



Communities
In Schools

Jacksonville

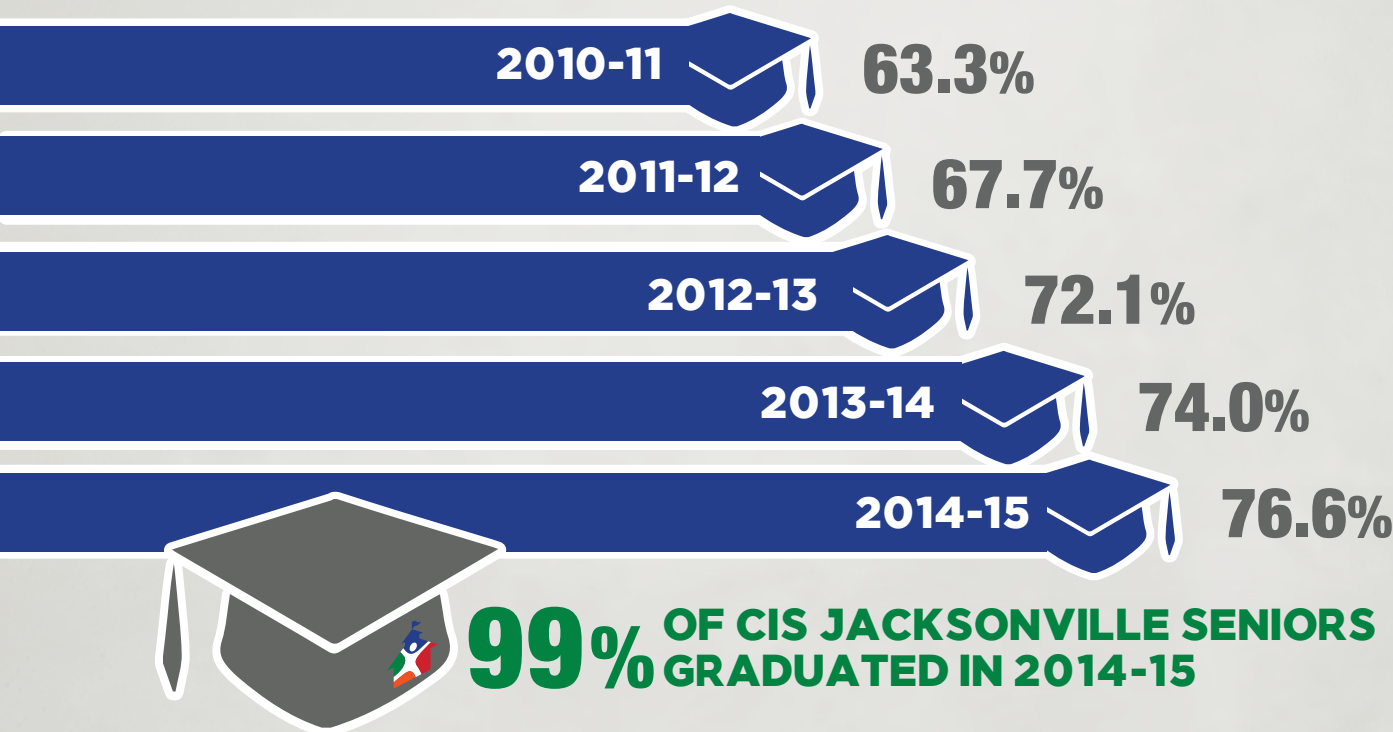
2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM STRUGGLE TO SUCCESS

