remembers. With the support of his CIS mentor, his family and the school staff, the CIS team guided him to intensive therapy. The intervention turned his life around, and Luis, 17 at the time, enrolled into a tech program, got a job and went back to school to earn his G.E.D. “Because we were there, he couldn’t be invisible and we were able to reach him,” Mejia says, adding, “we’re not your traditional example of success.”

Communities in Schools is not your traditional form of schooling. It can’t be, because traditional schooling has failed the thousands of young people the Bridges program rescues and sets back on their feet. Based on a national model and on the idealism and efforts of Bill Milliken, renowned youth advocate and author of several books including “The Last Drop-Out: Stop the Epidemic,” Communities in Schools is the largest stay-in-school network in the country.

For the past 20 years in Miami, the organization has provided a wide range of support – mentoring, tutoring, counseling and services – to young people at risk of dropping out of school. Bridges, the organization’s flagship program, this year receives \$314,000 from The Children’s Trust to support more than 500 youths at four sites: Corporate Academy North and South, the School for Applied Technology and COPE Center South.

“Most people give up on the older kids – they’re not photogenic, they’re a challenge – but somebody has to be there for them,” Mejia says. “We refuse to give up on them.” The program’s holistic approach is based on five key principles: a personal relationship with a caring adult; a safe place for learning; a healthy start (counseling, drug and alcohol education, physical, dental and eye exams); a marketable skill; and the chance to give back.

The Bridges program is “embedded” in the regular school, providing additional resources during the school day. Each site has two tutors who work with 10-20 students daily for a minimum of a half hour. Students visit local workplaces six times a year where they shadow their mentors; the experience helps them envision their own professional career. Health education workshops provide necessary information on nutrition, hygiene, healthy sexuality and mental health. Students also attend sessions on violence prevention, gang awareness and other topics. Health needs, such as eye exams and eye-glasses, are provided by the Heiken Children’s Vision Program and other organizations. A big part of Bridges success results from the personal attention that mentors and tutors can provide the students.

Dr. Barbara Hawkins has been the principal at Corporate Academy North for the past eight years. “Through the Bridges program you can really see their growth,” Hawkins says. “Within three years they’re usually ready to pass the FCAT – there were just skills they’d missed. Quite a few go on to trade schools and college – they become productive citizens.”



Bill Multack, CIS volunteer, with students

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NBC 6 and TeleMundo 51 Award \$40,000 to Communities In Schools of Miami

The NBC Universal Foundation has awarded \$1.2 million in grants to non-profits in six cities, as part of the company's ongoing commitment to improving public secondary education in underserved communities. Jeff Zucker, President and CEO of NBC Universal announced that the funds will be distributed to 29 non-profit organizations in Miami / Fort Lauderdale, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.

"NBC Universal is committed to giving back to our community," said Zucker. "These funds will support organizations that are making great strides towards improving secondary education, and it gives me great pleasure to support them both financially and through the volunteer efforts of our employees."

This is the third year of funding for this successful company initiative, which targets cities with large NBC Universal employee populations and significant education needs. Local area employees from

NBC Universal / Telemundo and parent company General Electric have been actively involved with this effort and will again have the opportunity to show their support by volunteering as mentors, tutors and

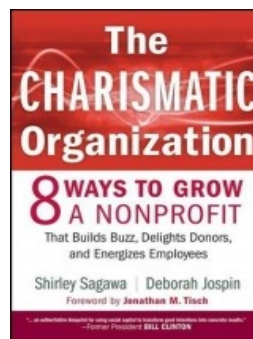


career speakers. "We take the future of South Florida's youth very seriously and remain committed to working closely with our five local organizations, helping not only through the financial assistance, but also by having our talented employees partner with the programs' participants," said Manuel Martinez, Telemundo 51 President and General Manager.

This year's South Florida grant recipients were selected based on their impact on improving educational opportunities for 6th through 12th grade students. The funding will support a wide range of programs including career counseling, college test preparation, as well as developing digital literacy, leadership skills, volunteerism and environmentally driven action projects. "As we enter the third year of funding programs in South Florida, it is a pleasure to witness the progress being made by our grantee organizations. It is an honor and a privilege for all of us at NBC 6 and Telemundo 51 to be given the opportunity to give back to our community and to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people," said Ardyth Diercks, NBC 6 President and General Manager.



Staple and Do Something 101 collaborated to bring donated school supplies to support Communities in Schools of Miami, Inc. Children in the tutoring programs received paper, pens, markers, folders, binders, tape, glue and an assortment of other supplies.



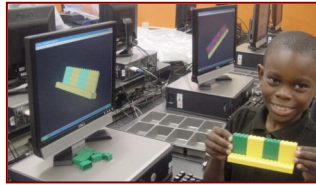
Communities In Schools is featured in the new book, the Charismatic Organization: 8 Ways to Grow a Non-Profit that Builds Buzz, Delight Donors and Energizes Employees. Communities In Schools is recognized for its data-driven culture.

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The National Cristina Foundation, a national non-profit organization, matches donated technology with charities. This year they partnered with Communities In Schools of Miami to help meet the technology needs of children in our out-of-school programs. The National Cristina Foundation is providing donated software and hardware to help equip two computer labs in our program.



PBSJ Sponsors CIS Out-of-School Programs

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