



Kids' Voice of Indiana

Advocate. Educate. Protect.



2021

Annual Report



Advocate.



Educate.



Protect.

OUR MISSION

Kids' Voice of Indiana protects abused and neglected children by providing child advocacy, legal education, and family visitation through three programs.

KIDS' VOICE HISTORY



Letter from Our **PRESIDENT & CEO**



And while growth is exciting, it also means that we served more and more abused, neglected and at-risk children than ever before.

Each time I sit down to write a letter for our annual report, I do so with tremendous pride and gratitude. In each report, we get to share about the amazing hard work of our team, the lasting impact for those we serve, as well as thank those that supported us along the way. I write to you this time with even more pride and gratitude than I could ever express.

Throughout this year, we added a new program, grew our team by 70+ people, began serving thousands more children and families and continued work in our well-established programs. Throughout this growth, our mission remained steadfast – to advocate, educate and protect children and families in Indiana. And, while growth is exciting, it also means that we served more and more abused, neglected and at-risk children than ever before. Plus, this year we continued to operate within a pandemic. Our devoted supporters understood this and showed up in so many ways from attending events, making donations, collecting toys for the holiday drive and volunteering to serve as the voice of a child.

I want to give special thanks to Bruce and Christine Arians and the Arians Family Foundation for their many years of support and dedication to Kids' Voice, the children we serve and thousands of children all over the country.

Each of you are a critical piece that makes Kids' Voice the amazing organization that it is, so...thank you. Thank you beyond measure. As we reflect on this momentous year, we cannot wait to see what the next year brings and hope you come along with us!

With all my gratitude,


LINDSAY SCOTT

President | CEO

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In May 2021 when Kids' Voice was selected to provide advocacy services for children in the child welfare system in Marion County, our organization changed forever. Although it was our reputation that provided this opportunity, our actions allow us to maintain and grow the trust of the children and the city we support.

Here are a handful of the Kids' Voice's recent highlights:

- KV staff grew by 5x and the number of children we serve grew by 10x.
- KV signed a multi-year contract with the City of Indianapolis and became the GAL/CASA program for all of Marion County, significantly increasing our reach and impact in kid's lives.
- KV signed a contract to expand our office space.
- We began a new strategic planning process involving 100% of staff and board of directors, many volunteers, and other constituents with implementation slated for 2022.
- KV successfully and safely held several events during a pandemic, including a TopGolf outing that helped our supporters learn about KV's expansion, and a Holiday Gift drive that helped close to 500 children enjoy the holidays.

All this success happened because of our dedicated team that is focused and aligned to a mission and cause. Each member of this agency makes Kids' Voice into an organization that is trusted, and one that strives every day to make a positive impact for the youth in the community. I appreciate each and every one of you for the amazing support you give to the children and families we serve!

I would be remiss if I didn't add that despite these recent successes, we need your support now more than ever before! Our growth means there are more children that need our services. Please consider donating, volunteering or attending one of our events this year because it really does take a village!


JON DESALVO
Board Chair

Letter from Our **BOARD PRESIDENT**



I am so proud to be a part of this amazing team, and I can't wait to see what we are capable of with the strategies and framework we put in place over the last year.

ADVOCATE

GAL/CASA Program

Since 1993, the Kids' Voice Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program has provided a voice for abused, neglected, and severely at-risk children in Marion County family court cases with a mission of preventing further abuse and neglect. As of May 1, 2021, the program became known as the GAL/CASA program when Kids' Voice was selected to also serve as the voice for children in Marion County juvenile court cases.

The addition of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) serves children who have been designated by the Department of Child Services as Children in Need of Services (CHINS) due to abuse and/or neglect.



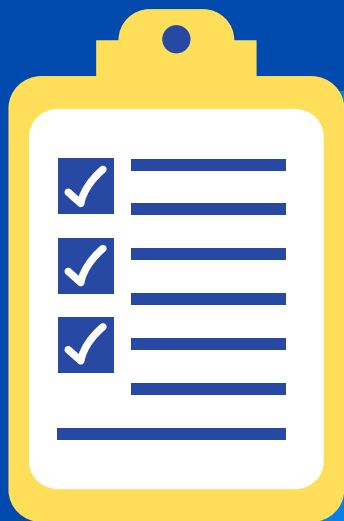
By the close of 2021, the Kids' Voice GAL/CASA Program had served 5,333 children, a tenfold increase over 2020.*

**787
GAL/CASA
volunteers
invested 6,112
hours in our
kids and cases
in 2021. ***

*CASA volunteers and hours are calculated 5/1/21 - 12/31/21, the period Kids' Voice was responsible for the program.

