



**Child Saving**  
INSTITUTE

*With Heart & Humanity*



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# HOPE IN ACTION

Fall 2025 Newsletter

# Foreword

## A Year of Purpose and Progress



Dear Friends,

At Child Saving Institute (CSI), every season brings new opportunities to champion what's best for children and families—and this fall, we are celebrating a milestone unlike any other. We are honored to share that CSI and Children's Square have officially come

together as one organization.

By uniting our legacies, we are ensuring that more children and families receive the care, support and opportunities they need to thrive. This partnership extends our reach, deepening our impact in ways that will benefit generations to come. Nothing changes for the families we serve—except that we'll be able to do even more, together.

As you read this issue of *Hope in Action*, you'll see that while the merger is a historic milestone, it is only one part of the story. Inside, you'll find inspiring examples of the impact your generosity makes every day—from young parents gaining confidence and support to the programs and projects that continue to transform our community.

We are also celebrating the completion of phase three of our Campaign for Hope. With

the opening of our newest addition, we are one step closer to completing this transformative project in its entirety this winter, creating even more opportunities for children and families.

Your partnership has fueled all of this momentum—growth, hope and now a new chapter for our organization. Thank you for walking hand-in-hand with us during such a historic season. Together, we are building a stronger, brighter future for every child.

With Heart and Humanity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Sime".

Jaymes Sime  
President & CEO  
Child Saving Institute



# United in Purpose

## A New Chapter for Children and Families



In a historic step forward, Child Saving Institute (CSI) and Children's Square U.S.A. have officially united—merging two legacies of care into one stronger, more resilient organization. This milestone marks not only a strategic alignment, but a heartfelt commitment to preserving the past while building a brighter future for children and families across Nebraska and Iowa.

The combined organization will operate under the Child Saving Institute name and brand, honoring the history and values of both institutions. Services will remain uninterrupted, and the people and programs families rely on will continue to walk alongside them—now with even more support behind them.

**"This is a powerful moment in our shared history. By uniting two legacies of care, we're not only preserving what has made each organization special, we're building something even stronger for the future."**

— Jaymes Sime, President & CEO of Child Saving Institute

## Rooted in Legacy



The original Child Saving Institute building in Omaha, circa early 1900s

Founded in 1892 by Rev. A.W. Clark, Child Saving Institute began as a refuge for abandoned and neglected children in Omaha. Over the decades, CSI evolved to meet the changing needs of the community—offering prevention, intervention and educational programs that empower families and protect children.

Children's Square traces its origins to the Council Bluffs Home of the Friendless, born from a community's response to the devastating flood of 1881. In 1882, Rev. Joseph Goff Lemen and his wife Florence inspired a movement that would grow into a trusted institution serving children and families through trauma-informed care, mental health services and educational support.



Archival image of Children's Square's early campus

We are passionate about preserving the history and presence of Children's Square within our community. Its legacy will be carried forward in several ways including: referencing the geographic space as the "Children's Square Campus," hosting the annual Jason Awards in November and integrating the organization's history into a broader story about both founders. The history, programs and impact will remain integral to the combined mission.

**"The Children's Square legacy lives on—it's being honored and carried forward, hand-in-hand with CSI."**

— Hilary Thien, Board Chair of Children's Square

## A Community-Driven Future

This merger is more than a strategic decision—it's a community-driven step forward. By combining resources, expertise and missions, the organization is expanding access to care, strengthening financial sustainability and

deepening its impact across the region.

Programs such as Children's Square's Psychiatric Medical Institute for Children (PMIC), Crisis Stabilization, Youth Shelter/Residential Treatment, BHIS and Aftercare services now complement CSI's offerings—creating a more comprehensive continuum of care for children and families.

**"We're thrilled about the opportunities this merger brings—not just for the communities we serve, but for our dedicated staff and partners."**

— Lisa Blunt, Chief Operating Officer at Child Saving Institute

## Donors: The Heart of Our Legacy

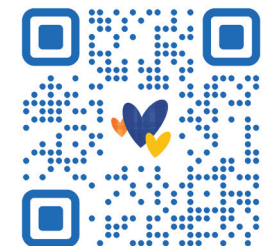
This moment would not be possible without the unwavering support of donors and stakeholders. Your generosity has shaped the success of both organizations—and it will continue to shape the future of the united mission.

