A LEGACY OF LOVE
child saving institute annual report  120 years of caring for children  1892 ~ 2012
2012 marked the 120th anniversary of Child Saving Institute providing loving, compassionate services for children and families in need. *With your support, generations of children were made safe and thousands of happy families were created.* It’s an incredible legacy of love and caring and we are delighted you’ve been a part of this wonderful journey.

The number of children served in our programs throughout our long history is impressive, but it is the countless stories that have moved and motivated us to continue our work in the face of child abuse and neglect and continue to dream, hope and prevail in our efforts to create better childhoods for all of the children we serve. We’d like to share four of these stories, plucked out of time, to give you just a taste of the work we have done over the last 120 years—and will continue to do for the next century…or as long as there are children in need.

**Childhood matters at CSI. Always has...always will.**
When Erin and Steve Palzer got married a few years ago, they never imagined their life—and living room—would be so full! But six years, six foster kids, one adoption and one pending adoption later and you can see their house is brimming with love, kids and pets—as well as baby dolls, princess gear, Barbie cars, Legos and Transformers.

Erin & Steve

The Palzers are the proud parents of Amarria, 3, who was adopted in November, 2010, and will soon welcome their son, Chris, 9, as a permanent member of their family when his adoption is finalized this fall. Oh, and you can’t forget chubby spaniel “Sparks,” who will wiggle her way onto your lap and into your heart within minutes of arriving at their home.

About a year into their marriage, Erin and Steve discovered they couldn’t conceive, but that didn’t stop their pursuit of a family. With private adoption and infertility interventions so costly, they decided to look into adoption—and opted to go with Foster-to-Adoption. They have been licensed CSI foster parents for just over three years.

“We knew from the beginning that not all of the kids would stay forever, but we just wanted a child in our home,” Erin says.
The Palzers had a foster son before adopting Amarria, and haven’t stopped fostering since. Erin says they hope to continue to be foster parents no matter how large their family becomes. In fact, last year they increased the number of foster children for which they could be licensed. They already had 2-year-old foster child “Cole” in their care when they learned their first foster son needed to placed in out of home care again—and now he had a little sister who needed a home, too.

In order to keep the young siblings together and allow their first foster son, then 4, to return to the familiarity of their home (where he had originally lived for a year), Erin and Steve selflessly gave up their upstairs, foster care “sanctioned” bedroom and moved to the basement. They took in both children for 15 months, working closely with the bio family in order to help them ready for the kids’ eventual return. The Palzers are so committed to successful reunification, they not only provided transportation for the family to see the children on all major holidays and birthdays, they encouraged the bio mom to call every night so the kids could share their day.

“We’ve worked really hard to have great relationships with the bio parents,” Erin notes. “I know there are foster parents who are wary of interacting so closely, but I think it’s the right thing to do and the best thing for the kids.”

The couple had the same attitude toward reunification when working with Cole. Erin, a nurse at Children’s Hospital, came to know Cole, then age 2, during his lengthy hospital stay as the result of severe abuse and neglect. After a month in the hospital, the toddler was placed in foster care with the Palzers. Cole’s biological mom had abandoned him shortly after birth, leaving the baby with acquaintances. Eventually, Cole’s biological father was notified of the situation. The young man didn’t even know he had a son, but stepped up to accept the challenge.

Erin and Steve were so committed to helping Cole’s dad prepare for the little boy’s eventual release into his care; they invited the young man into their home night after night to learn parenting skills and the bedtime routine of bath, story and bed. Cole’s dad was nervous, but the Palzers lavished him with praise and encouragement, rooting for him to succeed as a parent. Cole was with the Palzers for a year before going to live with his dad. Tragically, six months after bringing Cole home, the young man was shot and killed as the result of urban violence. Cole was then adopted by his paternal grandmother.

Erin, who still has contact with Cole and all of the children she has fostered, reports that Cole, now 4, is a sweet, loving preschooler and is doing well under his grandma and aunts’ loving care.

