



Communities In Schools

New Mexico

Impact Report 2020-2021

Our Students

Our Schools

Our Community

This past year has been unlike any we have ever experienced, leaving many in our community overwhelmed by illness and loss, job uncertainty, housing instability, food insecurity and more. Despite untold challenges, the year has affirmed Communities In Schools' very strong belief in the crucial importance of human connection. Our work has always centered around the powerful relationships we forge with children and families - allowing us to understand their strengths and needs while working together to remove barriers and fortify each individual's capacity to thrive.

It is these authentic connections that enabled Communities In Schools to successfully leverage our strong, established partnerships - with school staff, community partners, government agencies and an amazing, generous circle of donors and volunteers - to keep our region's most vulnerable children and families safe and stable. Thank you to our remarkable community for joining us with love, compassion, and care for all.

Thank you,

Julia Bergen

Executive Director



Starting the new school year! Aspen Community School
Site Coordinator, Emily Morgan with CIS students.

Our Students: Staying engaged during the pandemic.

A Community School Strategy:

Communities In Schools is a nationally recognized community school strategy designed to meet the needs of all students and their families. Our seasoned team of school based coordinators implement a whole child/multi-tiered approach that addresses school-wide concerns as well as individual student needs. Central to our approach is Case Management, which provides a comprehensive personalized plan for any student in need of a broad spectrum of support.

**2020-21
Case Managed
Students**



405 Students
Case Managed



100% Stayed in School



95% Graduated from
High School

Fourth Grade Student: Marcus

Marcus*, a fourth grader at Ramirez Thomas Elementary School, was absent from online classes the first six weeks of school. He had been provided with a computer, but he and his family did not understand how to use it. Upon learning about Marcus' situation, Communities In Schools Site Coordinator Alicia Del Aguila managed to connect with the family. Step by step, she worked to get Marcus back in school: she helped the family obtain a WiFi hotspot, taught them basic computer skills, and ensured that Marcus was able to log into his classes - all through video calls to the family cell phone! Alicia even recognized that to catch up with his peers, Marcus needed tutoring so she worked one-on-one with him while school remained remote.



Along the way, Alicia was also in touch with Marcus' mother to help bridge the language barrier that made parent/teacher communication difficult. As Alicia reflects, "There were many hard days for this family, but they learned that I was there to help and support them."

*To protect the privacy of those with whom we work, student names and images may have been changed.



High School Freshman Student: Mateo

Mateo*, originally from El Salvador, started his freshman year at Capital High School during the pandemic. With his limited English, Mateo quickly fell behind and he and his mother reached out to Adrian Sotelo, one of our Site Coordinators at Capital, for help.

During a virtual meeting, Adrian learned that the family was also struggling to make ends meet. Together, Adrian and Mateo created a plan to improve Mateo's English language skills and Adrian began to deliver food to the family as part of Communities In Schools' weekly grocery distribution program.

Each week, Adrian held online tutoring sessions for Capital students who wanted to improve their English. "Sometimes we could have as many as ten students attend, and Mateo always showed up!" commented Adrian. Additionally, Adrian paired Mateo with Pierrette Hongagneu, a volunteer Communities In Schools tutor and via video conferencing, they practiced English conversation for an hour each week.

By the end of the school year, Mateo's hard work was apparent - he was earning straight As. As Adrian reports, "Mateo would take his homework, translate it into Spanish, do the work, and then translate his finished work back into English. He learned a lot doing this and made great grades too! It was truly an honor to provide Mateo with resources and mentors that helped him improve his language skills and achieve his academic goals."

Despite the COVID pandemic disrupting school and life, our Site Coordinators' already well established relationships with students and families allowed them to respond quickly and effectively to needs and concerns.

Facts from 2020-21



11 Public
Schools



16 CIS Site
Coordinators



6,011 Students access
CIS services.
405 Students Case Managed



100% Students qualify
Free & Reduced Lunch

With the COVID pandemic disrupting school, the established relationships that our Site Coordinators have with students and families allowed Communities In Schools to respond quickly and effectively to their needs.

Remote Learning Support: Site Coordinators kept students engaged and motivated through incentive programs, academic support, and regular check-ins. **CIS provided enrichment and Motivation support for 2,935 students, a 27% increase from the previous year.**

Homes Became Classrooms: Site Coordinators made sure that families had the resources they needed while their children attended online/remote learning school. **Parent & Family Engagement increased 95% from the previous year.**

Life & Social Skills Support: Site Coordinators provided social-emotional support and guidance to students struggling with the immediate and longer-term impacts of COVID. **CIS supported 1,400 students, a 34% increase from the previous year.**

Graduates and Alumni Opportunities:

Communities In Schools' graduates and alumni are remarkable people who have overcome great obstacles to graduate and remain on a positive life path post high school. In this year's graduating class, 95% of Communities In Schools students graduated from high school - most of them are the first in their families to do so!

