



Brenda and Brittany - A Lasting Match

After raising two children of her own, and keeping up with a dozen grandkids and six great-grandkids, Brenda probably didn't need another teenager to worry about.

Then along came Brittany. Four years ago she was a quiet middle-school student with a hard-working mom at home and a distant dad in prison. She needed someone to talk to.

Brenda had mentored once before, and she was ready to help again. They are both glad about that, and have been "hanging out" now for more than four years.

"We get along very well and really enjoy each other," Brenda says.

They get together most every week. "It's really good," Brittany says. "I can talk to her about anything. We have fun doing lots of things we both like to do."

They go to the park and walk around the track. They go out to eat, and they visit the library. They both love music, and they sing in their church choirs.

And they really like cooking from scratch.

"She taught me how to make chicken and dumplings," Brittany says. "And she makes really good chocolate pie."



Brenda and Brittany when they were first matched

Brittany is especially interested in cooking "the old-fashioned way" and grateful to learn from Brenda. Now a high school senior, Brittany would like to go to culinary school and have a restaurant of her own someday. She also dreams of studying music, perhaps eventually going to college.

Brenda says their relationship has grown over the years. "She was shy at first. Now she really talks to me. I don't think there's anything she won't share with me. She's also helpful. I treat her just like a granddaughter."

"Brittany is also very compassionate and sensitive," Brenda says. "She can tell if something is bothering me." If they disagree about something, they can talk it out. "She doesn't want to hurt my feelings."

"We respect each other's differences," Brittany says. "We can see each other's point of view. It gives us a lot to talk about. She's like my grandmother."

Through her affiliation with our community and school-based programs, Brittany has had additional opportunities to learn and to develop new knowledge and skills. She served as a junior camp counselor at the Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Education Center for three years, and she attended a music camp last summer at UNC. She also enjoyed leadership development training through our Workforce Investment Act Youth Services program, participating in the ropes course and youth summit, where she was identified as a leader. And she took part in Hablando Claro (Plain Talk) teen pregnancy prevention educational activities.

Brenda says mentoring through Communities In Schools of Chatham County has been a good thing for both of them. "If I get another chance to mentor in the future, I hope it's with someone just like Brittany."

SAVE the DATE!

TAPAS 2015
Sunday, April 12



SCRUMPTIOUS tapas-style appetizers from area restaurants

DISTINCTIVE wine & craft beers

EXCELLENT raffle items, door prizes and silent auction pieces

LIVE MUSIC by gypsy jazz band, The Onyx Club Boys

UNBEATABLE ambience at the newly-renovated Chatham Mills in Pittsboro

A SHOUT OUT to the Women of Fearington for their support of educational activities to the Morehead Planetarium, Museum of Life and Science and the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro.
Thank you!

Seasons Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened since our last newsletter a year ago! We have changed our name to Communities In Schools of Chatham County and are now an affiliate of Communities In Schools NC. We share a common mission with other affiliates: “to surround students with a community of support empowering them to succeed in school and achieve in life.”

While implementing our in-school services, we are committed to ensuring the fidelity of the CIS model. Services at our pilot site, Chatham Middle School in Siler City, will be planning for interventions, tracking student progress and evaluating the School Site Plan which charts the different kinds of services.

What sold us on making this transition, besides being able to serve more kids, is the fact that we preserved our own unique menu of community-based services that includes mentoring, family advocacy, community service and restitution, Teen Court, and Workforce Investment Act programs. We also kept our entire staff and autonomous local board of directors that guides the organization based on our county’s identified needs.

Here’s what’s great – Communities In Schools NC has a 20-year track record for keeping kids from leaving school early. It equips us to address some of the reasons they leave, many non-academic. This allows teachers to do what they do best – teach! Through this affiliation, staff have access to “top shelf” professional development opportunities in these areas, increasing our organization’s capacity to serve more students. By networking statewide and nationally, we can follow best practice dropout prevention programming and have access to data collection and evaluation from other professionals in the field.

With all this said, equally as important is that we are still a grassroots, Chatham County-centered non-profit, making our own decisions on how to best serve our local kids.

Thank you for all you do – whether it’s volunteering with our kids, giving much needed financial support or championing on behalf of our most vulnerable children and youth.

