Humans of CSI
"I met her when she came in to the clinic for her new baby’s first well-baby check. She suffered serious complications after her C-section and she scored high on her postpartum assessment. She had moved here from out of state and had absolutely no support. She was a meth user, but has been sober since the baby was born. She didn’t have Medicaid, housing, WIC, ADC—anything. She had all of her belongings stolen—including her driver’s license—and without ID, you can’t apply for these programs.

"I referred her to Together, Inc., and they helped her secure an ID so she can get a food stamp card and apply for WIC. Up to this point, the clinic where I serve has been supplying her with sample cans of baby formula. Until her SNAP card arrives in the mail, I’m driving her around to food pantries to secure food for herself and her six-year-old son. She and the kids are currently staying with some of her former coworkers.

“Despite all this, she’s doing amazingly well. She’s overcome huge barriers and I feel I’m really making a difference for her and her children. A nurse I work with asked, ‘What would have happened to her if you hadn’t helped?’

"Honestly? I think she probably would be using meth now and wouldn’t have her kids. She has nobody…except me.”
"As I do my work I always think of a childhood friend who was going through abuse and neglect when we were kids, and I always go back to his situation and how I so wanted to do something. Well, I’m doing it.

“When I think about the children I work with daily I want to help them reach a positive solution. I know we won’t reach that solution right away, but it’s what I strive for.

“I would say I always work from the child’s perspective. When I see a parent who has no parenting skills and no social skills, it gives me a better understanding of where our kids are coming from.

“I am currently seeing a family with three little kids and that family is struggling. The first step I take to help that family is to offer the mother empowerment. She needs to know I have faith she can be a good parent. I try to show her the positive things she’s doing and give her confidence. I try to offer her a light when she’s feeling down and can’t see the road.

“When I visit, I do a lot of demonstrating and role-playing. Then when I go back to the family home, I’m happy to see her mirroring the skills she’s learned to her children.

“I see a glimmer of hope. That’s all I need...a glimmer.”
“I like to play basketball. My happiest day was when my team, the Trailblazers, played against the Bullets in Chicago. My Dad lives in Chicago, and he and my brother came to the game. My brother's 23 and he usually doesn't come to my games. He started crying and everything when we won. Dad took me to Cheddar's that night, and the next day we went to a movie.

“I was really happy that day...”

Ranada
15-year-old resident of the Crisis Shelter
“A couple years ago, we served a little boy named Malique in our shelter. He was eight years old, but he was severely delayed, very small, and couldn’t speak in full sentences. He had a difficult time walking, touched everything, and took things from people. He was clearly scared and agitated. He didn’t know how to get his basic needs met.

“We were worried about how we would be able to gain his trust and meet his needs. But the shelter staff fell in love with him—we all fell in love with him.

“The shelter staff taught him to use full sentences and ask for what he wanted. The play therapists taught him how to express his needs without acting out. He became an altogether different boy. Malique got to the point where he was friends with all the CSI staff and got regular hugs and was allowed to play with his favorite toys in their offices when he made the rounds.

“I wasn’t sure how it was going to turn out, but when he left us, he went to a foster home that understood his needs, and he had developed the skills to effectively communicate what he needed.

“This is the story I think of when I reflect on how we all work together to change children’s lives.”
“Maggie has taught me a whole lot of stuff. We met at Dr. Fernandez’s office right after I had Devante. She has taught me parenting skills; taught me how to entertain my kids, and helped get my kids signed up for Head Start. She’s really helped me when the kids need their prescriptions, therapy appointments, doctor appointments. She taught me how to do time outs for discipline instead of spanking. She’s directed me to other resources so I can get the help we need.

“I don’t know what I’d do without her.”
“It’s an amazing thing to meet the families who are beginning the life-changing journey of foster parenting.

“When they first come to foster parent training they have very limited information—all they really know is they want to be foster parents and serve the children in that way.

“I love witnessing the power in that room as they truly absorb what it means to be a foster parent and help them prepare for that role.

“It’s amazing just to see them evolve from week to week, hear their stories, listen to them talk to one another, and ask questions. In just 11 weeks, for three hours at a time, they make a very powerful transformation. I’m glad to be part of that.”

Evell Thomas
Adoption Specialist, Permanency Services
“I had to find a way to help a tiny four-year-old build up her self-concept because she was really lost.

“It is such a rarity to see a child so young have something of an identity crisis. It was really a challenge to think out of the box and consider how we could do what’s best for this child. She is just a little spitfire, but she had lost her way. Her brother is an artist and her sister dances, but she didn’t have her own thing, and she was using bad behavior to try to vie for the spotlight. I thought a magic kit might provide her with something special all her own; it could be her time in the spotlight and all about her.

“Just her response to our one-on-one time—seeing her eyes full of excitement as she learned the tricks—it was like a mirror for the magic! Seeing her understand she could do magic to elicit something other than a negative response was amazing!

“Plus, I had to learn the tricks before I brought it out for her, so it added a little pizzazz to my life, too.”
“If I’m mad, I’ll draw a picture of a cartoon version of me. It will have a frowny face if I’m mad or sad, and if I’m happy, it will be the same picture of me with a smile. It makes me feel better because when I look at it, I laugh.

“When I was six, I got to go on visits with my biological dad. And I guess it must have been around Christmastime, because I went to their house and we built a gingerbread house together. It was so fun. That was my best day ever. I kept eating all the candy, and by the time Christmas came around, the only thing left was graham crackers and frosting.”

Carlos
13-year-old resident of the Crisis Shelter
The inspiration for this piece came from the popular “Humans of New York” blog featuring Brandon Stanton’s collection of beautiful and inspiring photographs and anecdotes capturing the city’s spirit. We hope our “Humans of CSI” offers similar insight into the heartfelt work and resilient clients served at Child Saving Institute.

Financials

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<tr>
<th>Financial Category</th>
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<th>2013</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<td>Operating Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</td>
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<td>(68,068)</td>
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CSI has made budgetary changes to improve the financial outcomes for 2015.
This is our work, and they are ALL our children.