



Communities
In Schools®

Pennsylvania

Lebanon School District

Annual Report SY 2020 - 2021



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DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,



Wow - - what a year it has been! When I wrote this letter last year, we were in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic; we were reeling, personally and professionally, as we attempted to come to terms with our “new normal”, and as we “pivoted” over and over again.

Today, I am writing this letter almost 18 months after the world shut down. In that time, Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania has undergone some tremendous changes, and our staff and leadership team have risen to meet every challenge that has come our way. We have adapted our model of services to continue to meet the real needs of the people we serve, whatever they may be. We have leaned into technology and digital learning platforms to ensure that we can continue to reach students and parents, whether they’re learning in-person or virtually. We have built relationships with community organizations, faith groups, and service providers to leverage donations - such as masks and hygiene products, and to broker services - such as mental health groups. Our team truly does whatever it takes - all day, every day.

These efforts yield impressive results in the school districts we serve - and this has not gone unnoticed. Thanks to our unique model of services and the tenacity and grit of our staff and leadership, CISPA has nearly doubled in size since this time last year. At the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, we are currently serving 20 school buildings in seven districts and six counties. We have a staggering 38 staff, 27 of whom are based in schools full time.

I am so excited about this growth - I believe in our model, I believe in our staff, and I know the life-changing impact that our programs can have on students and families. However, it isn’t lost on me that this growth is largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, families, and communities are struggling. There are insurmountable barriers - homelessness, poverty, trauma, unmet health and mental health needs, and food insecurity - just to name a few. Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania is committed to helping students, families, schools, and communities overcome these barriers, and we know we can do this through our programming.

This year gave us the opportunity to lean into our mission - surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Our team brings this mission to life every day whether we are working one-on-one with students, leading small groups, connecting parents to community resources, or distributing donated items, we are removing barriers that are preventing students from being successful.

We are acutely aware that we would not be successful in this work without our valuable community partners. It truly is a collaborative effort to ensure that students, families and communities are strong and successful. We are so grateful for our partners, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders for their continued commitment to supporting this work across our service territory, which enables us to keep going and keep growing even during the most uncertain times. While so much about this upcoming year is unknown, I am confident that CISPA is well-positioned to rise to any challenge we may face. I very much look forward to another year as a part of your community.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JK", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Knapp
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Communities in Schools surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Every child needs and deserves:



OUR IMPACT

Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania brokers and develops programs such as mentoring/tutoring, after-school programming, individualized interventions, future planning and family assistance. Different kids have different needs. Some need academic help; some need a stable home and food on the table, or someone who will listen and help guide the way. Others need medical attention. Helping kids move beyond their circumstances requires an individualized approach, not one-size-fits-all. We treat young people as individuals and coordinate support support around their specific needs.

A coordinated, individualized approach; it's what makes us effective and makes our students successful!



66%

of students with an academic goal met or made progress towards their goal.



4,364 students received food, hygiene products, school supplies, and clothing to meet basic needs.*

