



# Community Update

February 2012

## **Communities In Schools of Jacksonville is proud to be a part of Mayor Alvin Brown's Mentoring Initiative.**

According to Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals, there are currently about 2,500 in-school mentors working to help the approximately 125,000 students now enrolled in Duval County Public Schools. This means only 2 percent of our students have a mentor in their lives.

Here is what one hour of your time can accomplish:

- break the ice
- share a story
- hear a story
- find things in common
- talk about the future
- remember the past
- laugh
- learn something new
- learn something old
- realize someone appreciates your time
- realize you appreciate their's
- make a friend

Get in touch with **Melissa Conger**, Mentor Coordinator, at 354-5918 or [mconger@cisjax.org](mailto:mconger@cisjax.org) today.

Communities In Schools of Jacksonville will assist each volunteer through the mentoring process (training & screening) and match you with a Duval County Public School student in an effort to reduce dropouts and increase graduation rates.

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## **Mission Partners**





**Have you seen what we have been doing?**

## **Man Up To Your Dreams!**

“Some dreams come true in a week, some in a month, and some in years...but hold on to it!” exclaimed **Mr. Davis**, “When you have a dream, you prepare for it!”. That was the focus of the 2nd Annual **Man up Young Men’s Conference** at **Terry Parker High School**- for the students to realize their dreams and work until they become a reality. **Communities In School’s** site coordinator, **Terra Harold-Jackson**, has gathered over 200 students at Terry Parker as well as Middle school students from **Arlington** and **Joseph Stilwell** middle to attend this conference.



Pastor Thomas David, was first introduced by our host **Joseph Kohn**, and gave an inspirational speech about self advocating for a better future. **Dr. Julius Demps** followed by giving the men a new perspective on leadership and how it is to be attained. The students then had a chance to interact with and question successful men of the same background (**Leon Baxton, Gibson Holmes, Charles Griggs, and Octavius Holiday**). **Communities In Schools** CEO, **Mr. Heymann**, closed out the conference to the sound of a standing ovation from a group of inspired high school men. Wow! Special thanks go out to these gentleman and all those that volunteered to make our community a better place!

Featured article on DCPS at  
<http://bit.ly/AC52jQ>

**Real Men Read!**



Every year, men from all over Jacksonville gather at Lake Forest elementary to show how important reading is to the students of Lake Forest by...that's right! Reading! Real Men Read works on the notion of "leading by example". Mr. Leon Baxton, COO of CIS, and Mr. Bill Hodges, Director of CIS's Student Enrichment Program were among the many men that showed up. There really is no better way to stay true to the mission of CIS then to work on the other notion of "practicing what you preach".

From the suspense of "Where the wild things are", to the moral values taught by "The Giving Tree", reading is educational and it is vital to let the children know just how important it is now. When the opportunity arises, read to a child in your life; give them a tool to build a better future for themselves and our community.

### **Sadie T. Tillis TEAM UP Site Opens**

120 students were expected to take part in **Communities In Schools Afterschool TEAM UP** Program at **Sadie T. Tillis Elementary** that opened it's doors January 23, 2012...we currently have 194 enrolled. TEAM UP at Sadie T. Tillis is managed by Communities In Schools Project Manager **Lonnie Lewis** with the support of Principal **Kimberly M. Dennis**.

Nationally, 96% of Communities In Schools TEAM UP students were promoted in the year 2010-2011! "It's educationally fun" stated Marion (5<sup>th</sup> grader). "It's Cool" announced Jahlon (5<sup>th</sup> grader). "TEAM UP!" answered Chris (4<sup>th</sup> grader), when given the choice between his PlayStation 3 or TEAM UP. With both the approval of parents and kids alike, it's no wonder



that Communities In Schools TEAM UP is one of the most effective after school programs. Communities In Schools TEAM UP is in 20 Duval County Public Schools, operating Monday

through Friday, from 3PM – 7 PM (depending on the school), 152 out of the 180 school days, and free of charge to the students and families! TEAM UP sites are fully funded by the City of Jacksonville through the Jacksonville Children's Commission.

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## National Accreditation for CIS Staff

**Communities In Schools of Jacksonville** is proud to recognize our first three **Nationally Certified Site Coordinators-Blythe Mauldin, Bramley Ross and Ingrid Thomas**. These three exceptional individuals work diligently advocating, case managing and providing a safe environment for the children of their schools to learn and grow. Please join us in congratulating them on this great accomplishment!



From left to right:  
Bill Hodges (SEP Director, Blythe Mauldin (John E. Ford Elementary), Bramely Ross (Biltmore Elementary), Ingrid Thomas (A. Philip Randolph), and Jon Heymann (CEO of CIS)

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## Special Thanks to our Valued Partners

### Walmart Foundation-\$3000 Grant:

The students in **TEAMUP** will prepare the ground for a beautification project at **Ft. Caroline Middle School**. The students will research the best type scrubs and vegetables for the area and how to care for them. This research will take place during the academic time in **TEAMUP**. The three Science teachers will help with the research. The project will give the students more knowledge of plant growth, work skills, beautify the campus, provide vegetables to school families in need and provide extra credit with Science teachers.

## AT&T Aspire Program-\$100,000 Grant Installment:

In 2008, the **AT&T Aspire Program** was launched specifically to focus on confronting the high school dropout crisis and to help ensure our students graduate prepared for the future challenges of continuing education and the workforce. The program has increased the number of school-based site coordinators who help the most at-risk students get the resources they need to stay in school and succeed. On February 1st, **Marshall Criser III** presented the fourth and final check of a \$400,000 grant to Communities In Schools of Jacksonville.



Left to Right:  
AT&T Florida President, Marshall Criser III with CIS CEO, Jon Heymann

### Voices of our Children

"I like when we learn and have fun at the same time. My tutor helps do that and this will help me be a dentist when I grow up."

-- Alexis (Duval Reads student)

"My mentor is fun and I am glad that I have someone who keeps his word"

-- Jameel (Achiever's For Life student)

### Our Vision

Success in Learning.  
Achieving in Life.

### Our Mission

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