Volunteers are essential to the work we do to provide a voice for vulnerable children, providing a comprehensive view of the child's situation for the judge to consider when determining what is best for a child.

GAL/CASA volunteers come from all walks of life – while some have a background in law, particularly those who serve in the GAL program, the majority of our volunteers do not. Prospective volunteers go through a comprehensive application and training process.



OUR GOAL:

Provide a GAL/CASA volunteer for each of the over 5,000 abused, neglected, and severely endangered children Kids' Voice serves each year.

NEW
VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES

50

*new GAL/CASA
Volunteers trained, sworn
and assigned to a child or
sibling group in 2021.*



VISIT US AT

[www.kidsvoicein.org/
get-involved](http://www.kidsvoicein.org/get-involved)

to volunteer, donate
or sign up for our
monthly news

USE YOUR VOICE FOR A CHILD WHO NEEDS ONE

Kids' Voice is always in need of more Volunteers to serve as advocates for vulnerable children, and we provide ongoing informational sessions about volunteer opportunities for interested community members and hold volunteer training sessions throughout the year.



CASA/GAL Program:

EDUCATIONAL LIAISONS

Each Kids' Voice GAL/CASA team now includes an Educational Liaison (EL) to support the academic success of the children we serve. Our ELs are an incredible resource. They work with children to provide individualized support in ways such as facilitating an open line of communication between caregivers and school staff, monitoring educational data, and attending students' educational meetings. Because many children in the GAL/CASA program have experienced trauma and/or have lived in chaotic circumstances,



they are likely to experience fear, depression and other emotional issues that make it difficult to focus, thus leading to potential educational challenges. Therefore, ELs also consider the social-emotional learning and health when working with each child.

20%

of the children in the program were ages 6-10 years, 18% were ages 11-14 years, and nearly 50% were ages 15-19 years.

In 2021, the EL Program was staffed by six staff ELs and four volunteer ELs and served 728 students at Indianapolis-area schools from kindergarten through high school.

OUR IMPACT:

During the pandemic one of our ELs began working with a junior in high school who had faced trauma and adversity throughout her childhood and had not yet been able to complete any high school credits. After getting to know the student and her strengths and needs, the EL linked her with a mentoring program that specializes in educational credit recovery. The program also connected the student with a therapist to help address the trauma she had experienced. Remarkably, with the support of her EL and specialized services that met her unique needs, this student on the brink of dropping out of high school has changed the course of her life and is now set to complete all the credits needed to graduate.

OLDER YOUTH INITIATIVES

In 2021, Kids' Voice launched the Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) Program to meet the unique needs of children ages 16 and older who are aging out of the foster care system. All youth have many significant milestones to navigate as they approach adulthood such as learning to drive, getting a first job, graduating high school, and applying to college or trade school.

While most youth take these steps toward self-sufficiency with the support and guidance of their parents and family, those in the child welfare system typically do not have this benefit. The complex array of barriers that foster youth experience also result in the poorest educational outcomes among all their student peer groups, adding yet another potential roadblock to long-term success. The OYI program steps in to proactively support older foster youth in setting goals for the future and developing a clear plan for a smooth and successful transition to adulthood. Youth met regularly with their GAL/CASA volunteer to identify



their individualized needs and plan for post-secondary education or employment, stable housing, transportation, and healthcare, managing finances, and creating or maintaining a non-family support system.

In 2021, the OYI Program was staffed by a GAL who specializes in working with older youth as well as several GAL/CASA volunteers and served 70 youth ages 16 and older.

- 100% of eligible youth (44) graduated from high school
- 100% of youth implemented a Plan of Self-Sufficiency
- 86% of employable youth (55) were employed
- 100% of youth lived in stable housing

BRIAN ROBINSON

Director of Older Youth Initiatives



Older youth need an environment where they can make mistakes.

