



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

Community Report **2018**



**WE PROMOTE THE
RIGHTS AND
INTERESTS OF
MINNESOTA'S
CHILDREN IN THE
JUDICIAL, CHILD
WELFARE, HEALTH
CARE, AND EDUCATION
SYSTEMS.**



In 2018, Children's Law Center experienced record growth in the number of children represented in Minnesota courts. Every day, CLC staff members and volunteer lawyers worked with children who are in Minnesota's child protection system to ensure they had a voice in the legal proceedings that affect their daily lives. Because of partners like you, our child clients received the support and advocacy they deserve.

As our 2018 Community Report describes in greater detail, 929 youth clients received counsel from the CLC team. We thank the individuals, corporations, foundations, and law firms who supported CLC financially to provide the resources needed to keep representing

children in foster care. We are grateful for our long-term supporters, as well as our new funders, including the Pohlad Family Foundation, the F.R. Bigelow Foundation, the Saint Paul Foundation, and Cargill. We also are grateful for the more than 300 attorneys who volunteered their time to investigate, to draft papers, to attend meetings and court hearings, and to provide legal counsel to the children. We deeply appreciate that you share our passion to keep attorneys in the courtroom with the youth who need them.

One highlight for CLC each year is the Association of Corporate Counsel annual benefit where we have the opportunity to raise funds and to celebrate the work of CLC. Even the April 15, 2018 blizzard did not stop us from gathering to benefit CLC's efforts. Thank you ACC members for including CLC in your fundraising, and for your wonderful partnership. We look forward to the 2019 ACC event and are hoping for sunshine rather than snow for that event.

It was an honor to serve as President of the 2018 CLC board and witness the work and challenges tackled each day for the children in our community. On behalf of the CLC Board, our staff, and our volunteer lawyers, thanks for caring. Because of you, this important work continues.

Annamarie Daley, Esq.
2018 CLC Board President

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16,600 Children
Experience Foster
Care in Minnesota
Each Year



OUR TEAM

Weida Allen

Becky Braun

Anne Gueinzus, Esq

Lisa Hui-Peterson, Esq

Eikoku Ikeno, Esq

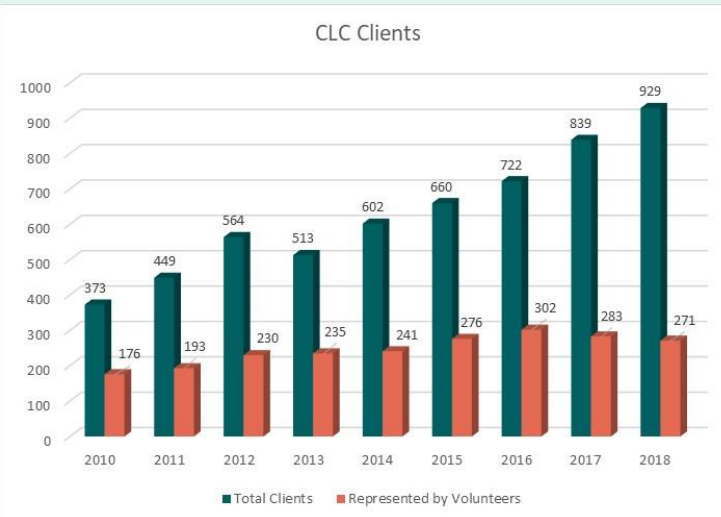
Deb Kovats, Esq

Adriana Mejia

Ashley Nave

Lilia Panteleeva, Esq

Melissa Wind



2018 was another year of growth for CLC. We represented 929 children and youth. This is an 11% increase since last year and a 150% increase since 2010. This steady increase in the past years is due to several factors: the changes made to Minnesota's child protection screening practices as a result of the 2015 Governor's Task Force on Protection of Children; opioid epidemic, which is now the number one reason why children are placed in foster care; and McKenna's Law, which now requires that all eligible children in foster care are immediately informed of their right to have an attorney. The most recent report from Minnesota's Department of Human Services further illustrates the growing number of youth in care when it found that there were 16,600 child and young adults in an out-of-home care in 2017.

We are very grateful to all our supporters for every contribution and grant made to help us sustain our growth. We are especially grateful to the Saint Paul and F.R. Bigelow foundations for funding a full-time attorney while CLC works on finding other resources to sustain our growth.

Our volunteer attorneys are the biggest gift CLC and our clients have. Their passion and dedication to this work is humbling and heartwarming. On average, each volunteer attorney spends 16-20 hours per client annually. Our volunteers advocate for our clients, they show up, they believe in them, and they amplify our child clients' voices in the courtroom when these voices aren't being heard.

I am also very grateful to our staff, the most humble colleagues I have ever worked with. It is a true privilege to be leading this passionate, hard working, mission driven team.

Together, with our donors and volunteers we continue to make a positive impact in the lives of Minnesota's most vulnerable population and invest in the future of our community. We thank each and every one of you for supporting us in 2018 and look forward to our continued partnership.

A person's a person, no matter how small.

-- Dr. Seuss



| Client Age | Number |
|---------------|--------|
| Under 10 | 13 |
| 10-13 | 364 |
| 14-18 | 432 |
| 19-21 | 120 |
| Client Gender | Number |
| Male | 440 |
| Female | 489 |

2018 CLIENT INFORMATION

929

Total Clients

| Client Ethnicity | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|
| American Indian | 20% |
| Asian/Pacific | 8% |
| Black | 55% |
| Hispanic | 8% |
| White | 40% |
| Other | 1% |

CLIENT HIGHLIGHT

On Monday November 5, 2018, CLC's former client and now Board member, Nina Boswell, graduated from the Minnesota School of Cosmetology. As one of two students chosen to speak at the graduation ceremony, Nina talked to the crowd about her goal to own her own salon where she will provide pro bono cosmetology services to foster care youth. She encouraged her fellow graduates to give back and consider donating their time and talents to foster care youth, as well. Nina demonstrated her inner strength with her passionate speech.

