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

MISSION MOMENTS

HEALTHY MIND & BODY
Residents at the Cheyney House in CT are building their mental and physical strength thanks to a matching grant from the Watkinson Prisoners Aid Society. The program was able to purchase a new Boflex machine with a portion of the funds. Staff report the clients find the workout equipment is a stress release, is therapeutic in their healing, and boosts their confidence.

PAINTING A HEALING PATH
Staff in Georgia found art therapy a valued tool to help one client resolve family conflicts. Clinical Supervisor Felicia Harris shared this practice allowed her young client to communicate her feelings and overcome the barriers and verbal aggression she was encountering at home.

POSITIVE IMPACT
The transformative work our staff provide not only impacts the client, but their families as well. Pam Jackson-Rowe, a Functional Family Therapy therapist in GA received this moving message from the parent of a young boy she was working with. Pam’s colleagues congratulated her and said the “meaningfulness of her job was changing lives.”

"I think you’re a miracle with this job and I ask you to forgive me sometimes as I fear the darkest stresses to come but I really do need this help and I’m sure about my son being able to do more for himself in life...
I just need the most advice now and maybe a chance of knowing people like you...Thanks again.”

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS
Young "Ian" from the Coventry House in Rhode Island has a passion for animals and dreams of becoming a zoo keeper. After submitting an essay on his aspiration to the national foundation Performance Based Standards (PbS), the youth was honored with a prize!

The PbS Employment Matching Award is designed to help youths like Ian, experience success working and move another step closer to a meaningful and sustainable career. PbS offers youth-serving agencies support services and trainings to achieve positive outcomes.

Excerpt from Ian’s essay:

“The three things I have to do to achieve my goals are: complete high school, volunteer or internship at a local zoo and receive a bachelor’s degree in Biology or Zoology.

The most important skills I will bring are character and passion. I chose character because I have to connect with the people and build rapport so they can come back and enjoy themselves. I also have to be passionate about what I am doing so I can enjoy what I’m doing and be able to handle any customers’ needs and the animals’ needs as well.”

(Youth’s name changed to protect their identity)
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

EQUIPPED FOR SUCCESS

Our youth started their academic year off equipped with the tools they need to succeed in school thanks to our friends at United Way of West Central CT. They received a generous donation of educational supplies from Harte Auto Group in Hartford to help students in need. The backpacks were stocked full of pencils, paper, folders, and highlighters. Pictured: Kimberly Hernandez with United Way of West Central CT.

LOCAL BUSINESS STEERS SUPPORT TO AGENCY

Town Fair Tire of Southington is driving their support to help our young people. The company’s Foundation selected LISA, Inc. as one of nine beneficiaries of their region’s 2020 Non-Profit Charity Awards for community Service. Store Manager Al Bell, pictured in the center, said their team wanted to help our youth get on the right track for their futures.

SHINING BRIGHTER LIGHT UP! LIGHT UP!!

We are beaming over our new friends at The Light Hangar Company, LLC! Owner Laura Davis donated over $3,400 worth of decorative lighting fixtures and light bulbs to illuminate our programs. The new home accessories will brighten the decorative look and add a brilliant warmth to the overall feel of our residential programs.

HELPING HANDS

Thanks to the handiwork & landscaping skills of our friends with Loureiro Engineering Associates for helping to give a fall makeover to one of our programs. The Plainville company selected our WISH Program in CT to be the recipient of their annual service project. Over 20 volunteers gathered early one Saturday morning in October to weed, plant flowers, mulch, construct flower boxes, powerwash, and paint to spruce up our Plainville home and its yard.

CALENDAR FEATURE

Our friends at The Petit Family Foundation in Plainville, CT are selling their 2021 Michaela’s Garden Calendars. In honor of Michaela Petit, the Foundation also sells seeds and flowers to families to become more involved with community service through gardening. LISA, Inc. is the featured non-profit in January. Calendars are $10 each or 5 for $40. Purchase Yours Here

COSMETICS FOR OUR CLIENTS

When one cosmetic center CT decided to discontinue carrying an upscale beauty line, they opted to donate the remaining new products in their stock to our programs. Our longtime friend Iole Punzo-Mocabee with Advanced Dermatology Center in Wolcott kindly contributed over a $1,000 in Bare Minerals makeup products, brushes, and skincare to the women in our programs.

PERIOD FAIRIES TO THE RESCUE

Young Khalia Hunt wanted to help get basic feminine hygiene products to those who couldn’t afford them because she believed that “Nobody should have to feel embarrassed that they can’t afford pads or tampons.” The CT resident, her sister and their mom created Period Fairies of Meriden, a project to collect necessity care items and distribute them to young girls in need in the area. The Period Fairies recently donated bags to the young females at our Meriden home.
Many of our residential programs around the country held special Thanksgiving feasts to celebrate the traditional day of gratitude and give thanks. Staff baked and organized delicious feasts for clients to enjoy which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and plenty of fan favorite desserts.

All our programs across the country are now decorating for the upcoming holidays to help create good family memories for clients.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY

Thanks to your generous support, our first CSI and LISA, Inc. Coats For Clients Drive in November collected over 100 coats, boots, gloves, and hats for the residents in our CT youth and adult programs. We are currently in the process of cleaning the cold weather gear and plan to distribute the items to our clients next week.

We are grateful to our community partners Cheshire Barber Shop and RE/MAX Professionals in Southington for hosting donation drop-offs during the drive. These staple pieces help our clients build their wardrobe while they are rebuilding their lives. Your donations send a strong message that reminds our residents the community has their back.

