



CS Insider

CHILD SAVING INSTITUTE NEWS | SPRING 2024



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Child's Life

HOPE

FOR THE FUTURE



To my friends,
This past year we have accomplished so many positive changes in our community. We've reached goals beyond what we could have imagined. All because YOU have come together to support local children, youth and families. Thank you for continuing to advocate and **Champion What's Best for Each Child & Family**.

This success brings great hope for the future of both **Child Saving Institute (CSI)** and the Omaha community in its entirety. My biggest hope is for every child to have a safe, happy and healthy childhood and for families to be provided with the opportunities they deserve to flourish.

As we approach my three-year tenure with **CSI**, I continue to be blown away by the dedication, grit and commitment of everyone around me. With the support of CSI's staff, families and the Omaha community, we have successfully

raised more than **\$43 million** towards the renovation and expansion of the CSI campus and programs. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

In this issue, you will read about our community's desperate need for caring foster parents, hear about one family's journey through devastating loss and learn how your support is changing lives!

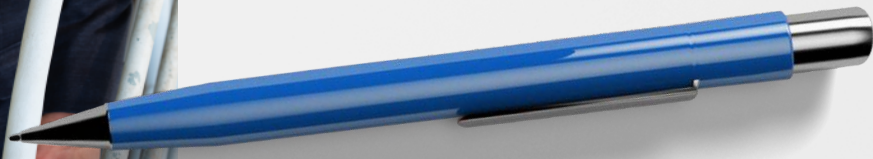
As CSI continues to grow alongside the needs of the community, we work to serve children and families however we can. Learn more about our Early Childhood Development and Mental Health Services in this issue while we talk about Mental Health Awareness Month and how to make the first steps in the mental health treatment process.

Thank you for being a part of CSI and making our vision a reality. I am immensely proud to be part of such a caring and committed community.

As we move forward, let us remember the strength of our community lies in its unity and compassion. Together, we can create a world where everyone has access to the support they need to thrive.

With Heart & Humanity,

Jaymes Sime
President & Chief Executive Officer



Every Gift Helps. Here's How.

\$55

will buy a **month's unlimited bus pass** so a teen parent can take their baby to doctor appointments

\$256

provides a **day of care** for a youth temporarily living in the Emergency Shelter

\$100

can help a struggling mom **keep her utilities on** and her children in her home

\$500

funds **eight sessions of parenting workshops** for a struggling parent

Donate today at childsaving.org/donate

YOUR \$55 GIFT CAN TURN INTO \$660 BY GIVING MONTHLY!

Scan to donate!



Your support is essential to our purpose.

When you give to CSI, you are making a lasting difference in the lives of families in YOUR community. You are giving children and youth the opportunity to grow, thrive and learn. And, you're helping us provide parents with the tools they need to succeed.

Because client fees and government funding only go so far, financial contributions from caring community members, like you, are essential to the future and growth of our organization. Thank you for helping us meet Omaha families where they are at - **with Heart & Humanity**.

Please consider making a gift to CSI today. No matter how big or how small, your gift will go far. Helping to support all families in Omaha.

Donate today at childsaving.org/donate



Photo courtesy of Debra Kaplan | Left to right: Roy & Stacey Patterson, Jaymes Sime, Gina & Nick Patrick.

Cabaret 2024 was a record-setting event for CSI. Together, we raised more than **\$856,000**; providing healing, hope and safety for hundreds of families in our community. Thank you for helping us make history.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor, Diventures; honorary chairs, Stacey and Roy Patterson; and event chairs, Gina and Nick Patrick.

With families and friends joining us for a night filled with fun, laughter and food, CSI will continue providing children and families in our community with the life-changing services they so desperately need.

While the needs of the community continue to grow, so does CSI. We can't thank you enough for allowing us to **Champion What's Best for Each Child and Family**. For 132 years, CSI has been addressing the diverse needs of the Omaha and surrounding communities. Services address the need for early childhood development and high-quality childcare. Other services offered focus on the prevention, intervention and healing from child abuse, neglect and trauma like the Mental Health Services program.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do this work without you! To learn more, please visit childsaving.org.