Your contributions have built a legacy of compassion and courage. Today, they are helping build a stronger safety net for generations to come.

**"Our commitment to children and families remains unwavering, and we're excited to expand our reach and deepen our impact across the region."**

— Jaymes Sime, President & CEO of Child Saving Institute

To learn more, visit [childsaving.org/uniting-legacies](https://childsaving.org/uniting-legacies) or scan the QR code.



## From Discovery to Dedication

# Maria Martens' Journey Back to CSI



In the photo: Maria and her father

While sorting through her late mother's documents, Maria Martens of Arizona uncovered a small but powerful piece of family history—a \$2 receipt for her father's adoption. While she was aware of the adoption, she was stunned to learn he had been adopted through Child Saving Institute in 1937. But that wasn't the only surprise, she was even more shocked to discover the organization still exists today, continuing the mission to serve children and families.

"I thought CSI was long gone," Maria said. "But to find out it's still serving children and families—it spoke volumes."

Moved by her discovery, Maria and her husband Rob made a generous gift to CSI last year in memory of her father. "We can give monetarily and fly out periodically to support," she said.

**"Even one person can make a quiet change that will make an impact. It's like an anthill—it takes a whole village, but everyone has something to do with it."**

Maria's connection to CSI has rekindled her bond with Omaha. She and Rob attended CSI's Cabaret event and plan to return next year, bringing friends and family who want to learn more and get involved.

"I always loved going to Nebraska," she said. **"But this connection to CSI brought me back in a new way."**

Through her rediscovery of CSI, Maria has not only honored her father's legacy but also deepened her own commitment to helping children and families thrive. Her story is a powerful reminder that the impact of CSI reaches far beyond state lines—and that sometimes, **the smallest discoveries can lead to the most meaningful connections.**

## Finding Strength in a New Beginning



She wanted to be ready, to give her baby the best start possible, but she didn't know where to begin. That's when she was connected to CSI's Teen & Young Parent Program through her high school.

Determined to create a stable future for her child, Sofia worked alongside a CSI support specialist to gather what she needed before her due date. Together, they navigated the overwhelming world of baby essentials, preparing a safe space for her newborn. More than just material support, she asked questions—lots of them. "What will labor feel like? How will I know what my baby needs? Am I ready for this?"

With each answer, she grew more confident. She wasn't just preparing for birth—she was stepping into motherhood with courage.

Her mother watched this transformation unfold, seeing her daughter become stronger with each passing day. She later shared with her daughter's Family Support Specialist,

**A**t just 15 years old, Sofia (name changed for privacy) found herself facing one of the biggest moments of her life: becoming a mother.

Having recently moved to the United States from Mexico, everything felt unfamiliar—new language, new culture, new challenges. On top of adjusting to a new home, she was preparing to welcome her baby with almost nothing in place.

**"Even though you just met us, you treated us with so much kindness and care. Thank you for moving so quickly to help her feel ready."**

Today, Sofia holds her baby in her arms, not just as a new mother, but as a young woman who proved to herself that she could do this. She still has challenges ahead, but she faces them with a newfound confidence—one she built for herself.



## A Place of Hope • Celebrating the Progress of Our Capital Expansion Project

This summer marked a transformative milestone for Child Saving Institute—and for the thousands of children, youth and families we serve each year. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our donors and community partners, we are thrilled to announce the successful fundraising efforts of our Campaign for Hope, raising an incredible \$46 million to bring our vision to life.

In mid-July 2025, we opened the doors to our newly expanded facilities, welcoming children and families into spaces designed with healing, growth and dignity at their core. And this fall, we will celebrate the completion of the final phase of renovations with a community open house—a moment to honor what we've built together and look ahead to the future.

"This expansion is more than bricks and mortar—it's a promise to our community's children that they will be seen, supported and given every opportunity to thrive," said Jaymes Sime, President & CEO. "Thanks to our generous donors, we've built spaces that heal, nurture and inspire hope."

### A Vision Realized: New Spaces, New Possibilities

The capital expansion project has dramatically enhanced our ability to serve children and families across our core programs:

#### Behavioral Health Center

Our new Behavioral Health Center is a dedicated

space where children, teens and young adults can access compassionate mental health care in an environment built for healing. From the moment families walk into the calming lobby and waiting area, they are met with warmth, privacy and dignity. The therapeutic offices are intentionally designed to foster trust and comfort—essential components for emotional wellness.



