# Table of Contents

I | Our Mission  
II | From the President and CEO  
III | Who We Serve  
IV | Where We Serve  
V | Our Work  
VI | Effectiveness and Impact  
VII | Our Commitment  
VIII | Partners  
IX | Financials  
X | Major Donors  
XI | 40th Anniversary  
XII | Timeline  
XIII | Board of Directors  
XIV | Tribute to Cynthia Clay Briggs
OUR MISSION

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

At Communities In Schools of Houston, we amplify the power of each student’s potential by connecting them to caring adults and community resources designed to help them succeed.

We’re by their side every day, supporting them in ways that go beyond the classroom, such as providing one-on-one guidance and counseling and facilitating support groups. If additional support is needed, CIS knits together a powerful network of partners—including volunteers, social service agencies, mental health providers, and educators—that help students stay focused, so they can go further tomorrow.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is Communities In Schools of Houston’s 40th year of serving the students of the greater Houston area. It is a year for celebration of achievements accomplished, and a year of excitement and optimism about our next 40 years.

First, I must start with a heartfelt thanks and a huge job well done to Cynthia Clay Briggs, our amazing Chief Executive Officer who retired at the end of this year after being with us throughout our entire 40 years of existence. Bob Gower, our President Emeritus, was there with Cynthia from the start and added: “In my long career working with many very capable and accomplished people, Cynthia is among the very best I have collaborated with”. I can only add that having worked closely with Cynthia through the last 5 years of my Presidency, I have an unending respect for her dedication, talents and ability to bring people together and solve the most difficult of problems. Thank you, Cynthia, for everything you have done of us, and we wish you a most fulfilling retirement.

One of Cynthia’s lasting contributions to CIS is how well functioning and effective she left the program. With the financial downturn in our local economy over the prior few years, CIS continued delivering its vital services while carefully managing our resources. Our bounce back in fund raising last year and this year has allowed us to replenish the prior short years and continue to grow our presence on school campuses. We were able to serve in 159 campuses this year, up from 140 the prior year, and we expect continued growth due to the demand for our critical services.

We are also very strong organizationally. CIS has reliable processes and procedures, and excellent bench strength. After conducting a wide search for our next Chief Executive Officer, the Board was very pleased to determine that the best candidate to carry us forward was Lisa Descant, CIS’s Chief Operating Officer. Lisa brings the combination of a deep understanding of how CIS works and what makes us so effective, along with a passion to drive CIS’s growth and evolution as the future unfolds. We could not be more excited to have Lisa leading us moving forward.

A milestone like our 40th year is also a great time to think about the future. Communities In Schools of Houston is approaching our next 40 years in a very strong position. Our evidence-based model, which is rigorously measured and tested, is adaptable to the needs of each student. Built on the power of creating one-on-one relationships between our campus-based Student Support Specialists and students, our program is driving amazing results and heartwarming individual success stories. All our school children deserve a chance to succeed in life and CIS lends a critical hand to help them achieve.

So, our future is bright. Communities In Schools of Houston is achieving remarkable results (99% of our case-managed students stayed in school) and we are helping unlock incredible potential in our students. The demand for our services is strong and more and more schools are reaching out to partner with CIS to provide our program to their students in need. We will continue to need your help to meet this demand. All of what CIS accomplishes is only made possible due to your generous support. As CIS grows, we hope you will grow your generous support of our very needed services.

I thank you again for all that you do for Communities In School of Houston, and it is only through your continued support that we can deliver life changing services to our Houston area students in need. We thank you for your ongoing trust.

Thank you,

DAVID SAMBROOKS
President of the Board

“All our school children deserve a chance to succeed in life and CIS lends a critical hand to help them achieve.”
LETTER FROM THE CEO

40 years ago a collaborative effort focused on keeping students in school and on a path to high school graduation was launched in Houston. The Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS) program was initiated by Judge Wyatt Heard in partnership with Houston Independent School District (HISD) Superintendent Billy Reagan, Chamber of Commerce President Louie Welch, Houston Mayor Jim McConn and numerous other community and business leaders. And at the center of the model then and always has been Cynthia Clay Briggs, the very first CIS Social Worker turned long-tenured Chief Executive Officer.

