



CSInsider

Child Saving Institute News | Spring 2023



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CABARET 2023

Laughing so kids know love

**\$701,000
raised!**



Jaymes Sime
President & CEO

Building a stronger community...

Dear Friends,

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

A family trying to find mental health services for a child who is struggling with depression and anxiety. This child deserves HOPE.

A teenager involved with the juvenile justice system who is looking for an opportunity to change. This teenager deserves HOPE.

A family that is expecting their first child but is unable to find high-quality early childhood education. This family deserves HOPE.

A parent who fears that their child will be expelled from preschool because of challenging behaviors. This parent deserves HOPE.

When life becomes challenging, hope shouldn't be so distant. CSI has provided hope and healing for children and families through supportive services for 131 years. With your support, our Campaign for Hope will help ensure we provide the same life-changing services for the next 100 years.

While deeply rooted in history, CSI is looking to enhance the future of care in the Omaha community as it plans to expand its services and physical footprint through a \$46,000,000 capital campaign. CSI's Campaign for Hope will allow the organization to continue to meet the dynamic needs of those it serves today, and long into the future.

Together, we can build a stronger community. We can provide hope.

Jaymes Sime
President & CEO

Cabaret 2023 was a record-setting event for Child Saving Institute (CSI). Together, we raised more than \$701,000; 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, Andrea and Adam Peterson; event chairs, Gina and Nick Patrick; and event co-chairs, Michelle and Nick Strawhecker.

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 much-needed support 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 continue our mission of "responding to the cry of a child." For 131 years, CSI has been addressing the diverse needs of the Omaha and surrounding communities. Services address the need for early

Pictured from left to right: Nick Strawhecker, Michelle Strawhecker, Gina Patrick, Nick Patrick, Andrea Peterson, and Adam Peterson



Save the date for
**CABARET
2024**
Laughing so kids know love

Friday, April 5, 2024
12520 Westport Pkwy | Embassy
Suites Omaha La Vista Hotel &
Conference Center

All money raised will support Child Saving Institute and its life-changing services provided to more than 2,500 children and families each year.

childhood development and high-quality childcare which are offered through the Early Childhood Education program. 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 about CSI and its mission, please visit childsaving.org.

Campaign for **H** **PE**

Our Future Campus



Rendering courtesy of TACKarchitects

 *Building A Stronger Community*



Why Campaign for Hope?

Pediatric & Adolescent Therapy

In the past six years, Child Saving Institute (CSI) has doubled the size of its Mental Health Services program to meet the growing needs of the Omaha community.

The Campaign for Hope will create a space that is conducive to address trauma, promote safety, and allow for healing.

Additionally, the number of therapists at CSI will increase, allowing for more children and families to receive services, quicker.

Emergency Shelter

CSI's Emergency Shelter was originally built for young children, but the older teens who live there today have different needs.

CSI serves 60-100 youth annually in its current Emergency Shelter. CSI will expand capacity to 16 youth. Thus, allowing for more youth to receive services.

The new Emergency Shelter will add robust educational services, a physical activity space, and allow for youth to have their own bedrooms—all of which are crucial to a youth's successful physical, emotional, and mental health.

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 currently provides consultation services to support such children throughout Omaha. Staff work with teachers and caregivers to reduce challenging behaviors and increase social and emotional skills and school readiness.

CSI wishes to directly provide Supportive Early Education services for traumatized preschoolers unsuccessful in traditional early learning environments to help them to heal and prepare them for kindergarten—and for life.

Early Education Expansion

Since 1971, CSI has provided quality early childhood education to the Omaha community.

Nationally, the need for high-quality childcare continues to outpace the availability. The proposed expansion of CSI's Early Childhood Education Center would increase its licensed capacity by 25%, while also incorporating STEAM learning across the center.

Campaign Chair Highlight Cindy Heider



My passion for children and families led me to Child Saving Institute (CSI). I started volunteering 23 years ago through the Mama and Me program.

Over the years, I've served in a

variety of roles including Board member, Board president, Chair of Cabaret, Foundation Board member, ambassador, and now Campaign Leader. I am committed to the agency, the leadership team, and each, and every person who chooses to serve our children and families.

The Campaign for Hope will allow CSI to continue providing critical services to more children and families in need on an expanded campus in a more deliberate, responsive, and timely manner. Our community has a need—we are responding.

Campaign Chair Highlight Melanie Hecker



I've been a part of the CSI family since before I was born. I am a CSI baby. When I was two weeks old, my parents brought me home from CSI. As a child, I didn't think too much about being adopted. As an adult, however, I have thought about it a lot. In my case, CSI helped one child and two families—my adoptive parents and my birth mother, who had participated in the agency's program for young, unwed mothers.