With room to grow our team of licensed therapists, we're now able to meet the rising demand for services and reduce wait times. More children are receiving timely, life-changing support. More families are finding hope. More young people are learning to navigate life's challenges with resilience and strength.

#### Early Childhood Education Expansion:

With four additional classrooms and a 25% increase in capacity, our A.W. Clark Child Development center now offers Pre-K programming to support kindergarten readiness.

This expansion means more than just space. It means more children are receiving the early developmental support they need to thrive—cognitively, socially and emotionally. It means working parents have access to reliable, enriching care. And it means that every child who walks through our doors is met with warmth, structure and the tools to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



#### Youth Shelter

Before the expansion, our youth emergency shelter was stretched to its limits with limited space and few amenities to support the full scope of a young person's needs. Today, we've built a shelter that offers not just safety, but dignity.



Each youth now has their own bedroom—a private space to rest, reflect and feel grounded during a time of uncertainty. The shelter includes a commercial kitchen, where warm meals are prepared with care, and a half-court gym and fitness area, giving youth a place to move and release stress. Additionally, we've added a dedicated classroom, ensuring that education doesn't pause when life gets hard.

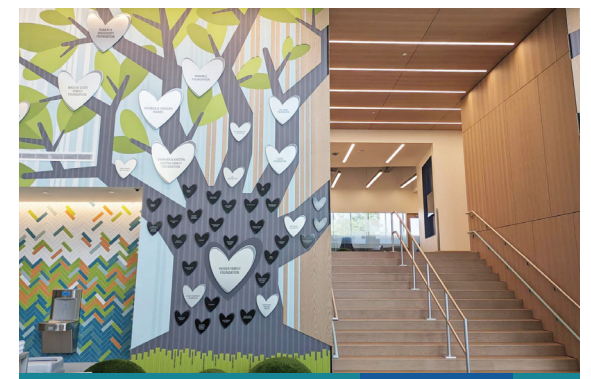
It's more than a temporary place to stay—it's a lifeline. It's a place where young people can begin to heal, regain stability and imagine a

future beyond crisis. It exists because of you.

#### Gratitude in Every Corner

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our donors, many of whom are now honored on our new donor recognition wall in the main lobby. This wall stands as a testament to the compassion and commitment of our community—a daily reminder that hope is built together.

#### Come See What You've Made Possible



We invite you to experience the transformation firsthand. Schedule a private tour of our new facilities or join us this fall for our community open house. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are just learning about our mission, we'd love to welcome you into our space and share the impact of your support.

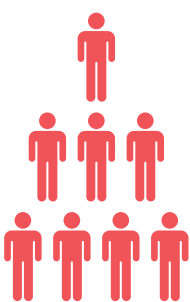
### Together, we've built more than a building—we've built a future filled with hope.

— Jaymes Sime, President & CEO of Child Saving Institute



# Visual data that tells the story of 2024

*\*The 2024 Annual Report, which includes detailed financial data specific to CSI, will soon be available on our website at ChildSaving.org. Stay informed—visit our site to learn more about the impact we’re making together!*

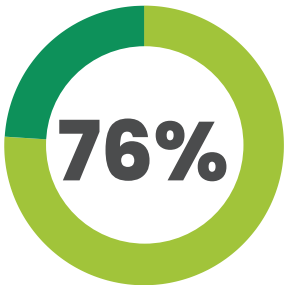


3,318

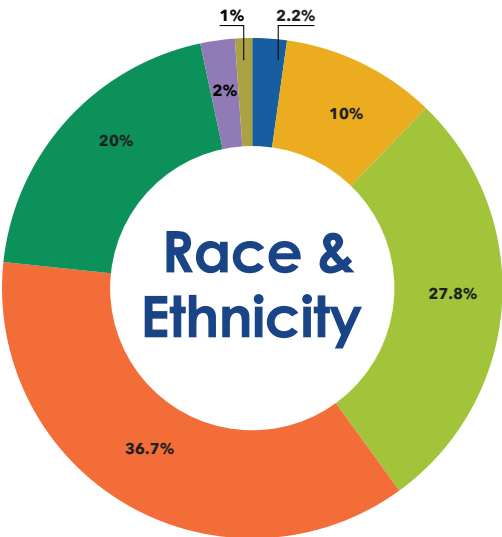
Omaha-metro children and families received life-changing services from Child Saving Institute (CSI)

