



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

[CISCHATHAM.ORG](https://cischatham.org)

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

From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 school year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together. This was a year of growth, impact, and celebration—one that reminds us of the power of community and the importance of **being present** for every student.

We are so excited to continue our mission expanding our reach and deepening our impact with Chatham County youth and families - *both inside and outside the classroom*. The results are inspiring, with over 70% of students reaching new milestones of achievement for attendance, behavior, and academics - but we couldn't have done this without you!

To our volunteers—thank you for sharing your time and talents so generously. You *collectively contributed* over **2,500 hours** of service this year, building transformative relationships and helping us connect vital resources to students and their families.

To our partners, donors, and funders—thank you for investing in our mission. Your partnership *fuels our work* and ensures that students have the relationships and network of support they need to thrive.

To our staff—you continue to inspire with your commitment, compassion, and hard work. *Your presence in the lives of students is enduring*, and will shape the future of Chatham County.

And to our students—you are the reason we do this work. Your successes—big and small—remind us every day why our mission matters. You've shown *resilience, strength, and determination*, and we couldn't be more proud to celebrate your achievements and support your path forward!

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum. This annual report highlights the stories, impact, and partnerships that made 2024–2025 such a *remarkable* year. Together, we are creating brighter futures for every student.

With gratitude,



Tych Cowdin
CISCC Executive Director



Overview of Our Programs

Communities In Schools Chatham County empowers students to take control of their future and achieve lifelong success. We believe that transformative relationships are essential to unlocking potential. CIS programs offer students ages 5-18 individualized and sustained support through relationships with trained professionals and volunteers. Our evidence-based approach, in partnership with both schools and community organizations, addresses academic, socio-emotional, and basic needs—all at **no cost to students and families**, with support from our bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, and through the generosity of our amazing partners and supporters.

School Based Programs

- CIS Model Programs (Chatham Middle School, Virginia Cross Elementary, Siler City Elementary)
- High School Success Coach (Jordan Matthews High School)
- Youth F.I.R.S.T. (Pittsboro Elementary, George Moses Horton Middle School)



Community Based Programs

- Community Service and Restitution
- Family Navigator

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

CIS Chatham County will be recognized as a community leader providing consistent encouragement and integrated resources to students to unlock their full potential.

Our Five Basics

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community
- A healthy start and a healthy future

2024-25 Impact



Attendance Growth

In the last year, an impressive **70%** of CISCC students maintained or improved their attendance. Attendance is a leading indicator of a student's path to graduation and success!



Students and Family Connection

We have worked directly with over **300** students and **450** parents this year. Overall, more than **1400** students have been connected to CISCC programs throughout Chatham County this year.



Engaged Partners and Volunteers

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers. Our work wouldn't be possible without their dedication and generous contribution of time. This year, **over 125** volunteers have given **more than 2,500 hours** to make a profound impact on students and families.

