



# CSInsider

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Peg Harriott,  
President & CEO

## We are stronger together...

Dear Friends,

We start the Child Saving Institute (CSI) newsletter by saying, thank you. Thank you to our community partners, to our incredible volunteers, to our donors, to our staff and most importantly, to our children and families.

CSI remains open and serving children and families throughout this historic pandemic—thank you for putting your trust in our services.

CSI staff continue to reinforce the mission, “Responding to the cry of child”, through every thought and action while children and families live through pressing ambiguity.

The Board of Directors and the CSI Guild continue to lead this agency through nuances and situations—all with serving the best needs of local children and families.

A sincere thank you to our amazing Cabaret event’s chairs Melanie and David Hecker. Melanie and David, both children of adoption, have returned in 2021 to ensure this important event’s success. Their commitment to children cannot be underscored!

In this issue you will read about a new program and partnership recently launched to better serve Omaha families; you’ll be introduced to George and hear how CSI helped prepare him for success; you’ll enjoy an inspiring interview with an adoptee, Bob Marquette; and, you will hear a parent’s story of adoption and how CSI changed a family’s life forever.

I close by simply saying thank YOU for your ongoing commitment to children, to the health of our wonderful community and to always doing what’s best for kids!

Peg Harriott  
President & CEO



## *Child Saving Institute’s (CSI) new Family Empowerment Program in partnership with the Women’s Center for Advancement (WCA) provides hope and healing for survivors of domestic violence.*

The Family Empowerment Program is designed to aid hope and healing for parents/caregivers and their children (ages 4-13) who have experienced domestic or interpersonal violence regardless of age, race, material status or gender identity.

“All children deserve happy childhoods. In order to achieve safety and happiness for all children in our community, we understand that their parent/caregiver must be safe and heal from past trauma,” said Peg Harriott, CSI President & CEO. “We are thrilled to partner with the WCA to provide this new program model to those in need of these services in Omaha.”

The program allows for parents/caregivers and their children to process past trauma and properly heal in order to rebuild brighter, happier futures. Parents and caregivers attend classes while children and youth engage in fun, interactive activities proven to address, process and heal from trauma. Together, families will

grow and develop skills to find stability and new hope.

Survivors of domestic violence may be referred to the Family Empowerment Program through community partners. Individuals may also inquire about program participation by contacting CSI directly. Visit [childsaving.org](http://childsaving.org) for more information or contact Jana Habrock, Director of Prevention Services, at 402.504.3637 or [jhabrock@childsaving.org](mailto:jhabrock@childsaving.org).



The Family Empowerment Program was supported by Grant Number 90EV0472 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Despite the pandemic, CSI served 68 youth through its Independent Living Skills (ILS) program in 2020.

## Community Philanthropy in Action: George's Story

*Child Saving Institute's (CSI) Independent Living Skills (ILS) program helped George to be successful on a path to an independent, financially secure adulthood.*

An Independent Living Skills (ILS) program participant since 2018, 24-year-old George was deeply affected by the global pandemic. During the pandemic, George's mother became ill and when she was in the emergency room, she tested positive for COVID-19. Her positive test resulted in George needing to quarantine. While he did test negative, during quarantine George lost his employment. Unemployment and his mother's illness brought feelings of malaise, frustration, hopelessness and depression.

George, like many youth who age out of the foster care system, was on the edge as he remained responsible for rent, utilities, a car payment, gas money and food. George relied on his ILS Specialist to help him wade through this stress and depression.

Young adults who are fortunate enough to grow up in a secure family might call their parents, their siblings or an aunt or uncle for financial help and emotional support. Maybe, they move home until employment has stabilized or maybe they go home for meals and to do laundry until they regain financial stability. This is not an option for the young people

enrolled in CSI's ILS program. Their lives are tenuous, and setbacks can have large consequences.

Often, the role of the ILS Specialist is to encourage youth, such as George, and help restore confidence and motivation to move forward in the face of unrelenting obstacles. Also, the ILS Specialist attends to the basic needs of the youth. No person is motivated or emotionally stable if they are hungry or malnourished. The ILS Specialist connected George to food, to rent assistance, while helping George complete unemployment forms.