48%

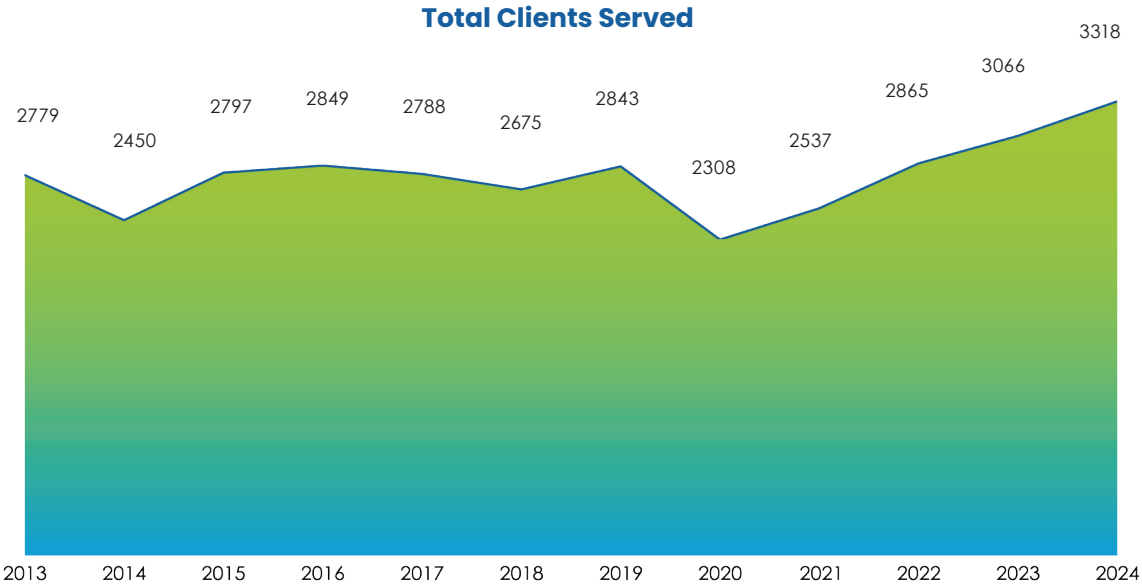
of families receiving services qualify as low income households



of clients served are children and teens aged 0–17



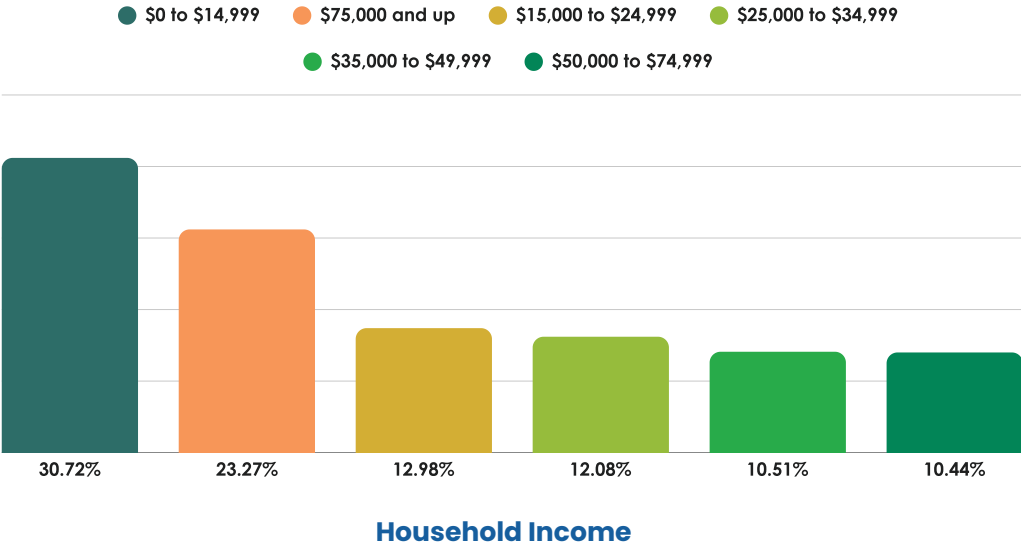
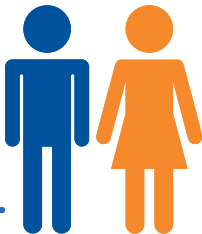
- Asian
- Bi-racial/Multi-racial
- Black or African American
- Euro American/Caucasian/White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American
- Other



