A letter from Peg

Carolyn’s unexpected gift

Programs help young parents

Touch-A-Truck highlights
Offering Parenting Services is Paramount to Our Mission

Dear Friends,

Becoming a parent is a life-changing experience for anyone. Even if one has spent a lot of time with babies before having children, the learning curve can be steep. New parents may become easily overwhelmed by the responsibilities 24/7 year-round. When the stress of parenthood is accompanied by being a teen parent, living in poverty, or other challenges, the risk of child abuse and neglect increases.

Child Saving Institute (CSI) offers several programs to help expectant, new, and young parents learn the skills to become successful parents, decreasing the risk of abuse and neglect.

CSI offers free pregnancy counseling to help parents experiencing an unplanned pregnancy make a plan. If the plan is to parent their infant, we may recommend that they participate in our Teen & Young Parent Program. We also offer free workshops and parenting classes for all parents several times each year.

In this edition of CSI’s newsletter, you will learn more about the pregnancy and parenting programs we offer and read the stories of successful program participants. We believe these prevention and early intervention programs make a profound difference in a family’s life, particularly for a child.

Many of us were lucky to be well-equipped for parenthood with a supportive family and friend circle, the latest in child monitoring gadgets and educational toys, access to advice (medical or otherwise), and great options for quality childcare. We hope you will remember those who do not have the same advantages and consider the difficulties they face. We greatly appreciate your support for the CSI programs that help them!

For the children,

Peg Harriott
President & CEO
One day this summer, Child Saving Institute (CSI) received a sweet note with a gift enclosed, mailed from Augusta, Georgia. The note read:

“To the Child Saving Institute: My great-grandfather used to go to this orphanage 85 years ago. When I tried to go there this summer it was closed so I’m sending this money to you! I hope it is useful. I made this money from a lemonade stand in Augusta, Georgia. Ever since my great-grandfather died, I’ve been wanting to help him in some way to make him happy for me in heaven. I think this will make him joyful in many ways!

I’m a 10-year-old kid.

From: Carolyn Cross”

Several staff members’ eyes filled with tears as Chief Development Officer Andrea Richardson shared the note. She immediately sent Carolyn a thank you note and reached out to her parents for a bit more information. Carolyn’s mother, Christina responded.
Harper’s Foundation Helps CSI’s Children

The Gertrude McFuzz therapy room at Child Saving Institute was renovated several years ago through the generosity of The Primrose Foundation. The foundation was a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing hope and healing to at-risk children through support of agencies like Child Saving Institute who are committed to bringing comfort to children and families in crisis.

John William “Bill” Harper established The Primrose Foundation in September 2005 after discovering his birth mother and visiting Child Saving Institute, the agency from which he was adopted in 1925.

The Foundation’s work honored three children who began their lives as orphans: John William Harper; his birth mother, Florence Tynan Demuth; and her foster brother, Bill Bennett. Through the kindness of others, they were able to overcome adversity as children and live long, happy and productive lives.

Florence Tynan was born in 1909 in New York City. Her mother died soon after and, before her first birthday, a relative placed her at the New York Foundling Hospital. When she was 4, the relative relinquished his rights to her so she could be placed on one of the Orphan Trains that brought orphaned and neglected children
to better lives in small towns throughout the Midwest.

During a routine stop at which children were placed with families, a farm couple from Primrose, Nebraska, chose Florence to join their family. The couple also chose a boy, Bill Bennett, who was a few years older than her. The couple raised the pair as foster children, but never formally adopted them. They shared the family’s home as well as the heavy farm work.

Florence became pregnant at age 14. The couple sent her to live and work in the rectory of St. Mary’s Church in Primrose to hide her condition. In January 1925, she delivered a healthy baby boy, who was then placed for adoption 90 miles away at Child Saving Institute. The baby was adopted a few weeks later by the Harpers, a young married couple from a small town in Northwest Missouri. The Harpers named the baby John William “Bill” Harper, Jr., and raised him as their own in a loving home. Many years later Bill discovered that his adoptive mother had sent letters and pictures to Child Saving Institute reporting the great joy he brought to their lives.

