



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### The Bubel/Aiken Foundation Awards Grant to CIS *To fund recreational opportunities*

**Southport, NC (April 23, 2009)** – The Bubel/Aiken Foundation recently awarded a grant to Communities In Schools of Brunswick County, Inc. to implement Let’s ALL Play – Inclusion in Recreational Programs. The grant will allow children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a successful summer camp experience in an inclusive setting.

The Bubel/Aiken Foundation has been actively developing its Let’s ALL Play Program since the program’s inception in 2004. Today, the Foundation supports over 35 recreational programs across the country. Providing this grant to CIS is another exciting step toward TBAF’s goal of full inclusion. “We feel that partnering with CIS will help us further our mission to open doors in communities nationwide for children with disabilities to experience everything life has to offer,” says Jerry Aiken, Executive Director. Through the Let’s ALL Play Program, the Foundation supports recreational programs in their efforts to implement inclusive camps by providing a program model, funding, and training.

Let’s ALL Play helps bring an inclusive recreation experience to children with disabilities. It gives children with developmental disabilities the same experience as those without. Children with disabilities and their peers who are typically developing come together to participate in recreational activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and more.

In 2008, the Foundation enlisted the services of The Center for Social Development and Education at the University of Massachusetts-Boston to assess the implementation of Let’s ALL Play. Overwhelming evidence showed that children with disabilities improved self-esteem, social skills, confidence to participate, and sport and motor skills. Campers of all abilities were equally likely to develop friendships with each other.

“We are very excited to work with The Bubel/Aiken Foundation to further open the CIS After School Program to children with disabilities,” said Kathy Smith, After School Director. “This will help enable us to give more children the chance to participate in activities they and their families may never thought possible.

About the Bubel/Aiken Foundation: The Bubel/Aiken Foundation provides services and financial assistance to promote the full integration of children with disabilities into the life environment of those without. The Foundation strives to create awareness about the diversity of individuals with disabilities and the possibilities that inclusion can bring. To learn more about The Bubel/Aiken Foundation or ways to get involved, visit their website at [www.bubelaiken.org](http://www.bubelaiken.org).

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