Everything about the Campaign for Hope is personal for me because had CSI not been there for us all, my memories and my life could have been very different. My hope and desire is that the kids CSI serves never have to think about "what if."

Supporting this effort on behalf of the kids gives me the sense of coming full circle. I am honored to be a campaign chair for the Campaign for Hope.

To learn more about CSI's Campaign for Hope, visit childsaving.org/campaignforhope.

Rising Above Adversity.♥

Imagine: it is 2020. A year full of change and uncertainty. Your family is plagued with confusion, frustration, and an utter sense of loss as you try to navigate the “new normal.”

It was a year full of challenges that many never saw coming. Until it hit them. For many, the only way out, was through.

Brenna was one of those “many.” While experiencing extremely high rent costs due to being the sole provider for herself and her family, she was barely making ends meet. She was renting a single bedroom for her and her two children. With the shut down due to the pandemic, even more distress was caused to Brenna and her family.

Brenna was attending community college, working full-time, and raising her beautiful 6 and 4-year-old children on the West Coast. She knew that if she wanted to give her children their dream futures, she needed to make a change. The insurmountable stress provided Brenna with life-changing clarity. She needed more support.



One night, once the kids were in bed, Brenna diligently searched the internet for colleges that provided support to young mothers.

Brenna said, “I knew there had to be something out there for me and my kids.” The College of Saint Mary (CSM) popped up.

Three months later, Brenna and her kids were on their way to Omaha. “It was all completely new to me. A new childcare center, new environment, new school, new people,” said Brenna. “I am so thankful to have landed where I did. Everything that could have gone right, went right.”

Brenna said, “I walked in blindly and dropped my kids off at the Spellman Child Development Center,” a College of Saint Mary program managed by CSI. Between the big emotions of her first day of school, and her children’s first day at childcare, Brenna knew that she needed to show her children strength during difficult times.

“As a college student, you need to have support. As a single mom, you need support. My family is so lucky to have the individualized support that Child Saving Institute and especially Spellman have given us.”

Today, Brenna lives on the CSM campus and works two different jobs in between her busy school schedule of nursing courses. “My whole life is on campus. I have never felt more blessed to have my job, my school, and my childcare in one space.”

When talking about Miles’ experience at Spellman, Brenna mentioned the emotional intelligence of his teachers.

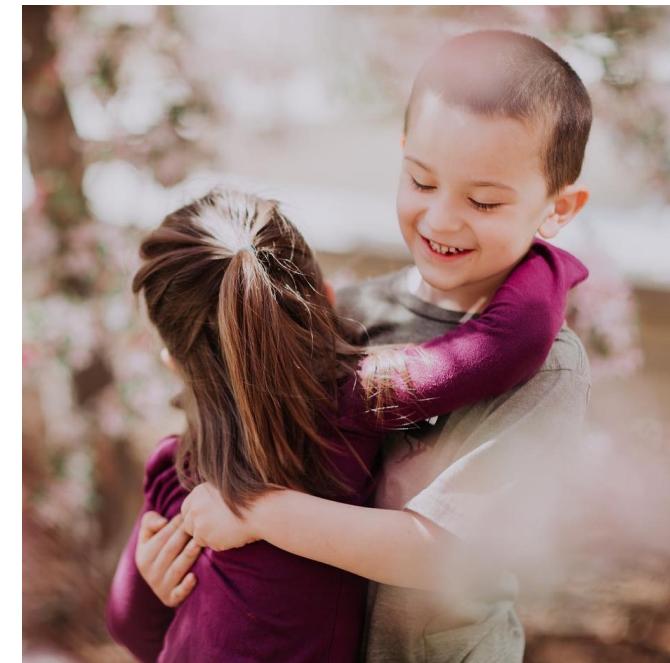
“Miles clicked instantly with his teachers. Miss Kaylee was in tune with my son and would help him set up small goals throughout the day when he was struggling to handle his emotions,” said Brenna. “I don’t even have to worry if my children are taken care of because of the immense amount of trust that I have in CSI, including Spellman.”

Brenna says that while growing up, she didn’t have much. But her mom made her feel rich in love.

“At the end of the day, I just want stability for my kids. I want to create a safe space for my children to come home to.”

As a single mom, giving her children the family love that they deserve is important to Brenna. “The way that Miles and Kendall feel like they are a part of a family at Spellman—I am so thankful for the love they shower my children with.” Brenna also mentioned the convenience that CSI provides her family, including mental health services.

“Miles’ team of caregivers at CSI and especially Spellman help him build positive strategies to handle his emotions.” Brenna said that having



CSI therapists and educators on her side has been “very impactful.”

