



CLC Quarterly Newsletter

October 2024

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Letter From Leadership

Susan Dioury, Attorney & CLC Executive Director

“Where have you people been?” asked a young CLC client after our volunteer attorney and Youth Resource Manager had their first meeting. Once her attorney and our Youth Resource Manager provided her with some much-needed personal products, a comprehensive court procedure explanation, listened to her concerns, and addressed all her inquiries, she quickly formed a connection with them.

At CLC, we continue focusing our efforts on CLC’s core mission of promoting and protecting the legal rights and well-being of children and youth. Between July and September 2024, CLC provided legal representation to 303 Minnesota

youth in foster care. We are pleased to report that 77% of our clients either graduated or were on track to graduate from high school in 2024; five of these clients will be attending college in the fall. Below are a few highlights from the third quarter of 2024.

In July, CLC assisted our summer student legal interns in obtaining certification as student attorneys and worked with them to co-represent CLC clients. Our interns also assisted with the development of our [2024 Legislative Update](#) and helped to create Practice Points on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Minnesota's Indian Family Prevention Act (MIFPA).

CLC staff continued participating in 19 standing external committees ranging from the Minnesota Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention to the MSBA Children and the Law Section. Our participation in these relevant committees provides opportunities for CLC staff to share expertise, collaborate with other experts who work with foster care children and youth, and help facilitate better policies to improve the lives of abused and neglected children and youth.

CLC held its 29th Annual Celebration of Champions Benefit in September. Thank you to everyone who helped make it an inspiring and successful evening. Over 180 people came to the Nicollet Island Pavilion to listen to our Special Guest, the Honorable Justice Alan Page, give us his perspective on child welfare and a humble reminder that when we make it to the top, we cannot forget to “send the elevator back down” to help others.

CLC's former client Taniya and her attorney, Kathleen, shared their inspiring story (see below) of hope and resilience. We also had the pleasure of honoring our Heroes for Children award winner, Sheri Riemers of Ain Dah Yung Center, for her profound impact on the well-being of Minnesota's children working for 30+ years helping American Indian children and families overcome historical trauma so these children can thrive. Additionally, we celebrated our Distinguished Service Award Winners: Rick Snyder, Megan Helstrom, Shantai Pai, and Thomas Wheeler from Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., for their work to successfully obtain a precedential appellate decision on behalf of CLC's client. This decision affirmed our position that statutory authority clearly limited a county's ability to hold a non-delinquent foster care youth in a secure detention facility for only 24 hours, after which they must be released to a relative or shelter care facility.

We are very grateful to our generous supporters, who believe in and support the important work we do at CLC. CLC reached 90% of our budgeted revenue by the end of the third quarter through the tremendous support of foundations, grants, [law firms, and corporate sponsors](#). Without your support, and the support of our almost 200 volunteer pro-bono attorneys, we could not offer free legal representation to hundreds of children and youth facing the foster care system each year.

We have much more to accomplish in the remaining quarter of 2024. The past few years have brought significant changes to the child protection system. CLC staff and volunteers will be working diligently through CLC's Committees and Work Groups to review the current state of the child welfare system and explore how CLC can be best positioned moving forward to fulfill our mission to prevent abuse of children and assist in the fair treatment of children in

judicial proceedings.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters for your continued commitment to CLC and the work we do to help vulnerable children in Minnesota!

Thank You 2024 Sponsors!

Thank you to Children's Law Center of Minnesota's 29th Anniversary sponsors. Your generosity makes a difference for over 500 youth in foster care.

Thank you!

Champion \$15,000+

 Association of Corporate Counsel
MINNESOTA

THE DORSEY & WHITNEY FOUNDATION

Fredrikson

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP

ROBINS / KAPLAN LLP

Justice \$10,000+ 

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STINSON **Taft/**

Advocate \$5,500+

3M
Ballard Spahr LLP
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Greenberg Traurig LLP
Merchant & Gould P.C.
Thomson Reuters

Benefactor \$2,500+

Bassford Remele
Ciresi Conlin, LLP
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Fox Rothchild LLP
FTI Consulting
Greene Espel PLLP
Hellmuth & Johnson
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Maslon LLP
Winthrop & Weinstine P.A.
Zelle LLP





Pictures from CLC's 2024 Benefit taken by photographer Craig Mullenbach.

