

Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

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

CIS News: Summer 2019



Communities
In Schools

Brunswick County

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Board Spotlight

Pamela Frandano

Get to know Pamela Frandano, one of the newest members of the CIS Board of Directors. Pamela is the co-owner of Southport Realty, Inc. in downtown Southport and has a passion for supporting local community organizations.

Look who's talking:

The Sanford Harmony program at CIS taught me that I have a lot more in common with my friend than I thought.
- Waccamaw School CIS student

CIS and their community volunteers engage and work with at-risk Cedar Grove students. Students benefit from the support, allowing them to gain the most from their education."
*- Justin Hayes,
Cedar Grove Middle School
Principal*

CIS makes you feel very included. I love CIS Peer Court and helping students with a second chance not hurting their permanent record.
*- CIS Peer Court
student volunteer*

CIS open house and school supply drop-off



Communities In Schools of Brunswick County is hosting an open house! The public is invited to stop by the new CIS Administration offices, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. August 22, for refreshments and to learn more about CIS and our programs. Hurricane Florence destroyed

the previous CIS office at the Duke Energy Media Center. Through the help of the CIS Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community partner organizations, CIS was able to renovate and open new administrative offices in Boiling Spring Lakes. All are invited to attend and visit the new CIS office at 3148 George II Highway, Unit 2, in BSL (located beside Joe Loves Lobster Rolls). **Please bring a new school supply item to contribute to the annual CIS Back to School Supply Drive.**

CIS is holding its annual "CIS Back to School Supply Drive" during August. Supplies will be collected at all CIS Thrift Shop locations and the CIS main office in BSL beginning August 1. The CIS mission of surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life, ties in perfectly with our school supply drive for students. A 1-800-Packrat trailer will be located at the CIS main office to collect and store donated items throughout the collection period.

The supply list items that are needed include: back packs, spiral notebooks (college ruled), loose leaf paper (college ruled), composition notebooks (wide ruled), #2 pencils and erasers, colored pencils, glue sticks, dry erase markers, blue or black ink pens, 2 and 3 inch – 3 ring binders, dividers for 2 and 3 inch binders, headphones or earbuds, and pencil pouches for binders.



Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769 joined with CIS last year to collect and prepare back to school supplies.



CIS Success Coaches sort and organize school supplies.

As a board member, Pamela looks forward to helping meet the mission of CIS by working with staff and the board to grow and develop support for CIS from local businesses and collaboration with other community organizations.

In her real estate business, Pamela has watched the growth in Brunswick County, the fastest growing county in our state, and hopes to help increase volunteers and donations from the area. Years of volunteer work in Brunswick County Schools opened her eyes to student needs and she is excited to help CIS meet those needs.

When not working, Pamela enjoys reading, gardening, traveling, and time spent with loved ones.

Businesses and individuals can also donate money that will be used specifically to purchase needed school supplies. "CIS Back to School Supply Drive" donations can be dropped off at any CIS Thrift Shop or the CIS main office. The school supplies collected will go to support students here in Brunswick County. Visit www.cisbrunswick.org for more information and follow CIS on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates.

Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Looking into 2020 for CIS Action for Success

The founder of Communities In Schools (CIS), Bill Milliken, believed that “programs don’t change kids, relationships do.” The organization was founded on this premise that developmental relationships are at the core of what we do. The CIS theory of change links the activities and practices of our organization to intended future outcomes for students we serve. By supporting the development of strong relationships focused on building social, emotional, and academic competencies for students, attendance, school behavior, and coursework performance will improve for students in CIS programs.

Communities In Schools nationally has partnered with Search Institute to build upon the belief that strong developmental relationships lay the foundation for student achievement and growth.

Search Institute bridges research and practice to help young people be and become their best selves. Across a variety of studies, Search Institute is examining the state of young people’s relationships and how those relationships affect who they are, the choices they make, and who they are becoming. Search Institute has identified five elements that make relationships powerful for students:

- Expressing care
- Challenging growth
- Providing support
- Sharing power
- Expanding possibilities

These five elements provide a framework for CIS Success Coaches and guides the area of developmental focus with students. Relationships are vital resources in young people’s development. Strong relationships and building individual self-management skills can help to mitigate the challenge of discrimination a young person may experience. Reducing racism, bias, or toxic stress in a community, school, or other setting can make it easier to form strong relationships and for young people to focus on developing the skills, attitudes, and other strengths they need to thrive.