Recently, when her foster sister and brother returned to their bio family, Amarria was lamenting she had no one to “play princess with” now that her little sister had left. Without missing a beat, her blond-haired, blue-eyed big brother Chris came to the rescue. “I’ll put on a crown for you,” the fifth-grader offered.

With Erin and Steve as his role models, it’s no wonder Chris instinctively responds to the needs of young children. In a few years, the couple plans to move to a bigger house with more room for more adopted children—and room for additional foster children as well. “We will continue to foster,” Erin says firmly. “We see the need and we want to do what we can to help kids. We can make their lives better.”

“We will continue to foster,” Erin says firmly. “We see the need and we want to do what we can to help kids. We can make their lives better.”
How much love—and strength—does it take to provide compassionate, tender care to a newborn for days or weeks and then let the baby go to another home? That’s something CSI volunteer Carmen Gottschalk did for nearly three decades while providing “Cradle Care” to infants making the transition from the hospital to home before placement with an adoptive family.

“It was very emotional for three reasons,” Carmen recalls. “My own loss—after falling in love with each baby and letting it go—then returning home to a house full of reminders, like baby bottles on the kitchen table. There was also the emotion I felt from witnessing the adoptive parents’ joy with their baby. And, of course, the pain felt by the biological mothers—usually teenagers—who were making the toughest decision of their lives when placing their babies. I cried a lot.”

Each baby not only made its way into Carmen’s heart, but into the hearts of her two daughters as well. Jodi was seven when Carmen took her first placement, and baby
Tina was just six months old. In fact, it was Tina’s adoption from CSI that prompted Carmen to volunteer in the first place. “I had called CSI to express my joy and happiness with our new daughter, and I asked if there was anything I could do to help them out. I loved the agency so much and everybody I’d worked with there.

“I had a baby within a few days…and they just kept coming.”

In the early days, the average stay for Cradle Care was two to four weeks between birth and adoptive placement. Over the course of 30 years Carmen cared for 98 babies awaiting adoption. “The transition to having an infant in the house was never hard. The biggest problem was being mobile,” she recalls. “Often times I had to call friends to bring formula by because I couldn’t leave the house.”

The spontaneity of the drop-offs often resulted in some funny situations, too. On one occasion, Carmen was serving as a room mother at her daughter Tina’s elementary school on Halloween. She was in full clown costume when a CSI staff person dropped a baby off at the school, prompting many curious questions from Tina’s young classmates. She also took delivery of babies on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all major holidays.

The babies came so frequently and so unexpectedly, young Tina thought Roberta, the CSI caseworker, kept the babies in a drawer in her office, and would ask when bored or lonely, “Can you call Roberta and see if we can get a baby today?”

Even John Gottschalk, Carmen’s very busy husband and former Publisher of the Omaha World-Herald, got called into service on occasion. “You could set him in the recliner and hand him a newborn and he was fine with that—very good at it, in fact.”

As you can imagine, Carmen slept little during the busiest years of Cradle Care. With most babies, they are wakeful at first, but grow out of that. Carmen never made it to the “sleep through the night” phase with the newborns she cared for—and sometimes she would have up to three infants a month.

“All that went into it—all the emotions, humor, work, lack of sleep—it was definitely worth it,” Carmen says thoughtfully. “It was overwhelmingly positive in what it brought to our family and what it taught my daughters about compassion and recognizing and understanding the needs of other people. As adults, they are caretakers.

“That’s always been my impression of CSI, too. The caseworkers, everyone who works there—they give of themselves. They are compassionate problem-solvers.”

There was the emotion I felt from witnessing the adoptive parents’ joy with their baby. And, of course, the pain felt by the biological mothers—usually teenagers—who were making the toughest decision of their lives when placing their babies. I cried a lot.”
At the end of the nineteenth century, when Omaha had only 66,000 residents, Reverend A.W. Clark, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, was working to reform the men and women in Ramcat Alley, a rough saloon district near the Missouri River.

While there, he often noticed neglected and abandoned children huddled in doorways, waiting for their parents. As he later recalled the start of his new ministry, “…my attention was called to the destitution and suffering among homeless children. There being no recognized work on behalf of little children, the ‘cry of the child’ appealed to me.”

