WHY CSI?

We know you have many different interests and organizations to which you give your time and energy. Family, work, faith, health, community—if you’re like most folks, you can’t begin to fit in everything you’d like to accomplish in any given day. That’s why we are so grateful to those of you who have made at-risk kids a priority in your lives.

We asked a few of our dedicated friends, out of all of the causes you could support, “Why CSI?” On the following pages, you’ll meet some of them and learn why they care about our organization and the intervention, prevention, and healing of child abuse and neglect. But first, I’d like to start the ball rolling with my own response to the question.

Why CSI? I am passionate about Child Saving Institute’s work because there are still children in our community who are forgotten, bullied, underfed, living in deplorable settings, abused in all kinds of horrible ways, and used for financial gain by the adults that are supposed to care for them and love them.

Why CSI? I believe some parents haven’t received the personal experience, education or extended family support they need to meet their kids’ basic and developmental needs. And when parents get the support and education they need, they can make a huge difference in their child’s growth, learning and future success.

Why CSI? Because I believe in the resiliency of children and teens that have been hurt. When kids who have experienced trauma are cherished, cared for, and loved by people who truly care about them, they are changed forever. So are we. So is our community.

What’s your “Why”?

Peg Harriott, President & CEO
Child Saving Institute
Several years ago, my friend Shireen brought CSI to First Data. She was passionate about the organization and asked me if I wanted to get involved. I had been driving by CSI every day for 20 years—I even saw the building transform from what it was into what it is today. But I didn’t really understand the transformations taking place inside until I saw it firsthand.

I had a dear friend who was addicted to meth. I found out she was using about the same time she found out she was pregnant. When she delivered the baby, it was addicted, too, and they took the baby away and placed it in Foster Care. It wasn’t until then that I truly realized what CSI and DHHS help provide. I saw this mother who had no hope, who felt she had no worth, and I saw how CSI worked with her, and told her repeatedly she had value and had purpose. They worked really hard to see that she reached her full potential. This is what they do.

She worked hard, too, of course. It certainly wasn’t easy, but because they believed in her and gave her the support she needed, she got her child back. She’s been clean for 13 years now. I don’t think she would have ever made it without CSI and the other supportive agencies.

Not only does every child need someone who tells them they are cared for and have value, every parent needs to feel like a worthwhile person to get to the other side.

Donnette Janda, CSI Board Chair
First Data
I think it’s important that we take care of ALL children, not just our own. I also think it’s important for my children to see that it’s not all about them. I want them to understand they are very lucky and there are others who are not.

I also support CSI because it’s Omaha based. Although I haven’t personally met the children we serve, because of the staff’s Heart Stories and willingness to share information about the programs, it makes us feel like what we’re doing really makes a difference. I feel connected to CSI and their work in a way that is so much more than just writing a check. I feel needed…and appreciated.

“It’s important we take care of ALL children, not just our own.”

I come from a family of teachers. In fact, I was a teacher myself at one time. I’ve always felt a strong connection to today’s youth and believe they really are our future. All kids deserve a fighting chance at a better life, and if we don’t help them, who will?

Addie Hollingsworth, 2016 CSI Guild Board Chair
Community Volunteer
I was introduced to Child Saving Institute several years ago by a business associate who became a foster parent through the organization. In 2009, this friend hosted a business roundtable meeting in CSI’s conference room.

My mother had recently passed away at the age of 63. She was stricken with pancreatic cancer and died within 90 days of the diagnosis. It was tragic. She was so healthy and alive. She was very active in the charitable community of Omaha. We all thought she would easily surpass 100 years!

When we visited CSI that summer, Peg took us on a tour of the children’s shelter. These kids were outwardly happy and playful. However, I knew they had a tremendous gap in their lives and would face years of recovering from trauma.

I became very emotional and tearful. I missed my mom. At the same time, I knew I was lucky to have had her in my life all those years. Some of the kids in the shelter may never have parents around. I took it as a sign that I should honor my mother and her generosity to Omaha by helping kids who have tough circumstances.

“Communities have an obligation to help children suffering from absent, neglectful, or abusive homes.”

But I do believe that communities have an obligation to do the best they can to help children who are suffering from absent, neglectful, or abusive homes.

Bert Hancock, CSI Board Member
Alchemy Development
For the past several years, Child Saving Institute has been an organization dear to my heart. My grandmother became an orphan at age 10. While she made it through that environment, I only wish all of CSI’s services would have been available to her as well as to her family as a whole.

CSI focuses not just on foster care and adoption services, but also provides parenting education and support in order to give families the tools needed to create a stable home for their children. I believe that CSI is at the core of what brings so many families within our community not just together, but also back together.

_Naren Burmood, CSI Guild Board Member_  
_Community Volunteer_
2015 Board of Directors

Donnette Janda, Chair
Paul Olson, Vice Chair
Sam Mosser, Treasurer
Melanie Hecker, Secretary

Ann Borchers
Kimberly Cappellano
Susan Courtney
Jessica Covi
Elizabeth Davis
Eric Ewing
Adrienne Fay
Debbie Ferrara
Mosah Goodman
Shane Grave
Polly Haier
Bert Hancock
Ken Hansen
Suzi Henry
Dennis Hill
Robert Hollingsworth
Carrie Jenkins
Travis Justice
Kari Kirchhofer
Andrea Marshall
Susan Nemer-Haddix
Scott Newberry
Chris Rodgers
Laura Rogge
Jett Schaffart
Tasso Sideris
John Sova
Jack Struyk
Joanna Swanson
Sheila Trueblood
Joel Vaslow
Nick Vondrak
David Weill
Laura Worick

Peg Harriott
President & CEO

2015 Guild Board

Jessica Covi, President
Addie Hollingsworth, Vice President
Jennifer Alloway, VP of Membership
Jennifer Deitloff, Asst. VP of Membership
Christine Schulte, VP of Fundraising
Jennifer Thielen, Recording Secretary
Karen Burmood, Corresponding Secretary
Janis Winterhof, Past President/Advisor

Bethany Banister
Kathy Beck
Lindsey Buchanan
Sarah Carse
Rachel Cushing
Glynnis Dittrick
Tracy Dixon
Angie Drew
Sherie Dudzinski
Amy Epp
Rachel Flannery
Tiffany Fuchtmann
Maria Galligan
Angela Harnly
Karen Hickman
Meghan Hope
Michelle Johnson
Maria Kookan
Micayla Lee
Lisa Lehan
Catherine McAllister
Melanie McIntyre
Kristin Nielsen

Jaime Nogg
Dawn O’Brien
Mary O’Connell
Molly O’Tool
Tenny Owens
Stephanie Pantano
Holly Pendley
Julia Russell
Shelly Ruwe
Julie Shaner
Andrea Skradski
Julie Stanek
Sally Stoakes
Anne Stockmann
Susan Stults
Joanna Swanson
Debbie Thielen
Lesley Turner
Heather Vanourney
Tiffany Wade
Susanne Waltermeyer
Becki Wiechman
This is our work, and they are ALL our children.