A Letter from Peg

Staying Connected

COVID Response & How You Can Help

Finding Forever Love: Brillynn’s Adoption Story
Together, we can save lives.

Dear Friends,

Despite today’s challenges due to the pandemic, Child Saving Institute (CSI) continues to provide quality services and programs to children and families who need them most.

I am truly amazed by the innovation, creativity and compassion the CSI teams have shown over the past several months. Whether it’s visiting with a child via a video session or leaving an unexpected “goodie” basket on a family’s doorstep, our staff have stepped up to continue to best serve children and families during these trying times.

We are fortunate to have secured the SBA loan to assist CSI in continuing to serve kids and families during the pandemic. This allows us to retain our wonderful, committed staff to ensure we can carry out our 128-year old mission of Responding to the cry of a child.

To ensure continuity of care for clients, CSI has shifted most of its services to telecommunications to deliver services virtually when face-to-face interaction is not appropriate or feasible during this time. Children and families continue to receive Mental Health, Foster Care and Prevention Services.

Some programs must continue face-to-face contact including our Emergency Shelter and our Triage Center at Project Harmony. Our two childcare centers are operating at about 50% to support families that must work. A sincere thank you to all of our volunteers who are helping provide masks to CSI staff members to keep them safe as they continue to serve kids and families!

Although the future is unknown, I’m confident that our community will do everything possible to support children and families who need us most—especially during this time.

Peg Harriott
President & CEO

Staying Connected

Despite challenges, Child Saving Institute (CSI) is staying connected to children, families and the community.

Thinking of You Bags

During this time, Independent Living Services (ILS) staff at Child Saving Institute (CSI) are staying connected with clients via video, chat and text. However, for some, this time is extremely challenging. The team provided Thinking of You Bags to ILS youth filled with masks, hygiene products, games and other goodies. Also included were magnets and bracelets with the Suicide Prevention Hotline information for anyone struggling mentally or emotionally. Nearly 30 bags have been delivered to clients’ doorsteps!

Spring Baskets

Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) Teen & Young Parents (TYPP) and School & Family Enrichment (SAFE) programs had fun delivering spring baskets to families! Those who received the bags were over-joyed. CSI staff received just as much joy delivering them!

Masks

Child Saving Institute (CSI) is incredibly grateful for the support our community has shown by supplying masks to CSI staff, kids and families. We’ve already received over 250 masks donated!

As time passes, we are still in need of both adult and child-size cloth masks. If you are interested in helping sew masks for CSI, please contact Evell Thomas at ethomas@childsaving.org or Anna Willey at awilley@childsaving.org for more information.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have made masks for CSI: Nancy Schmidt, Cheryl Seachord, Darlene Novotny, Joan McKenzie, Becky Mooch, Susan Phillips, Carla Pinneo, Lori Kreimer, Sally Mason, Betty Deardoff, Sharon Newman, Karen Arp, Connie Dunn, Vickie Japp, Lois Musel, Jeanette Bilek, Phyllis Nescs, Penny States, Julie Patrick, Claudia Deeb, Mary Arkfeld, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Southpoint Christian Church, First Christian Church-Fairbury, St. Mark’s Methodist Church, Community Church in Stella, Ne., and the Christian Church in Nebraska-Disciples Women.
Bringing Together Our Community to Protect Children

In response to these uncertain times, Child Saving Institute (CSI) cancelled its signature event Cabaret 2020 and adjusted its annual Dough in the Toe fundraising appeal for the first time in the organization’s history.

Without these two primary fundraising efforts, CSI faces significant revenue loss.

During stressful economic uncertainty, those who are most vulnerable will suffer the most! We know that when stress within a family increases, incidents of domestic violence and child abuse can increase.

We need to be there for those children who are isolated from their friends, their beloved teachers and their caring therapists.

To ensure continuity of care for its clients, CSI has shifted to telecommunications to deliver services virtually when face-to-face interaction is not appropriate or feasible. Children and families continue to receive Mental Health, Foster Care and Prevention Services.

Now, more than ever, your support will make a difference. Please help support children and families by making a donation today so we can continue to carry out our mission of Responding to the cry of a child.

We can save lives by bringing together our community to protect children! You can be a child’s link to safety, joy, hope and happiness.

Donate online at childsaving.org or by mail to Child Saving Institute, 4545 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68132.

I stand with CSI because...

CSI performed our home study, which brought two beautiful children into our family and changed our lives forever.
– Gail and Shane Graeve

I was adopted and believe all kids need a safe base to build their lives. CSI provides safety and encouragement to achieve success.
– David Hecker

I am a CSI baby. I have two mothers—one who gave me life and one who gave me a life. CSI ensured my family was forever.
– Melanie Hecker

We believe every child in our community deserves a loving and safe home.
– Ellen and Stavely Wright

Thank you to our special appeal chairs: Gail and Shane Graeve, Melanie and David Hecker and Ellen and Stavely Wright.
Finding Forever Love:
Brilynn’s Adoption Story

One summer July night, Brilynn, a sweet two-year-old toddler and her six siblings’ lives changed forever. After suffering from severe neglect and abuse, Brilynn and her siblings entered the foster care system.

