



Communities
In Schools

South Central Texas

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Communities In Schools of South Central Texas Receives Largest Donation in its History from MacKenzie Scott

New Braunfels, TX – Communities In Schools of South Central Texas (CIS-SCT) is honored to announce that it has been selected for an astounding \$3 million unrestricted one-time donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to support the transformational work it is undertaking in local communities. CIS-SCT is one of 40 Communities In Schools (CIS) affiliates across the nation selected by the donor as part of a total \$133.5 million gift the largest ever gift received by the nationwide CIS program in its 40 year history.

MacKenzie Scott's team explained to Chris Douglas, CEO of CIS-SCT, that the program was specifically selected for this gift because of the demonstrated success of the CIS-SCT organization, the strong leadership of the board, and the documented impact of the dedicated services to students in public schools.

“Being chosen for this tremendous unsolicited gift is the validation of the life-changing work CIS of South Central Texas has undertaken over the last 29 years. The timing could not be more important, due to the innumerable challenges for our site coordinators and our administration and board have faced in the last few years.”

This investment in CIS will deeply strengthen the organization's foundation for some of its most vital work. The CIS-SCT board will determine how the gift will be utilized to ensure long-term sustainability and deepen our capacity to retain and expand a stellar team, guaranteeing the strength of the programs for years to come.

The mission of Communities In Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The need of the students CIS served over the last few years is greater than ever, making the mission much more urgent. For many students, the impact goes far beyond challenges in education. They are experiencing lack of food, access to medical care, anxiety, fear, basic needs and a lack of hope just to name a few. And, the toll the crisis is taking on mental health cannot be overstated.

Communities In Schools' school-based staff works inside schools and establishes one-on-one relationships with students to help them navigate issues and move beyond barriers in the classroom, at home and in the community. CIS coordinates with schools and local service providers to meet the needs of students and families, as well as providing critical resources, like

food, housing, healthcare, counseling, access to remote technology, and more so that students (and educators) can focus on academics.

CIS South Central Texas began in New Braunfels 29 years ago. Over the past 5 years CIS has worked to double the number of schools and students served. This year more than 40,000 students will have the positive impact of CIS-SCT on 59 school campuses in 7 school districts - Comal ISD, New Braunfels ISD, Luling ISD, Marion ISD, Nixon-Smilely ISD, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD and Seguin ISD. The critical needs demanding this growth have led to additional challenges and a more significant need for increased funding. “This donation does not mean we do not need the continued support from our community, we most definitely do”, emphasized Chris Douglas.

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About Communities In Schools of South Central Texas

Communities In Schools of South Central Texas (CIS) is part of the nation’s leading dropout prevention organization. CIS surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. School-based site coordinators work with hundreds of partners to change the picture of education for thousands of students each year and connect students and their families to critical community resources tailored to their specific needs. This year CIS will provide services to over 40,000 students with intensive and ongoing services to over 4,000 students on 59 school campuses in Comal ISD, New Braunfels ISD, Luling ISD, Marion ISD, Nixon-Smilely ISD, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD and Seguin ISD. CIS programs and services make significant and positive differences in the lives of the community’s most vulnerable students. One way CIS receives year-round financial support is through the CIS Thrift Store. All proceeds from the CIS Thrift Store directly benefit CIS programs and services. Two programs that are unique to our affiliate are our Project Success program and our Alumni Association. Both are designed to give support and guidance to hundreds of our students as the transition to life after high school. When it comes to making sure children get exactly what they need to succeed in school and in life, every child is our child and we can never give up!

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