



ConnectioNews

Connect With Us



Partner Spotlight: Publix Supermarket Charities

Communities In Schools of Florida is continually grateful to our partners who support our vision for a drop-out free Florida. This month, we highlight the generosity of Publix Supermarket Charities, an ongoing community partner.

As part of the corporate mission, Publix focuses philanthropic efforts on the following areas: youth, education - specifically literacy, and the plight of the homeless and hungry. We are so pleased that Publix has donated \$45,000 to support CIS of Florida's core functions, aimed at strengthening and expanding the CIS network in Florida.

We thank Publix Super Markets Charities for helping the CIS network surround students with a community of support.

CIS of Miami Receives National Award and Statewide Recognition

[Communities In Schools of Miami](#) was awarded the Building Better Lives Award at the annual Home Builders Institute ([HBI](#)) Construction Coaching Opportunities to Reach Employment ([C-CORE](#)) Summit in New Orleans. HBI C-CORE is a

mentoring program like no other. "This unique workforce development program matches youth with promise and untapped abilities with professionals from every facet of the nation's sixth largest industry, giving these young people the opportunity to learn about home building careers from an insiders' perspective through relationships that provide them with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and positive examples along the way," stated Donald Pratt, Chairman of the HBI Board of Trustees.



Pictured from left to right: Tadar Muhammad, Director for Special Projects, Workforce Training & Employment, Home Builders Institute; Elizabeth Mejia, Executive Director, CIS of Miami; Melinda Hoder, CIS of Miami Mentor Coordinator; Dennis O. Torbett, Vice President, Workforce Training and Employment, Home Builders Institute.

Through a partnership with HBI, CIS of Miami matches students with professionals in the field. The high school students are transported once a month to the mentor's worksite where they not only work alongside the mentors, but they also provide personal, academic, and career mentoring. HBI, through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, subcontracts providers across the nation to implement their C-Core mentor program. CIS of Miami lent their 15 years experience of providing school to work mentoring programs to C-Core's initiative to engage students in the home building industries. CIS of Miami excelled in launching the program, exceeding the established goals and providing meaningful experiences to 107 students thereby winning the "Building Better Lives" Award.

CIS of Miami students and mentors participated in [panel](#) presentations and were featured as examples of [best practices](#). The students' testimonials were so powerful that a room filled with home builders and other executives were moved to tears. Additionally, CIS of Miami student, Dominique Houser, was awarded the Patsy and Herman Smith Fund Scholarship through the Home Builders Institute to assist with transportation and college expenses.

Each year, [Business Leader Media](#) honors up-and-coming leaders of the South through its Movers & Shakers Awards. Elizabeth Mejia, Executive Director of CIS of Miami was recently honored as one of South Florida's 2011 Movers & Shakers. Elizabeth was recognized for her achievements in managing CIS of Miami as well as her active community involvement.

Please join CIS of Florida in congratulating CIS of Miami on these outstanding accomplishments!

CIS of Nassau County Races to the Beach

While some areas of the country were faced with record low temperatures, [CIS of Nassau County](#) hosted the 4th Annual Family Beach Run/Walk on Fernandina Beach. With 250 students and families participating in this beach front event, CIS of Nassau County raised more than \$5,600 in cash and in-kind donations.

Prize money was awarded to the schools who recruited the most participants. First place and \$1,000 was awarded to Callahan Middle School, and Yulee Middle School received second place and \$500. Both schools will use their prizes to promote healthy lifestyles among students.



Please visit the CIS of Nassau County [Facebook](#) page for more photos from the fun and sun-filled event.

Community Steps Up for Kids During "Walk In Peace" Exhibit

The [St. Augustine Art Association](#) collected 70 pairs of shoes during a month-long "Steppin' Up for Kids" Shoe Drive, held in partnership with [CIS of St. Johns County](#).

The children's shoes were donated by gallery visitors who toured Don Trousdell's "Walk in Peace" [exhibit](#) of paintings and graffiti-style shoes that chronicled the symbolism and history of peace.

"Every fall, we take children of all ages to Wal-Mart to buy them shoes," said Kathy Drake, Executive Director of CIS of St. Johns County. "This shoe drive will go a long way to help the families and students that come through our program." The shoes will be distributed to students in St. Johns County and cash donations during the drive will help pay for additional footwear needs.



Pictured from left to right: Elyse Brady, St. Augustine Art Association; Don Trousdell, "Walk in Peace" artist; Kathy Drake, Executive Director, CIS of St. Johns County.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to burgessst@cisfl.org by burgessst@cisfl.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Communities In Schools of Florida, Inc. | 444 Appleyard Drive | c/o Tallahassee Community College | Tallahassee | FL | 32304