



Communities In Schools of Chicago Honors School and Community Partners 2011 Awards Presented for Longstanding Leadership, Vision and Support of Students

Chicago, IL, May 12, 2011— Communities In Schools of Chicago (CISC) honored its five and 10-year school and community partners today at its annual Partner Recognition Breakfast at U.S. Cellular Field. The 2011 awards were presented to long-serving partners who have worked with Communities In Schools of Chicago to bring essential programs and services to address the critical social and emotional needs of tens of thousands of Chicago public school students.

In announcing the awards, Communities In Schools of Chicago’s Executive Director Jane Mentzinger celebrated the partners as “heroes.” She said: “At CISC, we thrive because of your leadership, vision and perseverance. Together, we are a formidable team: A smart network of schools, community organizations and businesses. Together, we have our sights set on nothing short of helping our children succeed in school – and in life.”

The keynote speaker was Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, whose department has been a 15-year CISC partner. He echoed Mentzinger’s praise for the school leaders and community partners. “You’re making our community so much stronger, so much better, because you truly are heroes,” he said. The County Sheriff’s Department has been at the center of a collaboration between law enforcement officials, communities, and schools to address violence in and around schools. This comes on the heels of a recent Communities In Schools of Chicago report – “Understanding Violent Prevention Priorities in Chicago’s Public Schools” – which found that violence prevention programming is the No. 1 priority of principals.

The 10-Year Partner Community Honorees are: Alternatives, Inc.; Chicago Department of Public Health’s Adolescent Health Program; Erie Neighborhood House; International Music Foundation; Rainbow House; and, Youth Outreach Services.

The 10-Year Partner School Honorees are: Jane Addams Elementary School; Avondale Elementary School; Beasley Academic Magnet Center; Eliza Chappell Elementary School; Dewey Academy of Fine Arts; W.E.B. DuBois Elementary School; Galileo Scholastic Academy; Nathan Goldblatt Elementary School; Friedrich Jahn Elementary School; Little Village Academy; Horatio May Community Academy; Pilsen Community Academy;

Florence B. Price School of Fine Art; Jesse Sherwood Elementary School; Wendell Smith Elementary School; Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School; and. Washington Irving Elementary School.

Over the course of the partnerships, CISC has helped schools identify their most pressing needs – from violence prevention education and mental health programs to arts enrichment programs - which they often cannot address because of limited resources. CISC provide, and matched the schools with community organizations that delivered the programs at no costs to the schools.

The recognition breakfast also featured a special award to CISC’s Mentzinger for her 10 years of service as executive director. Under her leadership, more than 10,000 connections have been made between schools and community partners serving more than 250,000 Chicago public school students.

###

About Communities In Schools of Chicago: Communities In Schools of Chicago (CISC) connects Chicago Public School students with programs and services they need that their schools often cannot provide. From health promotion and arts enrichment, to mental health and violence prevention, the services that CISC links to students are provided at no cost to schools. During the 2009-2010 school year, CISC connected services to more than 63,000 students at more than 160 schools. Founded in 1988, CISC is a non-profit affiliate of Communities In Schools, Inc., the nation’s largest dropout prevention organization. More information can be found at www.chicagocis.org.

Media Contacts:

Anne Tucker, Melcher+Tucker Consultants, 312-795-3556 / atucker@mtconsultants.com

Richard Melcher, Melcher+Tucker Consultants, 312-795-3550 / rmelcher@mtconsultants.com