Peace and Blessings of this Season, *Kim Caraganis*, Executive Director



FIRST CIS CHATHAM GOLF CLASSIC

On October 27, the first joint CIS Orange/CIS Chatham Golf Classic was held at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course at Governors Club. Under sunshine and a Carolina blue sky, there were smiles from the more than 90 golfers who enjoyed playing this world famous course and raising funds for struggling students in Orange and Chatham Counties. Thanks to the following individuals and businesses that contributed to making this day a success! David Stuckey, Financial Consultant, Kohls, A Better Image Printing, Heather Herndon Graphic Design, Auto Logic, The Bagged Lunch Company, Sue Baker, Christopher Barnes, Attorney, Hunter Beattie and Veronica Penn Beattie, Bowbarr, Bravo! The Spanish Language Services, the Costa-Park Family, Koonce, Wooten and Haywood LLP, Lynn Hayes



Doug Webb, Frank Phoenix, Jim Kirkman, Stan Beyler

Properties, Orange County Social Club, Provence, Shapard & Interim CEO Associates, Top of the Hill, Whole Foods, *restaurant.com*, Merritt’s Store and Grill, Matt Phillips, State Farm Insurance, Jared Chieffi, Prime Horizon Landscaping, BB&T, Harris Teeter Stores, Weaver Street Market, Carl Fox, Vandora Davis, Robert Costa, Charlotte Leidy, George Greger-Holt, Laine Lipson, Dawn Saunders, Neil Pedersen, Tom Baldasare, Kathi Brewer, WCHL, Dennis Hainees Company, and Cards by Suze ‘n Moo LLC.

Humanitarian Award to Shirille Lee

On November 1, CIS Chatham’s Shirille Lee, Program Manager for Mentoring Services, received the Citizen of the Year award by West Chatham NAACP at their annual Freedom Fund Banquet in Siler City. This award is presented to one who practices the humanitarian philosophy, demonstrates outstanding community service, and gives of their time, talent and treasure. The recipient is also honored for encouraging others to do the same – promoting goodwill, friendship and fairness. “Shirille is an excellent role model for the young people she serves. She leads by example and encourages them to do their best in school and other activities that will lead them to a positive outlook on life,” said sponsor Norma Boone.



Janice Britson named Chatham Outstanding Volunteer



Janice Britson was recognized as a 2014 Chatham County Outstanding Volunteer. Her more than 20 years of volunteerism with this agency is rooted in her own experience of what a difference mentors can make in the life of a young person. Throughout her years of service,

Britson has assisted in telling the stories of this agency by writing press releases and full length articles, fundraising, event coordination, and making presentations on behalf of this agency. What distinguishes Britson is that she humbly, creatively and quietly accomplishes what she sets out to do.

Britson knows first-hand what a difference mentors can make in the life of a young person. Volunteering is her way to give back and to say thank you.

Community Garden Reaps Big Results



The CIS Youth Garden grew close to 1500 lbs produce and distributed it to more than 100 families!

Miguel Olvera, Youth Garden Coordinator

SPECIAL THANKS to these DONORS!

SAS has given \$30,000 to CIS of Chatham County to support students served by school and community-based programs! This generous donation will support new programming at Chatham Middle School and the continuation of community-based services: Mentoring, Family Advocacy, Community Service and Restitution, Teen Court and Workforce Investment Act youth services throughout Chatham County!



The ROLANDER FAMILY FOUNDATION donated \$10,000 to support our Community Service and Restitution program.

The ARTHUR CARLSEN CHARITABLE FUND of Triangle Community Foundation donated \$18,000 to support our mentoring programs.

Page Vernon Memorial Fund

The Page Vernon Memorial fund was established to honor the late Honorable Page Vernon's devotion to the needs of at-risk children and youth. For almost ten years, until her death in 2013, Vernon served this agency in a variety of ways and with the same respect and graceful passion displayed as an attorney and district court judge for Orange and Chatham counties. She was generous with her time as a one-on-one mentor, board member and advocate, and with her financial support. Vernon knew firsthand the difference mentoring and advocacy makes among children with challenges larger than they themselves can address.



The Page Vernon Memorial Fund is an ongoing effort and will sustain children and youth with programming that encourages their staying in school and reducing their involvement in the juvenile justice system.

To date we have raised \$10,178!
Thank you to these donors

- | | |
|---|--|
| Avis & Larry Autry | Helen Perlmutter |
| Barbara Rowland & Keith Baldwin | Carol Lee Bresky, Michael Phillips and Mason & Hart Phillips |
| Wade Barber Fund of Triangle Community Foundation | Mary Donna and Wayne Pond |
| Jean & Peter Barnes | Scott Family Endowment Fund of Triangle Community Foundation |
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| Dr. Frank Loda | Wellspring Fund of Triangle Community Foundation |
| Weine Sharpe & Phil Manire | |
| Susan McMichaels | |
| Georgia & Phil Nelson | |

To contribute to this fund, visit our website at www.cisatham.org and click on the DONATE NOW button or fill out and send in the form on page 6 of this newsletter.

