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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS RECOGNITION BREAKFAST Local Community Agencies Save City Money and Help Local Students

Aurora – Aurora University hosted this year’s Communities In Schools Recognition Breakfast with well over 100 people in attendance to share in the celebration of the 2010 Aurora summer camps, sports programming, youth development programs and group music lessons. In March of 2010 the City of Aurora named CIS as the third party administrator of the Aurora youth programming after a competitive bid process was undertaken. As part of this project CIS partnered with community agencies to be able to provide equal or more services to the public for less city dollars. “Because we had so many projects we have decided to recognize our partners and highlight the activities that took place in the summer. We offered eight summer education camps, a fine arts camp, a sports festival camp, a three-on-three basketball tournament, three life skills programs and a parenting program”, stated Theresa Shoemaker, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Aurora.

Also recognized were CIS major donors and sponsors including the City of Aurora, Aurora University, the Dunham Fund, Hallmark Service Corporation, Hollywood Casino, Inc. Board, Juvenile Protection Association, the William G. McGowan Fund, Olive Garden and the Jerome Shoemaker family. A special thanks goes out to Arlene Hawks for being our Master of Ceremonies and for her positive comments and introductions. Arlene was also a recipient of the Communities In Schools Shining Star awards for serving as Theater Director, camp site manager, Technical Director and everything else needed to make this happen.

The following individuals and agencies were recognized for the vital role they played in making the program work for the students and families; Mayor Weisner and the City of Aurora, City Council and city staff members especially Dan Barreiro, Ken Maurice and Rick Mervine. The city of Aurora Human Resources department played a key role in connecting CIS with past employees and was recognized for their assistance. CIS employee Karen Harkness, Director of After School Programs/Grants/Evaluation for her fantastic job of pulling everything together to make these programs work. East Aurora, West Aurora and Indian Prairie School Districts, Aurora Township, Aurora University, The Aurora YWCA, The Heritage YWCA, Wayside Cross Ministries, Sow a Seed Outreach, Friends of Aurora After School Programs, Breaking Free, Family Focus, Visiting Nurses Association, Fox Valley Park District, Aurora Public Library, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Robert Crown Centers for Health Education, Triple Threat Mentoring, Community 4:12, and the Quad County Urban League.

## MORE

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.

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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](mailto:pklinger@cisaurora.org)