

# Highlighting Helping Hands This week

🕒 01.09.17

**Gregory Wooten**, executive director of **Communities in Schools of Rome-Floyd County**, speaks with us today about this non-profit organization:

**What is the purpose of this organization?** The CIS mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The CIS vision is that all students in Rome and Floyd County will graduate from high school ready for college or work.

**How is the organization funded?** CIS is supported through a combination of federal, state and local grants as well as individual and company donations, and fundraising activities.

**What do you enjoy most acting as a part of this club/organization?** Formerly, I was a CIS Site Coordinator working directly with students at the school. So in that capacity, I was able to immediately see results in terms of academic progress and personal growth. In this role of executive director, my impact is much more global but none-the-less gratifying. I enjoy being a facilitator now in terms of developing community relationships, obtaining funding and putting others in place to be successful as they go about the business of helping students succeed.

**What is the organization's biggest challenge?** Like with most non-profits these days, funding is always an issue.

**Does the organization use volunteers?** Yes, we have would-be mentors and volunteers who want to serve in the Floyd County or Rome City School System.

**Is there training available?** Yes, we provide a mandatory training for those interested in mentoring or volunteering in Floyd County Schools or Rome City Schools.

**Is there something else you would like to say to our readers?** Yes! Two things:

First, this month – January – is National Mentoring Month. So please consider mentoring. You can make a huge difference in the life of a young person. To learn more, please visit the newly-designed CIS website about mentoring.

Secondly, if you are invested in the future success of Floyd County and

## THE FACTS

**Director:** Gregory Wooten, Executive Director

**Location:** 519 Broad St., Suite 200, Rome, Georgia 30161

**How long in existence:** Established in 1993.

Incorporated since 2007.

**Hours:** 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

**Contact Telephone:** 706-802-5740

**Email:** gwooten@cisromefloyd.org

**Website:** www.cisrome-floyd.org



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**Rome-Floyd County Communities in Schools. Above: Gregory Wooten, executive director.**



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**Jennifer Meacham gets a chuckle as she pulls a student's file in the Rome-Floyd County Communities in Schools office, 519 Broad St.**



Gail Veal looks over the shoulder of Sharon Lumsden-Fincher to check out information at the Communities in Schools office.