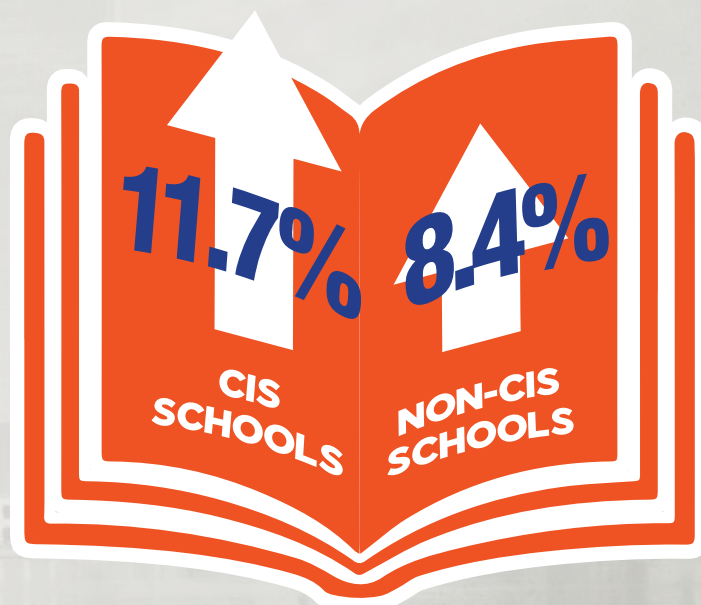
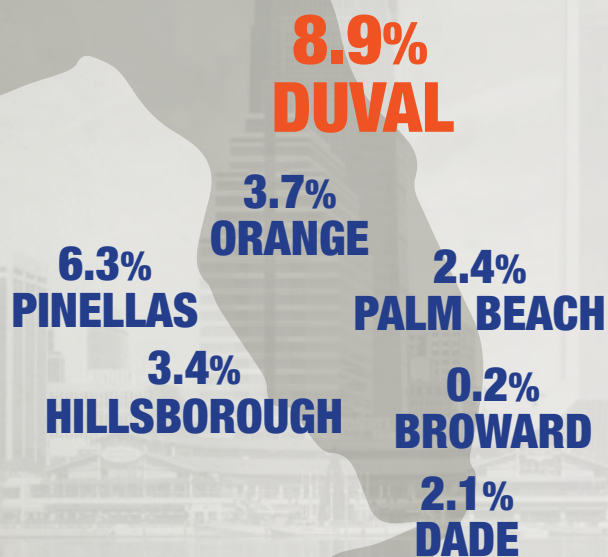
Transforming Students' Lives

MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES IN DUVAL COUNTY



GRADUATION RATE INCREASE (2011-2015)



New Florida DOE Report Shows Our Work is Succeeding

For the fourth consecutive year, graduation rates in Duval County have broken records, according to a report released last month by the Florida Department of Education. Indeed, the number of Jacksonville students graduating is up almost 10 percent since 2012. This incredible progress is due in large part to the support you provide to our organization. Consider what Duval School Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti told the media regarding the graduation rate increase.

“Our improvement in graduation rate, and namely the narrowing of the achievement gap, illustrates the student-centric systems we have developed and implemented to ensure that all students can leave our district better prepared for life no matter what challenges they face,” Vitti said.

That “student-centered system” is exactly what Communities In Schools of Jacksonville refers to when we say our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. It’s why we continue to be America’s leader in dropout prevention.

This encouraging report from FDOE and other dynamic, metric-driven data about the progress being made with Duval County’s most at-risk students illustrate the importance of the hard work our site coordinators, program managers and AmeriCorps tutors conduct every school day.

And while it’s great to celebrate recent successes, our focus is on the future. Last year we developed and approved a new three-year strategic plan. We took into account ideas and direction from all vested parties in the CIS Jacksonville family to map out a plan for our future. Emphasis was placed on serving more local students, but never at the expense of the quality, integrated-support services our programs have traditionally provided. We will continue to solidify our strong partnerships with organizations like The Jacksonville Children’s Commission, Duval County Public Schools, United Way of Northeast Florida and Volunteer Florida.

Our success has been a team effort, and the future of our agency has never looked better. We continue to attract and retain the brightest, most dedicated staff in the local nonprofit community. The Board of Directors continues to support the organization through resource development, oversight, leadership and guidance. The many success stories of our alumni continue to pour in.

Thank you to the stakeholders and supporters who continue believing in the work of Communities In Schools of Jacksonville.



Steve Gilbert

Chief Executive Officer



2015 was a Year of Great Transition for this Organization

For me personally, the transition meant the challenge of trying to step in and fill the large shoes of longtime Communities In Schools of Jacksonville Board of Directors Chair Athena Mann.

Athena guided Communities In Schools of Jacksonville with a steady hand for more than four years and through several crucial periods in our organization’s history. She has set a high bar with the exceptional leadership and stewardship she demonstrated as chair. I want to publicly thank her for all the work she did to set the stage for a smooth leadership transition. She completed her term as chair with Communities In Schools of Jacksonville stronger than it has ever been. I’m proud and humbled to follow in her footsteps.

One of the greatest things Athena did before completing her term as chair was to lead us in a recent strategic planning process. It’s so much easier to take the helm of a ship when a sound and bold course has already been plotted. And that’s exactly where we are today.

