Thanks to you and others like you, Jade is well on her way to making a good life for herself and her toddler son, Say’Vonn. It is more than she could have hoped for in the dark months following her expulsion from school a few years ago at age 14.

Loving Support

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Jade got in an argument with a girl at school. When the girl punched her, Jade hit her back. The following day, she was expelled. She fell into a deep depression, and with no advocacy at home, she became lost. Eventually Jade entered an alternative school, but instead of being allowed to learn, she struggled to survive the near-daily duress of physical threats, brutality and sexual harassment by the other students. Jade dropped out of school and became gang-affiliated, experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

When she learned she was pregnant at 16, she took a hard look at her life and the dreary outlook for her unborn child if she continued on the same path. “Here I was going to be a single mom and I still had no education, no direction…I knew things had to change,” Jade recalls. She learned of CSI’s 10-week parenting class through the Young Parents Program and there she found hope and help with social worker Tricia Wagner. “Tricia is the best support I’ve ever had,” Jade says enthusiastically. “She has helped me in so many ways. She tells me I’m a wonderful mom, and I can get my education. She helped me get started in Independent Studies…She’s been there every step of the way.”

Mark Your Calendars!

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 or call 504-3661 for more information about these events and how you can get involved.

CABARET 2012 | Saturday, May 12

CSI’s Board will present its biggest fundraiser of the year—CABARET 2012—on Saturday, May 12. “An Evening with Lucie Arnaz” will feature the multi-talented songstress singing your favorite hits from Broadway to Birdland. The daughter of legendary entertainers Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Lucie regularly tours the world with her critically-acclaimed nightclub act and now she’s bringing it to Omaha for one unforgettable night.

Honorary Chairmen for the event are Pat & Dick Bell; General Chairmen are Stephanie & Nick Vondrak and Gail & Shane Graeve. KETV Channel 7 is the media sponsor and Metro Magazine is the print sponsor.

To purchase tickets, visit childsaving.org or call 504-3661.

Golf Fore Kids!

Monday, June 25

Please join us for this long-running event, sponsored by Carson Wealth Management Group, a multi-divisional golf tournament benefiting CSI. Visit our website or call 402-504-0661 for details.

PurseOnalities

Wednesday, August 29

Great purse packages and great fun, all for a great cause...the CSI Scholarship Program! “Save the Date” arriving soon!

Touch-a-Truck

Saturday, October 6

It’s FREE! So for the whole family! Bring the kids, the critters and the whole kit and kaboodle for this fabulous day of fun with trucks, cars, tractors, copiers and more!

Loving Support

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Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2012
A hum of happiness

Every day at CSI I am greeted by a “joyful noise.” For those of you who love the squeals and laughter of children, I wish I could share an earful with you.

As the children in CSI’s Early Childhood Education Center arrive in the mornings, a beautiful routine starts to build. I hear sounds of excitement from young children when their parents bring them into the center and they spot their teachers and friends. The energy and music of their voices builds to a crescendo throughout the morning as I listen to them play. In harmony to the sounds of fun are the sounds of learning, the sounds “loving” and “laughing” as kids grasp new skills and ideas. Then, there is a gradual quieting as lunch arrives and a gentle hum falls on the hushed voices of the children as they are nourished and enriched through music and play. After a musical rest, the magical sounds of glee again fill the air as the children wake up and the fun and noise build anew.

And the summer months bring their own special sounds... Do you remember the sounds of joy that erupt from children running through a water sprinkler in the summer? I have the great fortune of hearing that wonderful music practically every day. How about the sound of children’s laughter, shouting with excitement as the sound of a basketball dropped into a net echoes over the playground? Add to that the sounds of our shelter teens shouting with excitement as the basketballs go through and you’ll understand the “rhythm” of my day.

Of course, not all the sounds we hear at CSI are joyful—there are cries of longing and frustration and shouts of anger—but I am always confident the staff are listening closely and responding with compassion and understanding as the children and teens learn to express their needs.

Of course, there’s one more sound I wish I could share with you—the sound of my voice giving heartfelt thanks for your ongoing interest in CSI’s kids. You make our work possible, and the laughter of those precious children is our reward. Thank you.

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