**IMPACT**

**AUGUST 2020**

Your support has a positive impact on the lives of the people in our care

**MISSION MOMENTS**

**SINCERELY, JAMES**

"As a client, I understand the feeling of confinement which comes with a quarantine and the frustration that follows it considering that upon release the last thing an individual wants to happen is to be confined again. These are extraordinary times and circumstances and I want to make this clear that the staff here went above and beyond to help anyone who needed help." -James, Delaware Resident

**CA CLIENT OF THE YEAR**

Solomon Kim was named Client of the Year during the community reentry program graduation ceremony for former inmates at the Santa Maria Day Reporting Center in CA. Solomon was recognized for demonstrating integrity, kindness, a strong work ethic and for serving as a role model for others.

**WITH GRATITUDE**

Youth in our residential programs designed handmade cards to express their appreciation to donors for their support during the pandemic. COVID didn't contain the kindness of people—they continued to send a strong message of support with basic need supplies and enrichment materials to help comfort residents through isolation.

**RISING STAR FINDS HER LIGHT**

18-year-old Miranda admits she was lost and emotionally disconnected. After 3 foster care placements, she finally found home with a caring family and she found her guiding light Lady, her Life Skill educator. Through LISA, Inc.’s Life Skill Academy, Lady was a mentor to Miranda to help her with money management, coping skills, self-care, and was someone who believed in the youth and helped her believe in herself. Miranda shared the advice from Lady that resonated the most with her—"You are your biggest advocate. If you don't believe that you won't reach your fullest potential and get through what you are going through.” The vivacious teen, who speaks 6 languages, expressed she is hungry to learn and travel to world. "I realized how little I knew about the real world and then after meeting with Lady over 8 months, I felt more prepared and everything made sense," remarked Miranda.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PETIT FAMILY FOUNDATION DONATION
Thanks to our new friends at the Petit Family Foundation for generously donating games, outdoor activities, and tech equipment for the youth at LISA, Inc. It was an inspiring experience to spend time with the Plainville based non-profit team. Pictured left to right: Dr. William Petit, The Petit Family Foundation; Fernando Muñiz, CEO, CSI; and Elizabeth Hyatt, Director of Communication, CSI.

WIPE OUT COVID PRODUCT DRIVE
Our friends at Sign Pro in Plantsville, CT collected over $1,200 in cleaning supplies for all the CT residential programs in June 2020. During the drive, members of the community showed their support by donating bleach, sprays, sponges, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, and sanitizer to help residents maintain cleaning practices. Pictured left to right: Sign Pro Owners Pete and Suzanne Rappoccio and donor Donna Veach of Kensington

FARM TO TABLE DONATION
Youth in some of our residential programs enjoyed cooking with fresh produce thanks to our friends at United Way of West Central CT and the city of Bristol. The locally grown fruits and vegetables were donated through Farmers to Families Produce Distribution program with the support of the Main Street Community Foundation.

THANK-YOU-A-THON TO SUPPORTERS
CSI and LISA, Inc. staff and volunteers recently participated in a Phone-A-Thon to contributors to simply say "Thank you" for your support of our clients and programs. All together, we reached out to over 200 donors and funders to express our appreciation. If you did not receive a call it means we do not have your number in our database. We thank you now for your part in making a difference in the lives of our young people. Pictured: Super volunteer Pam Drzewiecki with Powerful Purpose

TAKING MORE THAN JUST A STAND
Since 1962, CSI has been working with people involved with the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems. Our founders understood that operating high quality programs was an insufficient response to the societal problems they were trying to address. From the very beginning, CSI staff and board members saw advocating for reform as part of the work of the organization. They lobbied state agencies to change their policies, testified before the legislature and their work at our first halfway house was even referenced in the Congressional record. We must continue our advocacy and join with those calling for meaningful reform of the criminal justice system.

CSI continues to take an inside look at our own actions and practices. In 2019, CSI formed an internal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (D,E & I) to ensure a diverse workforce and an organizational culture and climate in which our staff have a sense of belonging and connection with one another and the organization and staff feel respected, and empowered to do their best.

Our missions compel us to be champions of justice, equality, and peace. We are committed to advancing this social movement to where there truly is justice for all.
We remain committed to providing essential services to those in our care through this challenging period. CSI and LISA, Inc. have created Wish Lists on Amazon compiled of maintenance items to support basic needs, as well as books, back to school supplies, activities, and games that will enrich their lives and reduce the escalated stress they are experiencing during this unprecedented time.

Your gift sends a message of hope to our youth and reminds them, while there are social distancing limits, they are still surrounded by a caring community.

Direct Links:
- CSI Amazon Wish List
- LISA, Inc. Amazon Wish List

As the country moves forward (and in some cases backward) with reopening, we at CSI have had to consider and reconsider opening strategies by state, county, and program model. With nearly 60 programs reopening, this is a moving target and clear as mud at times! What is evident is CSI’s intention to do everything we possibly can to ensure that our clients and staff are as safe as reasonably possible during this pandemic.

We have been consistently amazed at how staff in all programs have worked to implement the guidance provided to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff have been true champions for our clients and have risen to the challenge, persevered and continue to show they have the stamina needed to weather this protracted crisis. We are standing CSI STRONG and showing that we are nimble, capable and committed. I am humbled every day by what each employee is doing to positively contribute.