The strategic plan we developed and approved last year is ambitious, but no more ambitious than anything this organization has accomplished during its last quarter-century of helping thousands of at-risk students succeed.

We know the students we help face new challenges each year. Fortunately, we’ve never been better prepared to help them overcome these challenges and stay on track for graduation. The numbers and statistics in this report tell the undeniable story. Our work in case management, literacy and after-school services is making a huge difference in the lives of so many young people in our community.

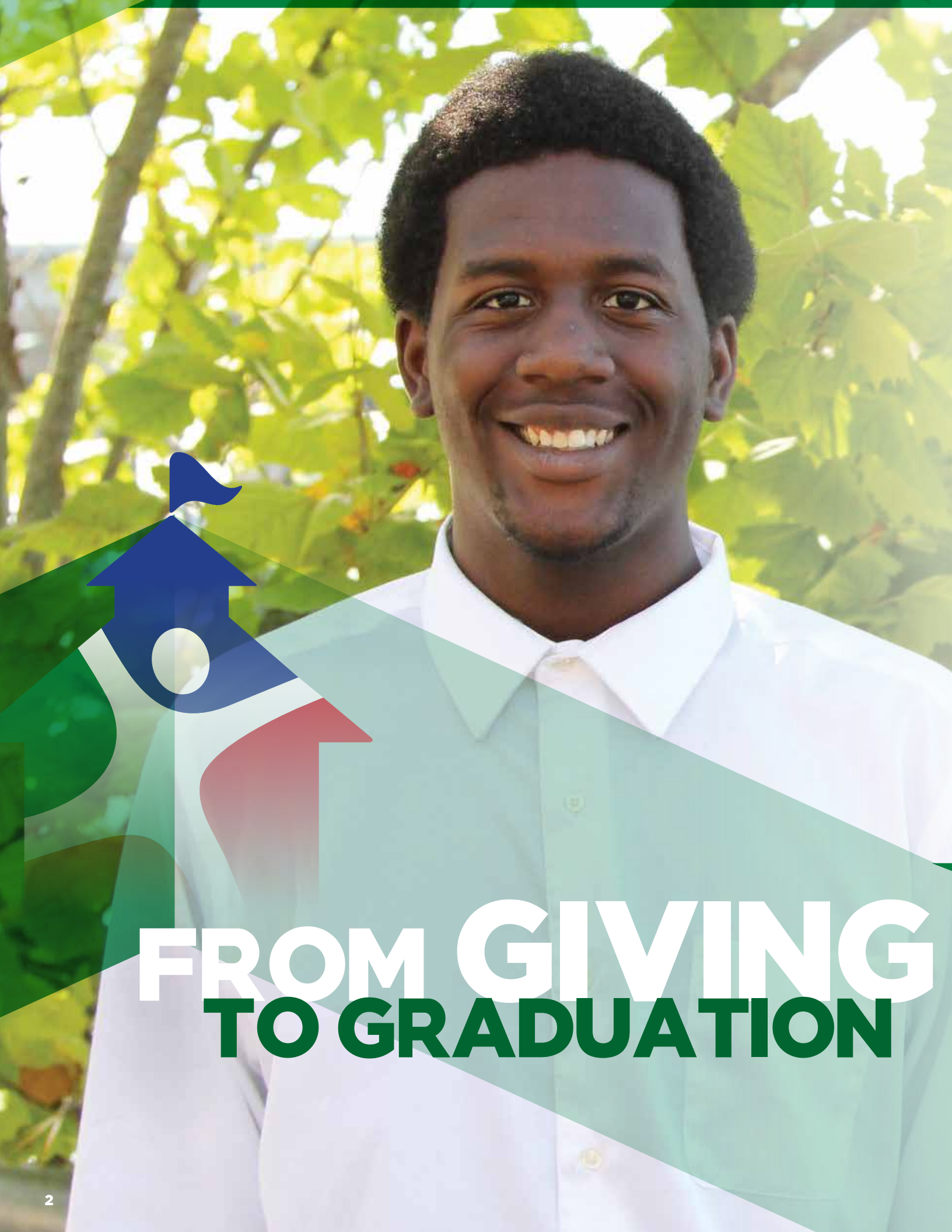
On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank all our friends and supporters for what you do to support Communities In Schools of Jacksonville in this crucial work. It’s cliché, but I can’t think of any better way to say it than we couldn’t do it without you. To our staff and volunteers, please remember how important the work you do is in the lives of our students.