[Mullenbach Photo LLC](#) - Corporate Events & Sports Photography

We're excited to announce that planning for next year's 30th Anniversary Benefit is already underway! If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you have a sponsorship referral, please reach out to Billy Soden, Development Director, at bsoden@clcmn.org. We've also introduced an exclusive new sponsorship opportunity: the **30 for 30 Gold** level!

2025 Sponsorship Levels

- 30 for 30 Gold \$30,000 +
- Champion \$15,000 +
- Justice \$10,000 +
- Humanitarian \$7,500 +
- Advocate \$5,500 +
- Benefactor \$2,500 +
- Guardian \$1,500 +



PRACTICE POINT

Sibling Separation: Reasonable Efforts and Best Practices in Foster Care

This practice point highlights the importance of sibling relationships for youth in foster care and examines the legal obligations of child-placing agencies to maintain sibling connections. Discussed are when and how siblings should be placed together, what constitutes "reasonable efforts," and exceptions to the requirements. It also offers practice tips for attorneys to advocate for sibling connections throughout foster care cases.

Read the full article by clicking [HERE](#).



"Taniya's Journey: A Story of Resilience and Hope" is a compelling video premiered at CLC's 29th Anniversary Celebration of Champions. Taniya is a former CLC client who shares her foster care journey, including how the help and guidance of CLC Volunteer Attorney, Kathleen Marron, made a positive impact on her life.

"She made me feel like I'm human again," said Taniya. "If it wasn't for her, I don't know where I would be at this point."

"I'm really proud of Taniya," reflected Marron. "She's evolved into this beautiful young woman who's now a great mom to her two kids."

To view the video, [CLICK HERE](#) or click on the image of Taniya above.



About Give to the Max Day

Give to the Max Day was created in 2009 to launch GiveMN, a collaborative venture led by Minnesota Community Foundation and many other organizations committed to helping make our state a better place. That initial spark touched off an outpouring of generosity — \$14 million in 24 hours. Since then, Give to the Max Day has become Minnesota's annual giving holiday, raising more than \$250 million in its first 13 years. Every year, thousands of organizations and individuals generate donations and excitement for Minnesota causes that are working to improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans. Give to the Max Day has become a national model for giving days.

"Give to the Max is a celebration of Minnesotan generosity and the impact it has in every community across our state," said Jake Blumberg, executive director of GiveMN. "Every year, we start at \$0 and are humbled by the power hundreds of thousands of gifts can have when our community gives together during Minnesota's giving holiday."

Why Give To CLC?

Talk to any of our CLC staff or volunteer attorneys and they will tell you about the types of cases they're involved in. They will tell you about foster youth who have experienced severe abuse and neglect, children who face unimaginable instability, often moving from home to home multiple times a year, and the emotional toll it takes on them. They will share stories of young people grappling with overwhelming mental health challenges, battling feelings of social isolation, and navigating a foster system that often leaves them feeling forgotten.