SPREADING WARMTH THIS WINTER

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MAKING THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FROM A SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCE

If you would like to help make the holidays magical for the youth and adults in our residential programs and are in a place to do so, kindly consider donating from our Amazon Wish List! Community Solutions and LISA, Inc. have compiled a list of needs from our residents. Your contributions help provide gifts to brighten the holidays for those in need and sends a special message to them that they are cared for by their extended community family! Thank you for staying in touch while staying safe!!

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

WELCOME CARE BAGS FOR NEW CLIENTS

Each year, Community Solutions & LISA, Inc. serve over 1,000 disadvantaged youth and adults in our CT residential programs. When a new client comes to any of our programs, we want them to feel warm and welcome in their new surroundings. We are piloting a new initiative to create Welcome Home Bags for every new client that comes to one of our youth and adult residential programs in CT to show we care.

You can help make our clients feel at home! We are accepting new tote bags along with new care products such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, as well as niceties such as blank note cards, stamps, cards, pens, and headphones. All donations of new products, any size and quantity, are appreciated. If you, your school group, civic club, or company is interested in hosting a collection to support our initiative, contact Elizabeth at 860.996.0760 or ehyatt@csimail.org for details.

CT non-profit Bell Heads helps student athletes focus on sports & mindfulness. From their recent SOCKTOBER drive, they donated over 100 pairs of new socks to fill our care bags. Pictured: Founder Justin Mitchell & sons Jaxon & Stylz.
How to Travel on a Budget - 3

The Connecticut Alternative In The Community (AIC) programs are community-based alternatives to incarceration that provide services for individuals awaiting trial, or who are on probation or parole. Their offices closed in mid-March due to the pandemic. Fortunately, staff were able to pivot operations and maintain services to work virtually with all their clients online. The five CT facilities recently reopened following a hybrid model for their clients. For now, they will operate under a cohort system running at 50% occupancy for clients and staff. The hours the centers will be open have been temporarily abbreviated. While one cohort group is at the program, the other will work remotely to limit on-site interactions.

“I’m cautiously optimistic to return,” shared Manny Tirado, Program Director of the Torrington AIC. He explained, “The clients who do not have technology will be able to join us in person and those with access to a computer or phone, can connect with us virtually to complete their requirements of the program.”

CSI held their 16th annual Charity Golf Tournament in August at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, CT. Over 70 loyal supporters participated in a day of golf to raise over $24,000 for CSI youth and adult programs and services. Those attending agreed it was a beautiful day to play a round and support the organization.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, players, and volunteers for their hard work navigating through COVID restrictions to ensure a smooth and safe event.

TEE-MENDOUS SUCCESS

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TRIBUTE TOURNAMENT

Over 135 golfers & supporters turned out to participate in the 16th Annual Golf Classic in Memory of Brian Farrell, Sr. & Robert J. Butler in September at The Farms Country Club in Wallingford, CT. The tournament generated over $49,000 to benefit the youth in the LISA, Inc. residential and community-based programs. There was a moving tribute during the program to volunteer champion Brian Farrell, Sr., co-founder of the event. The event, which originally memorialized Robert, the founder of LISA, Inc., was renamed this year to also commemorate Brian.

The O.H. Platt High School Teens Helping Teens Community Project was awarded the Brian M. Farrell, Sr. Heart of LISA, Inc. Award for their years of service to providing care products and home goods to support their peers in the youth programs. Thanks to all the golfers, sponsors, supporters, donors, and volunteers for their contributions to making this year’s event a huge success!
CSI’s Johnson Women’s and Children’s House is a residential re-entry female program with an emphasis on childcare and reunification. The Hartford based program is home to up to 11 women who can have their children live on-site.

When a woman and her child(ren) enter the Johnson House, they are immediately encircled with on-site resources such as parenting education, with discussions about financial empowerment, with hands-on educational and employment training and establishing healthy relationships.

This rehabilitation program is designed to support women in taking responsibility for themselves and their families. Through case management services, clients are also referred to outside resources such as medical and behavioral health services. Through group sessions, the female residents learn to build support and meaningful relationships with each other, share experiences, and learn pro-social and cognitive skills in a safe and caring environment.

The program emphasizes personal empowerment and the women work in close collaboration with their case manager to set personal and treatment goals while at the program and following discharge back into the community to help ensure a successful long lasting transition.
RHODE ISLAND—Due to COVID, Coventry’s annual Washington, D.C. trip was canceled for their young male residents. Luckily they shifted lessons about the capital to online.

EMPOWERING PROGRAMS
Community Solutions, Inc. & LISA, Inc. operate more than 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:

NEW JERSEY—Staff communicate through various means with the parents of their clients. One parent shared their gratitude in a text.

Yes!!! She is so amazing, so resourceful and really encourages my son to do better. Sometimes our children need those outside of us (family) to help them identify their rights and wrongs, as well as show them alternative ways to do so.

DELAWARE—Celebrating the recent accomplishments of two clients who graduated from the Pathways to Apprenticeship Program in construction, a six-week career training and education series.

CALIFORNIA—Clients in our Santa Barbara and Ventura programs enjoyed a real treat this Halloween with their kids at socially distanced events. Along with the youth, many staff dressed up.

KANSAS—CSI offers specialized Multisystemic Therapy (MST) in 4 regions of the state. MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment service that addresses multiple aspects of serious anti-social behavior in adolescents.

MARYLAND—Despite obstacles with COVID, therapists remain diligent with their work. They successfully closed two cases with clients recently.

PENNSYLVANIA—Staff participated in a virtual training entitled Engagement Using Core Therapy Skills.

RHODE ISLAND—Due to COVID, Coventry’s annual Washington, D.C. trip was canceled for their young male residents. Luckily they shifted lessons about the capital to online.

GEORGIA—Youth program staff meet online with CSI executives to strategize on services.

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