The story continues...

In 1979, two of Bill’s married daughters were raising young children of their own and they became interested in knowing their family medical history. Their adoptive grandmother graciously told them everything she could remember about the adoption, including offering information about Child Saving Institute and the names listed on Bill’s birth certificate.

After much discussion, the sisters contacted Florence Tynan Demuth, Bill’s birth mother. Florence, a long-married mother and grandmother, was shocked to hear from this connection to her long-ago past. During their conversations she learned that the child she had placed for adoption years earlier was named Bill Harper, a successful, happily married man with three daughters and nine grandchildren. Shortly thereafter Florence asked that she not be contacted again – her family did not know her long-held secret and she felt the past should stay in the past. Bill’s daughters honored her wishes.

In 2004, Bill’s granddaughter, Susan, became interested in his story and began her own search on the internet, quickly finding a website post by one of Florence’s grandchildren. Through the website she learned that Florence had died a widow in 1999 and that she was survived by four children and 13 grandchildren. Information about Florence’s arrival to the Midwest on the Orphan Train as well as family photos convinced Susan that she had found her biological great-grandmother’s family.

She contacted Florence’s grandson and the families became acquainted. Then, in summer 2005, Florence’s family and Bill’s family met at a reunion. The families developed a warm relationship and found many similarities in hobbies, physical appearance, and career choices. The family in Nebraska sent Bill a videotape of Florence giving a speech about her Orphan Train experience. He watched the tape with his family on Mother’s Day 2005 and saw her and heard her voice for the first time. He was 80 years old.
When Mariah found out she was pregnant, she was finishing the first semester of her second year in college, studying to become a nurse. She shared the news with her family, who encouraged her to make an adoption plan. They didn’t think Mariah could successfully complete her education while parenting.

Mariah reached out to Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) free Pregnancy Counseling program. She knew she was facing a challenging decision, especially since the father removed himself from the picture. However, Mariah knew in her heart from the day she discovered her pregnancy that she wanted to parent her baby.

Through counseling, Mariah felt empowered to talk to her family about her plan. Before she did, she and her CSI counselor created a plan that included information about all the community resources available to her. Because she was also determined to finish her nursing degree, Mariah also worked with her college advisor to make a plan for success.

Once Mariah’s parents saw all the work and planning Mariah completed in preparation for the baby, they supported her decision and offered to help her to ensure she could remain in college. Mariah was also lucky to become part of a program for single mothers and children who lived in group housing on her college’s campus. Participating in this program offered parenting programming and support from her peers.

The CSI counselor followed up with Mariah several times during the year after the birth of her daughter Zoe to make sure she had the support and services she needed. Mariah successfully completed her nursing degree while parenting Zoe. Mariah now practices nursing in a local hospital. Zoe attends preschool and is thriving.
Parents learn valuable skills for ‘Toughest Job’

Parenting, it’s said, “is the toughest job you’ll ever love.”

Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) Prevention Services program presents a variety of opportunities for caregivers to develop and strengthen the skills needed to create healthy relationships with their children. CSI offers monthly two-hour workshops, an eight-session Circle of Security™ Parenting group, and an in-home one-on-one curriculum Growing Great Kids™, to make the job a bit easier for caregivers to manage.

During the school year, CSI offers free, fun, and informative parenting workshops from 6-8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. CSI also offers free dinner and free childcare to parents who register in advance! The workshops are open to parents with children of all ages. Parents participating in CSI’s Teen & Young Parent Program and those in Pregnancy Counseling who plan to parent are encouraged to attend as well.

Program leaders share knowledge about the typical social-emotional development of children as they grow and help parents develop the skills they need to navigate challenges with their children. The hottest topics for the last couple of years have included “Helping Your Child Manage Their Emotions” and “Baby Brain Development and Attachment.” All information follows best practice recommendations with evidence-based outcomes. This year’s schedule can be found at childsaving.org/services/parenting-classes/parent-education.html.

