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CLC Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025

[Inside This Issue](#)

Letter From Leadership - Susan Dioury, Attorney & CLC Executive Director

Thank you, 2025 Benefit Sponsors!

2025 Benefit Photos

Announcing 2026 CLC Benefit

CLC Legal Library

Give To The Max Day 2025

Children's Law Center of Minnesota By The Numbers

Volunteer Recognition & Community Resource Fair

Neurodiversity for Legal Professionals

Donate Your Vehicle To CLC

Free On-Demand CLE: Permanency Options For Youth In Foster Care

Lunch n' Learn: Active & Reasonable Efforts

Letter From Leadership

Susan Dioury, Attorney & CLC Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Benefits & Awards event, and thanks to your generosity and commitment, it was a resounding success. The event not only honored three decades of legal advocacy for foster children and youth but also strengthened the foundation for our continued work in the years ahead.

In 2025, we have focused on enhancing ways CLC can use our 30 years of networking and resources to ensure all MN foster children and youth ages ten and older are receiving the quality legal representation they deserve and maintaining thought leadership in the foster care community. If you haven't done so already, we invite you to visit our updated [website](#) to access relevant legal materials and continuing legal education courses in our [Legal Library](#). For the children and youth we represent, we have also updated our [Know Your Rights](#) materials and [Resources](#) page for quick and easy access to critical information needed to navigate the foster care system.

CLC represented over 350 children and youth in foster care thus far in 2025. Each child's story is a reminder of why our work matters and why your partnership makes such a difference. We could not provide advocacy, stability, and hope to these children and youth without the tremendous support of our volunteer attorneys. To celebrate your pro bono efforts, CLC will be holding a [Volunteer Recognition and Resource Fair](#) in October, and we invite you to join us to celebrate your volunteer work, connect with local experts, and obtain resources that support the youth we serve. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for standing with us for 30 years! Your support ensures that foster children in our community are not alone in their journey and that our organization can continue to thrive for decades to come.

With gratitude,

Susan Dioury, Attorney

Executive Director

Champion, \$15,000+**FredriksonDORSEY**ACC
Association of
Corporate Counsel
MINNESOTA

GIBSON DUNN

Crowell

UnitedHealth Group

Justice, \$10,000+NEAL
GERBER
EISENBERG**STINSON**

GT

GreenbergTraurig

**JONES
DAY****Humanitarian, \$7,500+**troutman
pepper locke**Taft/**

*Thank you for joining
us on this evening of
awards, hope, and
fundraising to make a
difference for youth
in foster care.*

**30 years of empowering
youth in foster care**

Advocate, \$5,500+Greene Espel
Fox Rothschild
Merchant & Gould P.C.
Ballard Spahr LLP**Benefactor, \$2,500+**Ellingson & Ellingson, Ltd.
Veritext
Maslon
3M
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
U.S. Bank
Moss & Barnett
Lathrop GPM Foundation**Guardian, \$1,500+**Shumaker
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP
Kitzer Rochel, PLLP
Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Figari Davenport
Nelson Mullins**Friend, \$500+**

Beacon Hill Legal

A Record-Breaking Celebration of Champions!

Children's Law Center of Minnesota's 30th Anniversary Celebration of Champions Benefit & Awards raised a record-breaking **\$234,000** to support legal advocacy for youth in foster care! We're still collecting an additional **\$49,725** in committed sponsorships and Fund-A-Need donations, putting us well on track for an incredible milestone year.

Our **silent auction** raised **\$4,637** and the **live auction** brought in **\$12,350**, thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our supporters. From our sponsors and volunteers to every guest who attended, thank you for helping us make this event a night to remember and for standing with CLC in giving children a voice and hope for a brighter future.





Pictures from CLC's 2025 Benefit taken by photographer Craig Mullenbach.
[Mullenbach Photo LLC](#) - Corporate Events & Sports Photography



Celebrate 31 Years with Us!

Planning is already underway for the **Children's Law Center of Minnesota's 31st Anniversary Benefit!** We're looking forward to another unforgettable evening celebrating our mission and raising critical support for children and youth in foster care.

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you'd like to share a sponsorship referral, please contact Billy Soden, Development Director, at bsoden@clcmn.org.

2026 Sponsorship Levels

- Champion \$15,000+

- Advocate \$5,500+
- Benefactor \$2,500+
- Guardian \$1,500+

Join us in making our 31st year of advocacy the most impactful yet!