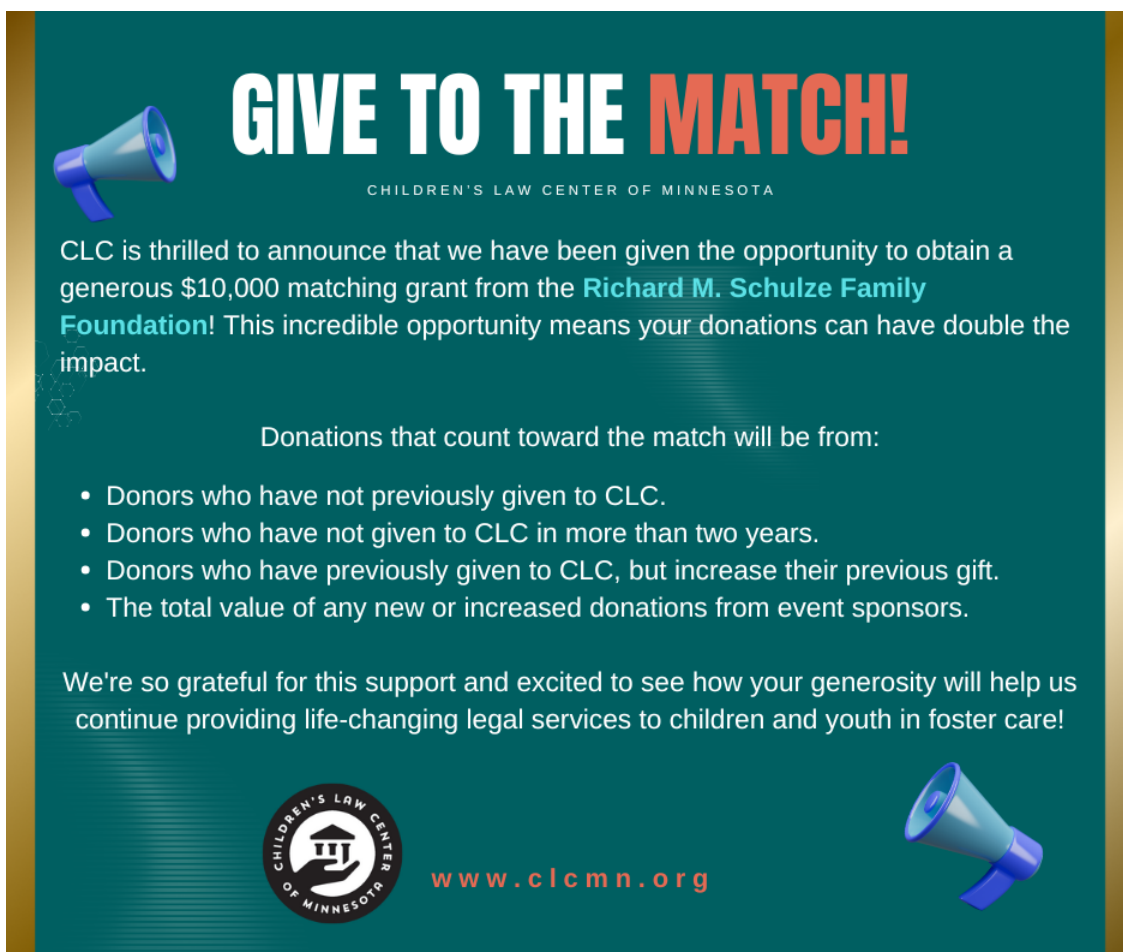
They will also tell you about the youth who struggle with addiction—both their own and that of their parents—while trying to maintain hope for a stable future. Many of these children face the stigma of being in foster care, which further isolates them from their peers and makes the road to healing that much harder.

Yet despite these difficult circumstances, there is hope. With the help of dedicated attorneys and volunteers, CLC is able to provide these children with a voice in court, a sense of stability, and the advocacy they need to access critical resources. Your donation on Give To The Max Day ensures that these vulnerable children receive the representation and support they so desperately need during the most challenging times of their lives.

How Does Your Gift To CLC Help?

This "Give To The Max Day," your donation to Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) can make a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of children in foster care. A gift of \$25 provides essential training materials to one volunteer attorney, while \$50 supports half a day of court representation for a child. With a \$100 donation, you help facilitate Social Worker introductions for one child. A contribution of \$250 ensures three months of legal representation, and \$500 expands training for our dedicated volunteers. A \$1,000 gift provides legal representation for a child for an entire year, helping them navigate the complexities of the child protection system and giving them a voice in critical decisions about their future. Every gift helps ensure that these vulnerable children receive the support and advocacy they deserve.

Beginning November 1, 2024, Give To The Max Day donations can be made [HERE](#).





GIVE TO THE MATCH!
CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

CLC is thrilled to announce that we have been given the opportunity to obtain a generous \$10,000 matching grant from the **Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation!** This incredible opportunity means your donations can have double the impact.

Donations that count toward the match will be from:

- Donors who have not previously given to CLC.
- Donors who have not given to CLC in more than two years.
- Donors who have previously given to CLC, but increase their previous gift.
- The total value of any new or increased donations from event sponsors.