EDUCATE

Children's Law Center of Indiana

The Children's Law Center of Indiana (CLCI) is a private, non-governmental resource center for Indiana legal issues pertaining to children. We seek to improve the wellbeing of children by enhancing legal representation on behalf of children and by promoting multidisciplinary excellence in children's law. With over 30 years of experience, CLCI has a statewide reputation for providing a wealth of knowledge, a network of collaborations, and varied partnerships among Indiana's family law, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems.

CLCI serves Indiana attorneys, judges, and child service providers by providing education and training on juvenile and family law topics, legal assistance and resources, and best practice and policy recommendations. Our attorneys can answer questions from judges, lawyers, and child service professionals regarding case law, statutes, and specific issues. Information on family and juvenile law is also available through on-site training, as well as online resources and online training.

CLCI and the Parenting Coordination Clinic are supported by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Our online resources include case law updates, summaries of legislative updates, in depth papers and articles on areas of children's law, and forms for self-represented litigants. CLCI authors the CHINS and Family Law Deskbook, a resource relied upon for decades by local Department of Child Service offices, local CASA offices, and county courts across the state. CLCI does not provide direct legal representation for children or adults.

IN 2021

- 275 CHINS and Family Law Deskbooks were distributed
- 26 trainings and/or presentations were provided
- Approximately 700 individuals participated in trainings/presentations
- 2 CASA training series were held (each series included 7 sessions)
- 17 individuals graduated from the CASA training program
- CLCI produced 45 new/updated family law summaries

CLCI Program:

Parenting Coordination Clinic

The Parenting Coordination Clinic supports Indiana children, families, and courts by preventing or interrupting adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) caused by contentious co-parenting relationships. ACEs are defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as a wide range of factors that can contribute negatively to a child's lifelong physical and behavioral health. Factors that constitute an ACE can include child maltreatment, parental separation, and violence between parents. Extreme difficulties in co-parenting can lead to these factors.

Fortunately, CDC research indicates that reducing the incidence of ACEs by interrupting child maltreatment can result in better outcomes for children. The Parenting Coordination Clinic is one way Kids' Voice of Indiana promotes safety and stability for children living in high-conflict parenting families. By helping to dissolve the high-conflict tension or otherwise harmful environment in which children are living and shifting the focus to the children's well-being and best interests, the Parenting Coordination Clinic seeks to improve life-long health and well-being for the children we serve.



Families included 31 children and 44 adults

22 families were served

Families reside in 5 different Indiana counties

CLCI Program:

MOBILE LAW

Kids' Voice was honored to serve the community through our Mobile Law Program from 2018 through June 2021. For many years prior to the program's launch, Kids' Voice took calls from members of the public to answer questions about juvenile and family law and maintained a free educational website through our Children's Law Center.



The program ultimately provided legal support to more than 1,000 people

As the need for free legal information and resources continued to grow, we looked for a way to meet the public where they were, and so began the Mobile Law Program. The program ultimately provided legal support to more than 1,000 people. As Kids' Voice expanded in early 2021 to provide advocacy services for children in the child welfare system and as current funding was ending, we decided it was the right time to focus on our recent growth. Thus, the last Mobile Law Clinic was held on June 24, 2021.

The Mobile Law Clinic was made possible with generous funding from the Indianapolis Bar Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, and the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and we thank them for their support.

We recognize that the need for free and low-cost legal information/services is still present, and we continue to support and collaborate with our fellow nonprofit legal service providers. Individuals seeking legal information and assistance can utilize resources such as Kids' Voice of Indiana's Children Law Center of Indiana website, Indiana Legal Help, Indiana Legal Services, Indianapolis Legal Aid, Center for Victim and Human Rights, Indianapolis Bar Association, and Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic. Kids' Voice is also always available to provide training to partners' staff, volunteers, and clients on many topics.

PROTECT

Safe Child Parenting Program

Since 1997, Kids' Voice has been providing supervised visitation through the Safe Child Parenting Time (SCPT) Program. SCPT has become one of the premier abuse and neglect prevention programs in the state of Indiana, being only one of a handful of agencies that provides this much needed service. It is one of the most highly recommended programs by the courts around the state for custody cases and provides one of the safest and most secure visitation programs in Marion County.

