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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPAGHETTI DINNER SPONSORED BY OLIVE GARDEN A BIG SUCCESS
Local School Children To Benefit With Free School Supplies**

The kick-off fundraising event for Communities In Schools of Aurora was held on Thursday, April 21st at the Prisco Community Center, hosted by the Fox Valley Park District. Theresa Shoemaker, executive director for CIS said that this year we had a wonderful attendance from our community in support of the Project Unity and Communities In Schools Back To School Fair. The fair provides low income children free schools supplies, backpacks, physicals, immunizations, dental screenings and community resources. It is estimated that over 4,000 children will benefit from this year's drive with a cost of nearly \$72,500. Shoemaker said special thanks goes out to the Fox Valley Park District for their continued support and to Marshall Darwish, Director of Operations for Olive Garden, Jessica Anderson, General Manager of Oswego Olive Garden, and Chuck Cortese, General Manager of the Naperville Olive Garden and the Olive Garden employees who prepared and served our guests. We were blessed with support from our board, CIS volunteers and staff for all they do to help celebrate the good work of our programs stated Shoemaker.

A free raffle drawing was held with gifts donated by Olive Garden and we want to congratulate the following people who filled out a ticket and had their name drawn; Zaida Rodriguez (gift certificate), Esther Countryman (gift basket), Chip St. Jules (gift basket), and Rafael Ramirez (gift basket).

Communities In Schools is a registered nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization located in the Fred Rogers Community Center, Aurora and partners with East Aurora School District 131, West Aurora School District 129, Indian Prairie School District 204 and Oswego School District 308 to deliver daytime and afterschool programs to children. It is the mission of Communities In Schools to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. You can find us at www.cisaurora.org to learn more about how you can support local school children.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Theresa Shoemaker, Executive Director, please call Paul Klinger at (630) 256-4504 or email Paul at pklinger@cisaurora.org

