

Children's Law Center of Minnesota

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Saint Paul, MN 55104

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INFORM
NAVIGATE
EMPOWER

2016 Report to the Community

FROM THE BOARD



Thank you for your partnership and investment in our mission! Because of your generosity and commitment, Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) continued to provide high quality zealous advocacy for hundreds of vulnerable children within the child protection system throughout 2016.

In 2016, we began to come to grips with the tremendous changes to the child protection system in Minnesota. Due in large part to systemic changes made in response to the recommendations of Governor Dayton's 2015 Task Force on Protection of Children, along with subsequent increased staffing at the county level, the number of children entering the child protection system has increased significantly over previous years. Consequently, the demand for services through CLC is at a level we have never experienced before.

Thanks to the tremendous generosity and commitment of our donors, over 260 pro bono volunteers, and CLC's gifted and passionate staff, CLC was able to rise to the challenge. We represented 725 clients in 2016 – the largest number we have ever represented over a one-year period and more than double the number of clients we served in 2010!

Pursuant to the Board's strategic plan, CLC is intently focused on providing high-caliber direct legal representation for youth in foster care within the metro area. While we will continue working with youth outside the metro area, CLC will concentrate its efforts in 2017 on reaching sufficient capacity to keep up with the increased demand for our services in the metro area. To achieve this capacity, CLC is currently working to secure new sources of public and private funding, which includes developing new partnerships with law firms, foundations, and individuals. At the same time, we will continue to work with the Legislative Task Force on Protection of Children to vigilantly protect the interests of foster children as the laws and policies of Minnesota's child protection system continue to evolve.

CLC is able to do all of this because of YOU—exceptionally dedicated volunteers and charitable law firms, businesses, foundations, and individuals who understand the importance of legal representation for abused and/or neglected youth within the child protection system, and the profound impact it has not only on our youth, but society as a whole.

On behalf of the 2016 CLC Board of Directors, thank you for all you do for CLC and the children we serve!

Mitch Zamoff, Esq.

2016 President

CLC Board of Directors



FROM THE DIRECTOR

CLC is pleased to report on program activities, highlights, and results over another successful year delivering well-informed, professional representation and advocacy for vulnerable youth within the child protection system.

In 2016, we again experienced an increased demand for our services at rates never before seen at CLC. While in many ways this increase stems from landmark changes to the child protection system, it is also a testament to the strong reputation and outstanding services of CLC, recognized and appreciated by people entrenched within the system, including county attorneys, judges, guardian ad litem, social workers, and most importantly, our clients.

We are so grateful for your support enabling us to meet this increased demand and continue providing these vital, high quality services for vulnerable youth—I offer my personal thanks especially to our dedicated team of pro bono attorneys, donors, board members, staff, and a host of other volunteers and interns who support our mission in so many ways. Many thanks to you all!

Sincerely,

Lilia Panteleeva, Esq.

Executive Director



ABOUT CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER

Each year, CLC provides hundreds of abused and neglected youth with trustworthy, high quality legal representation, helping them navigate the child welfare and foster care systems. With a dedicated corps of volunteer pro bono attorneys, we help improve and stabilize the lives of foster care youth—kids who might otherwise be at serious risk of homelessness, school failure, substance abuse, incarceration or a lifetime of dependence on public assistance.

Our mission is to promote the rights and interests of Minnesota's children in the judicial, child welfare, health care, and education systems.

Our vision is that foster care youth will have:

- straightforward and immediate access to effective services
- the support they need to overcome trauma and make a smooth transition to adulthood
- meaningful connections with trustworthy adults
- a sense of empowerment and control over their own futures
- stability, hope, and opportunity

