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CONTACT:

Katie Vogler, Director of Programs
Communities in Schools of Orange
County
(M) 919-967-6677; (C) 919-225-2810
Email: cisoc@bellsouth.net

**Communities in Schools of Orange County receives
\$1,000 from the Back to School Committee**

CHAPEL HILL - The **Back to School Committee** recently presented **Communities in Schools of Orange County (CISOC)** a generous check for **\$1,000**.

The Back to School Committee is a group of young professionals in the Triangle dedicated to improving the lives of children in need. On August 28, the committee held its first Back to School Bash as a fundraising event to collect school supplies for CISOC's annual School Stuff Drive.

"The idea behind the Back to School Bash was to reach out to young professionals and get them involved in an important cause- to meet the needs of kids right here in our own community who begin the school year without the basic tools they need to succeed," Committee Chairman Wallace Saunders said.

Nearly 200 people attended the event, making monetary and school supply donations. The school supplies alone valued at more than \$2,300.

The school supplies collected during this event were distributed by CISOC to students in the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Systems. The \$1,000 check presentation concluded CISOC's School Stuff Drive, which lasted for two months. The goal of the School Stuff Drive was to give each student the chance to begin the school year with the same means as his or her classmates.

"Communities in Schools is very fortunate to have the support of Wallace Saunders and the Back to School Committee in our School Stuff Drive this year," said CISOC's Executive Director Shelia Sholes-Ross. "Usually we partner with WRAL and Communities in Schools of North Carolina publicize and coordinate the drive, but this year, due to the lack of sponsoring organizations, that partnership was not sustainable."

Communities in Schools of Orange County is a community based collaborative organization that identifies school age children not performing to their potential and works to link these students and their families with the necessary resources for success. Its mission is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.

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