

2021 Community Report

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.



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

26 Years of Empowering Youth in Foster Care

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our priority is to give children and youth a voice in a system (child protection) that often talks about them without engaging them in decisions about their care.

HOW DO WE DO THE WORK?

CLC represents children and youth ages 10-21 in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. By mobilizing over 320 volunteer attorneys CLC provides legal representation to 800 children per year. We make sure these kids have a voice!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

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!

**PLEASE EXTEND A
WARM WELCOME TO
OUR NEW BOARD
MEMBERS:**

- **Jamie Kurtz, Robins
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- **Lisa Pritchard Bayley,
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- **Andrew Baese, Taft
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**A SPECIAL THANK TO
THE FOLLOWING
BOARD MEMBERS
WHO FINISHED THEIR
TERMS IN DECEMBER:**

- **Michelle Dawson**
- **Arianna Flowers**
- **Ann Gallagher**
- **Michelle Grant**
- **Dave Marshall**

**VIEW THE FULL LIST OF OUR BOARD
OF DIRECTORS HERE!**



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

26 Years of Empowering Youth in Foster Care

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

In 2021, CLC had **277** volunteer attorneys representing **117** law firms and corporations.

Thank you

Current
Volunteers



VOLUNTEER TRAININGS:

In 2021, CLC trained 5 new volunteer attorneys.

CLC facilitated two new trainings in 2021:

- Out-of-Home Placements in Minnesota's Foster Care System in April
- How to Effectively Communicate with Foster Care Youth in July

Both new trainings had over **20** attendees.



CLC recorded and was approved for CLE credits for CLC's on-demand volunteer attorney training.

View Upcoming Trainings [Here!](#)

LETTER FROM LILIA PANTELEEEVA

CLC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER
OF MINNESOTA**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lilia Panteleeva'.



**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER
OF MINNESOTA**

26 Years of Empowering Youth in Foster Care

CLC STAFF

Weida Allen

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Debra Kovats

Katie Mathurin

Adriana Mejia

Kathi Peterson

Lilia Panteleeva

Angela Shepherd

Elise Swenson

2021 Summer Intern Corner



*Linnea Coltvet
2021 Undergraduate Intern*

Despite COVID and its restrictions to regular office life, I felt that I truly played a role on CLC's team. The environment created by the employees and volunteers at CLC was so positive and engaging, yet always allowing room for efficiency throughout their work. In talking to my peers who also had internships summer 2021, I realize how fortunate I was to have been given a balance of clear direction from my supervisor and space to achieve my own tasks and goals. The skills I gained from CLC -- from printing and stuffing letters to approaching businesses and asking for donations -- will with no doubt benefit my future career and life in general. The work that CLC does daily for Minnesota's youth and children will forever be inspiring to me. I am so grateful for the time I worked with CLC, knowing that it will leave a long-lasting and positive impact on my life.



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

26 Years of Empowering Youth in Foster Care

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

Thank you for your generous commitment.

SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Flexible client visits: some clients met weekly (by ZOOM) with their attorneys, something that was not possible before the pandemic.
- ✓ Hennepin County Adoption Day Return: four CLC clients were officially adopted and there were several other adoptions hearings before the holidays. This was great news as it provided stability to the kids that most needed it.

Social Worker Corner:

CLC saw an encouraging number of high school graduates in 2021, especially considering the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic caused in the area of education. A number of clients also reported doing well with the transition back to in person learning during spring, and the flexibility of school learning modes has been a welcome change.

RAMSEY COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to CLC **advocacy**,
Ramsey County Juvenile
Justice partners are now
holding Zoom hearings for
re-entering Extended Foster
Care (EFC) youth.
This is **good** news!



Legal Advocacy:

CLC advocated to instate ZOOM hearings for 18-21-year-olds re-entering extended foster care. This was good news! Anne Gueinzus, CLC managing attorney shared, "It is important for all parties to put eyes on the youth when they are making decisions about the young person's future."

SUCCESS STORIES, CONTINUED!

Zoe's Adoption

Zoe's adoption and name change were recently made official. She had so many supporters at her adoption, including her teacher and all of her classmates! Her attorney said she had never seen so many people attend an adoption.

Grace's Success

As a result of her attorney's support, Grace is thriving in her placement. She is getting all A's and B's in high school and has plans to attend a school for beauty and wellness following her graduation!





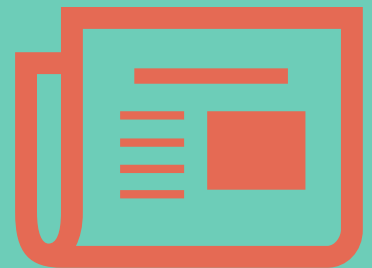
INFORM
NAVIGATE
EMPOWER

CURRENT CHALLENGES

CLC found remote legal work to be a much higher level of work in the context of the courtroom and the office. CLC fundraised for remote technology for staff this year, needing to purchase laptops, monitors, and docking stations to conduct most work from home.

Jennifer Thompson, CLC Volunteer and MSBA President encourages attorneys to serve the community through pro bono service, [here](#).

Minnesota Lawyer highlights need for volunteer attorneys for CLC clients, [here](#).



Impact of COVID-19 in 2021:

Overall, CLC had less access to kids in 2021. Social Workers were often kept from meeting kids in-person due to COVID, which is not the same.

Remote school had varying success rates for most kids. In recent conversations with new clients, many of them have said that they are excited to get to in person learning. Some have already returned to school and others are returning soon. They say “online learning was fine but I missed being with my friends”. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in cases as children return to in-person school, many of whom are children who are reentering child protection.



2021 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



INFORM
NAVIGATE
EMPOWER

...because every child deserves to have their voice heard.