Michael Stewart

Chairman, Board of Directors





FROM GIVING TO GRADUATION

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our Case Management Division places full-time site coordinators directly on school campuses throughout Duval County. The coordinators work with staff to help students who are at risk of falling behind or dropping out. Our three case management programs helped almost 2,500 students last year.

Student Enrichment Program

This program serves 10 public schools in Duval County where site coordinators work individually with 90 to 100 students. These students are counseled individually and in group sessions during the year, providing them life skills they need to reach their goals. Home visits and parental involvement are essential parts of the program. Funding is provided by Duval County Public Schools, The Jim Moran Foundation and the DuBow Family Foundation.

Achievers for Life (AFL)

A dropout prevention initiative, Achievers For Life targets sixth-grade students exhibiting risk factors for school disengagement including low GPAs, low FCAT scores and excessive absences. Mentors work with students to keep them on track and prepare them for high school. The program is funded by the United Way of Northeast Florida, in partnership with Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Jewish Family and Community Services, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida.

Bridge to Success

Funded by Duval County Public Schools, this program provides site coordinators who work with students currently over-age for their grade levels. Site coordinators address barriers to graduation and provide students support to fulfill college and career goals.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

94% promoted to the next grade level

98% had less than 21 days absent

ACHIEVERS FOR LIFE PROGRAM

98% promoted to the next grade level

BRIDGE TO SUCCESS PROGRAM

93% had less than 21 days absent

Oran and Carmelita Warren



UP



ORAN never thought he would graduate from high school. He was certain his future was living on the streets – a mindset that led to dangerous behavior. Oran began using hard drugs in eighth grade and his grades quickly dropped to D's and F's. Soon he stopped going to class altogether.

Oran's life changed when he met Carmelita Warren, a Communities In Schools of Jacksonville site coordinator. She provided him the support he needed to find a greater purpose in life and to reach for his dreams. With her help, Oran graduated from Raines High School drug-free and excited for the future. He is currently working two jobs and plans on going to college to pursue a career in business.

89% improved
their overall reading
level

92% were
promoted to the next
grade level

Nevaeh and Linda Campbell



LITERACY

Reading is a vital skill for students to develop from an early age. Our literacy initiative, DUVAL READS, provides intensive one-on-one and small-group literacy tutoring for students in kindergarten through ninth grade.

Our goal is to increase each student's reading comprehension by at least one letter grade. Last year, we helped more than 500 local students increase their reading capabilities.

In addition to DUVAL READS, our Literacy Division connects active-duty military and veterans with military-dependent students through the VetSuccess program. Military volunteers serve as mentors to the students and provide assistance in literacy development.

Major funding for DUVAL READS is provided through Volunteer Florida from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Significant matching funds are provided locally by The Coach Foundation, The Dianne T. & Charles E. Rice Family Foundation, The Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, Duval County Public Schools, the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation, The Players Championship Red Coat Charity Committee, the TD Charitable Foundation, BAE Systems, Arthur Vining Davis Foundation and the Edna Sproull Williams Foundation.

> NEVAEH never raised her hand in class. Her struggle with reading comprehension resulted in her reading below her grade level, and it had the added effect of making her quiet and withdrawn.

Nevaeh found her solution in Linda Campbell, an AmeriCorps tutor for the literacy program. Linda connected her with small-group tutoring and provided one-on-one assistance. With Linda's support Navaeh was successfully promoted to fifth grade at Carter G. Woodson Elementary School. She is now engaged in the classroom — and isn't afraid to raise her hand.

FROM



FAILING TO FLOURISHING



FROM LAGGING TO

AFTER-SCHOOL

Many of the toughest challenges for students occur after the school bell rings. Whether they face hunger or academic challenges, students have a safe environment to grow in with our after-school program, TEAM UP. The free program serves more than 3,500 students, from kindergarten through eighth grade, in 23 Duval County Public Schools.

We connect qualified adults with students who benefit most from extra attention after school. TEAM UP focuses on developing children in six core areas:

- Academic enrichment
- Sports and recreation
- Life skills
- Cultural enrichment
- Parental involvement
- Community service

During our after-school program, students not only complete homework under teacher supervision but also engage in enrichment activities like cheerleading, dance and the arts. Jump Start Strings is a special program, in partnership with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, where students learn to play string instruments under the instruction of symphony musicians.