On behalf of Children's Law Center, we are proud of Nina and we know her graduation is one of her many accomplishments. Nina is pictured with CLC staff social worker, Weida Allen, CLC managing attorney, Anne Gueinzus, and attorney David Prince, who assisted Nina's former volunteer attorney, the late Ann Marie Hanrahan, with Nina's appeal. **Congratulations Nina!**





Our Team Includes

340

Volunteer Attorneys

VOLUNTEERS ARE PRICELESS

As the number of clients continued to grow in 2018, we relied on the dedication of our 340 volunteer attorneys to provide consistent, high-quality legal representation for our clients. The time and talents of our generous volunteers resulted in more than three million dollars in pro-bono legal services provided to the foster children in our community.

The attorneys who make up the Children's Law Center team understand the importance of empowering our clients through some challenging times.

Long-time Children's Law Center volunteer attorney Lisa Fulton from 3M said,

"For all of my clients, I have been the only consistent person they have, and when you have that sort of relationship with a child and you talk to them about their future, they listen to you and they believe you."

They believe you. That is when you can influence change.

We can't thank our volunteer attorneys enough for working to influence the lives of their clients.

Volunteer Spotlight: Dona Stanul

Office volunteer Dona Stanul shares her precious time each week, and a commitment and dedication to our mission by helping to keep our office filing updated.

Before her retirement from Best Buy, Dona discovered Children's Law Center through her boss, Tracy Smith. As a Sr. Paralegal at Best Buy, her skillset and knowledge were the ideal fit for the unique volunteer office needs at CLC.

Now that she is retired, Dona spends Wednesdays helping with our backlog of cases to file, often coming in with much-appreciated mid-week donuts for the staff. Her husband is also known to make appearances and help with assembling and fixing things around the office. You may also know Dona as a "Wine Pull Person" at our benefit for the past several years.

In addition to the time she spends lighting up our office, she also volunteers at her church and just started training as a volunteer at Open Door Food Shelf.



CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS 2018

Thank you to our generous sponsors, our dedicated volunteers, and our passionate guests for making this night a success... and so much fun. We hope you enjoyed the celebration as much as we did.

A special thank you to our keynote speaker, Ivan Fong from 3M, and to our emcee, WCCO's Susan Elizabeth Littlefield. We are so grateful to you.



**Mark your calendar for this year's
Celebration of Champions on
Thursday October 10, 2019**





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CASINO ROYALE GALA

The Association of Corporate Counsel Minnesota Chapter's annual Gala benefiting Children's Law Center was held during a record snow fall in April of 2018. Thank you to our sponsors, our guests who made it through the snow, and our online bidders who helped make this event a success. We appreciate your dedication and look forward to another wonderful (hopefully warmer) event this year.

**Mark Your Calendar for Saturday April 27, 2019 at
Radisson Blu-Mall of America**



2018 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

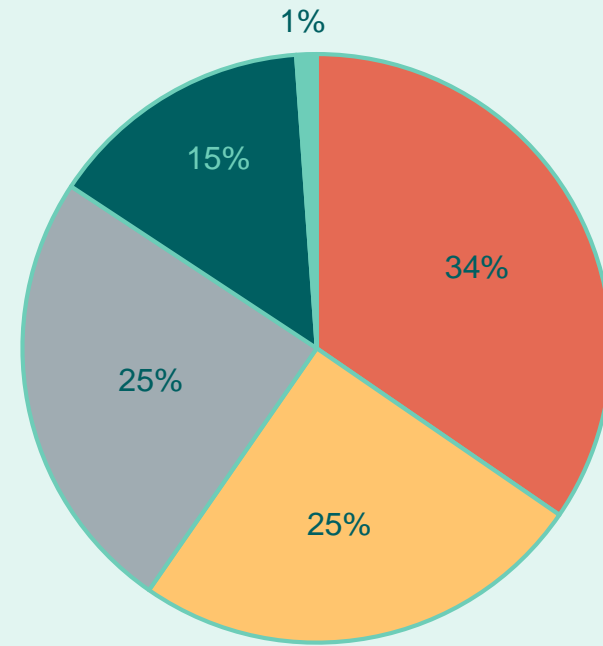
| INCOME | |
|--|-------------------|
| Government | \$ 288,974 |
| Minnesota and National Foundations | \$ 209,600 |
| Corporations, Law Firms, and Bar Foundations | \$ 205,769 |
| Individuals | \$ 122,053 |
| Other | \$ 9,381 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 835,777 |

| EXPENSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Staff Salaries and Benefits | \$ 621,695 |
| Insurance and Administration Fees | \$ 53,692 |
| Rent and Utilities | \$ 44,744 |
| Fundraising | \$ 27,685 |
| Office Equipment and Supplies | \$ 21,338 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 769,154 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| NET ASSETS, beginning of the year | \$384,276 |
| NET ASSETS, end of the year | \$451,209 |

[Click here to access CLC's 990 for FY2017](#)

Income



- Government
- Minnesota and National Foundations
- Corporations, Law Firms, and Bar Foundations
- Individuals
- Other



Our Website

clcmn.org

Contains Resource
Information for
Youth and Attorneys

Thank You To Our 2018 Donors. Your Generosity And Support Provided Representation For 929 Children.

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Together We Rise - St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth - Osseo MN
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“

anyone who
does anything to
help a child is a
hero to me

Mr. Rogers
