

## Who are the Friends of CIS?

Friends of Communities In Schools (CIS) is a group of diverse and influential community members with a common passion for supporting and empowering students to graduate and achieve in life. Friends of CIS was established in 2009 when a group of Friends sounded a call to action. Responding to a news headline, they wrote: "San Antonio a dropout factory... Not on our watch." Since then, Friends of CIS has organized to be a sounding call for the great work that CIS does in our schools, in our city and in our nation. Today, Friends continues its efforts to build a community of support for students.



## Making an Impact

Friends of CIS directly and indirectly impacts students across San Antonio. To help CIS meet immediate funding needs and achieve long-term sustainability, Friends of CIS supports fundraising events, legislative efforts, and builds partnerships with other mission aligned organizations.

Membership dues and donations to Friends of CIS make a direct impact on students by funding enrichment activities for students. Some of these includes visits to the McNay Art Museum, San Antonio Museum of Art, and the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Providing these opportunities allow students to be more involved in school, engage in good healthy behaviors, and broaden their horizons.



*"One of my first-grade students had never been to the museum. She told me that she could see herself becoming a fashion designer. It was nice to share her new experience and discover a possible future career."*

**IRIS**, CIS-SA Site Coordinator  
at Cameron Elementary School

*"The day before our McNay field trip, one student shared he wasn't sure if he would be coming to school the next day. Despite having peer issues in school, he attended the next day. On our way back to school, he told me, "I had fun, Miss Melina, I'm glad I came." Coming from a student who doesn't want to come to school sometimes, this really meant a lot."*

**MELINA**, CIS-SA Site Coordinator  
at Colonial Hills Elementary School



## Why Become a Friend?

- Join a Group of Passionate People
- Make a Direct or Indirect Impact on Students
- Participate in Advocacy Efforts and Volunteer Activities

## Partnering with a School Campus

In addition to Friends of CIS supporting CIS students across the city, it has developed a deeper relationship with Gilbert Elementary School located within Harlandale ISD. Through this partnership, Friends connects directly with students and staff at Gilbert Elementary to strengthen campus support and programming.