Explore CLC's Legal Library

The Children's Law Center of Minnesota is proud to offer a password-protected **Legal Library** designed for our volunteer attorneys and other child protection professionals. This online resource provides access to CLE courses, Practice Points, and other valuable tools to support your advocacy for youth in foster care.

If you haven't used it yet, we encourage you to explore the library and take advantage of the training and guidance it offers. To request the password, simply email us at info@clcmn.org, then visit [Children's Law Center of Minnesota Legal Library - Children's Law Center of Minnesota](#).

Your commitment, combined with these resources, helps ensure that every child we represent has a strong and informed advocate by their side.



About Give to the Max Day

Give to the Max Day began in 2009 to launch GiveMN, a collaborative venture led by Minnesota Community Foundation and other partners committed to strengthening our state. That first spark inspired an outpouring of generosity—\$14 million in just 24 hours. Since then, Give to the Max has become Minnesota’s annual giving holiday, raising more than \$250 million in its first 13 years. Each year, thousands of organizations and individuals generate donations and excitement for causes that improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

“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?

Every day, hundreds of children in Minnesota’s foster care system face instability, moving from home to home and struggling with trauma, neglect, and feelings of abandonment. Many of these youth grapple with overwhelming challenges—such as mental health struggles, social isolation, or the stigma of being in foster care—while navigating a complex legal system that often overlooks their voices.

It is urgently important to address this challenge because no child should feel invisible in decisions about their own life. Without legal advocacy, foster youth risk being left without access to critical services, facing prolonged uncertainty about where they will live, or being separated from supportive family connections. With representation and support, however, children are far more likely to experience stability, emotional well-being, and hope for the future.

How CLC Meets This Need

That’s where Children’s Law Center of Minnesota comes in. Our staff attorneys and more than 200 trained volunteer attorneys provide free legal representation to youth ages 10–21 in foster care. We amplify their voices in court, fight for their rights, and connect them with resources they need to succeed. With CLC by their side, young people gain not only a legal advocate but also a sense of belonging and stability during an uncertain time.

What We Need & How You Can Help

To continue meeting the rising demand for our services, CLC depends on community support. Your donations on Give to the Max Day directly fund training for volunteer attorneys, court representation for children, and critical support services that help foster youth thrive.

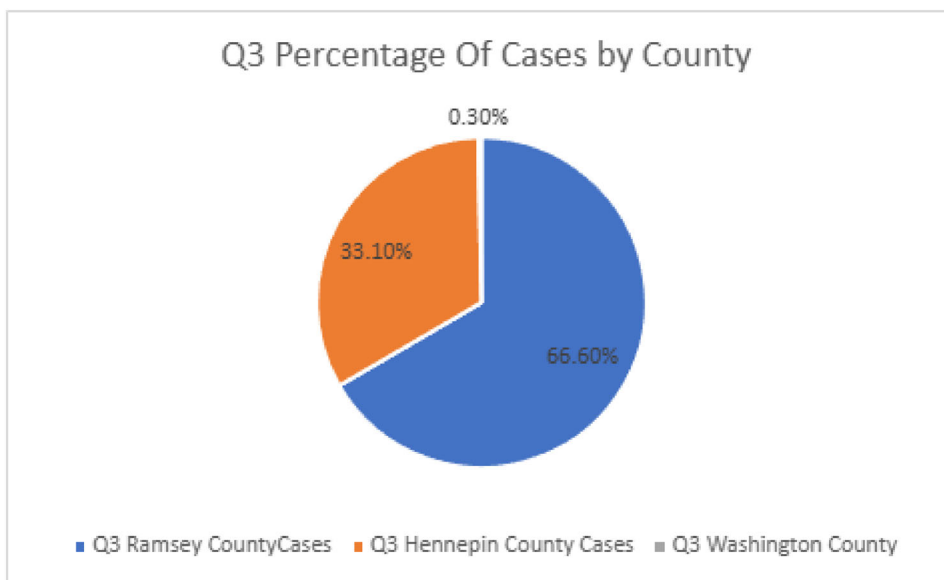
- \$25 helps provide training materials for a volunteer attorney
- \$50 helps covers half a day of court representation

- \$100 helps facilitate critical introductions for a child
- \$250 can provide months of legal representation for a child
- \$500 can help expand training for dedicated volunteers
- \$1,000 can provide a year of legal representation for a child