The research-based, proved methods around developmental relationships is not new for Success Coaches at CIS of Brunswick County. They work to build strong and trusting relationships with students as part of individualized student interventions. This new research and partnership with Search Institute will provide a framework around relationships CIS Success Coaches build with their students as well as develop important data. The students will be able to take an assessment called Developmental Relationships 360 that will allow CIS to evaluate a student’s relationship with parents, siblings, peers, teachers, and other influential adults in students’ lives.

The DR 360 assessment will allow CIS Success Coaches to have another tool to better serve students on their caseload. Students will be able to identify if they do not feel a certain set of adults in their life express care or challenge their growth. This will allow individualized student interventions and activities put in place to promote positive developmental relationships in the student’s life to lay the foundation for academic growth.

Our work around social, emotional, and academic development of students will pair with the Developmental Relationships research program in the 2019-2020 school year to surround our students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



Michele Rau, CIS Success Coach
Shallotte Middle School, working
with a student.



Calie Hodgson, CIS Success Coach South Brunswick
Middle School, working with students.



Ruth Thompson, CIS Success Coach Leland Middle School, working
with students in the Why Try program.



Drew Jordan, CIS Success Coach Supply Elementary, working
with students using the Sanford Harmony program.

Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Thank you!

It takes a special person to give their time and commitment to enhance the life of a child. Community volunteers generously contribute to and support the programs offered by CIS. CIS volunteers, through our multi-tiered interventions, help surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS was founded on the belief that "it's relationships, not programs that change children." The difference our volunteers make in the life of a child is invaluable.



CIS is blessed each year to work with over 400 volunteers, who provided almost 2,000 hours of support to students and their families this past school year. Some work with students in tutoring and learning enrichment activities, while others donate food and supplies for student events and celebrations. Lunch buddies offer a nurturing adult presence with an open ear and a caring heart. Adult and student volunteers assist with our Teen and Peer Court programs. Board members and committee members offer direction and provide leadership in program development, fundraising, and events. Our four CIS Thrift Shops couldn't operate without the support of volunteers sorting and pricing donations, and helping customers. Without compassionate volunteers and community partners CIS could not meet the needs of the 4,300 students we served this past year.

As we end the current school year, the board and staff of CIS recognize and express our gratitude for every hour given to improve the lives of students in Brunswick County. Thank you for your continued support of and investment in the success of local students. We could not do it without you!

Southport CIS Thrift Shop celebrates 10 Years of service to the community



The first CIS Thrift Shop opened ten years ago in the Southport Shopping Plaza at 1635 N. Howe Street. Today there are four CIS Thrift Shops in Brunswick County, each a strong support to the CIS mission of empowering students to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS shops also serve as a place for the community to find high quality, name brand merchandise at a fraction of department store prices.

The nonprofit thrift shop was the only one in the area for a long time. "We were looking for alternative income outside of grant funding when we decided to open our first thrift shop in Southport. A past executive director performed extensive research on the thrift shop market, confident in our cause and community support, identified the need for a shop offering gently used items at a greatly reduced price," said Bonnie Jordan, CIS Executive Director. The Southport CIS Thrift Shop opened May 15, 2009 and only a few years after, other nonprofit thrift shops started popping up around the area.

After early years of struggling to become known and recognized as a high quality merchandiser of donated items, the Southport CIS Thrift Shop has survived and thrived. CIS shops set the standard for the nonprofit thrift shop customer experience offering personalized service, advice, and the best customer service experience around. Last year Southport CIS Thrift Shop was awarded Best Customer Service by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, which solidified the organization's reputation for providing an excellent customer shopping experience.

"Opening our first CIS Thrift Shop in Southport was a great move for us," said Todd Beane Communications and Thrift Shop Operations Manager for CIS. "It's given us a steady income stream to support our Action for Success dropout prevention programs." The Southport shop was so successful that CIS opened another thrift shop in Sunset Beach later the same year in 2009 and a third in Boiling Spring Lakes in 2010.

The three CIS shops grew to be seen as community partners in accepting donated goods and offering excellent quality, name brand merchandise at a reasonable price. Since then, CIS has opened a fourth CIS Thrift Shop in Leland in July 2016. The CIS Thrift Shop family has been growing steadily every year. The shops' popular "Monday Madness Sale," for example, is a big draw and customers stream into the shops to get the best deals and take advantage of other weekly sales.

