

CSInsider

CHILD SAVING INSTITUTE NEWS | SPRING 2025



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that none of our progress would have been possible without you. The strides we've made in supporting children, families and communities across Omaha are directly tied to your commitment, generosity and passion for making a difference. Thank you for being a vital part of Child Saving Institute's (CSI) purpose—to champion what's best for each child and family.

Your support this year has enabled us to open new doors of opportunity, and the impact of your contributions is felt far and wide. Together, we have created more space for hope, more opportunities for growth and more pathways to brighter futures. And as we continue our Campaign for Hope, your role in shaping our future remains critical.



As you read, you'll learn more about the incredible impact your gifts are having on our community. See how your support is providing essential services to families in need and how you're building the foundation for tomorrow's leaders. You'll also hear from the voices that are benefiting most from your generosity—our community, our children and our families.

At CSI, we believe that a child's potential is limitless when they are given the tools to thrive, and that is what you provide. You are making a lasting difference, and together, we are creating lasting change.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your dedication to our mission is what makes our work possible. With your continued support, we can keep building a community where every child has the chance to thrive.

With Heart & Humanity,

()7-85

Jaymes Sime President & CEO Child Saving Institute



Pictured left to right: Mitchell and Samantha Mosser, Jaymes Sime, Fatima Basith and Pirzada Sattar

Photos courtesy of Debra Kaplan

Thanks to your generosity, this year's event made a tremendous impact on the children and families served by CSI. **Together, we raised more than \$900,000**, ensuring that all children and families have a chance to thrive.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor, Diventures; honorary chairs, Fatima Basith and Pirzada Sattar; and event chairs, Samantha and Mitchell Mosser. Your leadership and support made this unforgettable evening possible. With an incredible night of laughter, for good, we continue to **Champion What's Best for Each Child and Family**. CSI's programs, from Early Childhood Education to Mental Health Services, continue to provide life-changing support for thousands of local children and families each year.

As the needs of our community grow and change, so does CSI. Your generosity fuels our mission, and we are so grateful to have you by our side.



Save the Date for Cabaret 2026

Mark your calendars—Cabaret 2026 will take place on Friday, April 10, 2026, at CHI Health Center in Omaha (please note the location change so even more friends can attend). We are thrilled to partner with our 2026 Honorary Chairs, Kristin and Shikhar Saxena. We can't wait to celebrate with you again!

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

Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2025 childsaving.org | 402.553.6000



Celebrating

(133 Years

of Championing What's Best for Each Child and Family

Child Saving Institute

First Half Century

For 133 years, Child Saving Institute (CSI) has been a source of hope and healing for Omaha's children and families.
Founded in 1892 as an orphanage, CSI has grown into a leader in providing essential services like Mental Health Support, Early Childhood Development and Critical Response Services to those who need them most.

Throughout the decades, CSI has adapted to meet the evolving needs of our community. From finding safe, loving homes for children in the early 1900s to offering trauma-informed therapy and family support. Today, our commitment has remained steadfast. Every step forward has been made possible by the generosity of donors like you.

On April 4, 2025, CSI proudly celebrated 133 years of service—a milestone made possible by the unwavering support of our community.

"As we reflect on our history, we honor not just our past but the countless individuals who have shaped CSI," says Jaymes Sime, President and CEO. "With the continued support of our community, we will remain a beacon of hope for generations to come."

Thank you for being part of CSI's legacy—and our future.

Campaign for HOPE

Building A Stronger Community

At CSI, we believe every child deserves safety, love and the chance to thrive. That's the heart behind the **Campaign for Hope**—a bold \$46 million effort to transform how we care for children and families in Omaha.

Because of generous hearts in our community, we've made great strides in reaching our bold goal; however, we need your help to cross the finish line. Behind every dollar is a youth seeking safety, a mother desperately trying to help her child, or a family struggling to make ends meet. Thousands of children and families find healing and hope through CSI's vital services.

This ambitious initiative focuses on:

- A dedicated mental health clinic intentionally designed for pediatric and adolescent therapy, where children, teens and families begin their healing
- A redesigned youth shelter to support older youth with dedicated learning space, private rooms and recreational opportunities
- Expanded early childhood education, increasing capacity by 25% to reach more children in their most critical, formative years



Renderings courtesy of TACKarchitects.

Your support makes stories of hope possible.

Every gift is a step toward a brighter future for Omaha's children and families. With your help, we can turn that vision into reality—for this generation and all those to come.

YOU can create hope...

and forever be a part of this story.



Make a donation today by scanning the QR code, visiting childsaving.org/hope or mailing a check to: Child Saving Institute, Attn: Campaign for Hope, 4545 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68132.