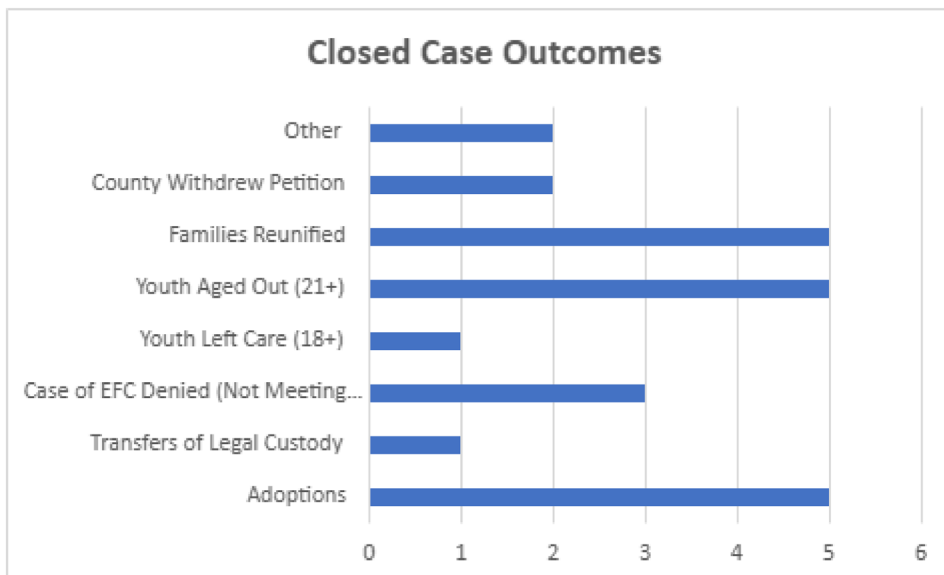
Beginning November 1, 2025, Give To The Max Day donations can be made [HERE](#).

Children's Law Center of Minnesota By The Numbers

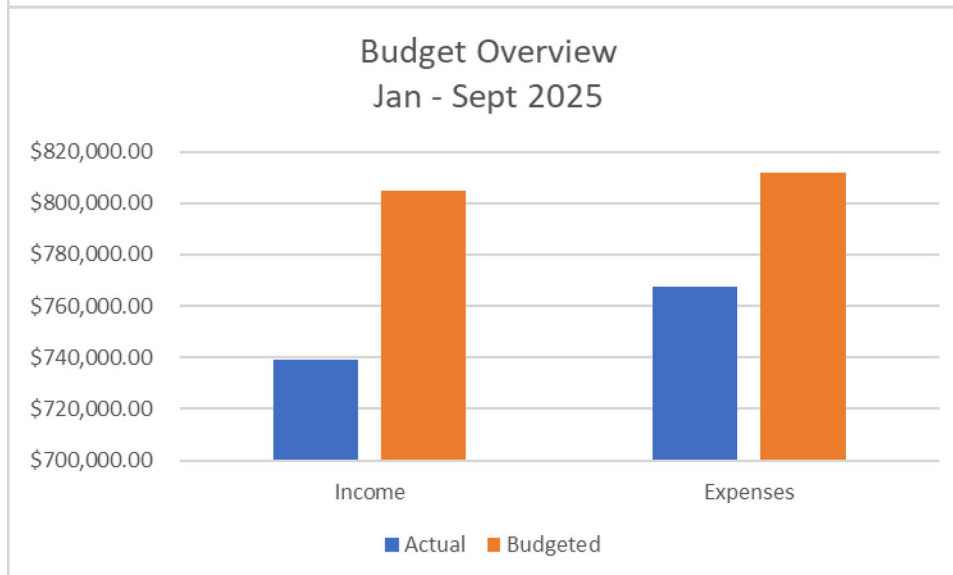
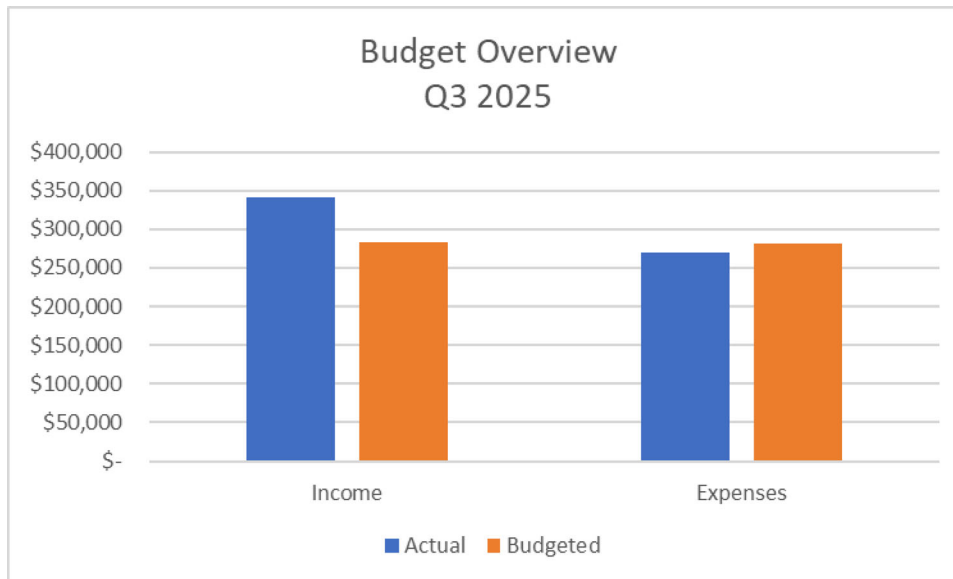
Between July and September 2025 CLC provided legal representation to 311 Minnesota youth in foster care (new and continued representation). Of these youth, 49.8% (155) are female, 50.2% (156) are male; 66.6% (207) of the cases are within Ramsey County, 33.1% (103) are in Hennepin County, and one case is currently open in Washington County (.3%).



