

## **Daniel**

**He came to CISDR by way of Truancy Court.**

**Chronic truancy along with showing disrespect for teachers and school set the stage for CIS case management work with Daniel. Other issues - anger and deciding whether he was going to stay in school or drop out emerged quickly.**

**CISDR staff worked closely with Daniel to get him to see school as a valuable tool for life not just some place he was required to go. Providing supportive guidance, monitoring his attendance and mentoring brought about a complete change in attitude and performance.**

**He felt badly about treating his teachers with such disrespect that he approached each and personally apologized for his behavior.**

**By his senior year he was working in the school office, taking an AP college course and determined to graduate from college and get his Master's in order to open a rehab center to help people in his community. He graduated from high school in 2011.**

**Last year while attending Eastfield college, he came back to his high school to volunteer. He felt that because of the help that was given him he should give back as well.**

## **Irene**

**Thomas Jefferson HS**

***Irene encountered Communities In Schools the beginning of her 11<sup>th</sup> grade year of high school. She was peppy and excited and eager to learn as much as she could. With her cheerful attitude and dedication to school, one wouldn't think Irene was much different than many other high school students. Irene, however, is far from average with responsibilities that far exceed a typical teen's responsibilities.***

***Besides caring for siblings and nieces, Irene cooks and cleans for the family that she lives with. Irene has committed to doing the best she can academically. She is a student that strives to use all her available resources in order to help her succeed. Communities In Schools has provided academic assistance and individualized support. We have observed as Irene fights to keep her grades up and studies every chance she gets. Irene has also been a huge support for her peers as she is quick to offer to tutor her own peers. Irene is on her way to graduation. To reward her hard work, we found a donor to cover the expenses of her cap and gown, diploma cover, and other graduation fees that would have otherwise kept her from walking the stage!***

***Irene is grateful for CIS because although she has a supportive mother and boyfriend, she sometimes finds herself alone in her fight to succeed. She shared with us that Communities in Schools has been a moral support to her and she is grateful for the advice she has received from CIS. We have provided Irene with a volunteer mentor that encourages her and motivates her to continue moving forward. CIS also provided Irene with help on college preparation, advising her on different colleges, helped her complete her University of Texas at Dallas application and subsequently celebrated on her acceptance! CIS assisted with preparation of various scholarship applications to help pay her way through college.***

**Irene is now pursuing a degree in accounting at the University of Texas at Dallas.**

***Thanks to Communities In Schools and the family support she's received, Irene is a student that has been properly prepared for the challenges and excitement of university life.***