



A few more hours of learning and fun

CSC opens its doors for kids facing homelessness.

What do you picture when you hear the word, "lifeline"? Does it bring to mind people "living at the margins," who are about to "fall through the cracks?"

Such images don't begin to express the hopes and dreams of children who are homeless. With so much upheaval in their lives, what they want more than anything is normalcy. They want to be just like other kids.

With your support, CSC is able to do more to meet this pressing need. In the Tukwila School District this year, **about four times as many students are homeless compared with last year.**

CSC has worked with Kathleen Gantz, Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Tukwila Schools, to **open our enrollment to any child facing homelessness.** Each day, children without homes have a place to go after school, food to eat, help with their homework and new learning experiences. For a few more hours, life for these kids is safe, normal and fun.

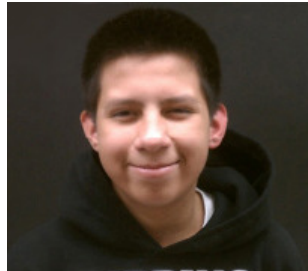


Homelessness is one facet of the growing trend of suburban poverty. Read on to learn how CSC and its communities are addressing this issue, and how our youth are succeeding despite the obstacles. Our work is made possible by your commitment to our children and families. Thank you, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Making the most of middle school

8th grader is on his way to success.

José Tamayo Gallegos is a young man who knows how to take advantage of a great opportunity. So when he learned in 6th grade about CSC's middle school transition program, "Making the Jump," he signed up right away.



[Learn more about José on p. 2](#)

"I looked at it and said 'oooo,' because it looked like good college help."

A positive response to a troubling issue

CSC, Tukwila exemplify solutions to suburban poverty.

During the last decade, the number of poor people in suburbs surpassed the number in cities for the first time. With fewer transit options and safety net resources, poverty in the suburbs can be a harsher experience than in the city. Researchers are looking at Tukwila as a bright spot in this troubling trend.

[Learn more on p. 2](#)



About CSC

Community Schools Collaboration (CSC) exists to provide children and youth with opportunities to succeed in school, to develop high aspirations, and to create a better world. Our vision is that all children and youth reach their full potential and realize their dreams.

CSC works at 17 school-based sites in the Tukwila and Highline School Districts of South King County, WA. We offer academic support, enrichment, health services and family engagement programs to students in grades K-12.

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Middle school success

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In “Making the Jump” (MTJ), cohorts of 5th through 8th graders meet weekly after school—and in some cases join a four-week summer program—to prepare for success in the upper grades. Many are referred by teachers because of poor elementary school performance. Together these students learn habits for school success, develop interpersonal skills, explore college and careers, and become a positive peer group.

Two years ago as a 6th grader at Madrona Elementary School in SeaTac, José became part of what he calls the first “guinea pig” cohort of MTJ. Each year has been a valuable step on his path to college. “Sixth grade helped me learn what middle school would be like. In the summer program I met cool teachers like [language arts teacher] Mr. Shinn who helped me a lot when I reached middle school.”

José has continued to grow as a 7th and 8th grader at Chinook Middle School in SeaTac. “[MTJ] helped teach me how to be more organized and how to make smart goals that are measurable and achievable, and how to budget my time.”

“I always set goals and work towards them so that I will achieve great things.”

MTJ’s support is paying off for CSC’s “guinea pig” class, now in their final year of middle school. José, an A student and member of the Chinook Leadership Team, is applying to Aviation High School and wants to be an engineer. And he is only one example of the program’s success. **Sixteen out of 22 MTJ students at Chinook are on the honor roll, and 86 honor roll students at Cascade Middle School are CSC students.** Like José, these youth are showing that with an extra boost, they *will* achieve great things!



Solutions to suburban poverty

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In 2012, the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program will publish a book on this issue, *The Suburbanization of Poverty in America*. Researchers Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube selected Tukwila as a positive example of a community’s response to changing demographics and growing poverty. The researchers have examined the following:

- The robust partnership between CSC, the City of Tukwila, and the Tukwila School District that has led to, among other benefits:
 - Almost 100% of Tukwila students being fully immunized and dental screened.
 - On-time graduation rates **10 percent higher than state averages.**



- The tireless efforts of Tukwila teacher and resident Katrina Dohn. She coordinates a clothing bank and arranges for shoe donations from Payless and Adidas.
- The generosity of Fellowship Bible Church. The church hosts the clothing bank and offers a free walk-in health clinic on Saturdays.

Many other groups, such as Kids Without Borders, WA Smile Partners, the International Rescue Committee and Global to Local, have helped make Tukwila a model community for meeting the needs of all its residents.

Helping students fulfill their potential

Results from CSC’s 2010-11 Evaluation

With the support of outside evaluators MEMConsultants, CSC has gathered data to assess the impact of our programs. We are pleased to share the following outcomes with you.

Demographics

- CSC served 2,137 students.
- More than 87% were youth of color.
- More than 70% were from low-income families.

Academic success

- Over 70% of CSC students needed to improve in academics at year’s start.
- Teachers reported that 69% of students who needed to improve in academics did so.
- More than 80% of youth indicated that CSC helped them with homework, grades, effort, and motivation.

“Short of increasing the school day, [CSC] is the best way we can support our struggling students.”

– Elementary teacher

Social development

- More than 70% of students said CSC helps them set goals, make good choices, and solve problems.
- More than 75% of youth indicated that CSC helps them improve their communities and teaches them how to help others.