Circle of Security™ Parenting is delivered in an eight-session group format and designed to help caregivers improve their confidence in parenting skills. Participation is geared toward caregivers with children of any age. Additionally, it is open to all caregivers – parents, grandparents, foster parents, kinship placements, etc. It has been utilized worldwide to assist caregivers to develop the important building blocks of trust, security, and safety in the caregiver-child relationship.

By participating in a Circle of Security™ Parenting group caregivers will learn how to:

• Strengthen their relationship with their children.
• Be present with their children during the best and toughest of times.
• Recognize their children’s needs and make sense of his or her behavior.
• Meet their children’s needs by being bigger, stronger, wiser, and kind.

CSI’s young parent program and family support services staff use the Growing Great Kids™ curriculum in direct service to empower clients to become confident, competent parents by:

• Reducing stress.
• Learning essential parenting and life skills.
• Creating a nurturing home environment.
• Enhancing the relationship with their children.
• Learning healthy child development.
• Gaining communication and problem-solving skills.
• Forming secure attachments with their children.

For more information about CSI’s parenting education opportunities or pregnancy counseling, visit childsaving.org/services, email csiinfo@childsaving.org, or call 402.553.6000.
Aaliyah came to Child Saving Institute (CSI) in spring 2018, when she was 22 years old and her son Xander was nearly 1 year old. She had spent her childhood in an out of the foster care system and had strained relationships with her family who, she said, did not seem willing to support her goals for herself and Xander.

Aaliyah struggled with depression and often felt guilty that she was not doing enough for Xander. She was working with a great therapist, but she didn’t have a good experience while in foster care. Because of this, Aaliyah felt reluctant when she received a referral to CSI’s Teen & Young Parent Program.

Early on, CSI staff determined that Aaliyah needed to find a healthier living situation for herself and her son because it was a mentally abusive environment. They helped Aaliyah identify and connect with an adult, Sharon, who had previously been very supportive to her as a young person. Sharon welcomed Aaliyah and Xander into her home with open arms, and Aaliyah finally felt like she could depend on someone other than herself again.
With the help of CSI staff, Aaliyah found a job she enjoys and enrolled Xander in an accredited childcare program using Title XX.

She has enjoyed learning about Xander’s growth and development by working through the Growing Great Kids™ curriculum with staff and by participating in Early Childhood Services field trips.

Parenting Help

Ramey Stillman

These teen parents voluntarily attend the sessions. During the first session of the school year, CSI’s Family Support Specialists ask the students/parents what questions they have and what they are interested in learning. The team then works together to develop programming to address their questions and topics of interest.

“It really depends on where they are – pregnant or parenting – whether we start with prenatal education or child development education,” Stillman said. When she addresses a topic suggested by one of the parents in attendance, they seem to pay more attention to the lesson.

“Co-parenting is a top concern,” she said. “Many of our teen and young parents live in three-generation households. They are parenting while being parented.”

Because of this, Stillman said she teaches the young parents how to assert themselves positively and to plan what parenting support they may need and want from their own parents. She shares information like the recommendation that babies should sleep on their backs, what the current car seat laws are, and that it is impossible to spoil a baby.

Family Support Specialists may also work through the Growing Great Kids™ curriculum, which addresses prenatal topics and developmental topics for children from birth to age 5.

“Growing Great Kids™ is relationship focused to increase attachment and optimize child development through interaction and attachment,” Stillman said.

Teen and young parents often lack money and may worry about providing for the healthy development of their children. The curriculum shares things parents can do daily that cost nothing, like:

- use empathy parenting.
- support the child’s cognitive development.
- support the child’s social emotional development – vocalize what the child is feeling or doing.
- work on gross and fine motor skills with toys and activities.
- focus on language.

Other free and fun activities include singing songs, reading, and making homemade toys. Sometimes, the workshop includes crafts to take home, which serve to remind the parents about what they learned.
KidSquad

PurseOnalities Brings Big Apple to the Big O

Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) Guild will bring a bit of the glitz and glamour of the Big Apple to the Big O at this year’s PurseOnalities luncheon, scheduled from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Hilton Downtown, 1001 Cass St. This year’s theme is “New York, New York.” Individual reservations, tables, and sponsorships may be purchased at childsaving.org/newsevents/purseonalities

Guests will enjoy boutique shopping and a fantastic silent auction featuring some of the season’s most coveted purses in fun packages, followed by a delicious lunch and keynote speaker Laura Schroff. Funds raised will benefit the children and families CSI serves.