What was a dream in 1979, is now a systemic force for progress in the Houston region. Whether a student needs mental health counseling, tutoring, a trip to the dentist, school supplies, or a safe place to live, CIS Student Support Specialists are on campuses making the needed difference for hundreds of thousands of students and families. Those of us now privileged to carry forward this commitment to students for the next 40 years are grateful for your ongoing support, without which none of this would be possible.

With warm thanks,

LISA DESCANT, LPC-S, LMFT-S
CEO

“What was a dream in 1979, is now a systemic force for progress in the Houston region.”
WHO WE SERVE
2018-2019 PROGRAM SITES

ALIEF ISD
Albright Middle School
Alexander Elementary School
Alief Learning Center
Alief Middle School
Best Elementary School
Boone Elementary School
Budewig Intermediate School
Bush Elementary School
Chambers Elementary School
Chancellor Elementary School
Collins Elementary School
Crossroads
Cummings Elementary School
Elsik High School
Elsik Ninth Grade Center
Hastings High School
Hastings Ninth Grade Center
Hearne Elementary School
Heflin Elementary School
Hicks Elementary School
Holmquist Elementary School
Holub Middle School
Horn Elementary School
Kennedy Elementary School
Killough Middle School
Klentzman Intermediate School
Landis Elementary School
Liestman Elementary School
Mahanay Elementary School
Martin Elementary School
Mata Intermediate School
Miller Intermediate School
O’Donnell Middle School
Olle Middle School
Outley Elementary School
Owens Intermediate School
Smith Elementary School
Sneed Elementary School
Taylor High School
Youens Elementary School
Youngblood Intermediate School

COMMUNITY CENTER
Boys & Girls Club – Spring Branch

COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Houston Community College – Spring Branch
Lone Star College – Cy-Fair
Lone Star College – Greenspoint
Lone Star College – North Harris
Lone Star College – Tomball
Lone Star College – University Park
Lone Star College – Victory Center

FORT BEND ISD
Christa McAuliffe Middle School

HOUSTON ISD
Atherton Elementary School
Attucks Middle School
Austin High School
Bastian Elementary School
Benavidez Elementary School
Bonham Elementary School
Braeburn Elementary School
Burnet Elementary School
Cook Elementary School
Coop Elementary School
Cullen Middle School
Cunningham Elementary School
Durkee Elementary School
Edison Middle School
Fonville Middle School
Foster Elementary School
Gallegos Elementary School
Gregory-Lincoln Education Center
Hamilton Middle School
Hartsfield Elementary School
Heights High School
Highland Heights Elementary School
Hilliard Elementary School
Hogg Middle School
Holland Middle School
Kennedy Elementary School
Key Middle School
Lamar High School
Lantrip Elementary School
Lawson Middle School
Lockhart Elementary School
Long Academy
Longfellow Elementary School
Madison High School
Marshall Elementary School
McNamara Elementary School
Middle College High School at HCC Gulf
Milby High School
Milne Elementary School
Mitchell Elementary School
Neff Early Learning Center
Neff Elementary School
North Forest High School
North Houston Early College HS
Northside High School
Port Houston Elementary School
Pershing Middle School
Robinson Elementary School
Scarborough High School
Secondary DAEP School
Seguin Elementary School
Sharpstown High School
Shearn Elementary School
Sterling Aviation High School
Sugar Grove Academy Middle School
Sutton Elementary School
Thomas Middle School
The School at St. George Place
Tijerina Elementary School
Walnut Bend Elementary School
Washington High School
Wesley Elementary School
Wharton Dual Language Academy
Whittier Elementary School
Wisdom High School
Worthing High School
Yates High School

SPRING BRANCH ISD
Academy of Choice
The Bear Boulevard School
Buffalo Creek Elementary School
Cedar Brook Elementary School
District Alternative Education Program
Edgewood Elementary School
Frostwood Elementary School
Hollibrook Elementary School
Housman Elementary School
Landrum Middle School
The Lion Lane School
Meadow Wood Elementary School
Memorial High School
Memorial Middle School
Northbrook High School
Northbrook Middle School
Nottingham Elementary School
The Panda Path School
Pine Shadows Elementary School
Ridgecrest Elementary School
Rummel Creek Elementary School
Shadow Oaks Elementary School
Sherwood Elementary School
Spring Branch Elementary School
Spring Branch Middle School
Spring Forest Middle School
Spring Oaks Middle School
Spring Shadows Elementary School
Spring Woods High School
Spring Woods Middle School
Stratford High School
Terrace Elementary School
Thorwood Elementary School
The Tiger Trail School
Treasure Forest Elementary School
Westchester Academy
Westwood Elementary School
The Wildcat Way School
Woodview Elementary School