“I deeply appreciate CSI for everything that they have done for my family. I had no idea what we were going to walk into. I took a chance—and it paid off.”



The Lasting Impact of an Emergency Shelter

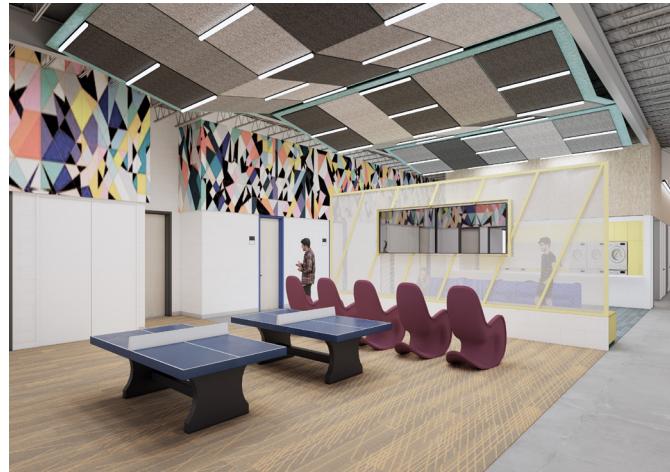
Child Saving Institute's (CSI) Emergency Shelter provides a safe and nurturing short-term home for youth in crisis. This homelike environment provides stability and consistency during their transition, and services address each youth's immediate need for safety through a structured daily schedule.

The focus is on therapeutic care with individualized service planning to emphasize strengths, address areas of need, and reinforce positive behaviors for the youth in CSI's care.

The Emergency Shelter operates 24/7 with awake staff around the clock! Youth attend their home schools and, if needed, are provided with education and support to prepare them for independent living in the future.

CSI's future Emergency Shelter will expand to fit the needs of 16 youth at a time. Pictured on the right are a few sneak peeks of what the new shelter will look like. This new facility will provide shelter, food, education, and more to more than 100 youth annually! With even more space to learn and grow, CSI will continue giving youth the opportunities they need to thrive. All of the added features are crucial to a youth's successful physical, emotional, and mental health.

A new facility will allow CSI to serve more youth, but more important, it would allow CSI to serve its current at-risk youth better. Together, we can provide stability for the youth and families in our community. Together we can provide **hope**.



Renderings courtesy of TACKarchitects

Mind Matters: Prioritizing Mental Health Services

Mental health is critical to the overall health and well-being of every child and family in our community. Nurturing and prioritizing mental health is crucial to ensuring children have the opportunities to thrive and grow into resilient adults.

Child Saving Institute (CSI) serves more than 400 children and families each year in its Mental Health Services program. One of CSI's therapists, Ally Burchart, says "I love being able to facilitate a safe space for my clients to be their truest self." She also said, "The best feeling is knowing that the families I help feel safe enough to experience and share their emotions with me.

Along with CSI's expanding team of 10 therapists, two psychiatric nurse practitioners are available to work with children and families to ensure they have access to available support that might be needed for success like therapy, diagnostic services, and medication management. Psychiatric nurse practitioner Kara J. Antoniuk works with families daily to ensure they have the medication and tools needed for success.

"I specialized in psychiatry because of a young patient I had years ago. I wanted to change the approach around providing comprehensive care to children in crises."

Kara is looking forward to the continued growth of CSI. "It is vital to take care of your mental health starting at a young age. Specific needs can be diverse and having insight into mental health is important for emotional and physical well-being," she said.

CSI is expanding its Pediatric & Adolescent Therapy program to become the premier provider of mental health services in the Omaha community, serving more than 800 children and families annually. This nearly doubles the size of the program.

Together, we can provide **hope**. Together, we can build a stronger community.



Ally Burchart (left) and Kara J. Antoniuk (right)

To learn more about CSI's Campaign for Hope, visit childsaving.org/campaignforhope

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Retain Your Legacy

All your life you've made the decisions about how your assets will be used - about how you'll provide for yourself, for your family, and for the charitable organizations you believe in. Thank you for caring about Child Saving Institute (CSI).

Now, we'd like to help you retain that same control over *your legacy* - over those ideas and dreams you have for future generations, over the lasting statement you will leave the world about what you care for.

An up-to-date, thoughtful will is the way to accomplish this.

A will helps you:

- Provide for each of your loved ones as you judge their needs.
- Choose the people who will administer your estate.
- Make gifts to the charitable organizations that have meant the most to you throughout your life.