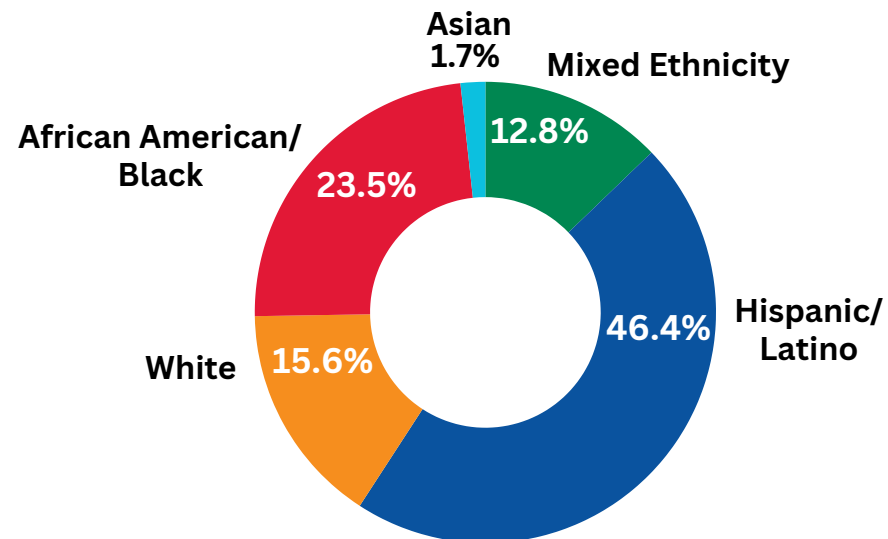


Revenue and Expenses

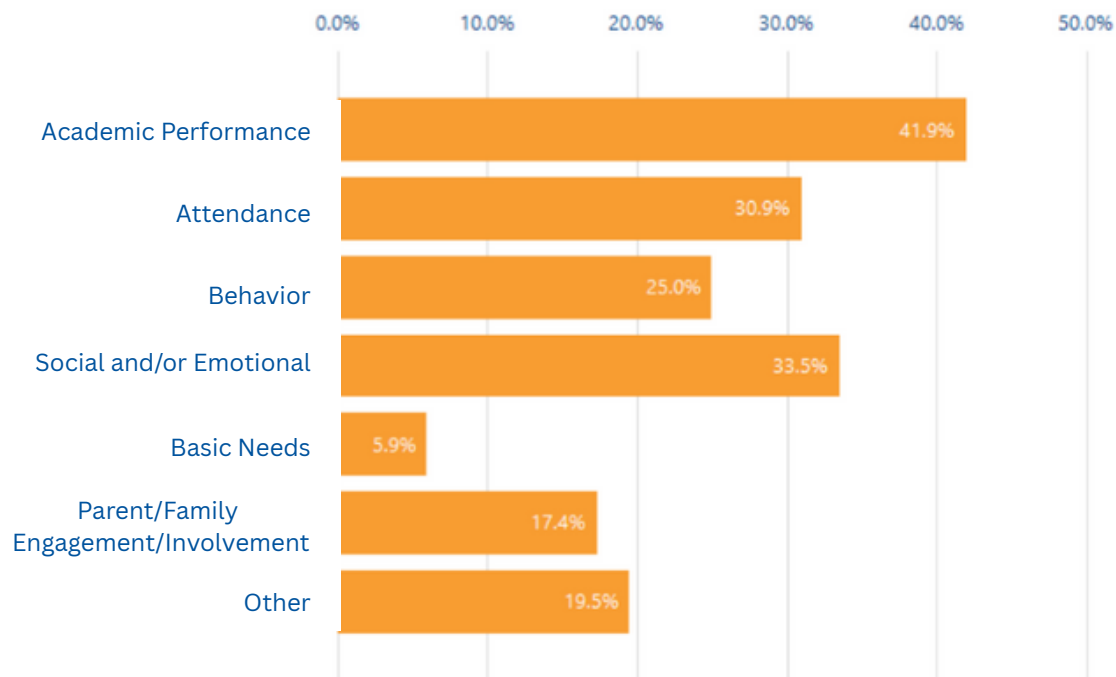
Over 80% of our expenses go directly to supporting students and families

- Total revenue = \$856,931 (Grants = \$710,247, Indv. Contributions = \$146,684)
- Total Expenses = \$890,319

Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served



Reasons Students are Referred to CISCC



Model School Programs

Communities In Schools of Chatham County's unique model positions Student Support Specialists inside schools to assess students' needs and provide resources to help them succeed in the classroom and in life. We partner with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers. Whether it's food, school supplies, health care, counseling, academic assistance or a positive role model, CISCC is there to help. Our Student Support Specialists connect students with caring adults and community resources to help them succeed at school and stay on track to graduate.

Supports Engaged:

- Student Support Specialists
- Academic Assistance
- Behavior/Attendance Interventions
- Mentoring
- School Supply Distribution
- Summer Bookmobile
- Field Trips/Student Outings
- And many more!

Over 70% of students reached new milestones of achievement for attendance, behavior, and academics last school year!

Schools Served by CIS Model



“

Whether you're a supporter, educator, volunteer, or donor, your impact goes far beyond the classroom. I'm just one story, but there are many others like mine. Thank you for helping students like me believe in a brighter future.

-Christian Ayala, CISCC Alumnus



Our Unique Model

- CIS ORGANIZATIONS
- SITE COORDINATORS
- COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



School Based Programs

CISCC extends our services to students that may not be reached through our three traditional school sites Virginia Cross Elementary, Siler City Elementary, and Chatham Middle School. General Youth Services focuses on Pittsboro Elementary, Horton Middle School, Jordan Matthews High School and other schools in North Chatham County.

