Communities In Schools of Georgia in Troup County
Awarded $40,000 as Part of Georgia State of Hope Initiative

July 18, 2019

ATLANTA – Communities In Schools (CIS) of Georgia in Troup County has been designated as a 2019 State of Hope site by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and will receive funding to implement a new program in Troup County dedicated to improving the graduation rate of students in foster care.

The announcement was made by DFCS in partnership with Georgia State University (Child Welfare Training Collaborative) and Georgia Family Connection partnership. The State of Hope initiative seeks to encourage nonprofits, philanthropies, government, businesses and communities to collaborate closely to build local safety nets that will prevent conditions that contribute to disparities in education, threaten a family’s self-sufficiency and could lead to child abuse and neglect.

CIS of Georgia in Troup County is part of the state’s leading organization in providing student support services and dropout prevention. CIS is dedicated to empowering at-risk students to stay in school and on a path to a brighter future. CIS connects kids to caring adults and community resources designed to help them succeed. “Our mission is to improve the graduation rate in our county and your grant opportunity alerted us to the sad rate of 11% for foster students. This is unacceptable,” said Tabitha Coverson, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Georgia in Troup County. “We aim to reduce the impact of the disruption that occurs when students are faced with unstable parental figures, unfamiliar streets, traumatized siblings, and a strange, new school. Developing partnerships, working with families, and using feedback to inform decisions is at the heart of our solution,” Tabitha said.

The $40,000 award will allow a CIS Site Coordinator to be dedicated to identifying and working with children and teens in foster care with the goal of improving the graduation rate in Troup County.

DFCS Interim Director, Tom Rawlings said, “Together, we started a movement to design communities where children are safe, thriving and full of hope. We are incredibly honored to be partnered with communities on this journey and look forward to expanding our network and influence in the coming year.”

“Having CIS providing services to our foster kids would be a huge asset. The kids often come from situations that cause them to not trust anyone, especially at school. They would really benefit from having an additional voice that would help them to build trust and assist with their confidence,” said LaShunta Godwin, Social Services Supervisor, Troup County Department of Family and Children Services.

Through a partnership with the Division of Family and Children Services Communities In Schools of Georgia in Troup County identified over 60 children who will be assigned to their new CIS Site Coordinator funded by State of Hope. This Site Coordinator will work with DFCS to reach families, with schools to transport kids to their previous school, with colleges to organize field trips, with the Department of Juvenile Justice to educate kids about laws and risks, & with religious organizations to mentor, tutor, and nurture healthy, trusting relationships.