## Gender

54% Female

46% Male



# Where History Meets the Future

In 1892, A.W. Clark and his wife, Anna, opened the doors of an old livery stable on 18th and St. Mary's Avenue with a bold mission—to provide safety, care and love to children who had nowhere else to turn. The building was simple, but their hearts and vision were anything but.

Today more than 130 years later, though our programs have evolved and our community has grown, that same mission still fuels everything we do. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, our Campaign for Hope has brought a beautiful new addition to our campus. It is a place where children and families can find hope, healing and opportunity, all under one roof.

From the first child who stepped through the doors of that humble livery stable, CSI's purpose has stayed true—to champion what's best for each child and family. Every future made brighter is another chapter in our legacy.

## You can be a part of that legacy

The CSI Legacy Society, formed in 2012, honors donors who ensure this mission will thrive for generations to come. Members have chosen to include CSI in their estate plans, leaving a planned gift that will continue providing safe, happy childhoods long into the future.

Whether your connection to CSI is deeply personal or born from a shared belief in the power of childhood, your legacy gift becomes part of a story that began more than a century ago—and will continue far beyond our lifetime.

Joining is simple: file a letter of intent for a planned gift with CSI, or notify us in writing, and you'll be welcomed into the Legacy Society. We will honor your wishes, respect your privacy and thank you in the way you deserve.

Your gift will echo the compassion of our founders and help write the future of CSI's story.

**Will you help carry the legacy forward? Join us.** Visit [childsaving.org/legacy](https://childsaving.org/legacy) for details.

# Legacy Society Members

Rev. N. Dwain\* & Virginia Acker  
Vicki Beilke  
Janice L. Bolte  
Donnette Janda Borcharding & Tom Borcharding  
Shirley\* & Don Brewer  
Christine & Donald Carpino  
Russ & Kathryn Cranston  
Trudi Crosby  
Paul E. & Ruth Warden Few  
Wanda & Mike Gottschalk  
Mike & Chris Gruttemeyer  
Drs. Robert\* & Susan Hassmiller

Cassandra & Bret Hays  
Morgan & Walter Hecht  
Melanie Hecker  
Heidi L. Hirschbach  
Judy A. Hunt  
Barbara E. Johnson  
Roger & Isla Keaton  
Carolyn Kinton  
Edward "Ned" Kirklin  
Howard & Donna Lefler  
Caren Lillie  
John & Brigid Mordeson  
Kenneth W. Moore & Susan Moore

Kevin & Linda Renner  
Phil\* & Jan Schenck  
Cheryl Smith  
Mary Ann\* & Ron Sorensen  
Art & Michelle Swoboda  
Cathy Tibbels  
Donna Tubach-Davis & Steven A. Davis\*  
Bob & Audrey Williams  
Anonymous (9)

*\*Those notated are deceased.*



# Hand-In-Hand

## We Champion What's Best for Every Child and Family



As the year draws to a close, Child Saving Institute (CSI) is taking a moment to reflect with deep gratitude on what we've achieved together—and the incredible impact your generosity has made.

At the heart of our work is a simple but powerful mission: **To Champion What's Best For Each Child And Family.** This year, that mission came to life in so many ways—through programs that uplift families and that helps ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

And none of it would be possible without you.

Whether you've donated your time, your voice or your resources, your support fuels everything we do. You've helped us respond to urgent needs, build strong foundations for lifelong success and stand by families when they need it most.

As we look ahead to a new year, we ask you to consider making a year-end gift to help us continue—and grow—this vital work. Your donation today means more children are supported, more families strengthened and more communities transformed.

From all of us at Child Saving Institute, thank you for believing in this mission and for standing with us. We're proud to do this work alongside you.

**Give today at [childsaving.org/donate](https://childsaving.org/donate). Keep the momentum going.**

# Ways to Support CSI

Give. Volunteer. Advocate.

