



Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc.
Helping Kids Succeed in School and in Life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Communities In Schools Dallas Region Receives \$84,000 Wachovia Grant to Fund Leadership Development Program for At-Risk Students

Wachovia Building Leaders Program offers measurable results in developing leadership traits in elementary school participants

Dallas, TX (February 14, 2008)—Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc. (CISDR) has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$84,150 to fund the Wachovia Building Leaders Program at six elementary schools in the Dallas region. Now in its second year, the program targets at-risk 4th and 5th grade students, helping them to develop the confidence and skills they need to emerge as leaders in the middle and high school years. The program launched statewide in 2006 with a \$500,000 grant from the Wachovia Foundation used to implement a pilot program in Communities In Schools (CIS) partner schools in the Dallas region, as well as Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

Wachovia Building Leaders currently serves more than 140 students in the Dallas, Richardson, McKinney and Carrollton-Farmers Branch independent school districts. Participants meet weekly throughout the school semester and during a two-week summer session to learn about and discuss the six pillars of character, and how to apply these pillars to everyday life, their neighborhoods, home and at school. Experiential activities such as trips to local city government offices and service learning projects make tangible learned traits such as respect, fairness and responsibility. As a result of the program, participants have been elected to leadership roles on their student councils, undertaken neighborhood and school improvement projects, and conducted substance abuse education for peers.

“The world our children create will be a reflection of the values we instill in them today,” says Sandra G. Chavarria, President and CEO of Communities In Schools Dallas Region. “The Wachovia Building Leaders Program has made a tremendous impact in helping students to identify and unlock their potential as future leaders. They are better equipped to face life’s obstacles and make decisions that will have a positive impact on their road to graduation and beyond.”

Participating Dallas region schools include Maple Lawn Elementary in Dallas ISD, Farmers Branch and Janie Stark elementary schools in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Forest Lane Elementary in Richardson ISD, and Caldwell and Webb elementary schools in McKinney ISD. The Wachovia Foundation has pledged a total of \$250,675 to fund the program in select CIS partner schools in Austin, Houston, San Antonio and the Dallas region through December 2008.

About Communities In Schools Dallas Region

Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc. (CISDR) successfully helps students at risk of failure stay in school, achieve academically and graduate to become productive and contributing members of our communities. For 22 years CISDR professional staff and community volunteers have provided daily, one-on-one academic support

services to more than 375,000 at-risk students in Dallas, Collin and Ellis county public schools. CISDR consistently achieves 90% or better in increased academic success, retention and graduation rates among students served. To learn more, visit www.cisdallas.org.

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