Save the Date for Cabaret 2025

Friday, April 11, 2025

12520 Westport Pkwy | Embassy Suites Omaha
La Vista Hotel & Conference Center.

All money raised will support CSI and its life-changing services provided to more than 3,000 children and families each year.



CAMPAIGN FOR

20
24

H  PE

Hope is defined as a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. Unfortunately, for many of the children and families served by CSI, hope can seem unfamiliar.

When life becomes challenging, hope shouldn't be so distant. CSI has provided hope and healing for children and families through supportive services for 132 years. With your support, we can build a stronger community.



01



Pediatric & Adolescent Therapy

In the past seven years, CSI has doubled the size of its Mental Health Services program to meet the growing needs of the Omaha community. Yet, there is still a rising number of children and families needing additional support. A space that is conducive to address trauma, promote safety and allow for healing is critical.

02



Emergency Shelter

CSI's Emergency Shelter was originally built for young children, but the older teens who live there today have different needs. The new Emergency Shelter will add robust educational services, a physical activity space and allow for youth to have their own bedrooms. These are all critical to a youth's successful physical, emotional and mental health.

03



Supportive Early Education

There are many vulnerable preschoolers living in poverty and experiencing the impact of trauma in the Omaha community at risk of expulsion. CSI wishes to directly provide supportive Early Education services for traumatized preschoolers unsuccessful in traditional early learning environments to help them heal and prepare them for kindergarten... and for life.

04



Early Education Expansion

Since 1971, CSI has provided quality Early Childhood Education to the Omaha community. Nationally, the need for high-quality Early Childhood Education continues to outpace the availability. The proposed expansion of CSI's Early Childhood Education Center would increase its licensed capacity by 25%.



Scan to learn more and join our efforts!

\$43,835,912 Raised

95% to Goal of **\$46,000,000**

A JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS AND TRIUMPH



There's something unique about every story. Every journey. Every path that we take. Alysha's story proves just how true that is.

Alysha had no idea what she was about to experience as a little girl growing up in Omaha. At four years old, Alysha's mother passed away due to her father's actions. Too young to truly comprehend the life-altering events, she didn't

understand how much her life would change by never seeing her mother again and as her father went away to prison.

"I remember every detail of that day. The minutes beforehand. It was difficult," Alysha said. Her life completely changed. She, along with her sisters, were taken in by her father's parents, where they had a new, traditional-style

household. Fast-forward to 2017, her father was released from prison. Building a relationship with her father upon his release proved to be a struggle. Then, the unthinkable happened once more. She found herself attending her grandparents' and younger cousin's funeral. "It was as if I lost two sets of parents and a best friend."

Alysha said that her grandparents did their best to prepare her and her siblings for adulthood and always made sure they had what they needed. "They loved us very much."

"If my grandparents hadn't stepped up when I was little, my sisters and I would have been split up in the foster care system. I am thankful they took us in before that happened."

Finding herself as a single mom after the birth of her first child posed an entirely new set of challenges. Her son, Weslee, was taken for a check-up where Alysha scored high on her post-partum screening. Immediately, the doctors and nurses reacted.

"I was so scared when they told me a social worker was going to come talk to me. It brought back those fears I had about the foster care system when I was a child. But, the CSI worker who came in instantly calmed my nerves.

She proved that she was there for me." Alysha said, "I felt like I could just be open with her. I knew she was here to help me and not take my child away. She talked about resources and how we could meet weekly to discover ways I could bond with my daughter while dealing with depression."

CSI works with many different families, just like Alysha's, to help provide guidance and support during challenging times.



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Alysha's CSI worker helped her create and maintain routines from daily activities to brushing her teeth and even just getting out of bed in the morning while struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression.

The immediate and long-term support she received from CSI changed the course of her life... and her daughter's.