Event Chairs are Emily Dugger, Micayla Lee, Stacey Patterson, and Carissa Schrager. As of deadline, sponsors include: Susan Haddix; Borsheims; Election Systems Software; Wanda Gottschalk; Addie Hollingsworth; Kiewit; Koley Jessen; Mackintosh Charitable Fund; Mutual of Omaha; Mutual of Omaha Bank; Nebraska Medicine; and Oriental Trading Company.

Honorary Chair is Susan Haddix. Haddix has long been an advocate for and supporter of children. She served as a “Cradle Care” provider, welcoming hundreds of infants into her home as a foster parent over the years. She also served as a member of the CSI Guild Board. She was instrumental in focusing on older child adoption and spearheaded the creation of the Nebraska Heart Gallery traveling exhibit, driving it from town to town to highlight children in the foster care system who were waiting for their “Forever Family” to adopt them. She currently serves on the agency’s Board of Directors and its Development Committee, and remains a Guild member.

Schroff, a New York native, is an international and No. 1 bestselling author. Since the launch of her books “An Invisible Thread,” “An Invisible Thread Christmas Story,” and “Angels on Earth,” Schroff has become a passionate and compelling voice on the power of acts of kindness and human connections. “An Invisible Thread,” explores the role of destiny in our lives and the invisible threads that connect us all. Her book brings to life the inspiring true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and their unlikely meeting with destiny.

She is a former advertising executive, who worked with major media companies, including Time Inc. and Condé Nast, was part of the USA Today advertising launch team, and worked at Ms. Magazine. Born and raised on Long Island, Schroff lives in Westchester with her sweet poodle Emma.

For information, please contact Megan Webb at 402.504.3634 or mwebb@childsaving.org.
The Omaha division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (AJG), Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) property/liability insurance provider, qualified a four-man team for the 19th annual Chubb Charity Challenge golf tournament at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, in South Carolina Oct. 28-30. The tournament raises funds for local charities across North America. The Omaha AJG office chose CSI as its agency of choice for 2018.

The company – together with its event sponsors Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, partners, hole sponsors, and customers – raised $8,500 for CSI’s children, an increase of $2,000 from 2017! Altogether, since its first tournament in 2016, DataVizion has donated $20,500 to CSI.

Funds raised allow CSI to provide services including counseling, therapy, parent education, and support for children and families in the community.

“We are beyond grateful for DataVizion’s support of CSI year after year,” said Anna Willey, CSI Events and Projects Coordinator. “Our mission is ‘responding to the cry of a child’ and such a significant donation like this helps us to do just that.”

“This golf tournament is a way to show our customers how much we appreciate them and being able to come together and give back to a local charity makes it even better,” said Kelly Schrad, DataVizion President and CEO. “Each year we have been able to increase our charity donation and that wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of all involved.”

CSI is grateful to DataVizion for its continued support for the children and families it serves.

Learn more about CSI and opportunities to volunteer by visiting childsaving.org/help/volunteer.

DataVizion, LLC, of Lincoln, Nebraska, held its Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament Aug. 30 at Tiburon Golf Club, again selecting Child Saving Institute (CSI) as beneficiary.

CSI’s children will benefit from a minimum donation of $5,000 from the tournament on behalf of the Omaha AJG team. The tournament’s overall winners will receive $50,000 for their charity of choice!

The 2017 Chubb Charity Challenge welcomed 345 teams and raised nearly $1 million for the teams charities. Since 2000, more than 5,200 teams have participated in the tournament, raising nearly $15 million for over 6,000 charities.

In the photo, from left, are Joel Rourke, DataVizion Director of Sales; Anna Willey, CSI Events and Projects Coordinator; Megan Webb, CSI Development Administrator; and Kelly Schrad, DataVizion President and CEO.