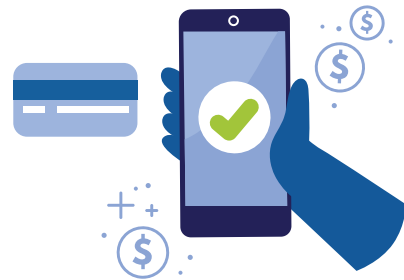


## 1 Wish List Pages

Help meet the needs of children and families by donating items directly through our wish lists. Learn more about how you can donate items at [Childsaving.org/get-involved/donate/wishlist](https://Childsaving.org/get-involved/donate/wishlist)



General Wishlist

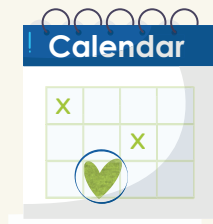


## 2 Round Up Your Purchase

Round up your purchases on Walmart.com or the app to support CSI! Just log in, **select CSI in the Spark Good portal**, and choose to round up at checkout—your spare change goes directly to helping kids and families.

## 3 Donate Your Time

Your time is valuable. Consider supporting CSI's mission to Champion What's Best for Each Child and Family by volunteering your time and talents. Learn more or sign up for a volunteer opportunity at [Childsaving.org/volunteer](https://Childsaving.org/volunteer)



### Event Champion

Help bring our mission to life by supporting CSI-hosted events like our annual luncheon and gala.



### Project Partner

Lend a hand on a one-time project that supports our daily operations.



### Care Crew

For volunteers who commit to consistent, ongoing support—whether through direct interaction with children or by helping behind the scenes.



### Large Groups

Join us for a day of service with your co-workers, networking group, or friends.

## 4 Become An AUNTY

Women philanthropists for kids. Formed in 2012, the CSI AUNTYS meet twice a year, exploring ways to better the lives of children and youth in our care.

## 5 Join The CSI Guild

The mission of the CSI Guild is to support the agency's programs and services while advocating for families.

## 6 Planned Giving

A meaningful way to support CSI through a future. Your legacy gift will ensure that our work continues long into the future, providing hope, healing and support for children and families who need it most.



A.W. Clark Child Development Center

**Now Enrolling Toddlers & Preschoolers**

**Schedule a school tour today!**





4545 Dodge St | Omaha, NE 68132

402.553.6000 | [childsaving.org](https://childsaving.org)

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## Upcoming Events

Don't miss a moment of the fun and philanthropic opportunities we have planned! Visit [childsaving.org](https://childsaving.org) for more information about these events and ways to get involved.

### PURSEONALITIES

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**

**Embassy Suites La Vista Hotel &  
Conference Center 12520 Westport  
Pkwy | 10:30am**

Join us for a silent auction featuring unique purses, designer handbags, accessories and more! We look forward to seeing you on September 19 at the Embassy Suites La Vista with Honorary Chair, Rachel Werner and Event Chair, Cassy Tusa! All funds raised support children and families receiving life-changing services from CSI.

### JASON AWARDS

**NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

**Mid-America Center  
1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs**

This is a night of connection, cocktails, food stations and celebration. Your support will help provide therapy to children who have experienced trauma, youth aging out of the foster care system, children looking for their "forever home," teen parents in need of a support system, emergency shelter for teens and a safe haven for children removed from their home. Learn more or purchase your tickets at [childsaving.org/jasonawards](https://childsaving.org/jasonawards)

### SUBSTITUTE SANTA DONATION DRIVE

**DECEMBER 2-4, 2025**

**Child Saving Institute  
4545 Dodge St | 9am - 4pm**

Help CSI provide a joyful holiday season for hundreds of local children and teens. Donations to Substitute Santa In-Kind Donation Drive serve foster children, youth living in the emergency shelter and struggling families seeking services at CSI.

Thank you to our Sponsor- **SCHEELS**

### CABARET

**APRIL 10, 2026**

**CHI Health Center  
455 N 10th St | 6pm**

Save the date for Cabaret 2026 on Friday, April 10 at a new location: CHI Health Center! Join us and Honorary Chairs, Kristin and Shikhar Saxena for an evening of fun and laughter as we celebrate and support CSI's mission. Visit [childsaving.org/cabaret](https://childsaving.org/cabaret) to learn more as the event approaches.