We also provide students with a snack and dinner, as some families we serve struggle with food insecurity.

Oversight and primary funding of TEAM UP is provided through The Jacksonville Children's Commission. Additional funding is provided by the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

96% were promoted to the next grade level

98% had less than 21 days absent

Ceneida and Wade Johnson



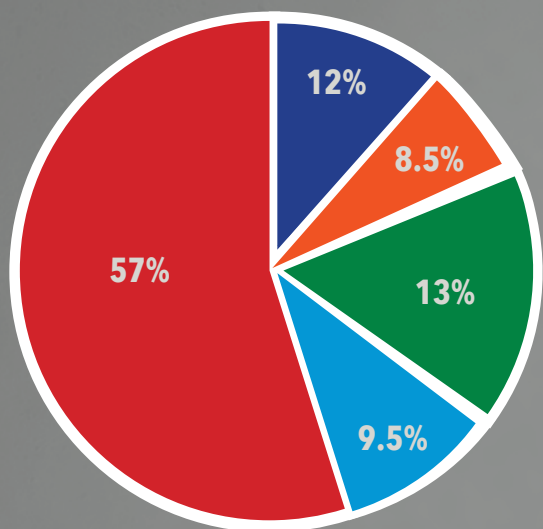
LEADING



CENEIDA was falling behind in class and never thought she would catch up. Spanish was her native language, and her limited English skills made in-class discussions and homework overwhelming.

That was until she met Wade Johnson, a project manager at Communities In Schools of Jacksonville. He provided a nurturing learning environment through the after-school program. Her English greatly improved, and she even acquired new organizational skills. Ceneida has now become a leader, serving as captain of her school's robotic team and president of the after-school program's advisory council. Through after-school care and a strong connection with a counselor, Ceneida has begun to reach her full potential.

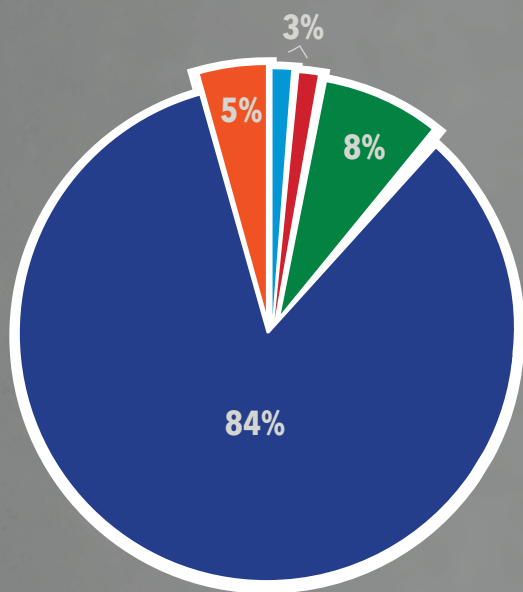
2014-15 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



EXPENSES

- After-school
\$4,189,571
- Case Management
\$973,918
- Administration
\$871,605
- Mentoring
\$713,000
- Literacy
\$633,646

We are committed to helping students realize their dreams and help them turn those dreams into reality. As one of the most effective dropout prevention organizations in the country, we are embedded within Duval County Public Schools. With our help, students are not only graduating but leaving school hopeful and college-ready.



REVENUE

- Local/State Government
\$6,268,655
- Foundation and Nonprofit
\$599,860
- Federal Government
\$372,027
- Corporate Support
\$124,093
- Individual Contributions
\$120,229

But there are still many young people who are close to giving up. They are searching for a future, and together we can make a difference in their lives.

MISSION

The mission of Communities In Schools of Jacksonville is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

VALUES

Every child needs and deserves:

- A personal 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

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Stewart
Chair; Director of External Affairs, Jacksonville Aviation Authority

Chris Greene
Vice-Chair; Attorney, Purcell, Flanagan, Hay & Greene, P.A.

Josh Woolsey
Secretary; Attorney, Rogers Towers, P.A.

William "Rusty" Russell
Treasurer; Vice President of Tax, CSX

Athena Mann
Immediate Past Chair; Retired, JEA

Steve Gilbert
Chief Executive Officer, Communities In Schools of Jacksonville

Tracy Arthur
Associate General Counsel, Rayonier

Michael Barker
Senior Manager, Global Inclusion, Diversity and Engagement, Medtronic, Inc.