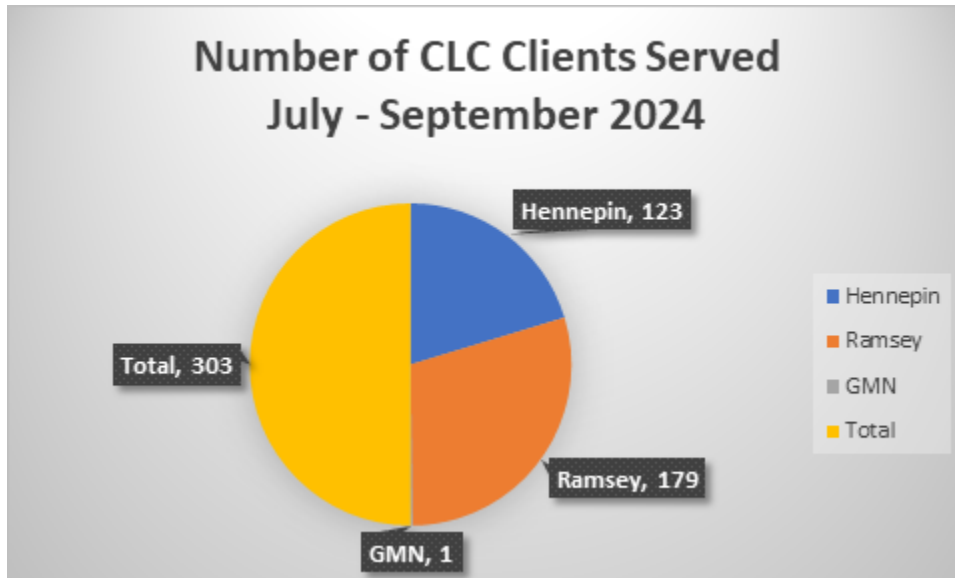
We're so grateful for this support and excited to see how your generosity will help us continue providing life-changing legal services to children and youth in foster care!

 www.clcmn.org 

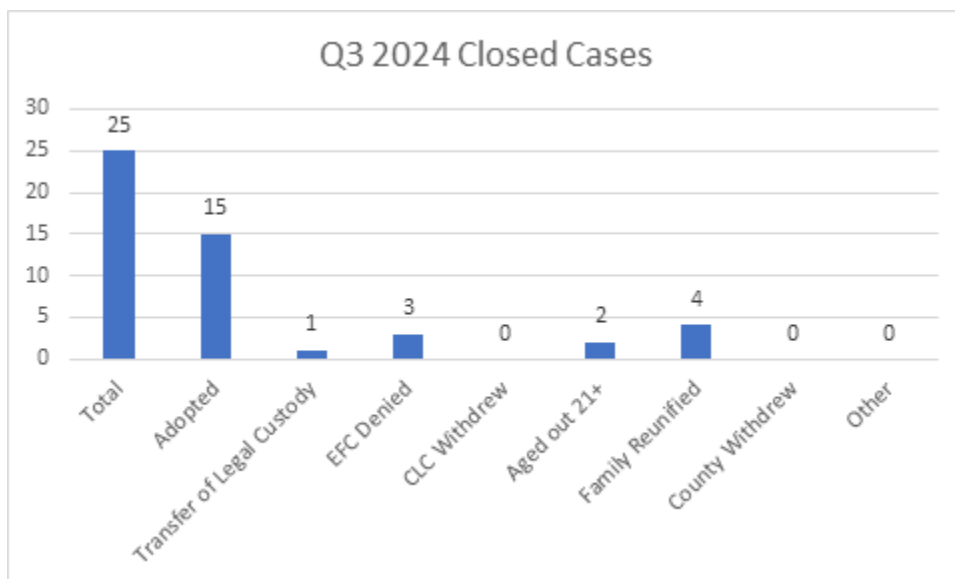
Children's Law Center of Minnesota By The Numbers

In the third quarter of 2024, CLC provided legal representation to 303 Minnesota youth in foster care (new and continued representation). Of these youth, 50.8% (154) are female, 49.2% (149) are male; 59.1% (179) of the cases are

