



JUNE 2013

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# Communities In Schools of Lakewood

HELPING KIDS PREPARE FOR LIFE.

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## Celebrating 20 Years in Lakewood: The Beginnings

-Janet Cox, CISL Board member

In the late 80's, my late husband, Bill Cox, was principal of Oakwood Elementary. The surrounding housing area was rife with gang activity and vandalism. Neither the students nor the parents felt any connection to the school. In an effort to stem these conditions, he tried various programs with some degrees of success. In 1992, he attended a conference in Atlanta and was introduced to Cities in Schools (later to become Communities In Schools). Excited by the success of this program in many Eastern cities, he was determined to get this model in his school.

Good ideas don't go anywhere without support. He needed political support, financial support, and a resource network. Fortunately, Bill was in the right place at the right time. He had the political support from the Superintendent of Clover Park School District, the late Dr. Karen Forsys, and board members Ann Kirk Davis and Kathryn VanWagenen. Kim Hyke, Director of Student Services, was instrumental in connecting the right people and raising funds. Local fundraising efforts were led by Kathryn, Ann, Rick Kirk, Natalie Humphrey, Andie Gernon, Frank Kabish and Ellie Wilson. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this group of Lakewood citizens. They reached out to people they knew, who knew more people, etc.

With support from the CIS State Office, several partnerships were developed to provide program support, including Metropolitan Development Council, Pierce County Community Network and Greater Lakes Mental Health.

Off the ground and flying for 20 years, Communities in Schools of Lakewood is still growing.



# Site Coordinators Shout Out

## Boosting Student Morale and Achievement at Tye Park

-Jan McDowell, Site Coordinator

“She cares about me and always asks how my math is going, and I always say ‘Good’, because I know if I have trouble I can take my math to her and she will always help me understand it.” Above is a quote from one of the 17 students who meet weekly with a mentor from St. Clare Hospital.

Just about every day at the school a half dozen staff from St. Clare can be seen mentoring and leading enrichment activities. Just recently, I observed 10 students sitting with Terri Parks and Sharon Boyle Cavanaugh, learning the art of knitting. The students were not just knitting, but asking questions and learning valuable life lessons from Terri and Sharon.

Lastly, I'd like to share, with you the growth in our 5th grade after-school students. In the fall they were not too sure of themselves. Throughout the year, however, they have taken initiative to engage in a variety of projects: assisting 2nd graders in the St. Clare Art Program; mastering their M-SQUAD MATH times tables; raising their math scores; creating “Thank You” banners for organizations who support young people; sending Valentines cards to veterans; and acting as table captains in the After-School Program (ASP). I told them recently that they have become “servant leaders” who are ready for the rigor of middle school.

## Oakwood Fosters a Love of Reading

-Christina Villena, Site Coordinator

The month of May is often stressful for students due to Measurements of Progress (MSP) testing, so we focus on reading, fitness and enrichment activities after school. All year long the After-School Program staff has strived to instill a love of math and reading in our students. A big reading incentive is the annual Reading Challenge led by the Lochburn Leo's Club. Club members explain to students that if they read one book every week for three months, they will be rewarded with a pizza party and outdoor games. The students quickly read 530 books to qualify for the event. I see our third graders reading every day and they love discussing their books. One third grade student, Cesar, showed great improvement in his reading. In the fall he struggled to read, however, by the end of the program was raising his hand to read aloud as often as possible. Along with this new found confidence was a better comprehension of what he was reading. It is wonderful to see students simply reading for pleasure. Thanks to our partnership with Discover Books we have several books to give each student to read over the summer.



Cesar on the playground

## Feeling At Home at Southgate

-Daniel Nego, Site Coordinator

In the three years I've been at Southgate Elementary School I've grown very close to the staff and students at the school. It is inspiring to work with a school where students AND staff are eager to learn and grow. I enjoy teaming with ASP staff to make sure students get the math support they need and the enrichment activities they want such as knitting, line dancing, soccer and choir. As the year draws to an end, I look back with gratitude at the progress students have made and the mutual respect and support I experience with the school staff.

## CISL Thanks the Community for Supporting Kids in Lakewood

Thanks to the generosity of Lakewood contributors and sponsors, the youth in our community will be the beneficiaries of \$16,000 that was raised at the March 28th Champions for Youth Breakfast. David Pritchard, assistant football coach at Clover Park High School and co-author of the book, “Going Public: Your Child Can Thrive in Public School,” shared personal stories and insights. He encouraged everyone to find a way to support the young people in Lakewood who lack caring adults in their lives.

CISL appreciates the generous donations of those who attended and the businesses that sponsored the event. On your next visit to one of these businesses, please thank them for supporting kids and families in Lakewood:

[Mt. View Funeral Home](#)

[Harborstone Credit Union](#)

[Lakewood For](#)

[LeMay Enterprises](#)

G. Robb Cooper

[Lakewood First Baptist Church](#)

[Columbia Bank](#)

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[Key Bank Lakewood Branch](#)

[Pierce College](#)

## A Match Made in Lakewood...A New Experience

-Yvonne Noe

It was with some trepidation that I set off to meet my mentee for the first time. It was only a few weeks earlier that I had sent an email with a request to be a CISL volunteer and now I was at the front door of Lochburn Middle School.