*duplicated

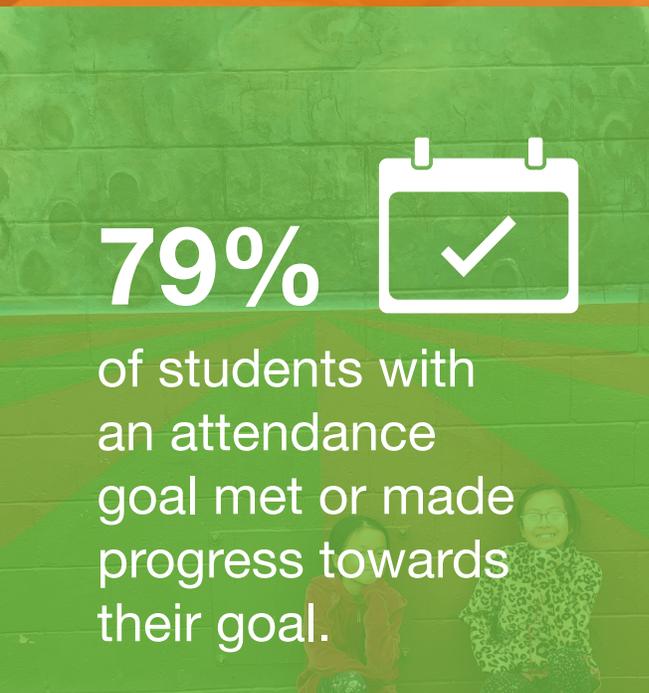


2,332 parents were served throughout the 2020-21 school year.*

*duplicated



79%



of students with an attendance goal met or made progress towards their goal.



56 students were case-managed throughout the 2020-21 school year.



50% of students with a behavior goal met or made progress towards their goal.

DISTRICT SUCCESSES

Though the 2020-21 school year presented unprecedented challenges, Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania continued to show up (in-person and virtually) for the students and community of Lebanon School District. Here are some of our successes from this school year:

- We hired Adaelsy Sanchez as a Student Support Specialist at Lebanon Middle School.
- Communities in Schools of PA continued to oversee distribution and logistics for the Power Packs program, ensuring students and families had access to healthy, nutritious food.
- Site staff at Northwest Elementary School were highlighted as an excellent model for Power Pack distribution sites. This model will serve as the go-to for other Lebanon School District school sites as they join in the Power Packs program for the 2021-22 school year.
- CIS of PA played a pivotal role in connecting with district families struggling with language barriers to basic needs and other community resources.
- CIS of PA staff created opportunities within Lebanon School District to highlight other community organizations to inform parents and families of available resources.
- Lebanon School District site staff attended as many community events as possible to share information on CISPA programs and grow our network of partners.



OUR SCHOOLS

Lebanon School District

Lebanon Middle School | Lebanon, PA



Guillermo Barroso

Community School Coordinator



Adaelsy Sanchez

Student Support Specialist

Northwest Elementary School | Lebanon, PA



Christina Tinoco

Community School Coordinator

OUR STUDENTS - Success Stories

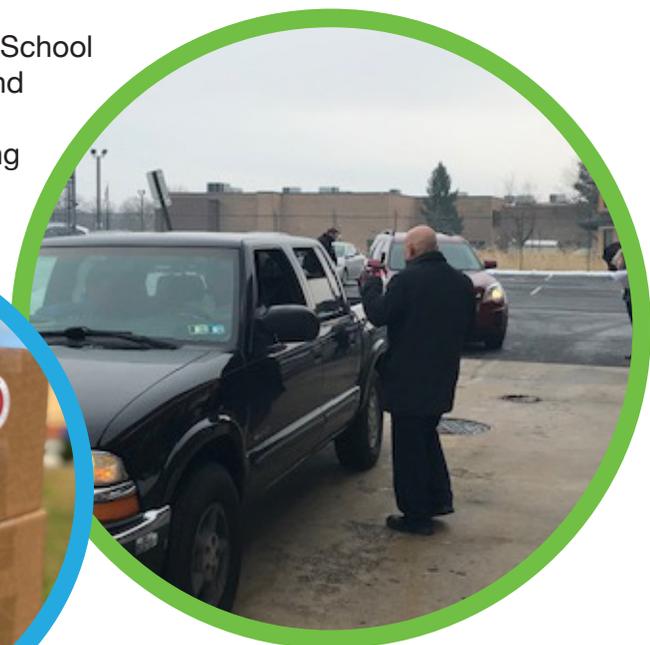
At Northwest Elementary in Lebanon School District, Community School Coordinator Christina Tinoco has gone above and beyond to implement the Power Packs program at her school, ensuring that students and their families have nutritious food to eat over the weekend in addition to a recipe card so they can recreate the healthy meal again. Since 2019, Christina has been the Power Packs liaison at Northwest Elementary; coordinating families needing to participate, backpack drop off by Power Packs volunteers, and handling the logistics of distribution each week.