An abandoned livery stable became the first home of Child Saving Institute, and on April 7, 1892, the first resident, a seven-year-old girl, was admitted. Much of the work was carried out by volunteer help, while financial support was provided by persons, businesses, and organizations of every denomination.
Crystal

Crystal, 31, a petite redhead with striking green eyes, recently shared the poignant story of how she placed her infant daughter for adoption 15 years ago with the support of a compassionate CSI counselor and an adoption specialist. She came prepared for our meeting—armed with vivid memories and a small album of the most happy-yet-heartbreaking photos you will ever see. The pages included photos of a 15-year-old Crystal hugging her boyfriend, Jonn, who wore a cowboy hat…Jonn and Crystal kissing…very pregnant Crystal with Jonn at her homecoming dance…Crystal gazing at her infant daughter shortly after birth. And perhaps the most compelling of all…a photo taken at CSI two days after baby Tiffany’s birth—when papers were signed and the little girl went home with adoptive parents Dick and Cheryl.
Crystal had been dating Jonn, 17, for nearly two years when, at 15, she discovered she was pregnant. Although the teens talked about raising the baby together, Crystal's mother and stepfather encouraged her to visit with the counselors at Child Saving Institute. (Her stepdad and his siblings had been adopted through CSI, and he understood the importance of the decision for all parties involved.)

At CSI, Crystal and Jonn met with Sabrina, a caring counselor, who listened intently to Crystal's story, occasionally asking questions. Crystal said she never felt any pressure from Sabrina, and she still intended to parent the baby; but Sabrina's questions did make her think.

"When you're a teenager, everything's rosy and you think everything's going to be fine. But adults know there will be stress and tension and hard times. They are the ones wondering, 'How are you going to get through it all?""

Wisely, Crystal's mother encouraged her to live with Jonn and his family for a bit “to see what it would be like to be together all the time.” It was an eye opener, and Crystal quickly returned home. But it wasn't easy being a pregnant teen in a small town. There was gossip and pointed remarks, but Crystal had the support of her mom, stepdad and father. “My parents were very supportive but very worried,” Crystal recalls. “I had three very involved parents; and, believe me, they weren't saying, 'Oh, we have a grandbaby coming!' They were all, ‘Oh my gosh—what are you thinking!!’"

In August, seven months into her pregnancy, Crystal, now 16, and Jonn were struggling to maintain their relationship. They had a frank talk about their desires for the future and their abilities to parent, and came to the difficult decision to place the baby for adoption.

The young couple again met with Sabrina at CSI, and this time looked through adoption books filled with family photos and pages of information covering everything from beliefs on discipline practices to religion. Jonn picked the family. Their information was bound in a simple green book with a leaf pattern. The couple’s names were Dick and Cheryl. They were a farm family. They looked kind in their pictures...

Read the rest of Crystal's story on our blog
childsavinginstitute.blogspot.com
In 1926, 35-year-old Hazel Moyer McKinsey made her way to Child Saving Institute’s orphanage to place four of her 10 children for adoption. Bone weary and beaten down from years of abuse and poverty, Hazel dreamed of a better life for her children, a dream she had lost for herself in taking this final, drastic-but-loving action. Travelling from Kearney, Neb., with Lavern, 3, twins Oral and Orvil, 2, and baby Cecil Lee, six months old, a pregnant Hazel dropped the little children off at the orphanage. The following day, January 1, 1927, Hazel wrote a postcard to her aunt in Iowa, noting that she was so very tired and questioning what she would do next. Hazel was never heard from again.