If you give \$5,000 or more within the next 60 days, your name will be permanently honored on our donor wall, proudly displayed in the new building's lobby.



Future donor wall inside the main CSI lobby. Courtesy of Turnpost Creative Group.

Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2025 childsaving.org | 402.553.6000

Letter to CSI from a Parent at Spellman Child Development Center



Dear CSI,

The rising cost of childcare and fast-rising inflation have been affecting Nebraska families now more than ever. As a growing family of three, soon to be four, we had found ourselves looking at options that might support our day-to-day lives while continuing to provide the best care for our babies. Over the last 13 months at the Spellman Child Development Center, we have been amazed by our daughter's growth in her language skills, both verbal and non-verbal, her self-soothing skills, her self-awareness and her care for others in her classroom.

Ms. Amy (who has been with CSI for over 28 years) and her incredible team have made us feel so at ease knowing we had no option but to put our daughter in the caring hands of others so we could continue to work and provide for our family.

At the end of last year, while evaluating our budget, we enrolled our child in a different childcare facility. There was a clear difference between the type of attention and education our daughter was going to receive - this new place was a childcare facility and not a development center like Spellman. However, the classroom she would be in was going to be smaller, and the teacher-to-student ratio put our minds at ease.

Things were about to change, and fast. What we were not anticipating was that within two weeks, our daughter became clingy and came home a completely different child. While we knew the transition would be difficult, we also brought up questions of the facility's cleanliness and teachers' attentiveness to the children.

As our baby reached for her teacher, I knew she would be safe and loved

As I picked up my baby one Wednesday afternoon, scraping boogers off her face that had been there for hours, I couldn't take it anymore. The following morning, I called Spellman in the midst of tears, asking if there was any way for our daughter to return. Within three business days, I handed Ms. Amy our little girl. As our baby reached for her teacher, I knew she would be safe and loved. I cried and

hugged Ms. Amy, feeling like I was handing my daughter to a family member, and watched them hug and laugh like not a day had gone by since they last saw each other.

As our family continues to grow, we understand that quality childcare will remain one of our largest expenses. However, our experience has proven that the peace of mind and developmental benefits provided by a center like Spellman are truly priceless.

While financial pressures may lead many families to seek less expensive options, we look to our elected officials to put our families first. Nebraska families shouldn't have to choose between quality childcare and other essentials like housing, healthcare or putting food on the table.

For us, prioritizing this aspect of our budget reflects what matters most— ensuring our children are not just cared for but truly nurtured during these crucial early years, but we know most families don't always have the luxury of choice.





With Heart & Humanity

Your Legacy, Their Future

Like you, CSI believes in building a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Through planned giving, you can create a lasting impact—providing loving homes, support and hope for generations to come.

Planned gifts, such as bequests, charitable gift annuities or trusts, help sustain CSI's mission, ensuring that vital programs, including our mental health services, foster and kinship care, early childhood education and emergency youth shelter continue to serve children and families in need.

A quote I love says, "Legacy is about living with intention and purpose, knowing that what you do today will echo through eternity." Your planned gift can be a testament to your values, offering hope and stability to the children and families who need it most.

If you'd like to learn more about how your legacy can make a difference, I'd love to connect with you. Please reach out to me at ethomas@childsaving.org or (402) 504-3650.

Thank you for ensuring that CSI can continue to champion what's best for each child and family—today, tomorrow and for years to come.

Legacy is about living with intention and purpose, knowing that what you do today will echo through eternity.



Evell Thomas
Planned Giving Coordinator

Legacy Society Members

Rev. N. Dwain* & Virginia Acker
Donnette Janda Borcherding & Tom Borcherding
Shirley* & Don Brewer
Donald & Christine Carpino
Russ & Kathryn Cranston
Trudi Crosby
Donna Tubach-Davis
Paul E. & Ruth Warden Few
Jackie Gfeller
Wanda & Mike Gottschalk
Drs. Robert* & Susan Hassmiller

Morgan & Walter Hecht Melanie Hecker

Cassandra & Bret Hays

Heidi L. Hirschbach Judy A. Hunt

Peg Harriott

Barbara E. Johnson
Roger Keaton
Carolyn Kinton
Edward "Ned" Kirklin
Howard & Donna Lefler
Caren Lillie
Kenneth W. Moore & Susan Moore
Kevin & Linda Renner
Phil* & Jan Schenck
Cheryl Smith
Mary Ann* & Ron Sorensen
Art & Michelle Swoboda
Cathy Tibbels
Peggy & Joel Vaslow
Bob & Audrey Williams

Celebrating the Champions of Our Community: 2024 Agency Award Winners

At Child Saving Institute (CSI), we are proud to recognize the incredible individuals and organizations whose support allows us to champion what's best for each child and family. Last year's Agency Awards honor those who have gone above and beyond, helping to shape our work and enhance the lives of children and families in our community.