277*
**Volunteer
Attorneys**

* *average case load is 2
children per volunteer!*

WHO WE REPRESENT

701 child clients

84% are youth of color

50% are CLC sibling groups

64% are youth with disabilities

10% are LGBTQ+

2021 Successes

92 adoptions

5 new volunteer
attorneys trained

261 closed cases (reunified
with family, transfer of
custody, adoption, or
aged out at 18 or 21)



In 2021, 75%
of CLC youth
graduated
High School!



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER
OF MINNESOTA



2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

State/County	\$272,343
Foundations	\$321,725
Corporations	\$81,324
Law Firms & Bar Foundations	\$153,125
Individuals	\$118,931
Other	\$16,915

Total Revenue & Gains

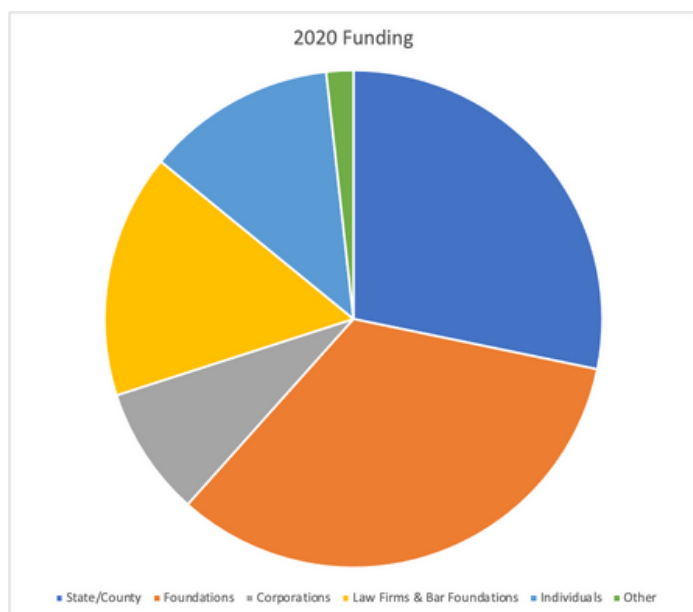
\$964,363

Expense

Staff Salary & Benefits	\$779,745
Insurance & Admin Fees	\$34,768
Rent & Utilities	\$52,170
Renovation Expense	\$40,099
Fundraising	\$19,836
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$8,480

Total Expense

\$935,098



Net Assets - January 1, 2020 **\$714,177**

Net Assets- December 31, 2020 **\$874,438**

CLC's 990





INDEED WE CAN

CLC'S INDEED BREWERY FRIENDRAISER EVENT 2021



CLC SUPPORT AT INDEED



Attendees entered the door prize drawing for six Indeed Pint glasses and a growler!



Many CLC supporters bought a CLC MUG for a suggested donation of \$20!

CLC had a great night celebrating our amazing community of volunteers, staff, and supporters. All proceeds from Indeed Brewery the evening of August 11th, 2021 were donated to CLC!!!

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA
WELCOMES YOU TO OUR

26th Anniversary Celebration of Champions Benefit and Awards



OCTOBER 7, 2021 | 7:00 PM | VIRTUAL EVENT

CLC's 26th Anniversary event celebrated twenty-six years of promoting the legal rights and well-being of children and youth. Susan Elizabeth Littlefield of WCCO emceed the evening with vibrant personality and passion for kids!

CONGRATULATIONS

2021 AWARDEES!

- Congratulations, Erin Bailey, on receiving the 2021 Heroes for Children Award!
- Congratulations, Jean Sanderson, on receiving the 2021 Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award!
- Congratulations, Merchant & Gould, on receiving the 2021 Distinguished Service Award!



INFORM
NAVIGATE
EMPOWER

Thank You 2021 Sponsors!

Thank you to Children's Law Center of Minnesota's 26th Anniversary Virtual Event sponsors. Your generosity makes a difference for 800 youth in foster care.

◆ 2021 CLC Benefit Awards ◆

Heroes for Children Award, Erin Bailey

Distinguished Service Award, Merchant & Gould P.C.

Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award, Jean Sanderson

Champion \$15,000+

Advocate \$5,500+

ROBINS  KAPLAN^{LLP}

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Zelle LLP

Humanitarian \$7,500+

Guardian \$1,200+

Taft/

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www.clcmn.org

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26 Years of Empowering Youth in Foster Care

**THANK YOU TO OUR 415 IN-KIND AND
FINANCIAL DONORS. THIS WORK IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY YOUR SUPPORT.**

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Thank You





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Trader Joe's
Trylon
Mary Walker
Wheel Fun Rentals
Tom Whisenand
Kelly Gates Willettee

THANK YOU!

Gratitude Corner



Anna Ra was the owner of a tailor shop in Minneapolis for over 20 years. Anna's customer's brought the fabric to her from their travels throughout the world and in turn, she made a pillow that was displayed in her shop.



"Anna Ra is thrilled the pillows are going to Children's Law Center and will be a comfort to the people you serve. I was touched by your mission and the work you do for all the young adults you help. I appreciate your taking Anna's pillow collection!"

- Catherine and Allen Krug

Your support makes a difference!



Simone was out of their home for a couple of months, with no contact with any of their family members. After advocacy from CLC based on Simone's wishes, the agency is now setting up regular visits with a grandparent. Simone is very excited to have a connection to their family while they are placed in a non-relative foster home!

Want to get involved with CLC?

- ✓ Become a Champion Monthly Donor at www.clcmn.org
- ✓ Donate items through our Amazon client need list
- ✓ 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

**Save
THE
Date**

**27th ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF CHAMPIONS BENEFIT &
AWARDS**

Nicollet Island Pavilion

OCTOBER 13, 2022

5:30 - 8:30 PM