Without a valid will, you put every one of these decisions in the hands of others, including administrators appointed by the court. Think

This publication is intended to provide general gift planning information. Our organization is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax or investment advice, and this publication should not be looked to or relied upon as a source for such advice. Consult with your own legal and financial advisors before making any gift.

about what that might mean for your family and loved ones.

It's *your* life, *your* assets, and *your* legacy at stake. If even just one of those bullet points is important to you, we encourage you to take a look at your will to be sure it is written in a way that accomplishes all of *your* goals.

We know, we know; you don't want to think *that* far into the future. And planning can be a chore. But, you'll gain peace of mind and reassurance when the job is done.

Thank YOU

Your family will breathe easier knowing that you've crafted a financial plan for their future.

And yes, if you include CSI in your will, we'll be grateful, too. Every future bequest we can count on builds our long-term financial strength and helps us plan with more confidence. If you have included CSI in your will or estate plan, please let us know. We would like to say thank you and welcome you to the CSI Legacy Society!

Please visit our website today at childsaving.plannedgiving.org for more information on how you can join the CSI Legacy Society and make a lasting gift for kids and families.

Every Gift Helps. Here's How:

\$25

will buy **personal hygiene products** for a child arriving at the Triage Center

\$256

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

\$55

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

\$1,250

provides **ten mental health therapy sessions** for an uninsured client

Legacy Society Members

Rev. N. Dwain (dec'd) & Virginia Acker

Janice L. Bolte

Donnette Janda Borcharding & Tom Borcharding

Shirley (dec'd) & Don Brewer

Russ & Kathryn Cranston

Trudi Crosby

Paul E. & Ruth Warden Few

Wanda & Mike Gottschalk

Drs. Robert (dec'd) & Susan Hassmiller

Morgan & Walter Hecht

Melanie Hecker

Heidi L. Hirschbach

Judy A. Hunt

Barbara E. Johnson

Roger Keaton

Carolyn Kinton

Edward "Ned" Kirklín

Howard & Donna Lefler

Caren Lillie

Kenneth W. Moore

Lea Morrison (dec'd)

Rev. Brian & Cali Page

Phil (dec'd) & Jan Schenck

Rev. Judith A. Short (dec'd)

Cheryl Smith

Mary Ann (dec'd) & Ron Sorensen

Art & Michelle Swoboda

Cathy Tibbels

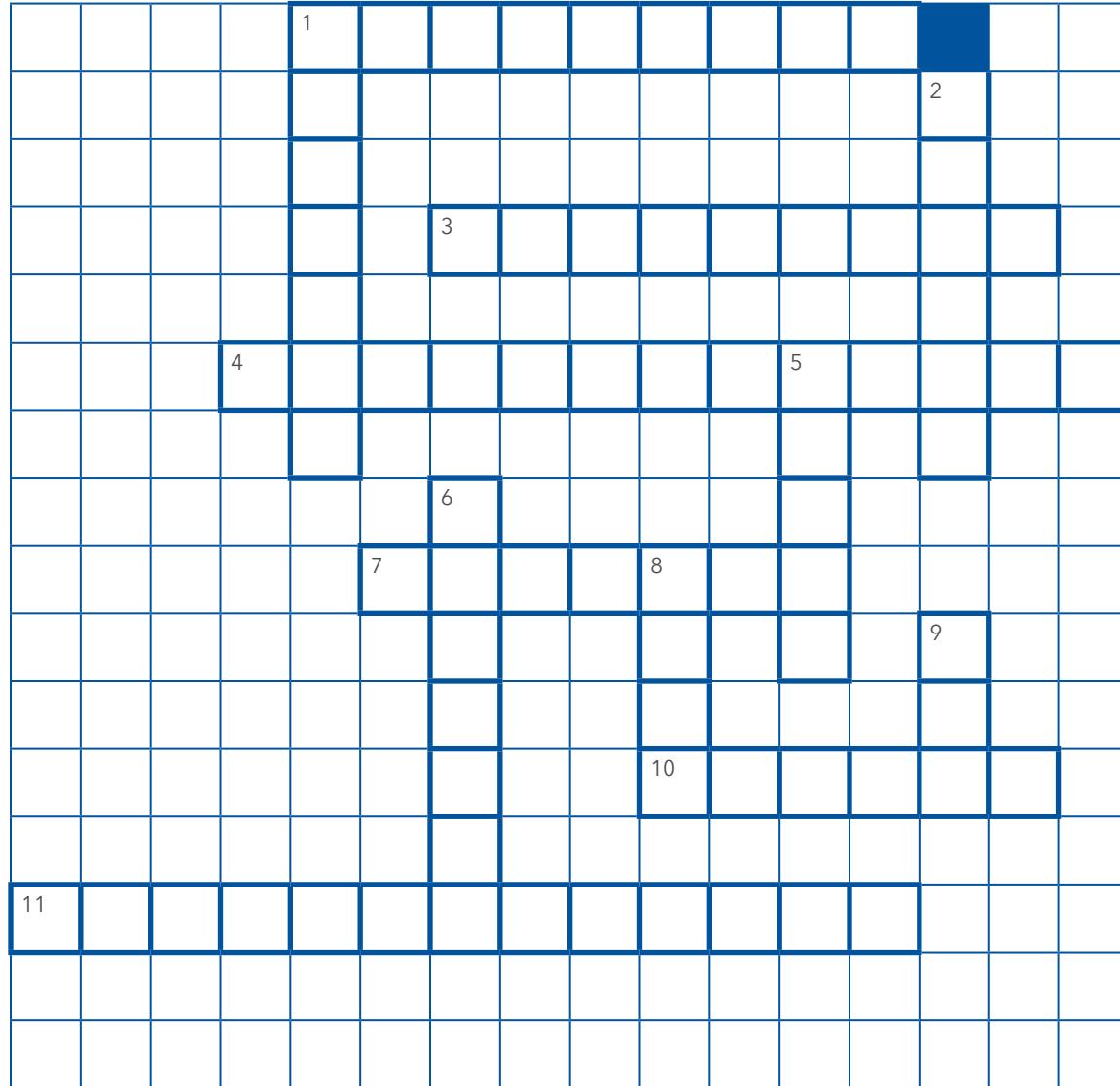
Donna Tubach-Davis & Stephen A. Davis (dec'd)

