



United Way  
of Rockingham County

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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CHILDREN SERVICES

**--Communities in Schools receives United Way Grant--**

**WENTWORTH, NC, September 16, 2005** -- United Way of Rockingham County announced that a \$44,500 grant has been approved by the Board of Directors for funding the Communities in Schools program throughout Rockingham County. The finances are being made available for the current school year, with hopes for expanding the program to new schools in the coming years.

Communities in Schools (CIS) executive director Gretchen Shelton-Raiford plans to match 153 students with adult mentors during the 2005-2006 school year. "We already have a mentoring and tutoring program in three Rockingham County Schools," stated Shelton-Raiford, "including Moss Elementary, Draper Elementary, and Holmes Middle School, and we have just added Dillard Elementary, McMichael Senior High, and Reidsville Senior High for this year." Plans are in place to add other school sites in the future.

Shelton-Raiford added that more volunteer mentors are needed. Those interested in helping can contact the CIS coordinator at their local school.

By accepting the grant from United Way of Rockingham County, CIS of Rockingham County agrees to be evaluated under an “outcomes-based” measurement system. Among the outcomes specified are improved behavior, decreased suspensions, improved academic achievement and improved attendance.

United Way of Rockingham County executive director Richard K. Hurley states that these outcomes are measurable and indicate real change. “We know the numbers of behavioral incidents and suspensions in the past, and we will look for a decrease, but this goes beyond statistics and indicates a positive change in that child’s life.”

Communities in Schools is an IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Eden, NC and is governed by a local board of directors representing both private and public interests in the county. Their mission is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools and other sites to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. For more information contact Gretchen Shelton-Raiford, Executive Director at (336)552-6255 or visit [www.cisnet.org/cisrockinghamcounty](http://www.cisnet.org/cisrockinghamcounty).

United Way of Rockingham County is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in the county seat of Wentworth, NC and seeks to build financial as well as organizational support for their 20 member agencies serving the Rockingham County community. For more information, contact United Way of Rockingham County at (336) 342-7768 or on the web at [www.uwrockingham.org](http://www.uwrockingham.org).

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