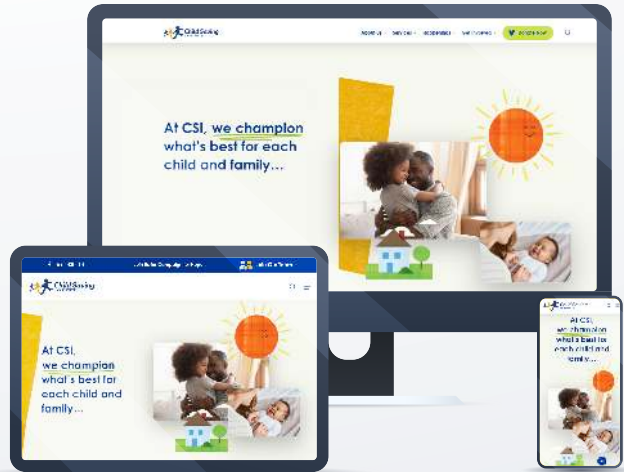
Today, Weslee and Alysha are thriving. Each day, they work towards finding security in each other. At six months old, Weslee is goofy and working on sitting up. She has even discovered her own feet!

"Giving stability to Weslee was crucial. It was the biggest risk I could take. And I did it, thanks to the support from CSI."



OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Visit us at childsaving.org



Our Services



Early Childhood Education



Mental Health Services



Critical Response



Thriving Families

Our Purpose, Promise and Values

Our Purpose

Champion What's Best for Each Child and Family

Our Promise

With Heart & Humanity

Our Values

Humanity and Perseverance for Growth

This year, the **CSI AUNTYS** have raised over **\$18,000!** They have purchased new furniture for the **Triage Center**, graduation gifts for high school graduates that are members of the **Independent Living Skills Program** and provided a "summer fun" fund for the youth in the Emergency Shelter.

CSI's **AUNTYS Giving Circle** is comprised of philanthropic women who provide further funding for unbudgeted "extras" and special purchases such as this. These special moments create lasting impacts on the mental and physical health of young adults striving to succeed in our community.

You are invited to join this giving circle and participate in giving back to local young adults.

For more information, please visit childsaving.org or contact **Cali Page** at cpage@childsaving.org.



AUNTYS

Women philanthropists for kids



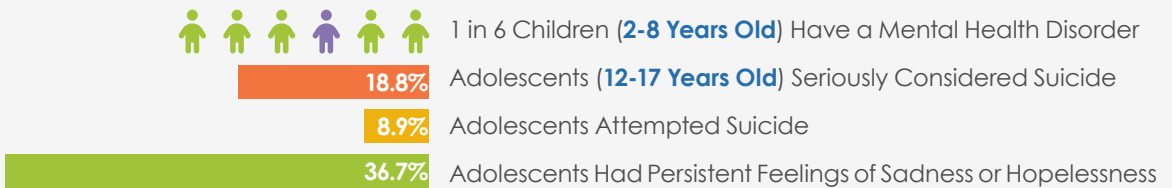
May is Mental Health Awareness Month


In today's age, the world is constantly changing— for better or for worse. This can be overwhelming to deal with while everything is still going on around you in your daily life. Although the right steps are being taken to break the stigma around mental health, it can still be a challenge to know where to start.

Children's mental health problems are real. Unfortunately, they are also very common.

Without treatment, children with mental health issues are at an increased risk of school failure, involvement in the criminal justice system or even self harm.

CSI has services that can help your child or family. With immediate openings in medication management and therapy services, you can get the much needed support that you may need.



 Diagnoses of ADHD, anxiety, and depression increase with age.



Nationally, nearly half (**49.4%**) of children with a mental health disorder do not receive necessary treatment from a mental health professional.

Source: AAFP, CDC

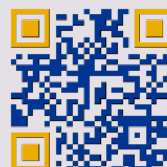
Therapy Services & Medication Management

Our licensed therapists specialize in child and family therapy. They provide the support, skills and knowledge necessary to improve family relationships, reduce the painful impact of traumatic life events like abuse and neglect, divorce or family violence, and help families navigate typical challenges and everyday life events with expert guidance. CSI therapists work with children and families struggling with a variety of issues including: ADHD, anxiety, acting out, PTSD, sadness and depression, divorce, grief and loss, "big feelings" typical of childhood development, attachment issues and more.

Our Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner provides psychiatric evaluations for children and youth who may benefit from additional support through Medication Management Services. Treatment begins with a psychiatric evaluation. This assessment is the starting point to develop a treatment plan, which may involve medication management, health education and supportive and problem-focused psychotherapy, as needed.