For four years, Brilynn moved from one foster home to another before meeting Kim and Steve Ringlein.

The Ringlein’s opened their hearts and home not only to Brilynn, but Brilynn’s older brother and baby sister in July 2019.

Despite living with her brother and sister, Brilynn was scared, confused and missed her four other siblings. Living for years with little consistency, Brilynn faced other challenges too. At age six, she could not read or write, she was behind in school and she had severe behavioral issues.

Day after day, Kim and Steve worked with Brilynn to make sure she had the proper resources to succeed academically. This included home-made flash card activities, working on letter sounds, and practicing her handwriting when she was at home.

Each day Kim and Steve showed love and compassion. They supported Brilynn to pursue her interests and hobbies. She began taking gymnastics classes. She enjoyed coloring, painting, playing with her baby dolls and visiting her siblings.

Brilynn’s connection with all of her siblings remained strong, even though they lived in different homes. Kim and Steve understood the bond between Brilynn and her brothers and sisters and they were committed to preserving their relationship. They sent birthday and holiday cards, and had visits whenever possible.

Brilynn’s time with her siblings allowed her to begin healing. The Ringleins also ensured Brilynn was able to receive therapy services. When she first moved into the Ringlein’s home, she was seeking therapy on a weekly basis. After six months of consistent therapy, and unconditional love and support from Kim and Steve, Brilynn’s therapist decided she was ready to be discharged.

Brilynn’s life changed forever once again on March 26, 2020. That was the day Kim and Steve adopted Brilynn, providing her a forever family filled with love, support and comfort. Brilynn is proud of her new name: Brilynn Portia Ringlein. Her future is bright and full of happiness for years to come.

Learn more about children, like Brilynn, who are looking for their forever family by visiting the Nebraska Heart Gallery online at nebraskaheartgallery.org.

About the Nebraska Heart Gallery

In 2005, the Child Saving Institute (CSI) Guild, along with Adoption Links, Lutheran Family Services and Nebraska Health and Human Services, collaborated to establish the Nebraska Heart Gallery to display professional portraits of children seeking their forever family.

Top local professional photographers volunteer their time and talent to capture each individual child’s spirit and personality in an effort to inspire an emotional connection with families and, hopefully, a forever home.

The Nebraska Heart Gallery allows potential adoptive families to see the children’s photos and bios with the click of a button.

See for yourself the spirit and beauty evident in each child’s photograph and profile by visiting nebraskaheartgallery.org.

Leave a Legacy for Kids

Caring for children and families has been important to you for years. Legacy Giving is a way to support Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) kids long into the future.

Legacy Gifts include: designation in your will or estate plan, gifts of securities, property, closely held stock, life insurance, living trust, retirement plan assets and savings bonds.

For more information, contact Cali Page, Legacy Giving Coordinator, at cpage@childsaving.org or 402.504.3661.

CSI Legacy Society Members

Anonymous (9)
Rev. N. Dwain & Virginia Acker
Donnette Janda Borcherding & Tom Borcherding
Don Brewer
Russ & Kathryn Cranston
Trudi Crosby
Paul E. & Ruth Warden Few
Wanda & Mike Gottschalk
Dr. Susan Hassmiller
Morgan & Walter Hecht
Melanie Hecker
Heidi L. Hirschbach
Judy A. Hunt
Barbara E. Johnson
Carolyn Kinton
Edward “Ned” Kiklin
Howard & Donna Letter
Caren Lillie
Rebecca Z. & Michael W. McNeil
Kenneth W. Moore
Lea Morrison
Rev. Brian & Cali Page
Phillip & Janice Scherick
Rev. Judith Short
Cheryl C. Smith
Ron Sorensen
Art & Michelle Swaboda
Cathy Tibbels
Donna Tubach-Davis & Stephen Davis

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.” — Dr. Lorettta Scott
JOIN US!

Don’t miss a moment of the fun and philanthropic opportunities we have planned for you in the coming months! Visit our website at childsaving.org or contact Grace Peterson at by phone at 402.504.3634 or at gpeterson@childsaving.org for more information about these events and how to get involved.

OmahaGives! | May 20

Wednesday, May 20 marks the Omaha Community Foundation’s 8th Annual OmahaGives! fundraising event. This year is unique but our community is not cancelled! With today’s uncertainties, this year is critical to ensure the needs of Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) children and families are met. CSI stands committed to providing quality programs and services despite the current pandemic. Your donation—big or small—will make a difference in a child’s life. Together, we can save lives. Go to omahagives.org/ChildSavingInstitute to schedule your donation today!

PurseOnalities | November 5

Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) Guild will host its annual PurseOnalities event on Thursday, November 5. Participants will enjoy some of the season’s hottest purses in incredible silent auction packages! Funds raised during PurseOnalities benefit the kids and families served by CSI. Visit childsaving.org to learn more and to register soon.

Substitute Santa | December 9-11

Please help Child Saving Institute (CSI) provide a joyful holiday season for hundreds of children and teens in the Omaha community. Donations to the Substitute Santa program serve foster kids, shelter youth and struggling families. For more information, visit childsaving.org or contact Grace Peterson at gpeterson@childsaving.org or 402.504.3634.