

**Local holiday theatre production**

**Miracle On Hillsboro Street**

**Saturday, December 16. 2:00 & 4:30 pm**

The trial of the century occurs at the historic courthouse where Santa Claus is on trial. Enjoy audience participation, local actors, and **THE KRIS KRINGLE**.

Come root for the real miracle on Hillsboro Street!

**All proceeds benefit CIS Chatham County**

## Leading by Example - Making an Impact

—by Sarah Cooley

Josilyn is a warm, smart, friendly 5th grader who attends Virginia Cross Elementary School in Siler City. Susan Collins Thompson is a creative, resourceful retired educator. Josilyn and Susan are friends as part of CIS-Chatham County's (CIS-CC) Mentoring Program. Matched in late February, 2017, the pair meets regularly to have lunch together, work on school work, and attend monthly movies at Wren Memorial Library in Siler City.

The weekly Monday lunches are special, whereby Susan lays out colorful cloth placemats and napkins, setting a positive space and tone for the week. A couple of Josilyn's classmates always join the pair, and they talk about current successes

and challenges. Susan encourages the students to be well-behaved and to make good choices in and out of school.

These mentoring activities happen like clockwork, Susan said, and it's evident that Josilyn responds well to the consistency. "I know what's coming up. I know what we're doing. I can count on Susan. She is super-fun, really nice, and really generous." Josilyn's father, a single dad, is thankful for the CIS-CC mentoring program that connects both of his children with positive adults.

Susan also introduces Josilyn to service-learning experiences and has led by example how to become involved in the community. "We go to a lot of places," Josilyn said. "She helps me get out of the house." One of these places is a friend's farm. Visiting the farm was special because Josilyn rode a mule, saw baby chickens, and learned how to tell the difference between fresh eggs and eggs that have been sitting out for a week. Fresh eggs will sink to the bottom of a cup or bowl filled with water.

Another favorite activity was participating in an Earth Day clean-up at the Loves Creek Greenway Trail in Siler City. On April 22, 2017, a team comprised of Josilyn, Susan, Siler City's Parks and Recreation Director, Joseph Keel, and a student from the Beta Club at Chatham Charter in Siler City picked up trash along the trail. Eventually, Susan and Josilyn went through the steps to officially "adopt" the trail, thus giving them civic responsibility to make sure the trail is kept clean. Josilyn is proud of this accomplishment. "When the [adoption] signs were put up, it made me feel special—and that I have a big responsibility in helping keep the community clean and safe."

Susan delights in how much Josilyn has "bloomed." Josilyn exhibits a great attitude, acts as a leader, and just made A/B Honor Roll! Others have also noticed the difference. Josilyn was recently honored by her class when she was chosen as September's "Lion Cub Leader" for being Proactive. When asked about being selected, she said, "It feels good. I'm showing a good example for the school." Being proactive is "always helping others, and being nice." Indeed. These are the same qualities Susan shows

Josilyn when spending time with her each week.

Susan said the best part about being Josilyn's mentor is that it's a "really good match." When elements like this align, the impact is large and everyone—the child, the mentor, the family, the school, and the entire community—benefits.

You can make a difference in the life of a child too! For more information on community and/or school-based mentoring, contact Shirille Lee, Program Manager, Mentoring Program, at: (919) 663-0116 x 404; shirille@cischatham.org OR visit our website:

<https://cischatham.org/programs/community-based-programs/mentoring/>



Josilyn and Susan Collins Thompson

## PARADE DAY LUNCH FUNDRAISER

**Angelina's Kitchen Drive-Thru "Lunch Plates" Fundraiser**

**ANGELINA'S KITCHEN**  
FARM TO TABLE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**11:30-2:00**

**\$12 per plate**

Includes 1/2 chicken, green beans, roll, and brownie.

Drinks available for \$1.

## WHAT'S NEW

**Learning Institute/Instituto de Aprendizaje**, a collaborative pilot project funded by Triangle Community Foundation, United Way of Chatham County and Chatham County Government, is well underway! Communities In Schools of Chatham County (CIS-CC) and the Chatham County Literacy Council (CCLC) have partnered to offer multi-generational holistic approaches to address family stability.

The goal is to serve 20 families who have at least one child (grades K to 8) receiving case-managed services through CIS-CC model school programming at Virginia Cross Elementary and/or Chatham Middle Schools. The CIS-CC Student Support Specialists work inside the schools to coordinate and provide integrated student services based on students' individual needs.