Maureen W. Gatere,
DNP, MPH, APRN



Scan to learn more and schedule an appointment today!

YOU'RE NOT JUST CHANGING A LIFE. YOU ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE.

A growing number of children are in need of foster care. Most children in foster care are there because of dangerous living situations at home, financial crises or the result of neglect by their family. While these families heal, their children need a safe, patient home to reside in.

While you would be giving a child or teen a safe, loving home, you are also showing them the love and care they deserve. By giving them life skills and support, you are giving them a positive role-model to show them they are deserving of a strong support system. Be their biggest cheerleader and consider becoming a foster parent!

When you choose to open your heart and your home with a child through CSI's foster parent program, you can count on continuous support in return. So, why choose CSI? We offer:

- ✔ **One-on-one ongoing support**, including home visits by an assigned Foster Care Specialist.
- ✔ **Ongoing educational opportunities and connections** with experienced foster parents - a team of people working together with you to ensure success and healthy relationships.
- ✔ **24-hour access** to experienced, caring staff who are available to assist your needs in each unique situation.

Inquire about becoming a foster parent today at childsaving.org/foster

▶▶▶ *Scan here to become a foster parent!* ▶▶▶



Scan here to watch the success story of the Welniak family!



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Research shows that the first five years of a child's development are the most formative. This is why high-quality, reliable early childhood education is essential.

It facilitates a child's growth, today and for years to come, and it benefits everyone involved – providing infants and young children with the support they need to learn and giving parents and guardians vital peace of mind that their children are in a safe, caring environment.

Our Early Childhood Education program provides nurturing care in two state-of-the-art facilities: CSI at 4545 Dodge Street and the Spellman Child Development Center, managed by CSI, on the College of Saint Mary campus. Both locations embrace a community-driven approach for children ages six weeks to six years, ensuring families feel like they belong here.

LEARN MORE at bit.ly/CSIEducation or **scan the following QR code:**



What Does High Quality Early Childhood Education Look Like?

CSI has a high quality early childhood education program because of the continuous reflection of our practices that are aligned with research-based curriculum. By aiming to make adjustments based off of the prioritized needs of our children, families and community, we can provide the best education and environment for your children to thrive and grow.

The benefits of quality early childhood education:

- ♥ Assists children in learning the foundational skills for reading, math, self-control and positive relationships
- ♥ Enhances children's cognitive and social-emotional intelligence
- ♥ Increased likelihood for attaining a higher education, better adult health and a decreased likelihood to be involved in crime

WE'RE HIRING!

We're seeking passionate individuals to join our growing team across all departments!
Immediate Openings:

- ♥ **Emergency Shelter:**
Starting pay from **\$17/hour.**
- ♥ **Early Childhood Education Centers:**
Starting pay from **\$16/hour.**





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Upcoming Events

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 for more information about these events and ways to get involved.

PURSEONALITIES | NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Embassy Suites Omaha La Vista Hotel & Conference Center 12520 Westport Pkwy | La Vista, NE | 11:00 a.m.

Don't miss one of Omaha's favorite events, PursEOnalities! We look forward to seeing you on November 8 at the Embassy Suites La Vista. All funds raised support children and families receiving life-changing services from **CSI**. Purchase your tickets soon at childsaving.org.

SUBSTITUTE SANTA | DECEMBER 6 - 8, 2024

Child Saving Institute 4545 Dodge St. | Omaha, NE | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please help **CSI** provide a joyful holiday season for hundreds of children and teens in the Omaha community. Donations to Substitute Santa serve foster children, youth living in the Emergency Shelter and struggling families. Please visit childsaving.org to learn more.

Thank you to our Sponsor- **SCHIEELS**

CABARET 2025 | APRIL 11, 2025

Embassy Suites Omaha La Vista Hotel & Conference Center 12520 Westport Pkwy | La Vista, NE | 6:00 p.m.

Save the date for Cabaret 2025 on Friday, April 11 at the Embassy Suites La Vista Hotel & Conference Center. Join us for an evening of fun and laughter as we celebrate and support **CSI**'s mission. More information coming soon! Visit childsaving.org to learn more as the event approaches.

