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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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An Evening of Fashion and Compassion First Annual Wine, Women & Shoes a Success

TARRANT COUNTY – Women from across Tarrant County gathered last week to enjoy an evening of wine-tasting and high-end boutique style shopping at the first annual Wine, Women & Shoes hosted at the T&P Station in downtown Fort Worth. From the hottest designer fashions to the latest premier wines, guests could leave with their favorites and make a difference in students' lives.

Tiffany Cason, this year's Committee Chair of Wine, Women & Shoes, was determined that the event would be successful in raising funds and mission outreach. Cason explains that her goal was to "create an event that would not only engage the community with the CIS mission but to also throw a party that all of the women in Fort Worth wanted to attend for years to come."

As guests sipped on premium wines from Napa Valley, our benevolent 'Sole Men', a group of local leaders dedicated to mission and fashion, served up the latest designs featured at the event. Among other amiable gentlemen, the Sole Men included Chris Del Conte, Athletic Director at Texas Christian University, Mike Guyton, VP, Customer Operations of Oncor, The Honorable Kenneth Barr, former mayor of Fort Worth, Bob Pence, President and CEO of Freese and Nichols, and Tim McKinney, CEO of United Way. Their enthusiasm and spirit truly made Wine, Women & Shoes a special evening.

Lucky ladies went home with fabulous silent auction and raffle packages with a combined value of over \$37,000. These popular packages included a trip to Napa Valley, a diamond necklace, an instant "wine cellar" collection of select wines and magnums, "Keys to the Closet", featuring a collection of designer shoes, jewelry, handbags, and complete living sets provided by sponsor Pier 1 Imports, and much more.

With the help of dedicated committee members, devoted community volunteers, and charitable sponsors, Wine, Women & Shoes was able to raise much-needed funds to sustain Communities In Schools programs in local schools. Communities In Schools is the nation's leading dropout prevention organization, placing licensed, trained social workers directly inside schools to provide one-on-one support to at-risk children to provide the children and families with the resources they need for the child to remain in school and on the path toward graduation.

Communities In Schools is placed in 40 schools across 9 Tarrant County school districts this year.

With increasing demand to have CIS social workers placed in schools, funds from Wine, Women & Shoes will expand the organization's reach in the community.

With the event's overwhelming success in its first year, CIS hopes to include more activities and elements in the future. Tiffany Cason comments, "We expanded our network quite a bit this year and my hope is that this event continues to grow. As we continue with those efforts, you might see a fashion show, a larger arena to hold the event in and a diligent effort to enhance the opportunity drawings and silent auction winnings for future years."

For more information, contact Peyton Salavarria at Peyton.Salavarria@cistarrant.org or (817) 446-5454.

Wine, Women & Shoes was proudly sponsored by Crestwood Midstream Partners, Pier 1 Imports, Cash America, Frost Bank, BBVA Compass, Senior Insurance Brokers, Designs for Living, Lane Boots, Fort Worth Texas Magazine, Put a Cork in It, and Jim Irwin Floral.

About Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools of Tarrant County is a 501c3 non-profit that is part of a national network of CIS programs serving more than 1.2 million students. CIS serves Tarrant County students who are identified by their schools as most at-risk of dropping out. CIS serves not only students, but their families, assessing their unique needs and working with more than 80 community partner organizations to connect the students with the resources they need to address a wide range of issues. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. For more information, please visit www.cistarrant.org or call 817-446-5454.