The ILS Specialist also encouraged George to consider college or trade school. When a person is embroiled in stress, they need help envisioning possible paths forward. With funding assistance, George completed truck driving school in September 2020 and is now gainfully employed within an industry that is in high demand. George's ILS Specialist is very proud of him as he is on the path to an independent, financially secure adulthood. ♥





# Q&A with Bob Marlette

Bob is a producer, songwriter, musician, engineer and mixer who has worked with hundreds of artists including Black Sabbath, Marilyn Manson, Rob Zombie, Tracy Chapman, Cheryl Crow, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Alice Cooper and many more. He was also adopted through Child Saving Institute (CSI).

## Talk about your parent's decision to adopt.

I remember, so vividly, my parents being clear that they **CHOSE** me. They saw me and felt an instant connection. I think hearing that over and over through the years was instrumental in me feeling so comforted and secure with the whole adoption thing.

I never asked them about their decision to adopt, but I do know they were most definitely aware of the needs of others. They knew there were many children in the world that needed families.

## What were your early years like growing up in Nebraska?

My two sisters and I had an ideal childhood growing up in Lincoln, NE. A real life "Leave it to Beaver," complete with bike riding around the neighborhood, fort building in the woods, and exploring the streets of Lincoln. My childhood felt free and safe. As long as I came home when the dinner bell rang, all was good!

## What is your most vivid memory growing up?

My dad was an engineering professor at University of Nebraska - Lincoln for forty years. Because of that, we always had Husker season tickets. There was nothing like a fall football Saturday at Memorial Stadium! Sometimes my dad would give the tickets to his friends, so my friends and I would have to climb the fence and sneak into the stadium. When security would come after us, we would scatter and meet up underneath the south end of the stadium (our secret



meeting spot). We had to stay on our toes so we wouldn't get busted! Of course, those days are long gone!

## When did you learn of your adoption? How did that make you feel?

My parents started telling me I was adopted at a young age and I didn't really know what it meant. I remember a conversation at around four or five years old when I began to understand what adoption meant. It was before we went to Holland. It was very hard for me to wrap my head around it because I thought that they **WERE** my parents. It didn't make any sense to me. Once they felt I understood, they always reminded me, "**WE CHOSE YOU.**" I think hearing them say that over and over really affected me.

They also encouraged me to ask questions. When I was still young, my mom asked me if

I was interested in finding out who my birth parents were. I always said, "absolutely not!" Because I always felt that my mom was my mom and I didn't want to know any other mom. I felt it would be disloyal to my parents. I don't think they would have felt badly, but I would have.

All I ever wanted to know about my birth parents is what they looked like, a photograph. All the other kids got to know where they came from. I didn't look at all like my parents.

## How did your parents support your musical talents?

As far as I can tell, my music began with my parents.

They were music lovers and music was always around the house. My mother played a little piano and my father could be seen regularly lying down on the living room floor listening to his records on full blast. Sundays were all about the French singer, Edith Piaf, who my dad had seen live in France when he was in the Army! I was so lucky that my parents thought it was important to have music in our home.

Before I was old enough to drive, my mom started taking me to play nightclubs in Omaha. She thought I should be exposed to different types of music and play with different musicians.

My first big gig was at Pershing Auditorium on the big stage, with the hot lights, playing for thousands of people. My life would never be the same after this. I knew where I belonged.

## What are your greatest accomplishments?

My biggest accomplishment is the life I have built for myself with what I have been given. I was lucky to be born where I was, and

with the family that I have. Opportunity has appeared and I have been able to take advantage of it over and over.

I have a life in Los Angeles with my wife, daughter, her husband, my son, and our two grandchildren. We live in a nice house where I have my studio. We are well fed and have love around us all the time.

I have a career that I love, as a producer, songwriter, musician, engineer, and mixer and I continue to work really hard at what I do (thanks mom and dad.) I am blessed to have worked with hundreds of bands and musicians on music that means a lot to millions of people.