The **Corporate Award** was given to First Interstate Bank, whose steadfast partnership has significantly strengthened CSI's programs and initiatives. Their generosity has enhanced critical resources for children and families in need, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing advocacy.

The recipient of the 2024 **Donna Tubach-Davis Children's Advocate Award** was Nick Patrick, who exemplifies the dedication to improving the lives of children that this award was created to celebrate. Nick's advocacy efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of children in our community, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs addressed.

The **Guild–Helping Hand Award** was given to Yolanda Delgado, who has been a cornerstone in advancing CSI's fundraising and development efforts. Her unwavering commitment to our mission has played a key role in enabling CSI to provide essential services to those in need. We are grateful for her tireless support and the generosity she brings to our cause.

Lastly, we were proud to present the 2024 William T. Gibble Award to Vicki Beilke, whose extraordinary service and dedication to CSI have a profound impression. This award celebrates her significant role in enhancing the agency's ability to serve children and families, and we are honored to recognize her remarkable contributions.

This year, we are also excited to feature the



Lori Bechtold, Chief Development Officer of CSI, and Brian Skogerboe, accepting the award on behalf of First Interstate Bank

talent of Hannah, a 13-year-old girl who drew the beautiful artwork on the glass tile awards given to the 2024 recipients.

Each of these honorees embody the spirit of generosity and determination that makes CSI's mission possible. Through their support, we are able to continue offering essential services to thousands of children and families each year.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to CSI's work. Your commitment and assistance enable us to continue creating lasting change for the children and families who need it most.

Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2025 childsaving.org | 402.553.6000

^{*}Those notated are deceased.

Building Brighter Futures with Your Support: CSI Launches New Pre-K Program

By contributing to CSI, you've made it possible to expand our capacity and launch a Pre-K program at both of our Omaha early childhood education centers. Through your generosity, children are provided the foundation they need for a strong start in life, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Our Pre-K program isn't just about teaching ABC's—it's about nurturing curiosity, confidence and creativity. Research shows that children who attend high-quality Pre-K programs enter kindergarten better prepared, with stronger social-emotional skills and a lifelong love of learning.

Thanks to your support, we've been able to create a program that blends academic readiness with hands-on, child-led discovery.

Here's what makes our Pre-K program stand out:

Literacy-Rich Curriculum: Early exposure to reading and writing is crucial for cognitive development. Thanks to donors like you, literacy is at the heart of our Pre-K program. Through interactive storytelling, phonics and letter recognition, children gain the skills they need to excel.

Personalized Learning for Every Child: Donors like you made it possible for us to tailor lesson plans that meet each child's unique developmental needs, ensuring they receive the support they deserve.

Project-Based Learning: With your help, we now offer a dynamic, hands-on curriculum where children explore science, art and real-world topics. This approach allows children to follow their passions and dive deeper into subjects that inspire them.

Social-Emotional Growth: Kindergarten readiness is about more than academics. Your support builds children's confidence, teamwork and empathy, teaching them valuable life skills for social success.

Thank you for making this transformative program a reality. Because of your generosity, children in our community are building a foundation of skills, confidence and love for learning that will stay with them for life.

We are currently enrolling Pre-K students, preschoolers and toddlers at both early childhood education centers. To learn more or schedule a tour, visit **childsaving.org/tour.**





Every Gift Helps. Here's How.

\$**55**

When you give \$55, you provide a **month's unlimited bus pass for a teen parent**, enabling them to take their baby to critical doctor appointments and access vital services.

\$100

Your \$100 donation covers a day of care for a youth temporarily staying in our Emergency Shelter, offering them safety, stability, and a chance for a fresh start.

\$256

A \$256 gift funds **eight parenting workshops**, **empowering a struggling parent** with the tools they need to care for and support their child, strengthening families across Omaha.

\$500

A \$500 donation can provide **essential mental health services**, ensuring children and families receive the emotional support they need to heal and thrive.

Donate today at childsaving.org/donate

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



Your support is essential to Omaha children and families.

When you give to CSI, **you are making a lasting difference** in the lives of families in our community. You are giving children and youth the opportunity to grow, thrive and learn. And, you're providing 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 to support all families in Omaha.

O Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2025 childsaving.org | 402.553.6000

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha, NE
Permit No. 362

Upcoming Events

Dan't miss a moment of the fun and philanthropic opportunities we have planned! Visit 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.

Tickets available at childsaving.org/purseonalities

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 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 to learn more as the event approaches.

