

YOUR DONATION AT WORK

Brighter futures and better lives, because of you.



\$ The Return on Your Investment:

Children of All Ages Excelling in Richmond Schools

Communities In Schools of Richmond (CIS) has been helping students in the Richmond Public Schools to learn, stay in school and prepare for life since 1996. United Way has supported the program since its inception. Dr. Harold Fitrer, President/CEO of Communities In Schools of Richmond, told us how your dollars are making a difference for Richmond's children:

“ For the last three years, Communities In Schools of Richmond has worked toward becoming the leading coordinator of wrap-around resources for Richmond Public School students, ensuring that all students are engaged and positioned for personal success with a high school diploma and a plan for the future.



Dr. Harold Fitrer

During this time, we have more than doubled our reach, providing targeted and intensive services for students in 29 elementary, middle, and high schools in high-poverty Richmond neighborhoods.

United Way is a critical partner in our success. Through a financial commitment and as a strategic partner, United Way works with CIS of Richmond to address the needs of our city's most vulnerable children.

In 2010, CIS of Richmond connected more than 12,640 Richmond Public School students to services, providing intensive case-managed services to 18% of those students. At the end of the 2009-2010 school year:

- 72% of students improved academic performance.
- 74% met goals related to improved behavior and coping skills.
- 62% met improved attendance targets.
- 95% were promoted and 98% graduated.

We are honored to be delivering the CIS Model in Richmond, working with United Way to harness community resources and ensure that kids are given the best chance to realize their full potential.”

Leymah Defies the Odds

Life in the refugee camps of war-torn Liberia did not allow Leymah the opportunity to attend school. Born just after the start of Liberia's first civil war, Leymah was 9 years old when the second civil war broke out. When she made it from Africa to Richmond in 2004, Leymah was 14 years old, uneducated, and eight months pregnant.



FEATURED PROGRAM:
School Liaison for Refugee and Immigrant Children at Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Help was waiting for Leymah, and others like her, in the form of the School Liaison for Refugee and Immigrant Children at Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Refugee and Immigration Services works with students, families, and schools to help refugee and immigrant youth succeed academically. United Way's generous donors have supported this program since the early 1980s.

Without your support, attending school might have been impossible for Leymah. The school liaison arranged for Leymah to receive instruction at home before her child was born, then to attend school as a ninth-grader afterward.

Throughout the school year, Leymah kept up with her studies with the help of weekly tutoring arranged by the school liaison. Over the summer, the liaison connected Leymah with instructors who helped her continue to build her skills.

After two years of working with a school liaison, Leymah left the program when her family moved away. Then in June 2010, a surprise arrived in the mail: Leymah invited the school liaison to attend her high school graduation ceremony.

With the challenges she has faced in her life, Leymah's graduation was an amazing accomplishment. She is now attending a local college and plans to go to medical school. Your support has made it possible for Leymah to achieve her dreams.