



## Looking ahead...

It has been said that there are few opportunities during periods of stability while, conversely, times of turbulence are periods of opportunity. They provide the chance to rethink the nature of our work, who we serve and how we go about it. They also provide opportunities to build new and different relationships to accomplish what needs to be done.



*Dr. Huey Barnett  
Executive Director*

We are obviously living in turbulent times and Bridgeport has many opportunities waiting to be grasped -- making its services available to a greater number of young people, expanding its network of service providers, enlarging its base of financial support, finding more effective ways to get parents involved, and more effective ways to help our students.

We have been asked to expand the scope of our services, and to expand into additional schools. Accomplishing these additional tasks will require additional money and volunteers. Included in this newsletter is a response card, providing an opportunity for those who are willing to volunteer and/or contribute. We need your help. As you participate, you will be blessed and you will certainly be a blessing to our kids. Please give serious consideration to your level of participation and return the attached response card today.

Thank you.

## Bridgeport Communities in Schools, Inc.

### WHAT IS BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS?

BCIS is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization proven to be highly effective in helping students stay in school, succeed academically, and improve their behavior.

### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF BCIS?

Improve school attendance and academic achievement, promote positive personal and social development, develop employment and vocational skills, increase parental involvement in school activities, decrease disruptive behavior, and provide positive alternative social activities for students.

### HOW DOES THE BCIS PROGRAM OPERATE?

A qualified staff of professionals in the areas of education, employment, health, and recreation operates within the school on a full time basis, providing students and family members with a variety of support services.

### WHAT SERVICES DOES BCIS PROVIDE?

Individual, group, family and vocational support services, parent training, tutoring, employment assistance, enrichment and cultural activities, health education and referral services.

### ON WHAT BASIS ARE STUDENTS REFERRED TO BCIS?

A student may self-refer or be referred by a teacher, counselor, parent or other student on the basis of school attendance, grades, personal or family problems, vocational needs, need for other support services, or interest in enrichment activities.

### HOW IS THE BCIS PROGRAM FUNDED?

Grants, donations and gifts-in-kind from the private and public sector. BCIS does not charge for any of its services.

### HOW SUCCESSFUL IS THE BCIS PROGRAM?

At the completion of its third year, BCIS had worked with more than 1100 students in the Clear Creek Independent School District, compiling a 99% retention rate.

## Teen parents

how to reach for the best in their children.

"Young mothers often miss a lot of school taking care of sick infants," says Cindy. "Unfortunately, they not only fall behind in their schoolwork, but also get in the habit of not going to school. Frequently they drop out."

Clear View has arranged for free day care services for students who stay in the parenting course.

"This course prevents child abuse by teaching young parents how to handle their own feelings when the child is fussy or crying," says Helaine.

"And it teaches them what to realistically expect of their children at given ages."

"I've seen a lot of growth -- especially in understanding their children's individual personalities and stages of development. This class gives kids a chance to share their frustrations with other teen parents, and discover that they are not alone. They also learn ways to cope, so that they can enjoy their children."

Cindy teaches teen parents about immunizations, CPR, child safety, how to diagnose simple illnesses, and when

to take a child to the doctor. A LaMaze childbirth class was also offered, taught by Ann Marie Porter of St. John Hospital.

Helaine is also teaching students to handle the financial responsibilities of running a family, including helping them plan budgets and keep records, using file boxes provided by Bridgeport.

This spring, Susan St. Cricq, manager of Savings of America's Baybrook Branch, will teach teen parents how to handle checking and savings accounts.

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