WELCOME NEW MATCHES



Norma Boone & Chelsey

Jane Gallagher & Monique
 Elisabeth Plattner & Aniya
 Melissa Frey & Melody
 Wanda Burgess & Chase
 Alecia Mash & Kiera
 Norma Boone & Chelsey
 Garry Sronce & Shymein



Wanda Burgess & Chase



Jane Gallagher & Monique



Melissa Frey & Melody



Aniya & Elisabeth Plattner



Alecia Marsh & Kiera



Garry Sronce & Shymein

"A community is like a ship. Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

-Henrik Ibsen

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Community Service/Restitution Supervisors

Sandi Friedman, Lynn Bagwell, Susan Helmer, Garry Lipson, Habitat for Humanity, Chatham Animal Rescue, Rocco Richard - Chatham Parks and Recreation, Judy Harrelson, Elizabeth Zeringue, Lisa Sparks, Lisa Reynolds - CAN-TR, Michelle Moorehouse - The Farm at Penny Lane, Pete Harkin - Chatham County Fair Association

Teen Court Youth Volunteers

Gilda Garcia, Selvin Lopez, Dawanna Smith, Job Galeana, George Jacinto, Avery Harris, Asheley Nelson, Yamil Parroquin, Kiarey Mason, Emery Laethem, Jenny Huang, Yarumi Nava, Zaidaly Delgado, Julian Rojas, Ana Garcia, Yuritzi Ocampo

New Mentors

Amanda Rojas, Enrique Rojas, Annie Schoonover, Theresa Binion, Jane Kornblut

Tapas 2015 Committee

Charlotte Leidy and Dawn Saunders, Co-Chairs. Jim Kirkman, Courtney Webster, Nancy Tanguay, Julian Bland, George Greger-Holt, Laine Lipson



WIA participants give back at National Night Out



THANK YOU United Way of Chatham County, Division of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Joanie McLean and Sharon Day, Mary Ann and Skip Doty and Murray and Esta Cohen for collecting school supplies in August 2014 and to Carolina Meadows for their winter 2014 school supply collection.

Contributions since December 2013 - THANK YOU!

Libba Adams
 Alan & Elizabeth Ahern
 Marica, Adrienne, Ryan, & Srinath Alapati
 Elizabeth Anderson
 Horace Andrews
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 Shirley & Paul Baerman
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 Michael Strong

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EdwardJones
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 LuAnn Parins
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 Brownie-Lu Restaurant
 Forrester & Associates Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Sonic Drive-In - Siler City
 Lazar Industries LLC
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 Novedades Olivia
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 Raleigh Little Theatre
 Oakmont Nursery
 Bonefish Grill
 Governors Club
 Keepsake Custom Picture Framing
 Inn at Teardrops-Hillsborough
 Mark Jacobson Toyota
 Papa John's Pizza

Pittsboro Presbyterian Church
 Phoenix Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
 Playmakers Repertory Company
 Rosemary House
 Triangle Youth Ballet
 Pittsboro Feed
 Raleigh Little Theatre
 Saratoga Grill
 Smithfield Chicken and B-B-Q
 Triangle Community Foundation
 Scratch Pizza
 Shakori Hills
 The Splinter Group
 Twig
 Irregardless Café
 Valassis - Hogg Printing Division
 Vespa Ristorante
 Vespertine
 Vimala's Curryblossom Café
 Weaver Street Realty & Auction



CONGRATULATIONS

Danubio & Brenda, WIA participants receive Nursing Assistant certificates from CCC



HAPPY GOLFERS

Laine Lipson & George Greger-Holt

Different ways YOU can help provide support to children and youth in Chatham County Thanks!

BECOME A SUSTAINER

for as little as \$10 a month
\$40/mo supports a youth to have a mentor for a whole year!

click on the DONATE NOW button at our website www.cischatham.org

MAKE YOUR DONATION AS A HOLIDAY GIFT

in honor or in memory of someone you love

MAIL A CHECK

Fill out the form on the right and send it to us in the enclosed envelope with your check.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE PAGE VERNON MEMORIAL FUND

Click on DONATE NOW at our website and specify this fund OR fill out the form on the right and send it to us.