The 20-21 school year continued the challenges of the previous year, and food insecurity was again at the top of the list. Christina was able to change the Power Packs distribution plan seamlessly; since volunteers and parents were no longer allowed inside the school building, she came up with a plan to move the weekly pick up to the school parking lot. Parents were able to drive up and their box would be placed in their car by a volunteer.

“...ensuring that students and their families have nutritious food to eat over the weekend in addition to a recipe card so they can recreate the healthy meal again.”

The number of families signed up to receive Power Packs had decreased dramatically over the previous year, by October 2020 there were only approximately 20 Northwest Elementary families coming by each week. Knowing that the need for nutritious food over the weekend was still high, Christina made sure to personally get in contact with families who she knew would benefit from the Power Packs program. She calls and sends text messages each week, reminding registered families of the upcoming pick up and to invite them to participate in follow-up surveys distributed by the Power Packs team. By the end of the 20-21 school year, Christina was able to increase the number of registered families to 105!

The Power Packs program will be in all schools in the Lebanon School District in the upcoming year, and Christina’s implementation and coordination at Northwest Elementary has been hailed as an exceptional model for all buildings to follow. She will be assisting other schools’ in developing their Power Packs program and ensuring that even more Lebanon School District students and their families have access to healthy, nutritious food when they aren’t in school.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are a cornerstone of the work that Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania does. The Community School Directors, Community Navigators, and Student Re-Engagement Specialists work with local organizations, businesses and other stakeholders to meet the needs of the school, students and families. Partners assist with giving donations to clothing closets, food pantries, and uniforms for students in the schools. They also assist with programs for students and providing volunteers to provide tutoring or mentoring to students.

Central PA Food Bank
Compass Mark
Dollar Tree
Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County
Giant Food Stores
Good Samaritan Hospital
La Placita de Lebanon
Lebanon Christian Ministries
Lebanon County Crisis Intervention Unit
Lebanon County MH/MR
Lebanon County Community Action Center
Lebanon Family Health Center
Lebanon Rescue Mission
Lebanon Rotary Club
Lebanon Store*
Lebanon Transit Ride On
Mid-Penn Legal Services
Midwest Food Bank
N.I.C.K. Services
Operation Warm*
PA Counseling
Power Pack Program
Save a Lot

Staples*
United Way of Lebanon County
Walmart
Weis Markets
Well Span Health Services of Lebanon
YWCA

*New partner this year



2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



Northwest Elementary School held a Free Food Giveaway in April of 2021. Donated food items were provided to families on a first come, first serve basis. The giveaway was a huge success (all food items were taken!) and the appreciation from families in need was felt.

Lebanon School District began at Power Packs Project at Northwest Elementary. Power Packs provide low cost recipes and ingredients to families so they can cook a meal for under \$5.00. Power Packs Project helps build a school-wide culture that works to decrease food insecurity. Distributions were coordinated on a weekly basis by CIS site staff.



Northwest Elementary School hosted “Technology Training for Parents” to help parents who were struggling with online learning. Parents learned how to set up their child’s iPad, navigate Seesaw and Accelerate Education and got tips on how to help their child. CIS of PA provided Spanish interpretation for Spanish-speaking parents.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Damian G. Zamias
President & CEO, SLC Reality, Inc.

Vice Chairman

Kim Staudt
Partner (retired), PWC

Secretary

Nicole Conway
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Vartan Group

Immediate Past Chairman

Reid Carpenter
Council of Leadership

Board Members

David Kerr
President of External Affairs, AT&T

Nyne Sellers
President & CEO, Launch Philadelphia

Dr. Robyn Maitoza
Associate Professor of Human Services, York College of Pennsylvania

Amy Beitel
Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce





Communities
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In schools to help kids
stay in school.