SOUTHWEST SCHOOLS
Bissonnet Elementary School
Discovery Middle School
Empowerment High School
Mangum Elementary School
WHERE WE SERVE

159 SCHOOLS

- ALIEF ISD
- FORT BEND
- HOUSTON ISD
- SPRING BRANCH ISD
- SOUTHWEST CHARTER SCHOOLS
- 6 LONE STAR COLLEGE CAMPUSES
- 1 HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS
OUR WORK

Because CIS believes in the power of relationships, we provide on-campus integrated student supports that empower students to succeed in school and achieve in life.

1. SUPPORTIVE GUIDANCE & COUNSELING
Providing students with individual supportive guidance and counseling and facilitating support groups to help them manage their emotions and interactions with peers; addressing issues such as grief and loss, depression, low self-esteem, anger management, anxiety, and suspected drug/alcohol use.

2. ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Providing tutoring sessions for students requiring personalized attention in test-taking, study skills, or specific subject areas.

3. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Linking 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.

4. COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS
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 & career days.

5. PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Providing parent workshops to engage parents and coordinate volunteer opportunities for parents at the school to involve the family in their child’s education.

6. ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
Organizing field trips for students to visit local museums, cultural events, and college campuses, as well as planning large group events such as guest speaker presentations and health fairs.
EFFECTIVENESS

PRE-K – 12TH GRADE

99% of CIS students stayed in school

97% of eligible seniors graduated

98% showed marked improvement in academics, attendance, and/or behavior

95% of CIS students in K-11 were promoted to the next grade level

COLLEGE

71% re enrollment, transfer, and graduation rate

2.7 average GPA

2,161 Number of credits earned

IMPACT

159 campuses served

350 community partners

1,223 Home visits to promote family engagement

4,106 crisis situations handled

267,479 Referrals made to community agencies

123,739 Students served through campus-wide events

37,334 Students served through targeted intervention services

6,748 Students served through intensive case-management services
Because we are in schools every day, we see the unique needs of each student and partner with teachers and the community to help students overcome barriers that can stand in the way of their success.
Communities In Schools of Houston demonstrates a true public/private partnership. 59% of CIS total revenue comes from public funds, specifically support from school districts, state of Texas and Harris County. 41% of CIS total revenue comes from the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018-2019 OPERATING REVENUE:</th>
<th>PUBLIC: $10,330,730 (59%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funds from school districts, state of Texas, Harris County, and the City of Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRIVATE: $7,157,729 (41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funds from foundations, corporations and individual donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES: $16,091,700</td>
<td>Net Gain/(Loss) = $1,396,759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRIVATE REVENUE 2018-2019

- CORPORATION 33%
- NON-CASH CONTRIBUTIONS 31%
- FOUNDATION 22%
- GALA 10%
- INDIVIDUAL 4%

EXPENSES 2018-2019

- PROGRAM 86%
- FUNDRAISING 6%
- ADMINISTRATION 8%
## MAJOR PRIVATE DONORS 2018–2019

### VALEDICTORIANS ($250,000+)
- American Red Cross
- The Brown Foundation, Inc.
- Harris County
- United Way of Greater Houston

### SALUTATORIANS ($100,000–$249,999)
- Brighter Bites*
- Christian Community Service Center*
- Wayne Duddleston Foundation
- John S. Dunn Foundation
- Houston Food Bank*
- Memorial Assistance Ministries*
- The Powell Foundation
- Rockwell Fund, Inc.
- Vivian L. Smith Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tate

### DEAN’S LIST ($50,000–$99,999)
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- ConocoPhillips
- Cullen Foundation
- Dr. and Mrs. Bob Gower
- Melbern G. & Susanne M. Glasscock Foundation
- Halliburton
- Hauck Charitable Foundation
- HEB
- Hess Corporation
- Memorial High School PTA
- Operation USA
- Panera*
- Phillips 66
- The John M. O’Quinn Foundation
- Spence Foundation