Supports Delivered

- Academic Assistance
- Behavior/Attendance Interventions
- Reading Buddies
- Lunch Buddies
- Mentoring
- Cooking Matters for Teens
- School Supply Distribution
- Summer Bookmobile
- Field Trips/Student Outings
- Substance Misuse Seminars
- And many more!

Schools Served by General Youth Services



I LOVE this class. I would like to thank all of you chaperone chefs. The class will stay a memory for life for me. You guys and girls helped me a lot in my passion for cooking. I will forever remember this class and all of you wonderful chefs. You have given me skills that I can show off to my family. I love y'all and hope to share what I have learned with the world one day. Thank you for making me a CHEF!

Sincerely, Chef E. (Cooking Matters for Teens Participant)

p.s. Love y'all to the moon and back

Community-based Programs

Family Navigator

This year, in partnership with United Way of Chatham County, we launched our Family Navigator program. The Family Navigator works in collaboration with United Way of Chatham County and the Chatham Success Network to build transformative relationships with referred families from the CCS McKinney-Vento program. Services include education, employment, income, parenting support, building self-sufficiency, and other targeted resources to lift community members out of poverty. Current service area includes Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross Elementary families.

This program is part of United Way of Chatham County’s Bold Goal Initiative - to end and prevent poverty for 2,000 Chatham County residents in 2,000 days (by 2030). Our efforts include summer camps (with tuition free of charge to students), transportation and access to critical services and partnerships. We look forward to the continued growth of this program, and to the life-changing impact it will have throughout Chatham County!



Communities In Schools Chatham County is the ‘missing link’ to families and the house!
~Chatham County School Counselor

Bold Goal Partners



Community-based Programs

Community Service and Restitution

The Juvenile Community Service and Restitution Program works with youth who have committed crimes in Chatham County and are assigned community service hours and/or to pay back money to victims. Through this program, youthful offenders learn important lessons in responsibility and accountability and often develop positive relationships with their adult supervisors. Young people are also taught valuable life and job skills while volunteering.

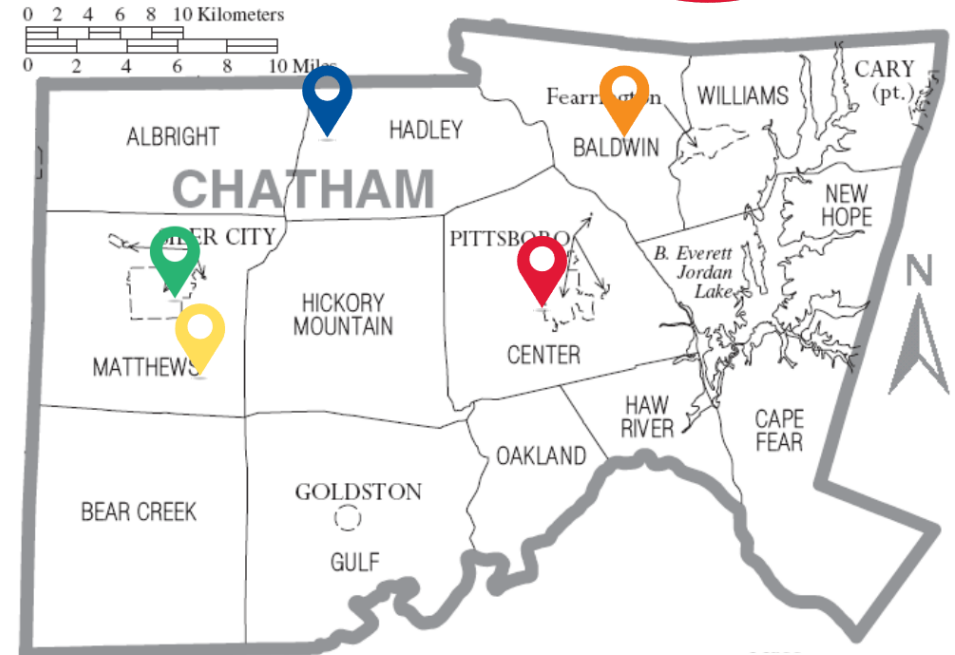
Community Service & Restitution Highlights

- **23 Worksite Partnerships** across Chatham County
- **47** youth served, 23 Worksite Partnerships across Chatham County
- **98%** of participants saw **no new adjudications** as a result of participation in this program
- **100%** of participants **completed CSR** within the timeframe permitted under JCPC policy
- **98%** of participants successfully/satisfactorily completed program requirements.