CIS graduates that wished to share their photos in this publication - this is not the entire CIS Class of 2021.



"I want to thank everyone for their unconditional support, especially my Site Coordinators, Ivan Cornejo and Adrian Sotelo. Thank you very much for everything. I will always remember you." Jaime Torrez Chavez

Carson Honor Society

Each school year our Site Coordinators at Capital High School nominate students to the Carson Honor Society – an award created in honor of Communities In Schools Founding Board Members, Bill and Georgia Carson. A committee reviews the nominations and chooses awardees who have demonstrated exceptional perseverance, compassion, resilience, and ambition. This year, Communities In Schools recognized five exemplary students for this distinction.

Jacob Albo Jaime Torres Chavez Ruben Martinez Diaz Michelle Murillo Lizbeth Ramirez

Alumni Internships



Communities In Schools has partnered with Future Focused Education (FFE), an Albuquerque-based education organization dedicated to cultivating student strengths through paid internships. At the root of this partnership is the belief that by combining professional workplace opportunities with coaching support, disadvantaged young adults will gain the confidence, skills, and social capital needed to prosper.

This year, FFE's knowledgeable team worked closely with our Site Coordinators at Capital High School to match ten Communities In Schools alums with local businesses. Each internship provided a paid stipend, orientation and ongoing training and support. These engaged young adults learned new skills and in several instances received full-time job offers. We look forward to continuing to expand this program!

"The FFE/CIS Internship really helped me learn so many things and it also made me gain so much confidence about how to do better things and this will help me in the future." Student Intern

Our Schools:

"I am beyond grateful for the food, gift cards, hot spots, support. CIS made a tremendous difference in our families' lives."
Teacher, Nina Otero Community School

Beyond School Walls

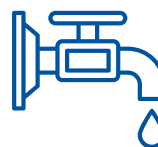
Since the onset of the COVID pandemic we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of Emergency Fund requests for housing costs/rent, utilities, medical expenses and food assistance. Our team was positioned to immediately begin assisting with basic needs like food and hygiene supplies, while also providing critical social-emotional mental health support. This allowed students to stay engaged with school despite the challenges of remote learning. For those who struggled, Site Coordinators made home visits to check in on children who were not "showing up" for distance learning.

THANK YOU! Recognizing the amplified impact of the pandemic on our community's most vulnerable families, donors responded quickly and generously to our request for contributions to the Emergency Fund.

Emergency Funds Support: \$366,797
Total for 570 families



\$221,132
Housing Assistance



\$132,382
Utilities



\$13,283
Other: car repair, funeral expenses, clothing, etc.



205,000 meals

CIS Weekly Food Delivery: Provided to families not able to attend local food distribution programs.

Volunteers in Action:

In spite of many challenges, the stalwart Communities In Schools' Volunteer Team responded admirably to address the needs of our students and families this year!



Food Distribution Volunteers, left to right: Austin Tyra (Food Depot), Ivan Cornejo, Cheryl Ancell & Doug Lougee, Edgar Talavera, Sondra Everhart, Jules & Alan Natowitz & Katrina Ortiz.

Since volunteer tutors were not allowed in schools, a brave group overcame their (understandable) apprehension and forged ahead to offer academic support via virtual tutoring.

With generous support from Anchorum St. Vincent, our volunteers piloted BookNook, an online phonics-based reading intervention program for elementary-aged students.

Our volunteer team helped us safely retool the Communities In Schools food distribution program to ensure families had nutritious food. Thanks to their hard work, at our peak, we were serving over 200 families a week with groceries!

Our Community:

Since Communities In Schools was established in 2012, we have been blessed by the exceptional generosity and support of individuals, foundations, community partners, businesses and government agencies.



2021 Quiet Inspiration Piñon Award Presented to Communities In Schools: "During the pandemic, Communities In Schools did the front-line work of providing critical basic needs to students and families. In doing so, they have been a model of resilience and grit, just like the one they are committed to developing in the students they serve. Post pandemic, Communities In Schools will continue to do this vital work quietly, earnestly, and authentically, serving as graceful attendants to the most needy in our community." The Piñon Award Nomination.



Anchorum St. Vincent: As a partner since 2017, Communities In Schools has been awarded a second multi-year Impact Grant to support our continued growth in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties.