### HONOR ROLL ($25,000–$49,999)
- Capital One
- George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Kosberg
- Marathon Oil Corporation
- John P. McGovern Foundation
- M.D. Anderson Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. David Sambrooks
- Shell Oil Company
- Silver Eagle Distributors Charitable Foundation
- Spring Branch Education Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Harper Trammell

### MEDALISTS ($10,000–$24,999)
- AT&T
- Baker Botts LLP
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Blakely III
- Mr. and Mrs. JP Bryan
- Mr. Charles Butt
- The CarMax Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. John Cater
- CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
- The Crain Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Crum
- The Duncan Fund
- Mr. and Mrs. James Flores
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Foster
- Frost Bank
- Mr. and Mrs. John Griffin
- GRITS Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Heard
- Houston Endowment Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Peter Huffman
- The Leon Jaworski Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kroger
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lasher
- Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lollar
- Mr. and Mrs. T. Scott McCool
- Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McCullough
- Memorial Hermann Health System
- Pines Presbyterian Church*
- Randall’s*
- Ms. Lillie Robertson
- Ms. Regina J. Rogers
- St. Martin’s Episcopal Church
- St. Philip Presbyterian Church
- Mr. and Mrs. Don Sanders
- The Saramco Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schlanger
- Stratford PTSA
- Stedman West Foundation
- Susan Vaughan Foundation Inc.
- Mr. David Weekley
- Mr. and Mrs. John Wombwell

### ADVOCATES ($5,000–$9,999)
- Mr. Ed Allday & Ms. Francen Pengra
- Mr. and Mrs. Lester Allison
- Mr. Adrian Anderson
- Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Arnold
- Assistance League of Houston*
- Mr. and Mrs. George Ball
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barnhart, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. David W. Beck, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blanton, Jr.
- Bunker Hill Elementary PTA*
- Chapelwood United Methodist Church*
- Ms. Cathy Chapman
- Christ Community Church*
- Christian Reformed Church
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clearly, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crain
- Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe Crosswell
- Mr. Ronald Depinho & Ms. Lynda Chin
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dilg
- Mr. Thomas Doggett & Ms. Virginia Hoops
- Mr. and Mrs. W. McCombs Dunwoody
- Enbridge
- Ener-Tex International, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. James A. Elkin III
- Mr. and Mrs. Lin Espey
- FamilyPoint Resources*
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fay
- Mr. Doug Foshee
- Mr. and Mrs. Robin Gibbs
- Mr. and Mrs. Don Graubart
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gwin
- Goya
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harper III
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Hildebrand
- Hobby Family Foundation
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hurt
- Mr. and Mrs. Todd Huskinson
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jones
- JPMorgan Chase
- The Kayser Foundation
- King & Spalding LLP
- Kirby Corporation
- Lang Family Foundation
- Mr. Chanler Langham
- Light Charitable Trust
- Ms. Cathy Malone
- Ms. Meg Malone
- Mr. and Mrs. William Mathis
- Dr. and Mrs. G. Walter McReynolds
- Memorial Drive United Methodist Church*
- Ms. Dawn Nelson
- Proper Houston*
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reckling III
- Ms. Wilmelina E. Robertson
- Mr. and Mrs. David Rosenburg
- Ruth and Ted Bauer Family Foundation
- Ms. Susan Sarofim
- Ms. and Mrs. Shannon Sasser
- Spring Branch Middle School PTA
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Smith
- Mr. Bret Stanley
- Strake Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wickman
- Mr. and Mrs. David Weaver
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weekley
- Ms. Elizabeth Young
- Mr. and Mrs. John Young

*In Kind Gift
In Schools for 40 years to help students succeed.

“CIS is approaching our next 40 years in a very strong position. Our evidence-based model is adaptable to the needs of each student. Built on the power of creating one-on-one relationships between our campus-based Student Support Specialists and students, our program is driving amazing results and heartwarming individual success stories.”

DAVID SAMBROOKS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
The first Cities in Schools site opened at M.C. Williams Middle School in the Acres Homes Community. Cynthia Clay Briggs was the first project manager.