CLC closed 25 client cases in Q3 2025 with the outcomes shown here.



The third quarter brought in more revenue than budgeted, providing some financial relief to a tight budget in 2025. Total year-to-date income was lower than projected in CLC's 2025 budget. CLC continues to look for ways to lower expenses and create efficiencies where we can.





Volunteer Recognition & Community Resource Fair

We are excited to invite you to a special event honoring the incredible dedication of our volunteers. The Children's Law Center's upcoming Community Resource Fair is not only a chance to celebrate your invaluable contributions, but also an opportunity to connect with local experts and resources that support the youth we serve.

In addition to recognizing our volunteers, the fair will feature panelists from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and Face to Face. They will share insights into a variety of community resources designed to strengthen support systems for young people. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with experts, ask questions, and learn how these services can enhance the lives of the youth you represent.

Event Details:

Date: October 30, 2025

Time: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Community Action Building

Paul and Sheila Wellstone Conference Room

450 North Syndicate Street

Saint Paul, MN 55024

We look forward to celebrating with you and hope to see you there!

To register, click here: [Volunteer Recognition & Community Resource Fair - Children's Law Center of Minnesota](#)



Neurodiversity for Legal Professionals

Join Us for a CLE Event

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM

We are excited to welcome **Sierra Grandy** as our distinguished speaker. Sierra is an attorney, advocate, and congressional candidate for Minnesota's 6th District, as well as the visionary founder of **Questify Your Life LLC**. Her work is driven by a deep passion for neurodiversity, disability, and mental health, and her presentations are enriched by lived experience, research, and education.

This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights and strengthen your legal expertise. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this inspiring session.

Learn more about Sierra at sierragrandy.com.

To register, please email ehillebrand@clcmn.org to receive a password to access CLC's Legal Library. Once you have the password, you can register here: [Live Continuing Legal Education \(CLE\) - Children's Law Center of Minnesota](#)

**CARVE OUT SPACE
IN YOUR GARAGE.**



**DONATE
YOUR VEHICLE!**

Turn your vehicle into support for
Children's Law Center of Minnesota!
Donate your car, truck, van, RV,
motorcycle, or boat to support CLC! Your
vehicle donation supports our mission to
promote and protect the legal rights and
well-being of children and youth through
legal advocacy, educational outreach, and
policy reform.

To learn more: 855-500-RIDE (7433)



Free On-Demand Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Permanency Options For Youth In Foster Care

This presentation will discuss permanency in child protection matters, why concurrent permanency planning is required during the CHIPS stage, a summary of the child protection and permanency timelines, permanency petition requirements and permanency options, practice tips for preparing for trial and permanency planning with clients, and addressing sibling separation motions.

You can find this course and other free on-demand courses here: [Free On-Demand Continuing Legal Education \(CLE\) - Children's Law Center of Minnesota](#)

To request the password to our Legal Library, please email your request to info@clcmn.org.

Lunch n' Learn Active & Reasonable Efforts

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

Date: 11.13.2025

Time: 12pm-1pm

Format: Live & OnDemand

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Anne Guieinzius & Debra Kovats

CLE Credit: 1 CLE Credit (will be applied for)

Registration: [Live Continuing Legal Education \(CLE\) - Children's Law Center of Minnesota](#)

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