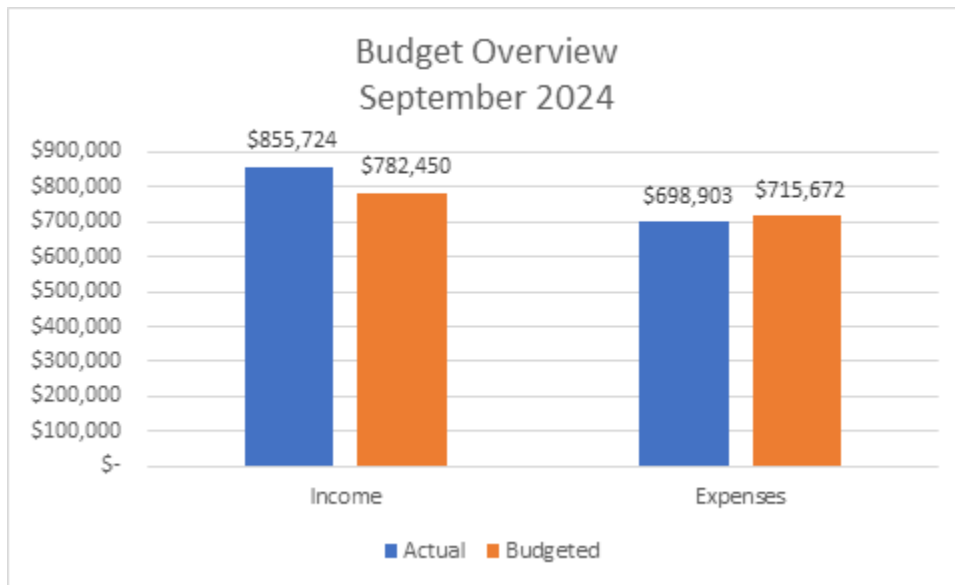
within Ramsey County, 40.6% (123) are in Hennepin County, and one case is currently open in Washington County (.3%).



CLC closed 25 client cases in Q3 2024 with the outcomes shown here.



CLC finished the third quarter in a good financial position, receiving 90% of our budgeted income for 2024. Total year-to-date income was higher than projected in CLC's 2024 Budget. Expenses in the third quarter were lower than budgeted.



Nancy Bordeaux, a Sicangu Lakota from Rosebud, South Dakota, was raised by her Lakota grandparents in her traditions and Lakota language. With over 23 years of dedicated service in the Twin Cities, she brings extensive expertise in Indian Child Welfare, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault. As a trained specialist in Historical Trauma, Nancy offers training on intervention and resilience strategies. A certified Focusing-Oriented Practitioner, she integrates a holistic approach in her work. Currently, she serves as a part-time ICWA and MIFPA trainer for the University of Minnesota Duluth Child Welfare Tribal Training and Certification Partnership.

Upcoming CLC Volunteer Lawyer Training Opportunities

Community DEI Training: 2.0 Hour Course to be held on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 11:00–1:00 PM (via Zoom - *Meeting ID will be provided after registration is confirmed)**. Nancy Bordeaux, an ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) and MIFPA (Minnesota

Indian Family Preservation Act) trainer for the University of Minnesota Duluth Child Welfare Tribal Training and Certification Partnership, will present a two-hour course covering historical and intergenerational trauma titled "**Trauma-Informed Care: A Native Cultural Perspective on Healing.**"

Course Description: *The goals of this training are to enhance the understanding of trauma in children and youth, provide an increased awareness of historical trauma, and provide a Native cultural perspective in healing. By demonstrating holistic healing practices and sharing cultural strategies, Nancy will briefly outline an approach to support healing. In conclusion, the training will share community-based resources to expand the network for staff.*

Please register [HERE](#).

CLE Lunch & Learn: 1.0 Hour Course to be held **Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. (via Zoom - *Meeting ID will be provided after registration is confirmed).** "**Reasonable/Active Efforts in Child Protection Matters**" by CLC's Managing Attorney, Anne Gueinzus, and Staff Attorney, Debra Kovats.

Course Description: This presentation will discuss the requirements of reasonable efforts in child protection cases and sibling placement. We will explain the difference between reasonable and active efforts, explain when reasonable efforts are required, as well as provide practice tips for attorneys to advocate on behalf of their clients.

Please Note:

- This training is provided at no cost to interested CLC volunteer attorneys. The cost is \$35 for inactive or licensed attorneys that have not completed the CLC training.
- Current volunteers may email your name, Minnesota bar license number, firm or organization, phone and email to info@clcmn.org indicating your interest in attending in lieu of completing this form.

Please register [HERE](#) by November 6, 2024.

Current volunteers may email your name, Minnesota bar license number, firm or organization, phone, and email to info@clcmn.org indicating your interest in attending in lieu of registering via the online form.

[Donate To CLC](#)

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