Chatham Literacy provides participants with initial baseline literacy assessments, ongoing support in identifying learning activities and goals, and group or individual instruction provided by volunteers. All partici-

pants will receive soft skills training, including communications, teamwork, networking, problem solving, enthusiasm, and professionalism. Adults can also choose to receive free literacy services that include: reading, writing, basic math, computer literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages Learning (ESOL), preparation for high school equivalency and citizenship classes.

The Institute links adult literacy services with facilitated parent engagement sessions and participation promoting positive relationships within and between these families, between parents and educators, and among local service organizations. Institute families and partners meet monthly at Chatham Middle School for an evening of food, fellowship, education and enrichment. Incentives are offered throughout the program year, and each family that completes the program will earn a laptop.

### Director's Note

Thank you to all our supporters, volunteers and partners that continue to make the work at CIS Chatham flourish. Your commitment of time, resources and expertise helps deepen the quality of service we offer and reach more kids.

We truly can't do this work without your support!

Best wishes in this holiday season and the New Year.

*In service, Kim Caraganis*

**Check out our new video about the impact of CIS Chatham!**

On our website home page or at <https://vimeo.com/234541183>

## NEW FACES at CIS Chatham County

### Jeremiah McCaffity, Program Coordinator, Community Service & Restitution/Teen Court

Meet CIS Chatham County's Community Service & Restitution/Teen Court's Coordinator, Jeremiah McCaffity. Jeremiah graduated from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte with bachelor's degrees in Psychology, Criminal Justice and Criminology. As a new member of CIS CC he looks forward to making a difference in the lives of young people.



### Sarah Cooley, Admin Assistant, Communications/Donor Relations

Sarah has been working in the human services non-profit sector for over 20 years and has broad-based experience in administration and direct programming. As the new Administrative Assistant for Communications & Donor Relations, Sarah is eager to use her experience and connections to strengthen CIS CC's effectiveness both within the organization and with its external relations.

### Tyrek Corry, UNC-MSW/Duke Divinity Intern

Tyrek assists on site at Chatham Middle School with intervention groups and after-school programming.



## IMPACT AWARD for Tych Cowdin

Tych Cowdin received the 2017 CIS NC Excellence Award for Student Support Specialist Impact Award (Middle School) for his work at Chatham Middle School – "among the highest honors one CISNC network member can bestow on another".



*Neil Pedersen, Board Chair, Kim Caraganis, Executive Director, Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, Student Support Specialist at Virginia Cross, and Tych Cowdin*

## THANKS TO Teen Court Volunteers

Paul Bauer  
Yuritzi Ocampo  
Yamil Parroquin  
Nick Zakaria  
Jeremiah Blake

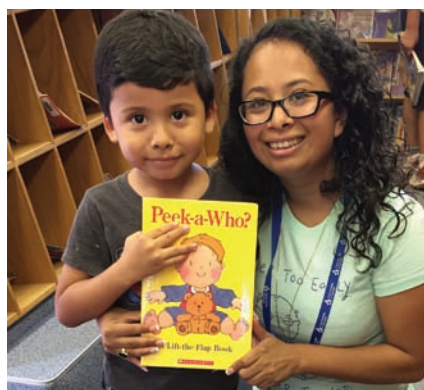
Lillian Robertson  
Julian Rojas  
Sara Skumpija  
Shawn Levitt  
Elsa Trunnell

visit our website at [cischatham.org](http://cischatham.org)

## THANK YOU to our FUNDERS & CONTRIBUTORS since November 2016

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**Did you know: 83 cents of every dollar  
we receive is spent on program services!**



*Jazmin Mendoza  
Sosa and a young  
reader at the  
Bookmobile at  
Virginia Cross  
Elementary  
School.*

visit our website at [cisatham.org](http://cisatham.org)



## MORE FUNDERS & CONTRIBUTORS since November 2016

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Tara Gregory & Natalie



*Gretchen Levine & Yamil*



*David Yale, Finn, Joelle  
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*Michelle Brick & Bianca*

## MENTORING TRAINING DATE

**Saturday, January 20th, 2018  
9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Habitat for Humanity Office, Pittsboro**

contact Shirille Lee at 919-663-0116 x404 or  
shirille@cischatam.org for more information

## THANK YOU FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

United Way of Chatham County, SECU  
Branches in Pittsboro & North Chatham,  
SunTrust Bank: Fearington, Mellow  
Marsh Farm and neighbors



*Harmony & Dayshone*

visit our website at [cischatam.org](http://cischatam.org)



## Invest in Children and Youth in Chatham County

**WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE MONTHLY** to Communities In Schools Chatham County as a sustainer, you send a message that you are invested in young people served by CIS Chatham County with your year-round financial support. Eighty-two cents of every dollar you give is used towards programming.