## Why do you support the mission of CSI?

I truly believe CSI was the conduit between me and my happy loving life. I am so lucky that my birth mother brought me to you. I am grateful that CSI was there for her because being there for her meant being there for me.

We will continue to support Child Saving Institute in any way we can.

A special thanks to Evell Thomas and all the other amazing people we have met at Child Saving Institute. I am forever grateful.



Pictured left to right: Bob's daughter, Emily; his wife, Lisa; Bob; and his son, Chris

# My CSI Journey

Written by Cali Page, Legacy Giving Coordinator

My Child Saving Institute (CSI) journey began 21 years ago when I stumbled upon a potential job opportunity within the Development Department.

At that time, I had no idea the array of services CSI provided to children and families—they offered quality childcare, foster care assistance and an emergency shelter for children needing a place to stay.

I wanted to help. So, I applied. Then, I interviewed and got the job! Little did I know how much that moment would change my life, forever!

My husband, Brian, and I had a beautiful, rambunctious 8-year-old daughter named Alexis. We had always known we wanted more children but after several years with no luck our dream of a larger family was quickly fading.

A year later, I was talking to a co-worker at CSI who happened to be an adoption specialist. I told her I was trying to talk my husband into considering adoption. She gave me a pamphlet and I was on my way.

I remember showing the pamphlet to Brian that same night. We had a brief conversation; however, Brian was not convinced adoption was right for us.

Later that week, there was a young expectant mom scheduled at CSI for a counseling session. She had reviewed all of the prospective adoptive parents in the state and hadn't found a couple she felt was her unborn child's family.

Brian and I decided to create a book about our family to show her during her session. It's

what potential adoptive parents did back in that time. I put my heart and soul into making that book—it had to be perfect!

Two days later, we received the news—we were chosen! At that very moment, we knew, without a doubt that we were meant to be this unborn child's parents.

On, August 24, 2001 at 8:02am Nathaniel (Nate) Joseph was born. Our lives were forever changed. We brought Nate home from the hospital. Our family was now complete... Only God had other plans! We went on to have three more biological children: Jakson (born in 2004), Mia (2005) and Lauryn (2007).

Today, Nate is finishing his freshman year in college. He has grown into a kind, smart and responsible young man.

Nate was meant to be my son. I am forever grateful to his biological mother for choosing me to be this amazing kid's mama. And, I am grateful to CSI for making our family whole and complete.



Left to right: Brian, Lauryn, Mia, Jakson, Alexis, Nate

# Leave a Legacy for Kids

Child Saving Institute (CSI) has been helping children and families since 1892. This is made possible because of generous people like YOU. People who love kids and want to see all families thrive. Whether you donate your time, talents or treasure, YOU are making a difference and helping to ensure that CSI will be serving the Omaha community for years to come.

Because of the generous support, CSI has touched countless lives by providing loving homes through adoption and foster care, providing hope and healing for kids who have made the Emergency Shelter their temporary home, providing quality childcare through the Early Childhood Education program, as well as many other much needed programs.

CSI was there for me and my family all those years ago. Brian and I want to ensure that CSI continues to be here for children and families for generations to come. Please join us and leave a legacy gift to continue supporting the much-needed work of CSI long into the future.

Legacy gifts include designation in your will or estate plan, beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy, IRA, 401(k) or 403(b)

plan. You can also talk to your banker or investment manager about Pay on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) instructions that will transfer a portion or all of those assets to CSI's kids.



Cali Page  
Legacy Giving Coordinator

When you include CSI in your will, trust or other long-term charitable plans, you are making a commitment to a lifetime of better tomorrows. In doing so, you are leaving a legacy of caring for children and families, and you are giving them the one thing they need most—hope.

By documenting your intention to provide a legacy gift, you can become an esteemed member of the CSI Legacy Society (donors may choose to remain anonymous).

Become a member of the Legacy Society and join others, like you, who want to make a difference in the lives of CSI's kids and families. For more information, please email [cpage@childdaving.org](mailto:cpage@childdaving.org) or call 402.504.3661.

