

2019 COMMUNITY REPORT
EST. 1995

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

**My voice. My life. My
future.**

Thank you for standing up for
me.

Children's Law Center of Minnesota promotes the legal rights and well-being of children and youth. CLC's staff and volunteers provide direct representation of children and youth, primarily in the child welfare system, and advocate for changes in the systems that affect their lives.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR David Marshall



Dear Children's Law Center Champions,

It was an honor to serve as the Children's Law Center Board Chair. I choose to serve Children's Law Center of Minnesota because children's dignity is paramount.

CLC represented 900 clients last year, and closed over 300 cases. Because of committed partners like you, our child clients received the support and advocacy they need for a bright future. Every day, CLC staff members and volunteer lawyers work with children who are experiencing Minnesota's child protection system to ensure they have a voice in the courtroom.

I would like to thank the individuals, corporations, foundations, and law firms who supported CLC financially and provided the resources needed to keep representing children in foster care. We appreciate you sharing our passion to keep our attorneys in the courtroom with the youth who need them. With over 25 law firms who make financial commitments to CLC, and 116 law firms who have at least one staff member volunteering as counsel, CLC is grateful for the ongoing engagement and support from the Twin Cities legal community. Thank you.

It was a pleasure to serve as Chair of the CLC Board of Directors in 2019 and witness the work and challenges being tackled each day on behalf of the children in our community. On behalf of the CLC Board, our staff, and our volunteer lawyers, thank you for caring about our children.

Because of you, youth in foster care have voice.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Marshall".

DAVID MARSHALL, ESQ.
2019 CLC Board President

[2019 Board List](#)

[2019 Volunteer Attorneys](#)



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Children's Law Center of Minnesota

25 years of empowering youth in foster care

History, Mission & Impact



History & Mission

CLC was founded in 1995 with the mission to promote the legal rights and well-being of children and youth. CLC's staff and volunteers provide direct representation of children and youth, primarily in the child welfare system, and advocate for changes in the systems that affect their lives.

Over the years, CLC has trained over 1,000 volunteer attorneys, represented over 3,600 abused and neglected children and successfully helped to advocate and promote systemic changes for vulnerable children throughout the state. We are celebrating 25 years in 2020.



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Board of Directors

CLC board members volunteer with our clients, advocate for our mission in the legal community, and generously share their talents and expertise with CLC. They are dedicated, strategic and philanthropic. To the CLC Board of Directors: Thank you!

A special thank to the following Board Directors who finished their terms in 2019.

- ♦ Bridget Ahmann, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath
- ♦ Nina Boswell, former client
- ♦ Annamarie Daley, Jones Day

Please extend a warm welcome to new Board Directors.

- ♦ Amy Conway, Stinson LLP,
- ♦ Holley Horrell, Greene Espel PLLP
- ♦ Zeke Johnson, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
- ♦ Josh Natzel, Ballard Spahr
- ♦ Erin Sindberg Porter, Jones Day
- ♦ De'Andra Walker, former client.





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Letter from the Executive Director, Lilia Panteleeva, Esq.

Dear CLC Community Champions,

Every day, CLC staff members and volunteer lawyers work with children who are in the Minnesota's child protection system to ensure they have a voice in the legal proceedings that affect their daily lives. Because of partners like you, last year our clients continued to receive the support and advocacy they need.



2019 was a record year for philanthropic support for Children's Law Center of Minnesota. Thanks to the generosity of the Minnesota foundations and our supporters, we were able to grow our staff and renovate our offices. A special thank you to the Pohlad Family Foundation, the Saint Paul and F.R. Bigelow Foundations, the Otto Bremer Trust, and Taft Stettinus & Hollister LLP for making it possible.

CLC staff continue to improve processes and expand support for volunteer attorneys, elevating the outcomes for all clients. I am proud to share with you the successes and positive outcomes we continue to achieve for our child clients in partnership with our volunteers. We could not even come close to providing the high-quality representation for our clients without the intense dedication and determination of our volunteer attorneys.

