



Communities
In Schools®

Pittsburgh-Allegheny County



Impact Report 2021

connections

Executive Director's Letter



OUR VISION

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh-Allegheny County (CISPAC) strives to be the leader of the community school implementation throughout the Pittsburgh Region ensuring an equitable education experience for ALL students.

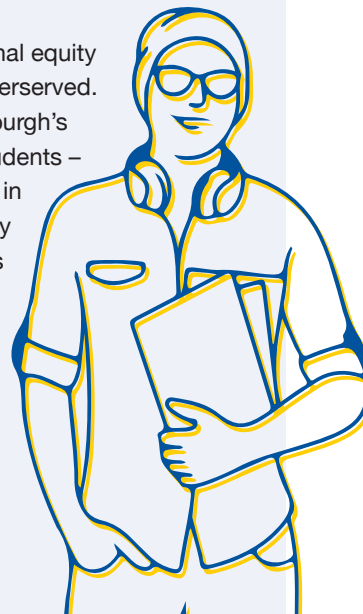
OUR MISSION

To surround students of the Greater Pittsburgh region with a community of support, empowering them to achieve in school and succeed in life.

OUR COMMITMENT

CISPAC exists to be a community leader and advocate of educational equity for all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable and underserved. We cannot ignore the facts. Because of injustices of the past, Pittsburgh's most vulnerable are predominantly made up of black and brown students – historically, currently, and into the foreseeable future. We stand firm in our belief that individual value, potential, and ability is not defined by race. If we are going to continue as a civil society, economic access and empowerment must be accessible to all.

We declare that the lives of every student we serve matter. They are our priority. They are our future. They are our champions.



If there's one thing I'm grateful for about the 2020-21 school year, is that it really taught our communities how much we need to rely on each other for health, education, and life.

I had my wakeup call in 2014, when my youngest child needed serious medical care for a mysterious illness. I had spent my entire career helping families navigate difficult circumstances, helping people get the resources they need. Finding myself on the other side of the equation was terrifying, and despite my experience, I still felt helpless in circumstances I knew nothing about. But the team at Children's Hospital made it possible to navigate that crisis — providing medical care, advice, resources, and emotional support. Without that community, I don't think we would have gotten through it.

After that experience, I felt a stronger connection to parents who were knocked off course by life's circumstances. I wanted the kids and families I worked with to feel that same surrounding support I felt in my moment of greatest need. It was about that time that I learned CISPAC's approach: kids have their best chance at learning when their other needs are being met and when there is a person embedded in the school to coordinate it all. By 2015 I had seized the opportunity to come onboard as Executive Director of Communities in Schools – Pittsburgh Allegheny County.

Since then, I have aspired to bring aboard a team that shares my passion for helping children, families, and schools. Together we have worked to build a community in each of our school districts, entrenching staff in the building and meeting face-to-face with parents and families. We could see the progress being made in our districts.

The pandemic made this work even more critical, and though school buildings were closed, the communities CISPAC had worked to create continued to serve our students and families. Our staff was able to keep contact with families, providing tablets and other devices to get kids connected, getting basic needs like food, hygiene products and clothing to the families hit hardest by the pandemic. In early 2021, we finished the 5-year process of becoming a certified Trauma Informed Care agency by the Sanctuary Institute. As families dealt with the incredible trauma of financial struggles, loss of friends and family, and social isolation, this framework became our lighthouse of hope in the fog.

Hope is what our staff offer every day. Watching our staff build relationships with children and connect families with food, vaccination clinics, basic needs, school supplies, and mentorship keeps me focused on that hope. The cornerstone of our service philosophy is that we are all in this together. I am so proud of our services, the staff, the children, and the parents we serve. And I am so grateful for you and the rest of our community of friends, donors, and supporters.

I am excited to share this Annual Report with you. I know that the impact of our work will inspire you the way it does me. It has been a difficult road, but also one that has been worthy of celebrating. Thank you for your dedication to our mission and here is to another successful year at CISPAC.

Bridget Clement
Executive Director

We are Sanctuary Certified

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh - Allegheny County (CISPAC) is proud to be a Sanctuary®-certified institution committed to deepening its understanding of trauma's impact on individuals, schools, and communities. CISPAC works actively to promote trauma sensitivity within our internal operation as well as in our work throughout the Greater Pittsburgh region.