Suffice it to say that we need to forge ahead responsibly with safe guarded reopening efforts so that we gradually move back to full services in all programs. Programs will continue to maintain standard practices of diligent cleaning and wearing masks in the office for the time being. We ask all staff continue to monitor their health for potential symptoms and overall well-being.

We will work with funders to ensure we are meeting their expectations while following CDC Guidance. We intend to pivot our approach creating phases and moving up or down in phases based on what is happening locally. Overall, more direct client contact using all safety protocols is gradually increasing in many states and you can anticipate that moving forward.

EMERGENCY GRANT SUPPORT
To date, CSI and LISA, Inc. have secured over $100,000 in emergency funding aide for COVID related expenses including medical equipment, protective gear, and cleaning supplies to help our programs ensure the health and safety of our residents and program staff while continuing to provide vital services to all our clients across the country.

We are grateful for the support from the following community partners:
- Berkshire Bank
- Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- Connecticut Community Foundation
- Hartford Foundation For Public Giving Foundation
- Main Street Community Foundation
- Scranton Area Community Foundation
- Topeka Community Foundation
- United Way of Greater Topeka
- Ventura County Community Foundation

HOW TO HELP
We remain committed to providing essential services to those in our care through this challenging period. CSI and LISA, Inc. have created Wish Lists on Amazon compiled of maintenance items to support basic needs, as well as books, back to school supplies, activities, and games that will enrich their lives and reduce the escalated stress they are experiencing during this unprecedented time.

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TEE UP FOR CHARITY

"A life lived with integrity... is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come.”

-Dennis Waitley, Writer

CSI’s 16th Annual Golf Tournament
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, CT
REGISTER:  www.csi-online.org

LISA, Inc.’s 16th Annual Golf Classic
In Memory of Brian Farrell, Sr. and Robert J. Butler
Monday, September 28, 2020
The Farms Country Club in Wallingford, CT
REGISTER AT:  www.lisainc.org

Drive your support to advance CSI’s mission. Proceeds to benefit agency programs and services for disadvantaged youth and adults. Play a round and know your support makes a tee-mendous difference!

Originally named after the agency’s founder, this year the tournament was renamed to also pay tribute to the event’s co-founder Brian Farrell, Sr. During the evening program, the O.H. Platt High School Teens Helping Teens Community Project will receive an award for their significant contributions to supporting their peers at LISA, Inc.

On March 7, 2020, we said goodbye to our dear friend Brian Farrell, Sr. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the young men and women with LISA, Inc. was extraordinary. Through his tireless efforts, Brian generated nearly half a million dollars through events such as the Golf Classic he co-founded 16 years ago and other personal campaigns to help countless youth participate in cultural experiences and various extra-curricular activities that otherwise would not have been possible.
CSI’s Coventry House is home to up to 8 disadvantaged male youth between 12-17-years-old. The residential program provides at-risk males a safe place to heal through clinical services, substance abuse assessment, and individual, group, and family counseling and a nurturing place to grow and develop through education, life skills, and structured recreation.

Instructor Jeremy Marcotte leads the onsite classroom and teaches the residents the educational skills they need to succeed on their own. Extra-curricular field trips throughout the year provide valuable experiential learning. The boys perform an annual play in front of an audience of CSI staff and families. Program staff step in and up as positive role models for the program youth and often come in on their days off to give the 'extra" many of the residents need.

Outside the classroom, the boys focus on domestic life skills such as house chores, mowing, landscaping, and planting. The boys produce a newsletter called “Coventry Progress Note” that features stories on their experiences while at the program. "When our stakeholders talk about CSI Coventry, they always speak of how they really care about their kids. This is, so true as the staff we have put in so much more than just their 8 hours," stated Program Director Theresa Lefebvre.

"This time of quarantine has been tough on the residents due to no visits or passes, but we have been very fortunate that this group of young men have been awesome" Lefebvre remarked. "They have been motivated to attend school each and everyday as well as doing chores in and outside of the house to earn extra allowance. This is of course due to the positive attitudes of staff who have worked hard to keep everyone motivated and have some fun along the way."
DELAWARE-

Staff and residents at the residential re-entry program participated in a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk in June to raise awareness for mental health.

NJ-

EMPOWERING PROGRAMS

Community Solutions, Inc. & LISA, Inc. operate over 60 programs in 10 states and Canada.

Our strategic alliance increases our collective impact with the people we serve and in the communities we support throughout North America.

Here is a snapshot at our programs state by state:

KANSAS- “We have found the MST provider to do excellent work and has been one of our most collaborative partners.” Kansas Department for Children and Families.

California- 26 former inmates graduated from the community reentry program at the day reporting centers in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria in June.

Pennsylvania- Greetings from the Reading staff!

New Jersey- COVID has temporarily stifled referrals so youth program staff are pivoting outreach efforts.

Maryland- Go Team!

Georgia- The Tysha Phillips Memorial Summer Internship was formed in the memory of State Director Tysha Phillips who recently passed.

Connecticut- A resident proudly displays his artwork. Prior to being at the Drapelick Center, he had never picked up a paintbrush.

Delaware- Staff and residents at the residential re-entry program participated in a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk in June to raise awareness for mental health.