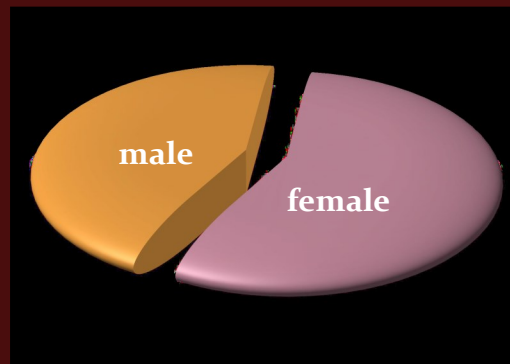


2016 DIRECT REPRESENTATION STATISTICS

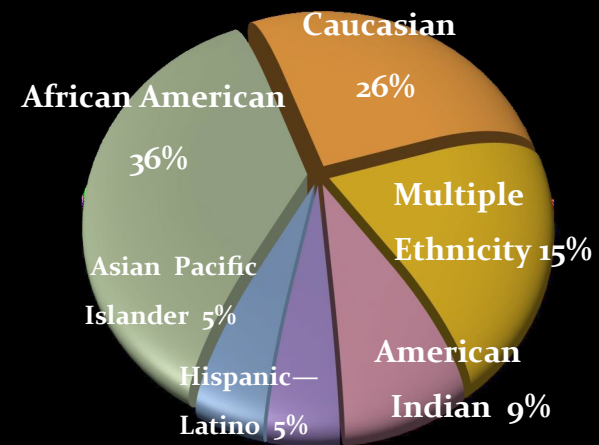
It was a good feeling
to know that I had
someone who was
willing to listen to
what I wanted...

-CLC Client

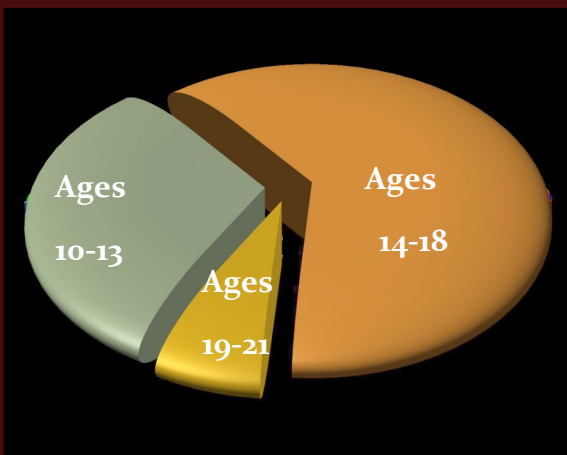
Cases by Gender...



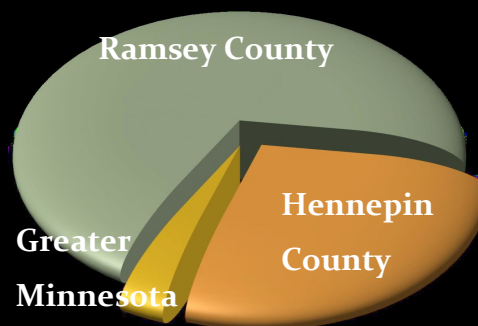
Cases by Ethnicity...



Demographics...



Cases by County...



2016 IN NUMBERS...



- ◆ Provided direct legal representation to 725 youth.
- ◆ In calendar year 2016, our clients included 65 high school seniors, 45 of whom graduated this year – a 69% graduation rate. Our most recent statistics show that more than half of our client-graduates (70%) become enrolled in post-secondary programs and 70% are employed. CLC is proud of our client's HS graduation rates, especially when they are compared to national statistics: the American Bar Association findings indicate that only 31% of youth in foster care graduate from high school by the time they exit care, only 10% go on to post-secondary education, and less than half (47%) of foster youth are employed when they age out of foster care.
- ◆ Recruited and trained 116 lawyers who can now volunteer to represent CLC's clients, bringing the active volunteer attorney roster to almost 300.
- ◆ Reached more than 1700 judges, attorneys, teachers, law students, legislators, social workers and others through outreach and training sessions on topics including the importance of legal representation for foster care youth, laws regarding children aging out of foster care, children's laws and rights, special concerns regarding runaways and the sexually exploited youth in our state, and the school to prison pipeline.



The work CLC does is so incredibly important. I'm honored and grateful to have the opportunity to volunteer with this organization and to have been given the chance to get to know (my client) and hopefully help amplify her voice with the court and with her workers. Thank you.

Autumn Huiras, Esq.

