

RESPONSE

CENTER FOR CORPORATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURANCE ■ HEALTH INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

WHAT THE COMPANIES ARE DOING

John Alden Helps Tackle Dade County Dropout Problem

Young people are dropping out of high school in alarming numbers. According to some reports, the national dropout rate has climbed to 29 percent and, in some major urban areas, is as high as 50 percent. Four years ago, Florida-based John Alden Financial Corporation decided to face this problem head on by developing a close working relationship with Cities in Schools of Miami, Inc.

CIS is a comprehensive dropout prevention effort that operates in 66 communities across the country. It delivers a full range of professional social services to at-risk students and their families. In Miami, it works by enhancing the curriculum in some schools and acting as a "school within a school" in others. CIS also runs a free-standing alternative high school known as the Corporate Academy North. In all, it works with nearly 600 students at 16 Dade County sites.

John Alden supports CIS in a variety of ways, providing both financial and human resources. About 140 John Alden employees have donated their services in recent years as tutors or mentors, with approximately 20 people working on a weekly basis through CIS at any given time. And when 20 inner-city high school students needed to pass a computer competency exam for graduation, software developers from the company provided special tutoring.