Worksite Partnerships

- Chatham Trades
- CMS PTA
- CISCC
- Siler City Collaborative Garden
- El Camino
- El Vinculo Hispano
- Love Chatham
- Loves Creek Water Shed
- S.E.E.D.S
- Siler City Police Department
- CORA-Siler City
- Wren Memorial Library
- Salvation Army
- Happy Hills Animal Refuge
- Resource Hub
- Habitat ReStore
- Chatham PTA
- Chatham Kids
- CORA Pittsboro
- Teen Court
- Bynum UMC
- Carolina Tiger Rescue
- Farm at Penny Lane



Staff and Board of Directors

Administrative Staff



Tych Cowdin



Perla Ayala



Eva DePaz



Wes Tubel

Model School Programs



Deanna Fox



Rosa Salazar



Ruby Martinez



Erica DePaz

Community Service & Restitution



Lydia Miller



Travis Patterson



Shirille Lee



Karmen Brown

General Youth Services

Family Navigator



Maria Soto



Janet Solano

Thank You to Our Staff who Transitioned Away in 2024-25

2024-25 Board of Directors

Lisa Fedele
Chair
Global Creative
Operations
Lead, Cisco Systems, Inc.

Dr. Gail McGuinness
Vice Chair
American Board of
Pediatrics, Retired

Sara Martin
Treasurer
Community
Development
Planner, Town of Siler
City

Bill Horner III
Newspaper Publisher &
Editor, Retired

Woodrena Baker-Howell
Public Defender of
Orange
and Chatham Counties

Marian Gibson
Town Manager, Retired

Michelle Cassell
Writer, Journalist

Danielle McComas
ER Nurse, Chatham
Hospital

Dr. Ann Turnbull
Retired Beach
Distinguished
Professor of Special
Education,
University of Kansas

John McCann
Public Relations
Manager

Lynn Vernon-Feagans
UNC Distinguished
Professor Emerita,
Retired

Chris Poston
Ex-Officio
Interim Assistant
Superintendent for
Academic Services
Opportunity, Chatham
County Schools

Leslie Strohm
Vice President for
Strategy and General
Counsel, U of L and
UNC, Retired

2025-26 New Board Members

Denise Scott
American Board of
Pediatrics Human
Resources Director.

Linda Burton
Professor & Dean
Emeritus University of
California, Berkeley
School of Social Welfare

Michael Hilton
Legal Counsel
TechSoup/NGOsource

Mike Messier
Regional Sales
Consultant First
Citizens Bank

Funding Sources

We are grateful to our donors and funders who invested in our work in 2024-25. It takes all of us to surround students with the community of support they need to stay in school and achieve in life!

Donors

Anne Allen
Beth Anderson
Nancy Eastering and Chuck Anderson
Elizabeth Anton
Louise Barnum
Paul and Ginger Bauer
Brad & Anne Bishop
Mayme Boyd
Carole Lee Bresky
James and Babette Brown
Joan Bullard
Samantha Cabe
Kim Caraganis
Joanne Caye
Virginia Chambers
Margaret Champion
Ruth Clemons
Carmen Coley
Judith Cone
Jenny Cooper
Elizabeth Cullington
Laura Custis
John Davis
Erin Denninston
Rebecca Dickenson
Abbie Dickinson
Francis and Ann DiGiano
Ann Drake
Ronni Ebberts
Mellow Marsh Farm
Lisa Fedele
Karen Frisch
Anne Fuller

