



Communities In Schools

EMPOWERING SUCCESS



What We Do

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.

Communities In Schools is the nation's largest dropout prevention organization.

By bringing caring adults into the schools to address children's unmet needs, CIS provides the link between educators and the community. The result: teachers are free to teach, and students – many in jeopardy of dropping out – have the opportunity to focus on learning.

CIS of Glynn County believes that every child needs and deserves "Five Basics."

Five Basic Needs

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and the community



CIS Glynn: Fulfilling the Mission

During the 2017-18 school year we served more than 420 students.

For the first time since CIS was established in Glynn County more than 10 years ago, 100 percent of students at Brunswick High School and Glynn Academy who received CIS services graduated from high school. This helped contribute to a best-ever Glynn County high school graduation rate of 90.93 percent!

CIS Glynn Staff

Administrative Staff

Lynn Love, *Executive Director*

Tonya Barbee, *Clinical Program Manager*

Casey Cate, *Office Manager*

Ally Christianson, *Clinical Support Specialist*

Brunswick High School

Tara Williford, *Site Coordinator*

Glynn Academy

Jazmin Ponce, *Site Coordinator*

Glynn Middle School

DiAna Holmes, *Site Coordinator*

Alexandra Helgesen, *Family Outreach Coordinator*

Risley Middle School

Jeffrey Brown, *Site Coordinator*

Burroughs-Molette Elementary School

Earlene Dickson, *Site Coordinator*

Courtney Lucas, *Parent Outreach Coordinator*

Goodyear Elementary School

Sheika Freeman, *Site Coordinator*

Willie Bolden, *Family Outreach Coordinator*

Glynn Learning Center

Edward Booker, *Site Coordinator*

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The Glynn CIS Board of Directors represents a diverse cross-section of the community. Board members serve voluntarily and pledge to commit their time, professional experience, energy, passion and financial resources in support of Glynn County Students. All board members serve on at least one of three local CIS committees: Executive, Resource Development and Public Relations.

Communities IN Schools

The name says it all . . .

Glynn Academy Principal Matthew Blackstone's experience with Communities In Schools goes back to the program's beginning in the late 2000s at Brunswick High School where he served as assistant principal at the time. "I saw the success they had in helping students and was impressed with their ability to adapt and provide specific resources to meet individual student needs." When he became principal at Glynn Middle School, he knew that he wanted CIS in his school. "It's one of the reasons I asked that Glynn Middle be considered to host a CIS site when the program expanded to middle school."



GA Site Coordinator Jazmin Ponce with Principal Matthew Blackstone.

"They are like having a service-oriented group on campus that can modify and adapt to your school's specific needs. At Glynn Middle, CIS established a clothing closet, which was a big need from the standpoint that many students came to school in dirty clothes or clothes that weren't appropriate for the weather or a particular activity that day. The beautiful part of CIS is that whatever the need is, they can adapt and fill that need," Blackstone said.

The CIS site coordinator at GA works closely with the school's counseling department and Edgenuity program to identify specific student needs. "For instance, if a student needs glasses and the parent doesn't have the resources to provide them, we let CIS know and once the paperwork is completed with the parent, the student can begin to receive those basic resources through CIS," Blackstone said. "CIS provides services so that teachers can focus on academics and classroom learning. CIS fills the gaps with whatever is necessary for the student to be successful. However, they also look at the broad picture . . . what can CIS do to support the school? And these needs change each year."

Blackstone credits CIS with having an impact on Glynn County's improving graduation rate, which exceeded 90 percent in 2018. "Our community identified improving the graduation rate as one of the most important things we could focus on collectively and the efforts have paid off. CIS has certainly been a part of that, with their ultimate goal being to help students become productive members of society. For some it may be college, while for others it may be military service or getting connected with available jobs, which CIS does very well."

Blackstone recalled one student in particular who's life turned around when she found Communities In Schools. "This particular young lady got behind in middle school and was involved with friends who weren't really "friends," which she found out in her second eighth-grade year. She made it a mission to drop those friends and find resources to help her achieve her goals. She latched onto CIS here at Glynn Academy and actually graduated in three years. I've never seen anything like it. She went to college to be a chef and after talking to her mother, I learned that she was working at Disney World in Orlando in one of their programs to continue her education. This wasn't a young lady who didn't have means, she just didn't have direction. Once she got involved with CIS she realized that she couldn't do what she was doing and expect to get where she wanted to be. To graduate high school in three years is not an easy task, and to do it after you have been retained is almost next to impossible. But she pulled it off and I'm a firm believer that Communities In Schools is a major reason why that happened."

Meet our students . . .