"With resources from Anchorum, Communities In Schools has repeatedly demonstrated that they know how to increase their organizational capacity thoughtfully and with intention. They learn from the communities they serve to provide meaningful services and care and use quality data to demonstrate their outcomes." Peter Bastone, President, CEO, Anchorum St. Vincent

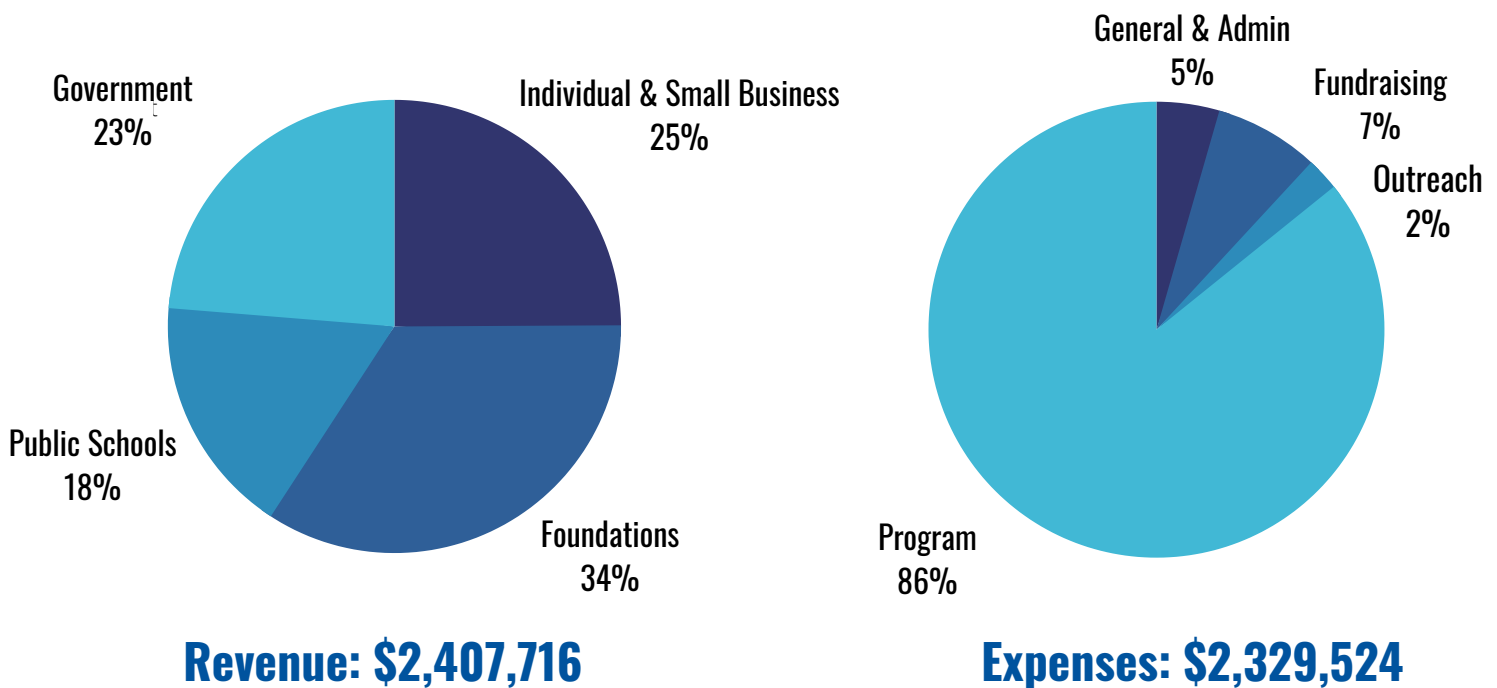


Enterprise Bank & Trust: Enterprise's multi-year matching grant strategically provided support for site coordinators to continuously engage with northern New Mexico public school students while also growing our donor base. This grant brought more than 200 new donors to our organization.



Santa Fe County: Upon the receipt of Federal CARES Act Funding, Santa Fe County requested that Communities In Schools use our connections with families in need to quickly distribute \$200,000. Our team joined the County's Connect social work navigation network which allowed us to coordinate with other service providers to ensure that community members' needs were met quickly and efficiently - keeping more Santa Feans safe and secure.