I am thrilled to continue to lead our dedicated staff, Board and volunteers. CLC continues to promote the legal rights and well-being of children and youth. We will continue to stand up for the most vulnerable children in our community. Thank you for your partnership and commitment, and thank you for being part of the CLC community.

With warmth and gratitude,

Lilia Panteleeva, Esq.

Weida Allen

Anne Gueinzus

Debra Kovats

Lilia Panteleeva

Becky Braun

Lisa Hui-Peterson

Adriana Mejia

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Eikoku Ikeno

Katie Opperman



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First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

In May 2019, CLC celebrated its first annual volunteer appreciation breakfast. Volunteers were recognized according to milestone years, a video and brief presentation.

Our cohort of 340 volunteer attorneys carries an average of two pro bono cases for CLC each year.

Thank you for your life changing work and compassion.

Celebrating Over a Decade of Service

Perri Hite, Target—**22 Years**

Denise Rahne, Robins Kaplan—**16 Years**

William Hefner, Environmental Law Group—**15 Years**

Sarah Stensland, Patterson Thuente—**12 Years**

Michelle Grant, Dorsey & Whitney—**11 Years**

Anneliese Mayer, Merchant & Gould—**11 Years**

Ann Novacheck, Nilan Johnson Lewis—**11 Years**





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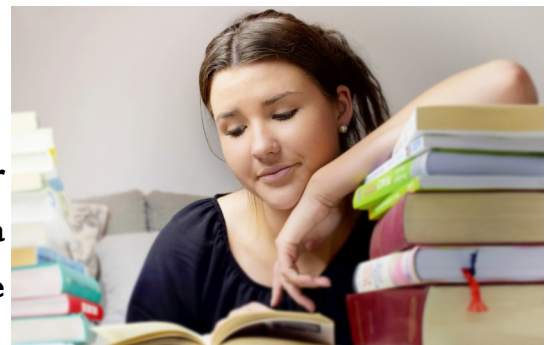
The following stories demonstrate the many areas of these children's lives that are impacted by CLC staff and pro bono legal representation and advocacy.

Thank you for your generous commitment.

Success Highlight: Two CLC clients graduated from post-secondary programs in 2019, one as an electrician and another achieving an associates degree. These clients are living independently and supporting themselves with jobs relating to their education and training.

Keeping a Youth in the 18-21 Extended Foster Care Program

There are several requirements to stay in the Extended Foster Care program (EFC) which include working and/or pursuing a degree. CLC currently represents over 100 youth between the ages of 18-21 in the EFC program.



A recent client, Ren was going to be kicked out of EFC. She had lapsed in her attendance and was struggling with her mental health. CLC's managing attorney, Anne Gueinzus fought really hard to get her back on track and ensure the county provided her with uninterrupted EFC funding. Because of her attorney's tenacity and attention to detail, Ren was able to continue in the program uninterrupted, maintaining the stability needed to support her mental health and her education.



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Supporting Youth with Special Needs

27% of CLC clients are children with special needs. (Autism Spectrum, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Developmental Delays, Physical Impairments.)

CLC was appointed to represent Danny, a child with Down Syndrome. Danny was appointed to [Wendy Watson](#), a longtime CLC volunteer attorney with a vast history of working with special needs youth. Due to her years of experience working with adults and youth facing cognitive challenges, Ms. Watson was able to communicate with Danny in a developmentally appropriate manner and then inform the court of the client's strong wish to remain in the child's pre-adoptive home. The child was adopted into a loving family and was also able to maintain contact with older adult siblings.



Keeping Siblings Together

Over 53% of CLC cases are part of CLC sibling groups. Even when it isn't possible to keep siblings physically together, every child has the right to maintain sibling contact.

Recently the county filed a motion to adopt out Tammy, the eldest child of a sibling group. Tammy objected to the separation on principal, feeling the emotional stress of being only one moving towards adoption while her younger siblings languish in foster care. Her attorney fought the motion and won. She remains with her siblings.