### **BECOMING A SUSTAINER IS EASY TO DO.**

Simply choose your monthly amount – maybe \$10, \$15, or \$20 a month. Then set it up using your credit card via the DONATE button on our website at [www.cischatham.org](http://www.cischatham.org), and you're all done.

**YOUR GIVING IS AUTOMATIC** — it's always current — and it continues until you tell us you wish to make a change. Make your difference now and become a sustaining member of CIS Chatham County!



*Graduates of CIS CC's Family Advocacy's Parenting Matters program with Maria Soto, CIS Chatham (far left) and Vicky Tobar, volunteer (far right).*



*Thank you to volunteers who taught yoga for six weeks at Chatham Middle. Karen Frisch & Marcia Roth, Intro to Yoga (for 6th and 8th grade girls).*



*After school program, Cooking Matters, at Chatham Middle School. Thank you Johnny Davis and Erika Guy, volunteers extraordinaire!*

*Representative Robert Reives, Assistant DA Kaylee Taber, & Sheriff Mike Roberson share a laugh at our annual meeting.*



## THANK YOU to our Community Service Partner Sites & Volunteers

Chatham County Parks and Recreation, Chatham HEAT/Chatham County Wellness Committee, Chatham Middle School, Chatham Trades, CIS Youth Garden, Evergreen Take and Eat Food Pantry, Habitat Restore, Happy Hills Animal Foundation, Small Museum of Folk Art, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Virginia Cross Elementary School, West Chatham Food Pantry, Western Wake Crisis Ministry, Emily Keller, Garry Lipson, Jim McKay, Elizabeth Zeringue



*Garden workday for the CIS Youth Garden, Community Restitution program*

visit our website at [cischatham.org](http://cischatham.org)





Communities  
In Schools

Chatham County

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## CIS Chatham County Staff

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Pam Johnson, *Operations Manager; Chief Financial Officer*

Shirille Lee, *Program Manager, Mentoring*

Maria Soto, *Family Advocate, Family Advocacy Program*

Gwen Overturf, *Coordinator, Learning Institute/Instituto de Aprendizaje*

Tych Cowdin, *Program Director, Student Support Specialist, Chatham Middle School*

Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, *Student Support Specialist, Virginia Cross Elementary School*

Jeremiah McCaffity, *Program Coordinator, Community Service and Restitution/Teen Court*

Bieisy Santiago, *Program Assistant, Community Service and Restitution, Family Advocacy, and Teen Court Programs*

Sarah Cooley, *Administrative Assistant, Communications/Donor Relations*

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*Thank you to Chatham Serves from Chatham Community Church for their service in the CIS Youth Garden. Young volunteers hard at work!*



*Mark Barroso and Dayshawn are mentoring alumni and were speakers at the annual meeting.*

**SAVE the DATE!**  
**CIS Chatham Tapas Fundraiser**  
**with the ONYX CLUB BOYS!**

**Sunday, April 15, 2018 5-8 PM**

Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center

## Summer Camp Fun

This year 48 CIS Chatham youth attended camp – many for the first time! Camps attended were: Betsy Jeff Penn 4H Camp in Reidsville, Salvation Army Camp in Denton, YMCA Summer Camp in Pittsboro, and Camp Dragonfly at Jordan Lake.

We look forward to working together with our wonderful partners – NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham County 4H, Triangle Community Foundation Send A Kid to Camp, YMCA, The Salvation Army, Chatham County Schools, and FVRC – to provide this unique experience to CIS youth for years to come.



*First-time camper Kaylin & her mom*

## OUR MISSION

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

**Different ways YOU can provide support to children and youth in Chatham County Thanks!**

### BECOME A SUSTAINER

for as little as \$10 a month

**\$30/month provides individualized services for a young person**

click on the DONATE button at our website [www.cischatham.org](http://www.cischatham.org)

### MAKE YOUR DONATION AS A HOLIDAY GIFT

in honor or in memory of someone you love

### MAIL A CHECK

Send your check to us in the enclosed envelope.

### BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

or join board committee

### SUPPORT US AT AMAZON SMILE

Keep the "smiles" growing! Support CIS Chatham County while shopping at AmazonSmile. <http://smile.amazon.com/>

2016-17 Annual Report and 990 are now available at [www.cischatham.org](http://www.cischatham.org)

visit our website at [cischatham.org](http://cischatham.org)