



COMMUNITY PARTNER
Spotlight



Children’s Home Society of Florida—through grants from the University of Central Florida and Indian River Impact 100—partnered with the School District of Indian River County, Indian River State College, and Treasure Coast Community Health to bring the concept of the *Community Partnership School model* to Dodgertown Elementary. Through this partnership, Children’s Home Society of Florida leads the community collaboration to bring resources and opportunities to best serve students and parents. Wraparound services unite many different care providers to give that which is needed to families to foster student success. These services include, social behavioral services, family support, independent living supports, self-help, academics, tutoring, health and wellness, counseling (individual, family, group, youth, and vocational), etc.

While the *Community Partnership School model* primarily benefits the students of Dodgertown Elementary School and their academic success, wraparound services inevitably benefit their parents and families.

The 4 core partners of the *Community Partnership School model* signed a 25-year commitment to the partnership. Our goal involves using the resources of the partnership to reduce or eliminate barriers to student academic success.

Children’s Home Society of Florida was awarded a \$100,000 grant on behalf of Impact 100 Indian River County to expand the *Community Partnership School model* at Dodgertown Elementary. Funds from the grant will support extended learning opportunities outside of school hours (e.g. after-school, weekends, Spring Break, Summer Break, etc.) with enrichment, remediation, extra-

curricular, and other events for students, their families and Gifford community.

With support from Impact 100, barriers to student academic success are being reduced daily. We intend to eliminate these barriers altogether and reach the school's student academic success goals. This positive impact will spur other positive changes the Gifford community of Indian River County. For example, "the Gifford community will have access to impactful resources to help children and families achieve their full potential." [1] Moreover, students and parents will increase their pride in the academic accomplishments of Dodgertown Elementary School.

Currently, we have established a "Market Place" on campus that houses a food pantry and clothes closet. Recent increases in the cost of local housing leaves fewer dollars for food and clothes shopping. In addition to the lack of affordable housing, there is also a lack of affordable healthcare, including mental healthcare. Through our partnership with Treasure Coast Community Health, we have an onsite Health and Wellness Coordinator who has coordinated several campus events such as Saturday "dental clinics", vision and hearing screenings, and mental health referrals.

Community Partnership School staff secured funding to over "Trauma Awareness" professional development to school staff members to foster adult-student connections, empathy and high expectations for students.

For the last year and a half, there has been zero (0) "out-of-school suspensions" and zero (0) "in-school suspensions"! This has increased instructional time for many students.

Recently, through Impact 100 support, we have secured an Extended Learning Coordinator to assist the school with closing achievement gaps by supporting extended learning opportunities.

Impact 100 members can get involved by pursuing opportunities to mentor students.

Mentorships come in many forms: reading to a child, allowing a child to read to a mentor, "checking in" with a child to review academic, behavioral and/or attendance goals, etc.

[1] VeroNews.com. Dale Jacobs, Vice Chair, State Board of Directors, Children's Home Society of Florida.