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2019 Impact Highlights

Who We Represent

- ⇒ **895 child clients**
- ⇒ **81% are youth of color**
- ⇒ **53% are CLC sibling groups**
- ⇒ **27% are children with disabilities**
- ⇒ **10% are LGBTQ**

340 Volunteer Attorneys

***Children need advocates in a
system that is talking about them
and around them.***

—CLC Volunteer



2019 Successes

- ⇒ **312 closed cases (reunified with family, transfer of custody, adoption or aged out at 18 or 21)**
- ⇒ **173 relative placements/adoptions**
- ⇒ **73 adoptions**
- ⇒ **55 new volunteer attorneys trained**
- ⇒ **77% graduated from high school**



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Ramsey & Hennepin Counties

Ramsey County

CLC represents both CHIPS and state wards

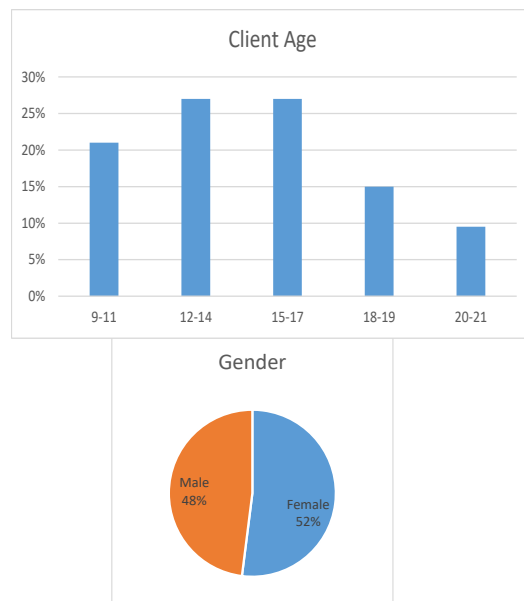
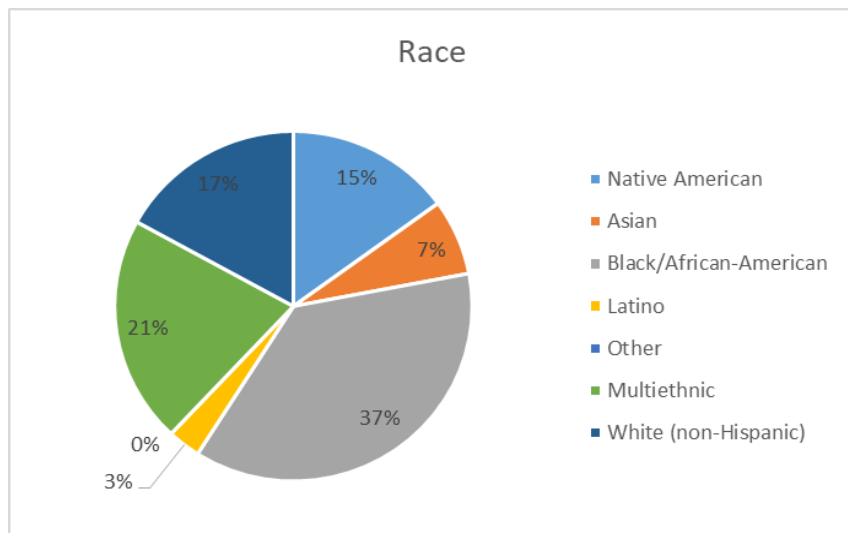
- ⇒ 557 clients represented
- ⇒ 215 cases closed
- ⇒ 80 reunified with family
- ⇒ 21 adopted

Hennepin County

CLC represents legacy youth (state wards)

- ⇒ 332 clients represented
- ⇒ 93 cases closed
- ⇒ 48% of closed cases resulted in adoption

Demographics



2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

State/County	\$352,615
Foundations	\$401,450
Corporations	\$124,673
Law Firms & Bar Foundations	\$130,330
Individuals	\$114,300
Other	\$12,024