YES, I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN & YOUTH IN CHATHAM COUNTY

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

CIS of Chatham County is a private non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

My donation is in honor/memory of _____

include address for us to send acknowledgement

Please send me a Volunteer Application.

2013-14 IMPACT



Annual Volunteer Hours

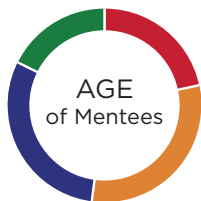


Annual Number of Volunteers



Annual Number of Youth/Families Served

MENTORING - 53 YOUTH SERVED



6-8 23% 12-14 30%
9-11 30% 15+ 17%



Scored a 4.0 as highly emotionally engaged with their mentors



Mentees who maintained a C average or higher in school

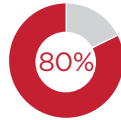


Mentees who qualified for free or reduced price lunch

FAMILY ADVOCACY



Annual number of families served in Family Advocacy Program



Families that saw reduction in youth problem behavior

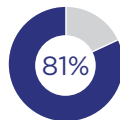


Participants with no adjudications or complaints during program

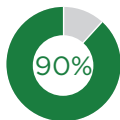
TEEN COURT/COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RESTITUTION/WIA



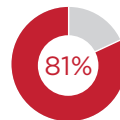
Annual number of participants in Teen Court and Community Service and Restitution Programs



Teen Court participants with no new complaints or adjudications during the program

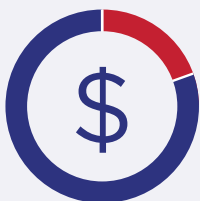


Community Service and Restitution participants with no new complaints or adjudications during the program



Workforce Investment Act Program participants who improved literacy and/or numeracy scores, attained certification or were placed in employment.

REVENUE 2013-14: \$434,199



OVERHEAD 19.5%
DIRECT SERVICES 80.5%



GRANTS 75%
FOUNDATIONS 9%
SPECIAL PROJECTS 2%
CONTRIBUTIONS 9%
FUNDRAISING & EVENTS 5%

This chart is part of the 2013-2014 Annual Report, which can be viewed at our website, www.cischatam.org

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ciscc@cisatham.org
www.cisatham.org



CIS CC Staff/Support Staff

Kim Caraganis, *Executive Director*

Pam Johnson, *Operations Manager*

Shirille Lee, *Program Manager of Mentoring Services*

Maria Soto, *Family Advocate*

Gwen Overturf, *Coordinator, Teen Court, Community Service/Restitution*

Miguel Olvera, *Program Assistant, Teen Court & Community Service/Restitution & Garden Coordinator*

Travis Patterson, *Case Manager, WIA Youth Services*

Vicky Tobar, *Assistant, Family Advocacy*

Tych Cowdin, *Student Support Specialist*

2014-15 Board of Directors

Vaughn Upshaw, *Chair*

Dave Smith, *Chair-Elect*

Monica Hadley, *Vice-Chair*

Norma Boone, *Secretary*

Cedric Lee, *Treasurer*

Susannah Goldston

Neil Pedersen

George Greger-Holt

Dawn Saunders

Laine Lipson

Michael Friedman

Tracy Fowler (ex officio)

OUR MISSION

*to surround students with a community of support,
empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.*

New School-based Services Begin at Chatham Middle School

As the newest member of the ever-growing Communities In School network, CIS of Chatham County is now able to provide much needed school-based services. Under the guidance of Dr. Derrick Jordan, Superintendent of Chatham County Schools, Chatham Middle School in Siler City was selected as the pilot program. Since August, Student Support Specialist Tych Cowdin has been working alongside the faculty, students and community partners to establish the CIS standards.

After identifying the most prevalent issues, a Site Plan was developed to be a guide for the remainder of the school year.

To date, services planned include some that are school-wide and some that are for approximately 30 identified at-risk youth. These include Teen Nation Tour (an anti-bullying initiative), International Heritage

Night, Red Ribbon Week (drug awareness and anti-violence activities), and the FUEL UP weekend backpack food program, in cooperation with First United Methodist Church of Siler City.

Looking ahead, activities to be added are an after-school tutoring program, a speakers series, a Siler City Community Day in May, and multiple service-learning projects. As the liaison between community partners and the Chatham Middle School staff, Cowdin looks to grow the school-based services during the next two years.



Participant in Red Ribbon Week, targeting drug awareness and anti-violence