Board of Directors



David Babst
Managing Director
of DNA Consulting, LLC
BOARD VICE CHAIR



Jennifer Bartholomew
Associate Director,
UBS Financial Services



Donald Bluedorn
Managing Shareholder,
Babst Calland
BOARD CHAIR



Marla Bradford
Senior Diversity Recruiter,
Duquesne Light



Austin Davis
Pennsylvania State
Representative



Shawn Fox
President,
RDC, Inc.



David Howard
Executive VP Sales,
ServiceLink
BOARD SECRETARY



Fred Massey
Owner,
Visions 2020 LLC



Nicholas O'Brien
Operations Officer,
Team Pennsylvania
Army National Guard



Andy Stanton
Partner,
Jones Day®
BOARD TREASURER



Melissa Painter
VP of Human Resource,
Watson Institute



Dustin C. Pierce
Maintenance Manager,
United States Steel



Barbara VanKirk
CEO, IQ Inc.

In this Report

- ii CISPAC Mission, Vision and Commitment
- iii Letter from the Executive Director
- iv Board of Directors
- v We are Sanctuary Certified
- 2 Connecting through Basic Needs
- 4 Connecting through Technology and Special Initiatives
- 6 Our Impact 2020–2021
- 8 Reconnecting: A Preview of 2022
- 10 Financial Summary
- 11 CISPAC Staff

Special thanks to

muffinmanstudios 





Connecting through Basic Needs

CISPAC's work exists to surround students with the support that they need to be successful. In programming year 2021, that meant providing essentials to help families make ends meet. New clothing, shoes, coats, and supplemental food helps students feel focused, confident, and ready to learn.

Our work in the 2020-2021 Programming year focused heavily on helping families hit hard by the pandemic. We offered:



Free Clothing
Stores



Vaccination
Van



Food
Boxes



Deliveries
of Essentials

equaling **\$128,770** in tangible donations of Basic Needs
Goods and Services

EAST ALLEGHENY ▼

East Allegheny hosted six events to provide basic needs support to:



512
Students



420
Parents



24
Volunteers

STO-ROX ▼

In Sto-Rox, 14 deliveries of food and basic needs totaling \$74,300 to benefit:



1,470
Students



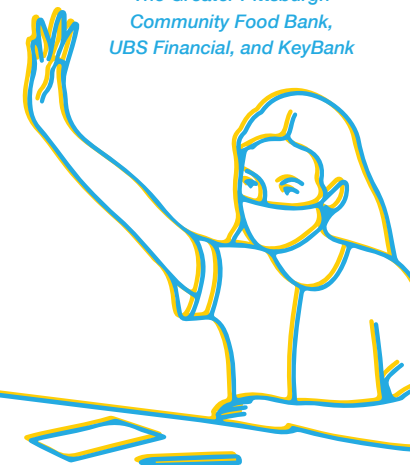
760
Parents



30
Volunteers



Thank you to our
top basic need supporters:
The Greater Pittsburgh
Community Food Bank,
UBS Financial, and KeyBank



"I sought to be part of CISPAC's mission because of the unique balance it is able to achieve in executing its mission. CISPAC has a long-term view toward positive, systemic change while also delivering real-time impact on the lives of the participants, schools, and communities it serves."

— Dave Howard, CISPAC Board Secretary,
Executive VP of Sales, ServiceLink



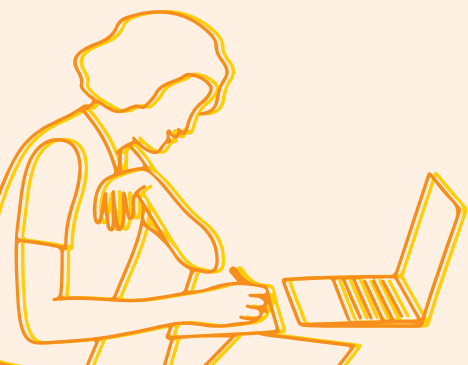
Connecting through Technology and Special Initiatives

Working within school walls and beyond, CISPAC builds a community of support. In 2020 and 2021, there was major emphasis on the “beyond” part of our mission. CISPAC connected with students by providing virtual services like mentoring, parent groups, and workforce development. It would not have seemed possible before 2020, but our staff even provided robust summer work programs for city youth through a partnership with Partner4Work. We also provided hardware like tablets and wireless ear buds to help students stay connected to learning and each other.