Total Revenue & Gains

\$1,135,392

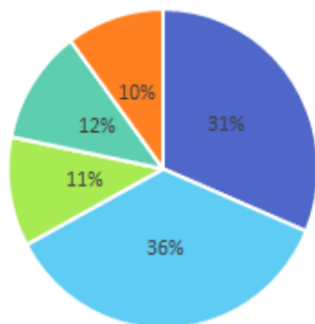
Expense

Salary & Benefits	\$736,080
Insurance & fees	\$52,091
Rent & Utilities	\$49,612
Fundraising	\$19,514
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$16,249

Total Expense

\$873,547

2019 Funding



■ State/County ■ Foundations ■ Corporations
■ Law Firms/Bar ■ Individuals

Net Assets - January 1, 2019 **\$451,209**

Net Assets- December 31, 2019 **\$714,177**

[Link to CLC's 990](#)

Children's Law Center of Minnesota

2019 Association of Corporate Counsel Casino Royale Gala A distinct partnership with the ACC of Minnesota



Thank you to all the attendees, volunteers and 2019 sponsors that made it a successful evening!



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2019 CLC 24th Celebration of Champions Annual Benefit and Awards Dinner!
Congratulations to Awardees, Fredrikson & Byron, Ann Ahlstrom and Diana Cross
for child advocacy and pro bono service.



Thank you

Children's Law Center of Minnesota would like to thank our generous partners for the 2019 Celebration of Champions event. We appreciate your continued support.

ROBINS  KAPLAN LLP



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& BYRON, P.A.

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by your support.*

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-Aimee Blatz
-John and Kim Bowden
-Vadim and Irina Braginsky
-Linda & John Breviu
-Richard Brody and Margaret Flynn
-Anne & Patrick Byrne
-Andrew Carlson

Thank you!

-Ruth Carlson
 -Mark Carpenter
 -Central Presbyterian Church
 -Michael DeBois
 -Kathryn Dehn
 -Jason DePauw
 -Alisa Eland
 -Bruce Finzen
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 -Mark A. Fredrickson
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 -Anne Tyler Gueinzus
 -John L. Hanna
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**In-kind donors contribute
 items for our silent and live
 auction, backpacks, supplies,
 books and hygiene items for
 the children we serve.**

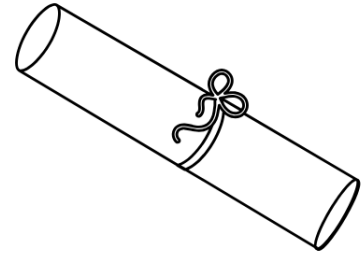
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- Breadsmith
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- Oriental Trading Company
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- The House of Comedy
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- Together We Rise - Anoka Ramsey Community College
- Together We Rise - Appleseeds 4-H Club
- Together We Rise - Carestream Health
- Together We Rise - Danny Mendoza
- Together We Rise - Ellingson Family
- Together We Rise - Optum
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- Trader Joe's
- Trapped Puzzle Rooms
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- UnitedHealth Group
- University of Minnesota
- Vera Bradley Outlet
- Vincent DeZutt
- Walker Art Center
- Warners' Stellan
- Wild Mountain
- Melissa Wind
- YogaMN



Your investment makes a difference!

Shawn shared that he needed clothing, food and a dresser and wanted access to the YMCA. He is now in a stable home and getting the support the needs.



Natasha graduated with an Associates degree while in extended foster care. She now owns her home and started a family with her boyfriend.

How to Get Involved with CLC?

- ✓ Become a Champion Monthly Donor at www.clcmn.org
- ✓ Include Children's Law Center in your legacy planning for more information call, 651-796-0193
- ✓ Attend a volunteer attorney training (CLE credits included)
- ✓ Follow Children's Law Center of Minnesota on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn
- ✓ Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.clcmn.org



**25th Anniversary Celebration of
Champions Annual Benefit &
Dinner, October 8, 2020 at
Windows IDS**