Hannah Panuelo is a former Mirconesian/American Communities In Schools student. She became pregnant during her junior year at Brunswick High School and struggled to balance her desire to graduate with the duties of being a parent, while continuing to show respect for her father's Micronesian culture. Hannah enrolled in CIS her freshman year for attendance concerns and failing grades. CIS helped her obtain emergency dental surgery and glasses so that she could focus on school. CIS also provided tutoring and additional services to help her catch up on her school work and prepare for graduation. During her senior year, Hannah took the ACT and earned a score that enabled her to enroll in technical college, however her father did not initially support that career choice. She wanted to give up and didn't see the purpose of graduation, especially since no one in her family had ever graduated from high school. She struggled daily with attendance and grades. CIS staff picked her up for school and provided a laptop for her to work at home. Hannah was not able to walk at graduation because she was short one credit. Again, she refused to give up. She went to summer school and was able to complete the credit and receive her diploma. Hannah is now working hard to get financial aid to enroll in technical college where she wants to pursue a career as a dental assistant.



Hannah with two of her most precious possessions—her daughter and her high school diploma.



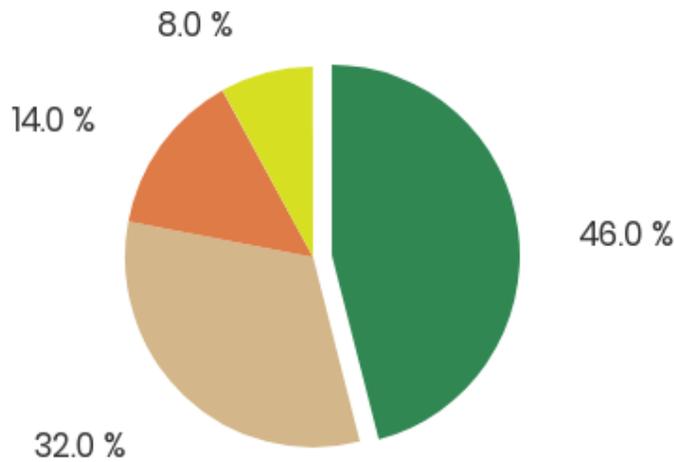
At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, CIS received a referral for Anthony, who had lost his mother the previous spring. When we first met, his eyes were empty and his head hung low. He struggled to stay awake during the day. During a series of home visits, layers of loss were uncovered. We would leave the home in tears, wanting to take away their pain. We started with daily hugs and check ins. He would melt into our arms, clearly longing for nurture. His grandmother was now very ill and in and out of the hospital. Naturally, he was fearful and had learned to expect loss. We started a trauma group at school where students could begin to discuss their pain, see that others were hurting too, and learn coping strategies. For months, Anthony wouldn't speak of his pain until one day he simply said "yeah my Mom died and I'm sad too." It was a breakthrough! We continued to help the family, getting death benefits in place, connecting with community resources, and even decorating their temporary home (a local motel) for the holidays. The family is now awaiting a Habitat House and Anthony is on track for middle school. We know that there are truly brighter days ahead for Anthony and his family.



2018-19 Financial Snapshot

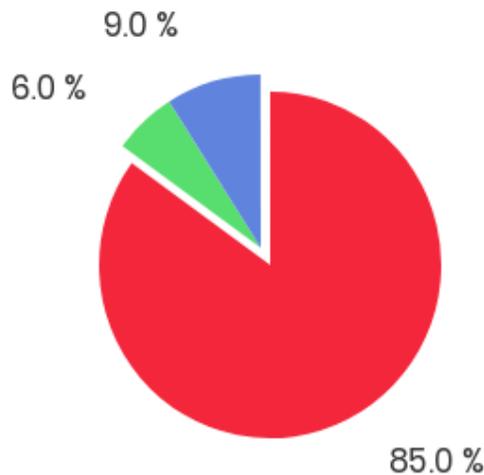


Support & Revenue



■ Federal ■ Foundations ■ Individual Giving ■ Corporate/Business Donations

Expenses



■ Student Support Services ■ General Operations ■ Programs & Training

Communities in Schools of Glynn County is in the strongest financial position in the organization's history thanks to the generous support of our partners who recognize the difference we are making in the lives of our most vulnerable youth. The CIS of Glynn Board of Directors is committed to maintaining and strengthening the organization so that we can continue our mission to "surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life."

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Our Community Partners

Making a difference in the lives of students and their families . . .

Located on St. Simons Island, Mari Max is a contemporary boutique offering everything from designer clothing and fine jewelry to shoes, accessories and everyday basics. Owners Mary McKenzie and Ashly Shingler proudly support the mission and work of Communities In Schools of Glynn County.

“As a local business, it is important to give back,” McKenzie said. “We have been on location and have seen first hand how CIS works inside our school system. They are changing the lives of our local youth, helping them succeed not just in the class room but in life. After meeting with the staff and getting informed about all the work CIS does in our community, we knew this was an organization we wanted to support.”

Mari Max hosts a fundraising event during the Christmas holidays each year called “Shop for a Cause” where a portion of proceeds from all sales that day are donated to Communities In Schools of Glynn. CIS Executive Director Lynn Love said that the funds are used to provide direct services and support to students... anything from snacks, school supplies, back packs and clothing, to needed medical or dental services. “We are so thankful for the generous support of Mari Max and all of our great partners. They are helping to make a tremendous impact in our community that will be felt for generations to come.”



Ashly Shingler and Mary McKenzie



Communities
In Schools

Glynn County

Communities In Schools Glynn County

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