



Communities
In Schools

Miami



Thanksgiving Greeting

At this time of year, we give thanks for loyal friends like you. Your support contributes to our success. We are thankful to our volunteers who visit our schools to tutor, listen, or share their talents; we are thankful to our school to work mentors who open their workplace to our students for monthly visits; we are thankful to our mentors that take time from their busy week to visit their mentees directly at the school sites; we are thankful to our partners who enrich our programs with their services and share our commitment to education; we are thankful to our staff and board who tirelessly do all they can to support our students and our schools; and we are thankful to our supporters, whom without their financial support we could not delivered services to over 5,000 students each year. Thank you. We wish everyone a Thanksgiving that is filled with much joy, peace, and happiness.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

CIS Site Coordinators coordinated and delivered numerous breast cancer awareness activities at their sites.

Children from the NFL YET wrote messages on pink balloons and participated in their own Breast Cancer Awareness Walk around the park. CIS students were given pink bracelets and were asked to wear them every day. Morning announcements focused on breast cancer facts and risk factors, and the Area Health Education Council delivered breast cancer information and taught students about self-examinations. At Miami Jackson, CIS Coordinator and students also participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

CIS Annual Appeal

Too many young people are failing in our public schools. Most students who drop-out of school are headed for a life of sporadic employment and low wages. For them, establishing a stable family can be problematic. Yet, every year, 1.2 million students drop out of school. **That means every nine seconds a student in America loses his or her path to a better future.**

Schools alone cannot solve the complex and diverse problems faced by today's youth. Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation's leading organization dedicated to helping students achieve in school. Thanks to our program, ninety-eight percent of students monitored by CIS as potential dropouts remained in school at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Working specifically in our neighborhood schools, CIS of Miami helps thousands of students from our local communities. Let me share the story of Jessie. Jessie, a senior at Miami Edison Senior High, had given up on any dreams of graduating high school. She was constantly late or absent from school. She was failing too many classes. She was struggling at home where there was no encouragement or value placed on the importance of education. Our Site Coordinator reached out to her and began to befriend her, gaining her trust. Every week they met. "I started with trying to identify her interests, but Jessie stated she didn't have any." Jessie did not see the point of dreaming of a future since she didn't see college as an option for her. With a lot of nurturing, facts, and assistance, the Site Coordinator began to instill a vision of the possibility of graduating and going to college. A fire was ignited in Jessie who began to hustle to change her grades, to come to school on time, to focus and try hard. To her happy surprise, she graduated and is now attending Miami Dade College thanks to the guidance of a CIS of Miami Site Coordinator who never lost faith in Jessie. "She needed permission to dream."

You are part of the solution. Your contribution can change the life of the kids that we serve. Please consider making your donation today to ensure that we are keeping students in school and succeeding in life. Donate online at www.cismiami.org.

*"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."
~ Langston Hughes*



PBS News Hour To Feature Diplomas Now

Diplomas Now is a research base school transformation partnership between Miami Dade County Public Schools, Communities In Schools of Miami, City Year, and Talent Development. Miami currently has four Diplomas Now school sites, of which PBS News Hour will be visiting one, Miami Jackson Senior High School, to feature the partnership's school transformation efforts and its impact at Miami Jackson Senior High School.

CIS Site Coordinator, Desi Mora, and the rest of the DN team are looking forward to the visit. "CIS has a lot of upcoming activities that captures the work that we do to support the school," shared Desi. Just within the next two weeks we have an HIV Awareness presentation; a community service project where students will do a Thanksgiving show and serve a Thanksgiving lunch to local elderly residents; our school to work mentor visit to Miami Dade College where students will be invited to participate in the campus career fair; and a parent outreach presentation where parents will be eligible to win a free computer.

The Diplomas Now team looks forward to welcoming PBS to Miami Jackson Senior High.

Holiday Legal Clinic

The Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyer's Association, with other co-sponsors, is hosting a free holiday legal clinic and a gift card giveaway to educate neighborhood residents about Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc. (LSGMI) and how they can provide legal representation to them and their families. LSGMI will provide mini-presentations on subject areas that most affect Miami-Dade County's residents. At the conclusion of the legal clinic, members from the various bar associations will be in attendance to give away some gift cards to assist the families in their holiday shopping.

Please attend the clinic on Friday, November 18, 2011 from 2-5 p.m. at the NFL YET on 7090 NW 22 Avenue, Miami, FL 33147.