Bob & Audrey Williams

Anonymous (9)



CSInsider Exclusive Crossword Puzzle



Across:

1. The period during which a person is a child
3. One who helps others through emotions that may be too big for them to handle on their own
4. Name of program that keeps CSI's name in your will
7. Where children can temporarily stay until a safe home is provided
10. Theme of CSI's PurseOnalities fundraiser
11. Type of donation that allows CSI to plan into the future

Down:

1. CSI's biggest, annual fundraiser
2. This kind of placement is typically arranged through a social services agency
5. The founder of CSI: Rev. A.W. _____
6. Where you can go to relieve and get help with mental health barriers
8. Acronym for the Teen & Young Parent program
9. Acronym for the Early Childhood Education program

Answer key on page 15

Monthly giving helps Child Saving Institute (CSI) support families and children involved in its programs. A one-time gift of \$15 is great for buying a pair of pajamas for a child suddenly removed from their home due to family violence. That same monthly gift over a year's time grows to \$180 and will pay for two hours of therapy to help that same family **recover and heal**. Please consider easy, convenient monthly giving for the **safety** and well-being of our kids.

To set up monthly donations, visit childsaving.org/help/donate.



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.



Answer key:

Across:

1. Childhood
3. Therapist
4. Legacy Society
7. Shelter
10. Purses
11. Monthly Giving

Down:

1. Cabaret
2. Foster
5. Clark
6. Therapy
8. TYPP
9. ECE



Child Saving Institute

4545 Dodge St | Omaha, NE 68132
402.553.6000 | childsaving.org

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Upcoming Events

Don't miss out on 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 other ways to get involved.



Touch-A-Truck | September 9, 2023

Munroe-Meyer Institute Parking Lot
6902 Pine Street | Omaha, NE | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Our most popular "friend-raiser" is returning! This event is FREE and your children can explore racecars, military vehicles, semi-trucks, and other commercial vehicles! Come enjoy face painting, bounce houses, food, and more! *Sponsored by WoodmenLife.*



PurseOnalities | November 2, 2023

Hilton Downtown Omaha
1001 Cass Street | Omaha, NE | 11 A.M.

Save the date for one of Omaha's favorite events, PurseOnalities, featuring author and keynote speaker Josh Shipp! Visit childsaving.org/purseonalities to learn more.



Giving Tuesday | November 28, 2023

24-hour virtual giving event!

Every act of generosity counts. Giving Tuesday is an online event that encourages people to do good. Join in the efforts this November and help make a difference.



Substitute Santa | December 6-8, 2023

4545 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE

Sadly, many families express added stress during the holiday season. To help bring additional support, consider donating to CSI's Substitute Santa program and help to bring extra joy to those in need this holiday season.

Your Support Changes Lives

To further support children and families working with Child Saving Institute (CSI), please consider making a donation online at childsaving.org/help/donate. You may also contact Lori Bechtold, Chief Development Officer, at lbechtold@childsaving.org or 402.504.3660 to discuss other ways to help. Stay connected with us on social media.