Since CIS Thrift Shops were started in 2009, much has changed. Shops' selection of merchandise expanded including a broad range of clothing for men, women and kids along with jewelry, housewares, art, home decor, books, magazines, music items, electronics, tools, furniture, and sporting goods. The CIS brand is stronger than just merchandise. CIS Thrift Shops offer a chance to contribute to changing a student's life through donating, purchasing, or even volunteering at a CIS Thrift Shop.



Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Volunteer Spotlight



Michele Pasta,
South Brunswick
Middle School CIS
volunteer

1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS. I volunteer as a tutor every Wednesday at South Brunswick Middle working with students on any subject.

2. What is your favorite thing about CIS? I'm proud to represent CIS in school or in my community. I love their programs, the support is amazing, and how much CIS means to kids. CIS helps with school, and staying on path for students to be the best they can be.

3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County? Exploring! I love meeting small, local business owners. They're the backbone of community and without them, we wouldn't have the tourism we enjoy. I Love Brunswick County!

4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County? Students and their never ending needs. It is heartbreaking to see how many kids go without food, sleep, and no support system in their home.

5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer. An 8th grade student shared with me she wouldn't want to be part of the CIS program. Not only did she thrive, she wanted additional sessions. I loved watching her grow in confidence and success during that year.



Mary Ellen Smith,
Sunset Beach
Thrift Shop
volunteer

1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS. After retiring from a school in Pennsylvania, I started volunteering in the community. Moving to Calabash introduced me to CIS Thrift Shops and their mission to support students. I started volunteering even more.

2. What is your favorite thing about CIS? Believe it or not, I love working in thrift shop processing. It gets hectic in the back room, but I enjoy seeing all the interesting items coming in.

3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County? I learned how to play Pickleball. I think I'm addicted to it!

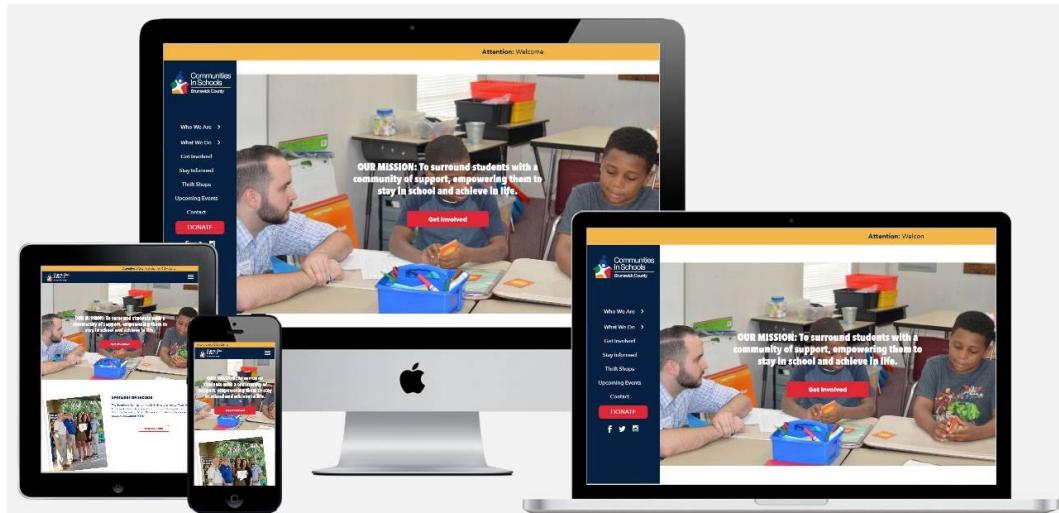
4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County? I worked in a school district in PA and I know how much students and schools are in need. My neighbor suggested I volunteer at CIS and after retiring from school, I knew it would be the best place for me.

5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer. Working with special needs children and students.

ALL new CIS website layout and design

CIS of Brunswick County recently launched our newly redesigned CIS website. We are excited to introduce you to our new look! We are proud to announce the complete redesign with added functionality of our new website.

The new website provides a clear message of the CIS mission, programs, students and families we serve, and our focus working every day to change student lives. The website has a clean design with easy to use site-wide navigation along with an improved menu that directs you to the information most relevant to you. The new CIS website is also fully responsive with mobile devices, making it easy to navigate on a wide range of web browsers and portable devices. Please visit cisbrunswick.org to check it out and for regular continued updates.



cisbrunswick.org

For current CIS of Brunswick County happenings, visit www.cisbrunswick.org

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Questions or comments? Email us at tbeane@cisbrunswick.org or 910-351-8007