The McKinsey Kids

In 1926, 35-year-old Hazel Moyer McKinsey made her way to Child Saving Institute’s orphanage to place four of her 10 children for adoption. Bone weary and beaten down from years of abuse and poverty, Hazel dreamed of a better life for her children, a dream she had lost for herself in taking this final, drastic-but-loving action. Travelling from Kearney, Neb., with Lavern, 3, twins Oral and Orvil, 2, and baby Cecil Lee, six months old, a pregnant Hazel dropped the little children off at the orphanage. The following day, January 1, 1927, Hazel wrote a postcard to her aunt in Iowa, noting that she was so very tired and questioning what she would do next. Hazel was never heard from again.
Many families suffered during the difficult years leading up to the Great Depression, and many children were placed for adoption by loving parents who simply could not care for them. We learned of Hazel’s story through her granddaughter, CSI supporter Bettie Bumpus, 80, who has spent much of her adult life trying to explore the mystery of her grandmother’s brief and tragic life.

From what can be pieced together, Hazel and Lester McKinsey had a volatile marriage. Only 5 feet tall and less than 90 pounds, Hazel had a baby nearly every year during her marriage and endured Lester’s brutality throughout. In 1925, Hazel and Lester and their family made their way to Colorado from their home in Iowa. Hazel’s brother owned a farm in Colorado, and they hoped Lester might find work with him.

Things didn’t turn out as planned and Lester turned to crime and was sentenced to prison. Left on her own, Hazel hoped to return to Iowa with the children, but ran out of money and food in Kearney, Neb. With the help of a local church and a few kind citizens, Hazel and her oldest daughter, Mabel (Bettie Bumpus’ mother), then 13, found work in a laundry. The oldest boys also went to work in a local grocery, but the family simply couldn’t make it.

With help from the church and a local attorney, Hazel made her way to Omaha with her four youngest children to place them for adoption at Child Saving Institute. Frances Lavern, 4, found an adoptive home, and twins Oral and Orvil, 2, were adopted by an Iowa farm family, the Cutlers. Baby Cecil Lee, who was in the process of being adopted by neighbors of the Cutler family, died of measles shortly after his first birthday.

With the help of the caring Kearney individuals, the other children were also able to make their way. The oldest child, Harry, then 16, took off on his own to find work. Bettie’s mother, Mabel, born in 1912, went to live with a teacher and his wife north of Kearney. Ralph, born in 1914, was sent to live with a Great Aunt in Iowa. Guy, born in 1915, was placed with a family in Buffalo, Neb., and eventually became a farmer near Arcadia. Martha and Frank both died as toddlers in Iowa before the family made the trek to Colorado.

"Each of them became successful in life," Bettie writes from her home in Texas. "Some people give into their difficult beginning, but my mother and her brothers each had the strength of their mother and the Moyer family spirit."
## 2011 Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Revenue</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percentage Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>$2,624,359</td>
<td>$2,414,555</td>
<td>36.3% vs. 31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts and Grants</td>
<td>3,118,116</td>
<td>3,784,357</td>
<td>43.1% vs. 48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Fees</td>
<td>971,433</td>
<td>987,240</td>
<td>13.4% vs. 12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way Support</td>
<td>325,839</td>
<td>336,003</td>
<td>4.5% vs. 4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Donations</td>
<td>134,737</td>
<td>212,255</td>
<td>1.9% vs. 2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>52,277</td>
<td>60,593</td>
<td>0.7% vs. 0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$7,226,761</td>
<td>$7,795,002</td>
<td>100.0% vs. 100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$6,530,800</td>
<td>$6,707,596</td>
<td>87.9% vs. 86.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fund Raising</td>
<td>898,083</td>
<td>984,570</td>
<td>12.1% vs. 12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>74,675</td>
<td>0.0% vs. 1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$7,428,883</td>
<td>$7,766,841</td>
<td>100.0% vs. 100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</strong></td>
<td>($202,122)*</td>
<td>$28,161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above figures do not include any Fund 2, Restricted Funds, activity.

*CSI Inc. 2011 operating deficit reflects a decision to write-off two doubtful receivables for $185,000. The remaining $17,000 is net deficits in programs.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the 2011 financial report, please feel free to call Peg Harriott, CEO, at 402-553-6000.

To protect and respect our donors’ confidentiality, CSI chose not to list 2011 gifts, memorials and honorariums in this Annual Report.
Our vision is that all children have homes where hope is kindled and dreams can be achieved. This is our work, and they are ALL our children.