



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Communities In Schools of the Midlands Awarded US Women's Chess Grant**

*Communities In Schools of the Midlands is 1 of 11 programs from across the United States that will share grant funds intended to advance the cause of women's chess.*

**COLUMBIA, SC** - The US Chess Federation recently announced the recipients of the US Chess Women's Program Grant, funded by a generous gift in partnership with the Saint Louis Chess Club. The competitive selection process attracted over 40 applicants from across the United States.

Communities in Schools of the Midlands is delighted to be 1 of 11 programs to receive funding for programs to advance the cause of women's chess. Susan Key, Site Coordinator who works with youth in the Chess Program said, "this funding will enable us to reach out and introduce chess to more girls who often were intimidated to learn and compete in chess. Chess is a great tool that helps develop cognitive and life skills for our students."

"This was an extremely competitive process that attracted 40 applicants across the United States, I was blown away by the quality of the applications. There are so many incredible organizers and affiliates across the country who are hungry to do more to bring girls and women into the game, and the dollars donated will have a multiplying effect when accounting for the passion and drive behind the project," said US Chess Women's Program Director Jennifer Shahade.

Rex Sinuefield, who founded the Saint Louis Chess Club with Dr. Jeanne Sinuefield, told US Chess, "It's great to see the commitment and passion organizers all over the country have for female empowerment through chess."

CISM will use funding to bring more girls to their after-school chess clubs for at-risk-youth at Pine Ridge Middle School in Lexington School District Two and St. Andrews Middle School in Richland School District One. To donate funds to programs like the Chess Club at our 6 schools in the Midlands, please visit [www.cism.org/donate](http://www.cism.org/donate).

**About Communities In Schools**

Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation's largest and most effective dropout prevention organization, dedicated to doing whatever it takes to help students succeed in school and achieve in life. Operating in more than 2,300 schools in the most challenged communities of 25 states and the District of Columbia, Communities In Schools serves nearly 1.5 million young people and their families each year. Based directly inside school school throughout the country, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to basic and critical educational and community based resources, tailored to each student's specific needs. Learn more about Communities In Schools at [www.CommunitiesInSchools.org](http://www.CommunitiesInSchools.org) and [www.cism.org](http://www.cism.org).

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