“

“The global pandemic has highlighted the glaring need and lack of resources that are available to help kids in schools within our Pittsburgh community- and more and more people are realizing that CISPAC is uniquely positioned to offer game-changing support.”

— David Babst, CISPAC Board Vice Chair



DUQUESNE SCHOOL DISTRICT ▼


100%

CISPAC's Implementation Specialist engaged 100% of the sixth grade class



Every sixth grade student received a tablet to connect to virtual learning


50

Parent Coffee support group grew to 50 participants

LEARN AND EARN

SUMMER WORK PROGRAM 2021 ▼

36 

Engaged 36 young people in summer work opportunities

23 

23 students received virtual reality goggles to complete virtual work


11

11 students completed media internships working on videography, photography, editing, interviewing, social media, TV, and radio production

“

“[Our implementation specialist] being that smiling face of Parent Coffee is what really brought a lot of us together. She’s a woman that looks like us, the speaks like us, that talks like us, and was able to really engage with a lot of the parents on that emotional connectivity level. Not just as a professional who’s around our children, but because she’s a person who’s generally interested in providing a resource.” — Tresh Dean, Duquesne Elementary Parent



Our Impact 2020–2021



Served
4,600
students



Served 2,720
parents and
community
members



129 students
received
direct support



80% of students
met attendance
and behavior
goals



80% of students
improved
their GPA



100% of students
completed the
school year



30 students
received 1:1
mentoring



36 students
completed the
*Learn and Earn
Summer Work
Program*



Provided \$128,770
in tangible
basic needs, goods
and services



Launched *Project Future*,
a workforce development
program in Sto-Rox
with free Driver's Ed



Reconnecting: A Preview of 2022

During this fiscal year, CISPAC:



Launched a multi-district Reengagement Program to reconnect students and their families to learning. Thousands of children all over the country have not been in a classroom or virtual learning environment since the start of the pandemic. This work is done through **community outreach and coordination of services**, rooted in our proven **Integrated Student Support model**, so that families have what they need to get children back to school.



Hired two Homeless Resource Specialists to connect families to the housing resources they need to find and maintain stable housing. In some schools in our region over 10% of the student body is dealing with housing insecurity. Even brief periods of homelessness can have a profound impact on a child and can start a cycle difficult to break, leading to poorer outcomes in education, career and in life. This service, built upon **our proven model of integrated student support**, deepens our ability to **meet the most critical student needs**.



Co-created anti-violence initiatives in Sto-Rox. CISPAC is working with district leaders and fellow providers to create an **Anti-Violence Committee**, bringing in 40 organizations and community advocates dedicated to **making Sto-Rox a safer place**. As part of this initiative, CISPAC is creating safe passages to help young people **get to and from school safely**, both physically and mentally.

YOU CAN HELP ✂



Mentoring

CISPAC is launching mentoring in each district we serve. Contact Julianna Sehy at jsehy@cispac.org to learn more about how **you can impact the life of an area student** through the gift of mentoring.



Corporate Support

CISPAC, an approved, EITC Education Innovation Organization partners with some of the region's top businesses to advance our work. **Do you work for a company that values social responsibility?** Contact Lauren Brown lbrown@cispac.org to learn more about how we can help you advance your company's community impact goals.



School Partnerships

Do you work at a school that could benefit from CISPAC's evidenced-based Integrated Student Support model? **Our team can conduct a Community School Assessment, provide recommendations, and embed a staff person** to help you and your school succeed. Contact Bridget Clement, Executive Director, at bclement@cispac.org to learn more.