Financial Snapshot:

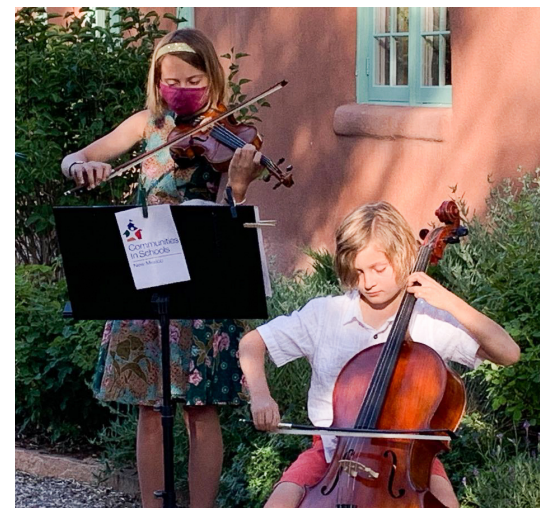


This fiscal year, Communities In Schools raised approximately \$550,000 in additional funds to meet families' COVID-19 related food and housing needs.

Community Partners:

Over the past 18 months countless people and groups stepped up to help – we extend our sincere THANKS to all of you! Some examples of those who went above and beyond:

- One donor, concerned about families who had no income, provided \$500 cash gift cards to 300 Communities In Schools families.
- Reunity Resources delivered fresh produce and the young adult chefs at Youthworks prepared nutritious ready-made meals that were distributed as part of Communities In Schools' weekly grocery/food delivery program.
- An individual supporter organized a pop-up shop featuring several local businesses, with a percentage of sales supporting Communities In Schools' hygiene supply drive.



Jack Smucker and his sister, Sasha, created "Give Bach", COVID-safe porch-side concerts to benefit Communities In Schools. Summer 2020

Our Leadership:

Board Executive Committee: Robert Apodaca, President; Julia Bergen, Executive Director; Steve Gaber, Treasurer; Rachel White, PhD, Secretary **Board Members:** Elaine Brown; Sarah Cook; Rebecca Estrada; William Feinberg; Rachel Gantt; Joyce Idema; Todd Lovato; Timothy Mitchell; Christina Price, MD; Dion Silva



Thank You!

The work of Communities In Schools of New Mexico is made possible by the generosity of ALL our donors.

Thank you to the following foundations and corporations for their support in 2020-21. Listed are gifts of \$500 or more, from July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021.

4%

Anchorum St. Vincent
Boyd & Allister
Building Adventures Unlimited
Caballeros De Vargas
Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center
Community Health Funders Alliance
City of Santa Fe
Committee to Keep Judge Biedscheid
Del Norte Credit Union
Dolina, LLC
Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Eric Grasser and Elizabeth Farrell
Egolf, Ferlic, Martinez and Harwood, LLC
Enterprise Bank & Trust
Enterprise Bank & Trust Foundation
Enterprises International, Inc
Fasken Foundation
Fetch
Garfield Street Foundation
Guadalupe Credit Union
Hanuman Foundation
Hartley Corporation
Hope Unlimited Church Santa Fe
The Hutson-Wiley Echevarria Foundation Inc.
Jesse W. Couch Charitable Foundation

The Jones Firm
LANL Foundation
Lineberry Foundation
Los Alamos National Laboratory Employee Giving Fund
Lovato Enterprises
Masonic Communities In Schools Grant
N3B
Nancy Ann Mellen Foundation
Network for Good
New Mexico Cancer Care Associates
Next Gen Giving Circle Fund
No Kid Hungry Campaign, Share Our Strength
Norma Green Foundation
Nusenda Foundation
PayPal Giving Fund
Presbyterian Healthcare Services
Richard and Kathleen Abeles
Robert & Kay Onstead Foundation
Rothstein Donatelli, LLP
S.B. Foundation
Santa Fe County
Santa Fe Public Schools
Santa Fe Title Company
Shiprock

SLF Foundation
Southwest Plastering
State Employees Credit Union
Steele Family Foundation
The Sulica Fund
Sun Mountain Capital
Target Circle/Good Coin Foundation
Thornburg Foundation
Thornburg Investment Management
Triad National Security, LLC
The Waite and Genevieve Phillips Foundation
White & Luff Financial, LLC
Zsako Home Inspections

Santa Fe Community Foundation:

Cabin Fund
Elaine and Michael Brown Family Fund
Gale Family Fund
Haines and Nancy Gaffner Fund
Hestia Fund
Honey Bee Fund
Las Campanas Community Grants Fund
Lauren Eaton Prescott Charitable Fund
Liberty Ranch Infinite Possibilities Fund

RSF Fund
Santa Fe Community Foundation
SFCF Next Gen Giving Circle Fund
Special Relativity Fund
Susan and Conrad De Jong Fund
TW Family Fund
Valerie and Bud Hamilton Family Fund
Wallen-Eloisa Family Fund