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September 2019

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..... **WHAT WE ARE MADE OF**

Thomasville High School Alumni and Graduate of the CIS Teen Parent Program, **Marquia Neal**, is a success by any measure. She is studying for the LSAT, plans to attend law school, is married with two beautiful children, living in a home that they own, and plans to be a motivational speaker. But her life journey took a turn when she discovered that she would become a teen parent. With the support of her parents and the CIS Teen Parent Program, she worked hard to stay on track for high school graduation while she focused on being the best parent she could be. Nine years later, her hard work paid off.



Michele Garkusha has led the CIS Teen Parent Program since its inception 13 years ago. As a counselor, Michele helps pregnant and parenting teens navigate school, parenting, and life challenges like finding safe, affordable housing and maintaining the health of baby and the mother. Marquia is just one of Michele's success stories. Knowing how articulate and passionate Marquia is, Michele recommended that she give the keynote address at the NC Teen Parent Graduation Conference, where teen mothers from across the state celebrate their high school graduation and prepare the next step in their lives.

Marquia commented following the ceremony, "Today, I had the wonderful opportunity to be the keynote speaker at the North Carolina Teen Parent Program Graduation Conference. I congratulated the graduates and shared some words of wisdom based on my own experience. Thank you to Ms. Michele Garkusha for recommending me as the keynote for such a special occasion. I also want to thank my sister, Danielle Dow, for traveling with me and supporting me. I am so appreciative of all the help from

LaShonda Crawford. Lastly, I want to give a super thank you to my awesome husband, Joshua Neal, and my parents, Renee & Raymond Dow, for always supporting me and pushing me to the next level.”

2019 Annual Back to School Campaign



Pictured from left to right: Cathy Davis, Jose, Angel Harper

Jose began working with CIS in middle school where he learned how to set goals, and that working with a caring adult can change your life. In his first quarter in high school, he earned perfect attendance and A/B honor roll. Jose’s story is just one of many that proves that the foundation we lay from school to school makes all the difference. Jose is a testimony to the

power of having someone in your corner in school every day, with support that goes beyond the classroom. **And that is what we are made of .**

Help us make a difference for more children this school year.

**Consider a gift of \$10, \$25, \$100 or more
to support the work of CIS in our schools.**

**Join our “community of support”
to help kids stay in school and achieve in life.**

What We are Up To!

Horizon Fund Trip to Biltmore Estate



Tour of Biltmore Estates

see video [click here](#).

Want to impact a child's life?

Volunteer / Mentor

Contact **Cathy Davis**
336-747-0332
davisc@cisthomasville.org

Recruiting NOW!
Be a guiding light in their life today!



Farmers' Market Cooking Demo



Thomasville Middle School students led a cooking demo at the Thomasville's Farmers' Market. They shared samples of healthy, easy-to-make smoothies and trail mix and practiced their soft-skills as they interacted with shoppers.

The students also harvested fresh vegetables from the CIS Garden at Bulldog Academy. For some, it was the first time they smelled fresh basil!



Side by side with the **Thomasville Police Department**, CIS enjoyed the fun, recruited volunteers, and spoke with families.

National Night Out



Upcoming Events

Greater Vision Outreach Community Resource Fair

Come join us at our



Resource Fair

Come see us on the campus of Baptist Children's Home on Saturday, 9/21, 9:00-1:00!

There will be free hot dogs, games, and lots of information on resources in our community - like CIS of Thomasville!

Everybody's Day

Join us for a day of fun and games.

September 28, 2019

8 am - 4 pm

Main Street in Thomasville

Play corn hole, get creative at our coloring table, and learn "What We Are Made Of!"



Communities In Schools of Thomasville

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STAY CONNECTED



LIVE UNITED

**Surrounding students with a community of support,
empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life**