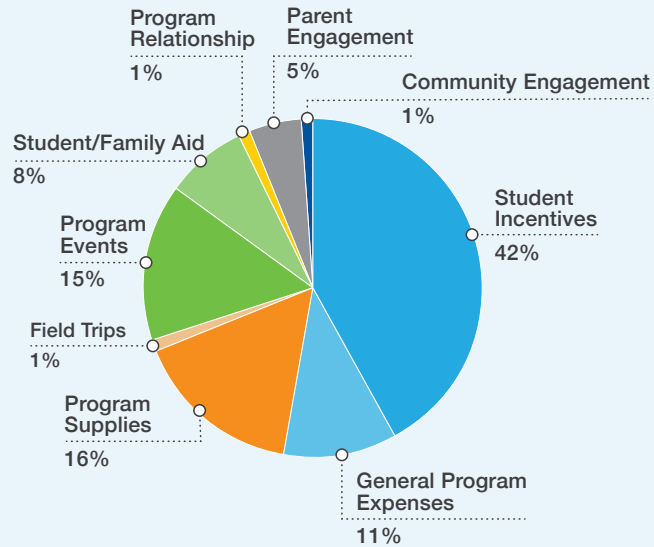


Basic Needs

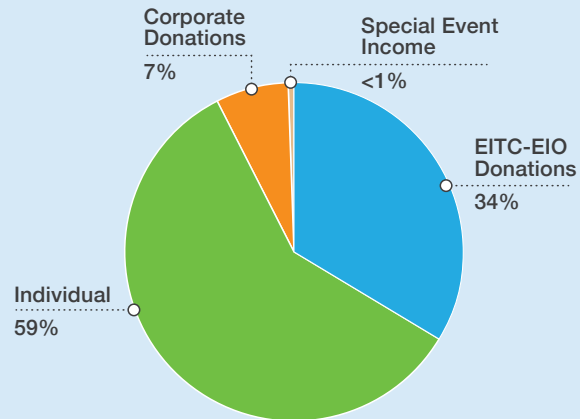
Students in your community need items like outerwear, shoes, school uniforms, and hygiene products to feel their best and be ready to learn. If you can provide some of these items or organize a drive for CISPAC students, contact George Moura at gmoura@cispac.org.

Financials 2020

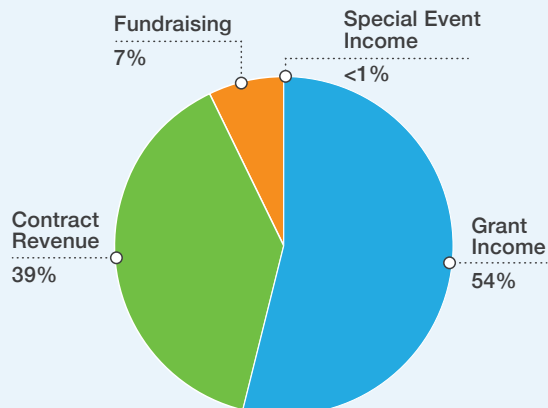
Program Expenses



Fundraising Sources



Main Sources of Revenue



CISPAC Staff



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Bridget Clement Executive Director	Jeff Cooper, PhD Director of Evaluation	Denise Mason Bullitt Strategist for Development, Communications, Operations	Juliana Sehý Assistant Program Director	Philip Battle Homeless Services Specialist	George Moura Communications Coordinator
Sara C. Berg Program Director	Lauren Brown Director of Strategic Advancement	Nicole Wenturine Executive Office Manager	Emily Eichner Volunteer and Mentoring Coordinator	LaToya Lewis Homeless Services Specialist	Chris Mason Webmaster



SCHOOL STAFF

DUQUESNE SCHOOL DISTRICT Mrs. Gunn-Ray Implementation Specialist – Duquesne Elementary School	Jenica Schoolcraft Reengagement Specialist	PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS Sakinah Shaahid-Lowman Site Manager – Arsenal Elementary/Middle School	Esther Brown Reengagement Specialist
EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT Mike Kroeker Intervention Specialist – East Allegheny Junior/Senior High School	Jacqueline Robinson-Bailey Reengagement Specialist	STO-ROX SCHOOL DISTRICT Bryan McCarthy Site Manager – Sto Rox Primary Center/Upper Elementary	Sydney Dominick Reengagement Specialist
Laquandra Bennet Implementation Specialist – Logan Elementary School	JEANETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT Diamond Hill-Dupee Reengagement Specialist	Jordan Allen Implementation Specialist	





CISPAC is a local affiliate of the national organization Communities In Schools (CIS) that ensures all students have what they need to stay in school and on a path to a brighter future. Working directly inside more than 2,900 school and community sites across the country, we connect kids to caring adults and community resources designed to help them succeed in school and life.

With a proven mix of evidence-based practice and human capital, CIS's 121 affiliates do whatever it takes to empower kids to realize their full potential.