Martha Barrett
Vice President Market Development, Bank of America

Greg Beliles
Correspondent & Rural Housing Executive, JP Morgan Chase

Honorable Corrine Brown
Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives

Honorable Betty Burney
Founder/Executive Director, "TMA STAR" Foundation

Honorable Lenny Curry
Mayor, City of Jacksonville

Honorable Eleni Derke
Duval County Court Judge

Nancy Dreicer
President/CEO, Chappell Schools

Linda Edwards
Retired, Duval County Public Schools

Jesse Forst
VP of Operations for Transportation-Infrastructure Practice, RS&H

Diana Haramboure
SVP and Chief Administrative Officer, First Coast Service Options

Virginia Hoce
Director of Financial Reporting, Interline Brands, Inc.

Todd Johnson
Chief Legal Officer, Acosta

Robert Martin
Retired General Manager, Florida Times-Union

Sonny Martin
Certified Public Accountant, GunnChamberlain, P.L.

Gloriden Norris
Retired, Duval County Public Schools

Jay Plotkin
Attorney, The Wilner Firm, P.A.

Dr. Judy Poppell
Retired, Duval County Public Schools

Dr. Ed Pratt-Dannals
Senior Advisor, District Management Council

Ken Sanders
VP, Distribution North America & Europe, Coach

Rick Schart
Senior VP, Chain Supply & eCommerce, Stein Mart

David Thomas, Jr.
Director/General Manager, BAE Systems Ship Repair Mayport

Dr. Nikolai Vitti
Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools

Honorable Mike Williams
Sheriff, City of Jacksonville

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Steve Gilbert
Chief Executive Officer

Leon Baxton
Chief Operating Officer

Jerome Baltazar
Chief Financial Officer

Dane Gilbert
Director, Case Management Division

Eric Daniel Johnson
Director, After-school Division

Carolyn Lynn
Director, Literacy Division

Erin Mangan
Director, Resource Development

DONORS

Valedictorian

21st Century Community Learning Centers
Duval County Public Schools
Jacksonville's Children Commission
The Jim Moran Foundation
United Way of Northeast Florida
Volunteer Florida

Salutatorian

Bank of America
The Coach Foundation
Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
The Dianne T. & Charles E. Rice Family Foundation
The DuBow Family Foundation
The Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust

Deans List

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
BAE Systems
The CarMax Foundation

The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation
Edna Sproull Williams Foundation
Diana Haramboure JPMorgan Chase
TD Charitable Foundation
TPC Red Coat Charity Committee

Honors Scholar

Tracy Arthur
The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy
Gilchrist Berg
Carl S. Swisher Foundation
Comcast Community Investment Fund
CSX
The Florida Blue Foundation
Jerry and Sue Gilbert
Russell and Joanie Newton

Graduate

A. Graham Allen
Lisa Allen
Atkerson Family Fund
Steve Bacalis

Steve Barfield
Michael Barker
Greg Beliles
William Brown, Jr.
Cascone Family Foundation
Gwendolyn Collins
Shelley Cooper
Katherine DeBrier
Deerwood Rotary Charities
Hon. Eleni Derke
The Dorothy Sibling Foundation
Linda Edwards
Gail Furman
Dane Gilbert
Steve and JoEllen Gilbert
John and Jean Grant-Dooley
Margie Harner
Risa Herman
Jon and Cheryl Heymann
Virginia Hoce
Steven Horowitz
I'm A STAR Foundation
Todd Johnson
Athena Mann
Bobby Martin
Lockheed Martin
Sonny and Cheryl Martin

Paul and Tracey Martinez
Winston and Valerie Neblett
Gloriden Norris
Nick and Beverly Pappas
John Perry
Mark Pettigrew
Pam Phelps
Jay Plotkin
Dr. Ed Pratt-Dannals
Stephen Rabinowitz
Republic Services
Rogers Towers, P.A.
Rotary Club of South Jacksonville
Ken and Yolanda Sanders
Melody Shacter
Rick Schart
Cathie Shimp
Harry Shorstein
Bradford Slappey
Cassie Smith
Southpoint Community Church
Michael Stewart
Elizabeth C. Walters
WM F Young



Communities
In Schools

Jacksonville

CISJAX.ORG • (904) 366-6350