A CLC Volunteer Attorney, General Mills

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the generous donors who contributed
to CLC in 2016

3M

3M Foundation

4imprint

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Costco Wholesale

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Crosby, Robert and Teri

Cutler, Kristin and Clinton

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Dance With Us America

Danner, Carrie

Dawe, Frederick and Kathya

Dawson, Michelle

Dayhoff, David and Aimee

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Kyatchi
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Le, Chau
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Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.
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Levy, John C. and Stephanie
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Minnesota Orchestra
Minnesota State Bar Foundation
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Morton, Cyrus

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Murphy, Nicole
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Nelson, Kristen
Nigon, Richard
Nilan Johnson Lewis, PA
North Shore Scenic Railroad
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Odette, Elizabeth R.
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Olusina, Ann Oludolapo-Ekisola
Orey, Vivian
Oriental Trading Company
O'Sullivan, Kathleen
Otter Box
Otto Bremer Trust
Oxford Financial Group
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Park, Mary J
Paskach, David
Passaro, Jessica and Justin
Patterson Thuente Pedersen,
P.A.
Paulson, Duanne and Marilyn
Paulus, Lezlie
Pedersen, Patricia
Perry, Mary Catharine
Peterson, Amy
Peterson, Neal N.
Pielemeier, James
PinKU Japanese Street Food

Probst, David E.
Proman, Jim and Nancy
Quie, Paul and Betty
R.F. Moeller Jeweler
Radisson Hotel Bloomington By
Mall Of America
Rahne, Denise
Ramsey County Bar Foundation
Rao, Akshay
Raphan, Melissa
Reece, Jim
Remedios, Marianne
Riverview Theater
Robins Kaplan
Rowe, Michael
Roy, Barbara B.
Royal, Elizabeth
Ruhland, Kathleen Smith
Rust Consulting
Saint Paul Saints
Saksena, Marian E.
Schaffer, Karen A.
Schellhas, The Honorable Heidi
Schmidt, Susan and Wiebe,
Virgil
Schneider, Joanne
Schuh, Brandon
Schurrer, Gary and Lynn
Schutter, Diana
Schwarzhoff, Sarah
Schwarzkopf, Kurt
Schwegman, Lundberg,
Woessner, P.A
Schwen, Nadeem
Science Museum Of Minnesota
Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream

Shaheen, Christopher
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community
Shannon, Kelly
Sheran, Tom and Linda
Short, Elizabeth
Shumilow, Natalie
Skjeveland, Tracey R
Smith, Kenneth
Smith, Tara
Sobotka, Elizabeth
St. James Hotel
Stafford, Julie
Stageberg, Roger and Sheila
Stages Theatre Company
Stern, Leo G. and Christine
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cates
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Walling Driver, Stacia
Walling, Brianna
Watson, Wendy
Weber, Joseph and Erin
Wermager, Caryn
Wernick, The Honorable Mark
White, Annette M.
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Whitney III, Wheelock
Williams, David and Kim

Wilson, Robert and Jody
Wiltgen, Nancy A.
Wind, Todd
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Woodward, David and Mary
Word Of Peace Lutheran Church
Zaetta, Chris
Zamoff, Mitch E.
Zelle LLP
Zinsmaster, Kristin K.
Zucco, David

***Thank you also to the many dedicated
volunteers who donated their time and
expertise to help safeguard the rights of
youth and ensure that their voices are
heard!***





We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) - Minnesota Chapter, for organizing and hosting the fantastic Spring 2016 Casino Royal Gala that benefited CLC!

This year's event is slated for: Saturday, April 22nd, 6-11pm at the JW Marriot at the Mall of America, 6-11pm. Contact ACC for tickets at mn-ed@accglobal.com

ALSO, PLEASE PLACE INTO YOUR CALENDAR:

Children's Law Center of Minnesota 22nd Annual Benefit & Celebration **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 2017** 5pm

Windows on Minnesota, Marquette Hotel/IDS

What is a child's experience?

Imagine Sheila, a 12 year old. She and her 14-year-old brother have been neglected by their mother, their father is out of the picture, and both have been abused by her mother's boyfriend. They have been removed from their mother's care and her rights have been terminated because she is chemically dependent and has been arrested for selling drugs.

Both children are now wards of the state. This means the state is their parent. Does Sheila and her brother know their rights? Do they know that they are entitled to attorneys?

What services are they supposed to receive, and how will they access them? Does Sheila know she is entitled to see her brother if they are not placed together?

As you can IMAGINE, an attorney can make a GREAT difference in the life of an at-risk youth.

We help put the pieces together so that the children don't fall through the cracks...