I need not have worried! I was greeted with much warmth and enthusiasm by the office staff. Our first meeting was a very special moment, and, as time passes, the match made for us is proving to be very positive for both of us. We were both shy at the beginning, but after time we both feel that we are becoming more familiar with each other. I regard her as a very special young lady.

The process has been aided by the Champions Mentoring Manual provided by Leah Livingston. It is full of great exercises and activities which have helped guide me through this new experience. Our current activity is the Tree of Life which is helping us to appreciate the struggles we have faced and overcome in our lives.

Isabel introduced me to her math teacher and told me she enjoys math. I do not

have that skill but Isabel is very patient as she guides me through the maze of mathematical puzzles! Just recently she invited me to her band practice. Isabel plays the clarinet and I felt very honored to sit and listen to her. At one point when I looked over to watch Isabel, she was playing the drums—a very talented young lady!

In May, mentors and mentees went on a field trip to Pierce College. It was a day filled with enjoyable experiences. Isabel learned about possibilities for her future and I enjoyed seeing and learning about how college students are taught and the great opportunities at Pierce College. The Science Dome was our favorite, seeing the stars at night over Lakewood and China too. We were also given the opportunity to see a Gummy Bear exploding...very interesting it was!

I have so enjoyed my first year and hope to continue into the next school year. Thank you Isabel!

**C** Caring  
**H** Helping  
**A** Adults  
**M** Mentoring  
**P** Proudly  
**I** In  
**O** Our  
**N** Neighborhoods &  
**S** Schools



## A Match Made in Lakewood...Looking Towards the Future

-Randy Richards, Code Enforcement Officer, City of Lakewood

I have enjoyed being a Champions Mentor at Lochburn for the past six years. For the past two years I have had the pleasure of meeting with Rick (not his real name). We start our meetings by playing cards and other games; this gives us a chance to visit and catch up on things we have done during the past week. We review his studies and, occasionally, work on homework assignments. He struggles with some



subjects in class but he always puts forth his best effort. We learn about each other's activities and interests. He loves playing soccer and watching it on TV.

Rick is considering auto mechanics as a career path. He helps his brother and father as they repair their cars. He is even learning about how an engine works. He is becoming familiar with the types of tools needed for proper repair and we have discussed the types of skills necessary for mechanics. He realizes that reading and math are very important as they are used daily in most careers. We compared how a day on

the job would be different or similar to a day at school. He is interested in enrolling in a local vocational technical college for an automotive career.

I am impressed with his manners and his respect for adults and classmates alike. He is devoted to his family and visits Mexico every year. I support his enthusiasm and look forward to working together to establish his goals for the future.

Communities In Schools of Lakewood is keeping Lakewood's Promise.

## My Work at Clover Park High School

-Madeline Fahey, AmeriCorps Member



When I first started working for CISL I learned that the most help I could provide at Clover Park High School was to tutor students who were struggling with math. I have a good math background, but had to devote some time to learning how to tutor students the right way in Algebra. My math supervisor at the school, Mr. Kurtz, helped me get started in two classrooms and the Extended Learning program.

Three days a week I help in the ELL (English Language Learning) Algebra I and the Algebra I remedial classes. The ELL Algebra class is set up a little bit differently than other math classes because English language acquisition is just as important as learning the mathematic concepts. We work on practice problems 1:1 and then the students explain to the class how they arrived at their answers.

The students in the ELL class are from Ecuador, Somalia and Russia to name a few. I really enjoy getting to know them as they have taught me many things about their respective cultures.

When the school day ends I tutor students in the Extended Learning Program. It is interesting to see the numbers swell just before report cards come out! I have gotten to know many students at the school and am glad to have had this opportunity to help them improve at math their math skills so they are ready for college.



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

## Funder in the Spotlight: Lakewood Community Foundation

*"Lakewood is a barbell community: on one end, two country clubs, several lakes and successful residents; and on the other end, serious poverty. The rich and the poor. We who have been blessed by success in Lakewood need to give back to Lakewood."*

-Dave Betz, President, Lakewood Community Foundation Fund (LCF)

The needs in Lakewood are great, but so are the resources. The LCF was formed to provide a permanently funded endowment to improve the quality of life in Lakewood. They help donors accomplish their philanthropic goals for Lakewood. The goal of the Foundation is to increase the permanent endowment to \$1 million in the next two years. Already, earnings have enabled the Foundation to fund college scholarships and to make grants to many charities serving Lakewood's greatest needs.

In May of 2013 CISL was awarded \$2,000 in support of After-School Programs serving 280 students at five Clover Park schools. Others recently funded include Caring for Kids, Computer Clubhouse, Lakewood First Lions Springbrook Park Project, Boys & Girls Club Great Futures Program, Communities In Schools of Lakewood, Associated Ministries Paint Tacoma/Lakewood Beautiful and the "Unfinished Mission" at the VA Hospital.

### CISL Salutes School Staff Partners

CISL could not coordinate effective After-School and Mentor programs without the support, cooperation, expertise and passion of school principals, teachers, para-educators, counselors and office staff. CISL Site Coordinators rely on school staff to assist with registration, data collection, parent contact and transportation. We are fortunate to work with administrators and school staff who do "whatever it takes" to give students the extra help they need to be successful in school.



**Further information** about CISL programs can be found on our Website:  
[www.lakewood.ciswa.org](http://www.lakewood.ciswa.org)