Team Gallagher Getting Ready To Tee Off for Child Saving Institute

The Omaha foursome, comprising Brad Willadsen, Jason Jodlowski, Glen Robbins, and Andrew Fereday, won the regional tournament in July, qualifying them for the national tournament.

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CSI wishes the Omaha AJG team – Brad; Jason, Glen, and Andrew the best of luck as they compete for CSI’s children in the tournament! 🏆
Approximately 3,500 parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and children of all ages attended Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) 12th annual Touch-A-Truck event Aug. 25. With free giveaways, games, face painting, bouncy houses, and nearly every type of truck imaginable, the event offered fun for everyone!

Lindsay Corporation brought a specialized piece of equipment called a “road zipper” all the way from California! The road zipper offers moveable barrier technology to increase capacity and reduce congestion on new or existing roads. They demonstrated the technology twice during the event.

Other companies bringing trucks included Hill Brothers Transportation, Metropolitan Utilities District, the City of Omaha, Two Men & A Truck and Kiewit Building Group.

CSI is grateful to event sponsors Scheels, Runza, Oriental Trading, NEST529 College Savings, Kirsch Transportation Service, Inc., Loveland Chiropractic, and First Data, and to all the volunteers who gave their time!

Video highlights at www.childsaving.org/newsevents/touch-a-truck.html
During the spring and summer, volunteers provided more than 1,374 hours of service to Child Saving Institute (CSI)! Individuals, organizations, and businesses all provided donated time to benefit CSI’s children.

Teams from First Data, First Christian Church, Gavilon, Kiewit, Koley Jessen, Lindsay Corporation, and My City Church worked hard around CSI, helping with Emergency Shelter needs and around the grounds at the main campus at 4545 Dodge St. in Omaha. The grounds work included assisting with spring cleanup and summer weeding, and adding fresh dirt and mulch to the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Nature Playground and the beds around CSI’s main building.

Our volunteer “grandmas” offered tremendous help to classroom teachers in ECEC, helping especially with rocking and feeding babies in the multiage and toddler classrooms.

Volunteers helped with planning, coordinating, and executing this year’s Cabaret event, which raised more than $316,000 for CSI’s kids. The success of the event would not have been possible without the help from Guild members, Board members, and more than 20 individuals.

The agency also welcomed 54 volunteers to help with Touch-A-Truck on Aug. 25. These volunteers worked hard in the humid heat to ensure a safe and fun day for families. (See photos from Touch-A-Truck on pages 12-13.)
How You Can Help

Don’t miss out on a moment of the fun and philanthropic opportunities we have planned for you in the coming months! Visit our website, childsaving.org, or contact Megan at 402-504-3634 or mwebb@childsaving.org for more information about these events and how you can get involved.

**PurseOnalities | Thursday, October 18, 2018**

*Hilton Omaha, 1001 Cass Street | 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

Child Saving Institute’s Guild will bring a bit of the glitz and glamour of the Big Apple right here to the Big O at PurseOnalities 2018! Enjoy boutique shopping and a fantastic silent auction featuring some of the season’s most desirable purses in fun packages, followed by a scrumptious luncheon and a keynote address by Laura Schroff, a New York native and author of “An Invisible Thread.” Funds raised benefit the kids and families served by Child Saving Institute!

**Substitute Santa | Wed. - Fri., Dec. 5 - 7, 2018**

*Drop gifts & gift cards off at 4545 Dodge St. | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Please help Child Saving Institute provide a joyful holiday for hundreds of children and teens in our community. Donate cash, gifts or gift cards to the Substitute Santa program serving foster kids, shelter youth and struggling families.

**Cabaret | Saturday, May 11, 2019**

*Omaha Marriott Downtown at the Capitol District | 6 p.m.*

You’re invited to our biggest fundraiser of 2019 – Cabaret! The fun evening will include cocktails, dinner, and fabulously funny comedy. Attire is casual. Tickets will go on sale soon.

*Leave a legacy for kids!* For information about including Child Saving Institute’s kids in your estate plans, please contact Cali Page, Legacy Giving Coordinator, at Child Saving Institute: 402.504.3661 or cpage@childsaving.org.