Marian Gibson
Joe Glasson
Sarah Goddin
Beth Goldston
Terry Greenlund
George and Nansi Greger-Holt
Barbara Grossman
Erika Guy
Diana Hales
Peggy and Kurt Hall-Woolner
Chanel Hart D'Aprix
Daniel Heflin
Laura Heise
Nancy Hellmer
Barbara Hengstenberg
Pamela Henson
Aaron and Mary Honeycutt
Bill Horner
Sarah & William Horner
Janice & Richard Horton
Lisa Long Jackson
Sam Jackson
Pam and Steve Johnson
Jill Kaplan
Susan Keleman
Kit Kirkpatrick
Steve and Laurie Klotz
Jennie Knowlton
Jane Kornblut
Ernest and Eunice Kraybill
Tom and Sue Krebs
Charlotte Leidy
Cynthia Lodestro
Mary Lucas

Patty Mahder
Jane Mallon
Teresa Martin
John McCann
Gail McGuinness
Sue and James McMaster
Laurane Mendelsohn
Krista and Chip Millard
Karen Monaco
Colleen Mullins
Ivan Newsome
David Nichols
Bob Pearson
Hilary Pollan
Chris Poston
Dorrie Casey and Archie Purcell
Patricia & Robert Quain
Dorothy Rawleigh
Sy and Patricia Robbins
Kathy Roundtree
Brittany Sandefur
Victoria Shea
Michael Sheehan
Phoebe Shih
Bennett Groshong and Melaine Ann Sill
Karen and Jamie Sirls
Carol and Ed Smithwick
Andrea and Bob Stark
Jennie Stein
Charles Stewart
Barbara Strange
Leslie and Paul Strohm
Susan Strozier
Tina Summerlin

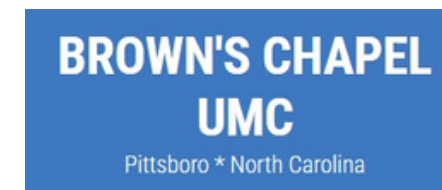
Sarah Swearingen
Nancy Tanguay
Graham Titus
Nancy Tunnessen
Ann Turnbull
Robert Tyndall
Lynne Vernon
Nancy Vernon
Jim and Alison Vernon
Lynne Vernon-Feagans
Kristina Vrabel
Anahid Kavookjian and Kim Vrana
Judy Wearne
Elizabeth Whetsell
Scott Wilson
Elizabeth Woods
Judy Wurster
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Woodhall Community Chatham County- Cary
Pittsboro Kiwanis
The Lamb Family Foundation



Funding Sources

We are grateful to our donors and funders who invested in our work in 2024-25. It takes all of us to surround students with the community of support they need to stay in school and achieve in life!

Funders



Get Involved

2025-26 Goals

Expand Awareness and Access to CISCC

- We are committed to broadening the reach of Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) to ensure more students, families, and community partners are aware of, and can access our vital services. By expanding our footprint, we'll support even more students in unlocking their full potential.

Enhance Programming for Greater Impact

- Our focus is on continuously refining and enhancing our programs to ensure maximum effectiveness. We will prioritize innovative approaches that deliver positive outcomes, empowering students and families to overcome challenges and thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Engage Alumni as Agency Ambassadors

- We will deepen our connection with our diverse network of alumni, inviting them to serve as ambassadors for CISCC. Their voices and experiences will be instrumental in promoting our mission, fostering stronger community ties, and inspiring future generations.

Broaden and Diversify Funding Sources

- To sustain our growth and continue delivering impactful programs, we are focused on broadening and diversifying funding sources. Ensuring that no student or family is left behind in our pursuit of scholastic and personal success for all.

Volunteer

- Your **time and expertise** can change a student's life
- There are a **variety of ways to volunteer**, including mentoring, becoming a reading or lunch buddy, tutor, and more
- If you are interested in volunteering, **visit cischatham.org/volunteer-application**

Spread the Word

- Help us introduce CISCC to others in our community
- Like/share our **social media** posts
- If you receive our e-newsletters, would you consider **forwarding it on to friends**
- We have many **community events**, including our annual Community Breakfast. Consider bringing a friend or two along with you!

Become a Donor

- This year, we need **\$300,000** to meet ongoing operational expenses.
- **80%** of all donations go directly to supporting families and students
- Donations, of any amount, play a vital role in our work!
- If you would like to donate, visit **cischatham.org** or scan the **QR code** below or mail a check to our address below.

Communities In Schools Chatham County

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(919) 663-0116
cischatham.org

