If I were asked to describe Communities In Schools of Mid-America in only a word or two, I would choose “innovative” and “pivotal.” Because of the innovative work in which we’ve been engaged – our structural and business model changes, the rapid and significant growth of services while achieving and sustaining high-quality outcomes, the continuing commitment to both excellence in and scrutiny of all that we undertake – we are in a position of strength to address the pivotal developments that lie ahead.

My family’s story is one of the power of education. The trajectory of my life was forever altered because my father determined that education was going to be his path to a better life than the one he knew growing up. Education helped him overcome nearly every societal ill or shortcoming that can be named: poverty, abuse, addiction, ignorance, lack of opportunity. Every day I am aware that the work I am honored to do at Communities In Schools of Mid-America can be traced back to a boy who grew up with no advantages and scarce resources, but who believed in himself and had positive adult role models at school who believed in and supported him, too.

The students and families with whom we work are no different and their stories share common threads: seeking opportunity that transcends where we live or from where we came, our socioeconomic status, or the color of our skin; seeking freedom from relentless generational poverty; seeking education that enables our children to know their full potential. At Communities In Schools of Mid-America, our vision statement reads, “Every child in the Communities In Schools of Mid-America region succeeds in school and in life.” Not every child or teen needs Communities In Schools. But with an average 50% of students in our five-state region (Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska) living in poverty or eligible for free/reduced lunch, aside from other risk indicators, it is imperative that we work to make sure that all kids receive the support they need to succeed in school and in life.

It is a privilege and a powerful responsibility to be a world-changer. We’ve got a lot more to do here at Communities In Schools of Mid-America. What is your role in this transformative work at this critical time?
The Economic Impact

Communities In Schools released the results of an economic impact study conducted by EMSI, one of the nation’s leading economic modeling firms. The purpose of the study was to quantify the return on investment of Communities In Schools’ 113 high school-serving affiliates in its network to taxpayers, businesses, and students. Among the 2012 findings:

• The average annual rate of return to society is 18.4%.
• The benefit/cost ratio is 11.6, which means that every dollar invested in Communities In Schools creates $11.60 of economic benefit for the community.
• High school graduates will be net contributors to their communities for an average of 44 years of their working life, using their increased income to purchase homes and cars, and paying taxes that will support the police officers, firefighters and teachers.

The Student Impact

Communities In Schools gained significant proof that what we do works. Over five years, ICF International conducted an evaluation of our work with students and schools across the country. Multi-level, multi-method, multi-phase, gold-standard research, the study was the largest and most comprehensive evaluation of dropout prevention programs ever completed. Among the 2011 outcomes are:

• Communities In Schools is one of very few organizations proven to keep students in school.
• It is the only one proven to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates.
• More Communities In Schools students reach proficiency in 4th and 8th grade reading and math.

Read more about the economic impact study and the evaluation on our website, cismidamerica.org.
Our Student Achievement Among Case-Managed Students

- 91% seniors graduated
- 80% improved attendance
- 86% improved academics
- 82% improved behavior
- 98% stayed in school
- 93% were promoted

We provided services during FY 2016 in the Kansas cities of Allen, Arkansas City, Chanute, Coffeyville, Derby, Dodge City, El Dorado, Garden City, Haysville, Hutchinson, Junction City, Kansas City, Leavenworth, Lawrence, Liberal, Liberal, Ottawa, Parsons, Pittsburg, Salina, Shawnee Mission, Topeka, and Ulysses, as well as Tulsa, Oklahoma; Omaha, Nebraska; and Waterloo, Iowa.

- 44,172 students served
- 3,988 case-managed students
- 2,404 volunteers
- 811 partners
- 15,714 hours
- $101 annually per student
- $98 embedded only cost per student

Current school year network:
During the 2016-2017 school year, Communities In Schools of Mid-America is providing services in more than 20 communities in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Iowa.
Major Contributors

Communities In Schools of Mid-America gratefully acknowledges those whose support during FY 2016 made our work possible. This list reflects major donors to the Mid-America network and may include support to more than one affiliate, as well as in-kind support. This list is limited to contributions of $2,500 or more; however, we also extend our deepest appreciation to the hundreds of donors who support us with critically needed smaller gifts.

$1,000,000+
State of Kansas - Department of Children and Family Services

$250,000+
Casey Family Programs
Foundation for Tulsa Schools
George Kaiser Family Foundation
The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation
Tulsa Public Schools
Unified School District 501, Topeka, KS

$10,000+
Anonymous Foundation

$50,000+
State of Kansas
Kansas Office of the State Bank Commissioner
Unified School District 290, Ottawa, KS

$25,000+
First National Bank of Omaha
School District 001, Douglas County, NE
United Way of Douglas County, KS
Weitz Family Foundation

$10,000+
Communities In Schools, Inc.
Finnup Foundation Trust
Panera Bread
Unified School District 457, Garden City, KS
United Way of Franklin County, Ottawa, KS
United Way of Greater Topeka, KS
State of Kansas Securities Commission
United Way of Franklin County, KS
Westar Energy Foundation

$10,000+
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
Bank of the West
Douglas County Community Foundation
Finnerty County United Way
Kansas Health Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Ottawa, Inc.
NutraNet Security Benefit Charitable Trust
Unified School District 480, Liberal, KS

$2,500+
City of Garden City
Community National Bank & Trust
Delta Dental of Kansas
Fleming’s Comfort Footwear
Delta Dental
Docuplex Printing, Inc.
Finney County United Way

United Way of Dodge City, KS
Western Kansas Community Foundation

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Special Acknowledgments: Report Design - Design Brilliance Marketing, Editing - Kelly Stanford, Printing - Printing Solutions