Cities in Schools changed names to become Communities In Schools.

Cynthia Clay Briggs becomes the Executive Director or CIS, taking the place of Jill Shaw Binder.

40 schools in 3 Districts (Alief, HISD, SBISD, and Harris Co. Juvenile Detention Centers).

Project MOVE dental program was launched in partnership with UTHealth School of Dentistry.

CIS growth exploded from 54 to 74 schools.

40 TH ANNIVERSARY

OUR HISTORY

Since 1979, CIS of Houston has grown from one site at M.C. Williams Middle School in the Acres Homes community into the largest chapter in the United States, serving over 159 schools in the Houston area.
CIS provided a record number of one million hours of service to nearly 38,000 students in 83 Houston-Area schools.

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Increased need for student support. CIS served as first responders for students who were displaced to Houston.

115 schools in 5 districts (Aldine, Alief, Fort Bend, HISD, and SBISD).

CIS celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

+ The Mental Health Initiative began.
+ CIS began supporting Community College students.

+ Hurricane Harvey hit Houston.
+ CIS raised $1,915,680 dollars in emergency funds thanks to generous outpouring of support from the community to provide assistance to over 4,000 students and families.

+ CIS served 159 schools with more growth in store for the next school year.
+ Cynthia Clay Briggs retires after 40 years and a new CEO, Lisa Descant takes over.

“CIS of Houston’s history of success is based on a foundational belief in the power of relationships. No child can succeed without the support of caring adults.”

GINA CARROLL, CIS OF HOUSTON BOARD MEMBER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Stephanie Arnold
Susan Barnes*
Gina Carroll*
Margot Cater
Mary Cooley Craddock
Julie Crosswell*
Karin Dubose
The Junior League
Charles W. Duncan III*
Duncan Capital
Gwen Emmett*
Jennifer Espey
Joe Foster*
Halliburton
Lauren Gore*
LDR Investment Group
Allison Gower*
Anne Graubart*
Robert G. Gwin
Jacquie Hawkins*
University of Houston
Benjamin Heard
Richmond E&P
Kay Hedges
Maynard Holt
Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co.
Suzie Johnson
Deanna Jones*
Marathon Oil
Marissa Klussmann
Gregory Knight*
CenterPoint Energy
Bill M. Kroger*
Baker Botts LLP
Stephen A. Lasher
GulfStar Group, Inc.
Klinka Lollar
Cathy C. Malone*
Kirby Cohn McCool
Jo Ann McLaughlin
David Mendoza
Grainger
Jan Redford
Omar C. Reid*
Harris Health System
Leo Sayavedra*
Halliburton
Suzanne Stiles
Judy Tate
Kelley Trammell*
Chantal D. Veevaete*
Linda Gale White*
Stacey White*
Robin Wombwell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lisa Descant

GENERAL COUNSEL
Brooke McNabb
Baker Botts LLP

ADVISORY BOARD
Martha Armstrong
Charles Butt
H-E-B
Garnet Coleman
Texas State Legislature
Rodney Ellis
Texas State Legislature
Felix Fraga
BakerRipley
Anna G. James
Christy Jennings
Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Legislature
Barry M. Lewis
Goldeneye, Inc.
Elizabeth B. Wareing

*Executive Board
Cynthia Clay Briggs began her career as a social worker at MC Williams Middle School, where she served as Communities In Schools of Houston’s first social worker on a school campus.

Having grown up in Kashmere Gardens, Cynthia understood the barriers children from working class families often face, and was determined to be a lifelong champion for those seeking to better themselves through education. In 1989—a decade after she began work at MC Williams—Cynthia was named Executive Director of CIS, which had grown from serving a single campus to dozens across the Greater Houston Area. In the intervening years, Cynthia became a champion for underserved students and their families, and had gained invaluable program experience which would inspire her three decades of leadership as Executive Director of CIS.

Under Cynthia’s leadership, CIS has grown into a community-leading nonprofit organization, nationally recognized for its dropout prevention and mental health efforts. Serving students in five districts and over 160 campuses, CIS serves more than 117,000 children and youth with integrated student support each year. Her impact has been felt across four decades, and has inspired countless children to stay in school and achieve in life.