The information contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as legal or tax advice. For specific information about any of the above opportunities, please consult your tax adviser or attorney.

## Legacy Society Members

Anonymous (9)  
Rev. N. Dwain & Virginia Acker  
Donnette Janda Borcharding & Tom Borcharding  
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  
Julie & Roger Keaton  
Carolyn Kinton  
Edward "Ned" Kirklin  
Howard & Donna Lefler  
Caren Lillie  
Rebecca Z. & Michael W. McNeil

Kenneth W. Moore  
Lea Morrison  
Rev. Brian & Cali Page  
Janice Schenck  
Rev. Judith Short  
Cheryl C. Smith  
Ron Sorensen  
Art & Michelle Swoboda  
Cathy Tibbels  
Donna Tubach-Davis & Stephen Davis





## Every Gift Helps. Here's How:

\$25

will buy **personal hygiene products** for a child arriving at the Triage Center with nothing

\$250

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

\$50

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

\$500

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

\$100

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

\$1,000

will provide **one month of care** for youth to live in the Emergency Shelter, in which they receive safety, security, therapy and support

## 2020 At-A-Glance

**2,308** children and families received life-changing services from Child Saving Institute (CSI) despite the pandemic

**259** children received love and high-quality education through CSI's Early Childhood Education program

**102** children were served through CSI's foster and kinship care services

**71** young parents received valuable parenting education through the Teen & Young Parent Program (TYPP)

**68** young adults participated in CSI's Independent Living Skills (ILS) program

**102** children participated in the School & Family Enrichment (SAFE) program to achieve better outcomes at school and at home

**800** children and youth found refuge at the Triage Center located on Project Harmony's campus

**334** children and families gained valuable tools through CSI's Mental Health Services offering child, adolescent and family therapy

**61** youth temporarily found safe housing and support in the Emergency Shelter

## Our Mission

Responding to the cry of a child.

## Our Vision

All children have homes where hope is kindled and dreams can be achieved. This is our work, and they are ALL our children.

## Our Values

Do what's best for kids.  
Never give up on a kid.  
We can always do more for kids.  
Kids deserve strong, healthy families.



## Child Saving Institute

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

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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](http://childsaving.org) for more information about these events and how to get involved.

### **CABARET** **2021** *Laughing so kids know love*

#### Cabaret | May 8, 2021

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

If you haven't already, be sure to purchase your tickets to Cabaret 2021 featuring comedian Pat McGann. Join us for a night of comedy to benefit Child Saving Institute (CSI) services for the prevention, intervention and healing of child abuse, neglect and trauma. Come and enjoy an evening of cocktails, dinner and hilarity for a great cause! Purchase tickets online at [childsaving.org](http://childsaving.org) or contact Anna Dwyer at [adwyer@childsaving.org](mailto:adwyer@childsaving.org) or 402.504.3664 for more information.

### PURSEONALITIES 2021

#### PurseOnalities | Fall 2021

Keep on the lookout for more information regarding Child Saving Institute (CSI) Guild's annual PurseOnalities event taking place this fall. Attendees will enjoy some of the season's hottest purses in incredible silent auction packages, a fabulous lunch and a great time with friends. Funds raised during PurseOnalities benefit the kids and families served by CSI. Visit [childsaving.org](http://childsaving.org) for more information coming soon.

### *Substitute Santa*



#### Substitute Santa | December 8-10, 2021

Child Saving Institute  
4545 Dodge St. | Omaha, NE | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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 children, youth living in the Emergency Shelter and struggling families. Visit [childsaving.org](http://childsaving.org) or contact Grace Peterson at [gpeterson@childsaving.org](mailto:gpeterson@childsaving.org) or 402.504.3634 for more information.

## Change a Life:

Your support truly changes lives. To further assist children and families working with Child Saving Institute (CSI), please consider making a donation online at [childsaving.org/help/donate](http://childsaving.org/help/donate). You may also contact Andrea L. Richardson, Chief Development Officer, at [arichardson@childsaving.org](mailto:arichardson@childsaving.org) or 402.504.3660 to discuss other ways to help. Stay connected with us on social media—we are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.