Supervised visitation programs like SCPT take a preventative approach to breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma, ACEs, and violence by providing a safe and accessible space for children to build and maintain healthy relationships with their parents. The activities and opportunities that SCPT provides can strengthen the parent-child bond while avoiding unnecessary stress, complicated adult conflicts, safety issues, and reduce the sense of loss and abandonment that children often experience.



Kids' Voice is a member of the Supervised Visitation Network (svnworldwide.org), an international membership network that establishes standards, promotes education, and advances professionalism in the field of supervised visitation.

When a child and their non-custodial parent come to SCPT the visit takes place in one of our family-friendly visitation rooms. Visits are child-focused and parents are encouraged to plan activities for their visits. Each visitation room is fully equipped with toys, games, furniture, and electronic equipment for families to use. Trained professional supervisors ensure safety of the children while not being intrusive and are available for support, as needed.

SCPT served 52 children and 90 parents during 532 safe family visits.



Safe Child Parenting Program

IMPACT STORY

Kids' Voice received a court referral requiring Amber to have supervised parenting time with her six-year-old son, Eli. Amber had been absent from Eli's life for several years while she battled a drug addiction and was in and out of jail. Eli's father, Nate, was awarded custody when Amber was accused of neglecting Eli as a toddler.

When Eli's father Nate came to the office for his intake appointment, he once again stressed his many concerns, including his fear that Eli could be exposed to COVID-19. Because of the extensive training management has completed and our cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures, the program director was able to understand and address Nate's concerns. *We estimate that we have used approximately 50% more product during the pandemic to maintain the high standard of cleanliness that our families have come to expect. Parents like Nate recognize and value our commitment to provide a safe environment.*

Nate informed our agency that Eli has chronic asthma and suffers from severe separation anxiety since Eli's placement with father. Additionally, Eli was experiencing developmental delays and had

been working with a speech therapist for about six months, making significant progress. Nate had many concerns about Eli's wellbeing and was apprehensive about the potential disruption of reintroducing Amber into Eli's life and beginning visits.

As Nate was leaving his intake appointment, he commented, "I feel a whole lot better about this now. Thanks for your understanding."



Eli smiled
and said,

**"Hey,
I remember
you."**

Amber is excited about the opportunity to spend time with her son Eli and understands that the supervised setting is necessary until she can stabilize her life. For the time being, Amber has secured a low-paying, flexible job that allows her to take evening classes at a community college. Based on Amber's income, she qualifies for a reduced hourly rate for supervised parenting time.

Since 1997, Kids' Voice has been providing supervised visitation through the Safe Child Parenting Time (SCPT) Program



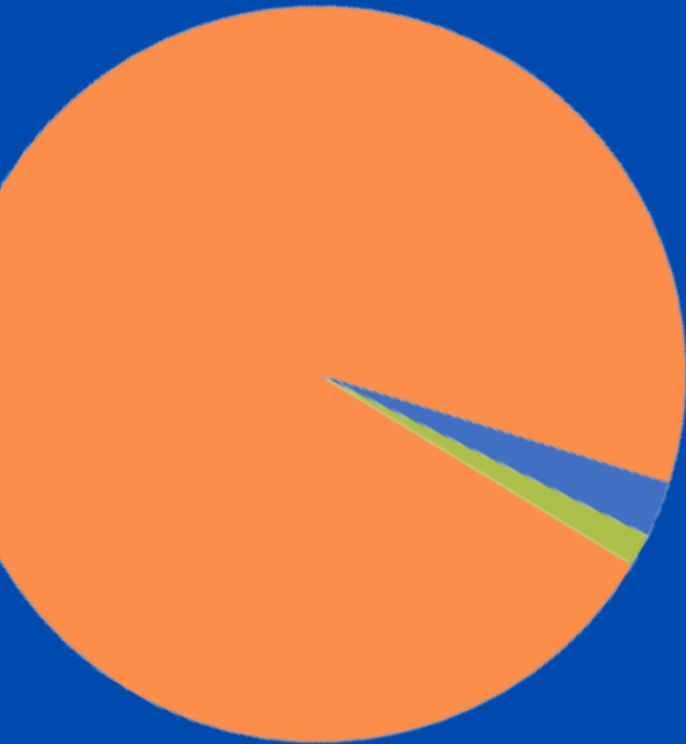
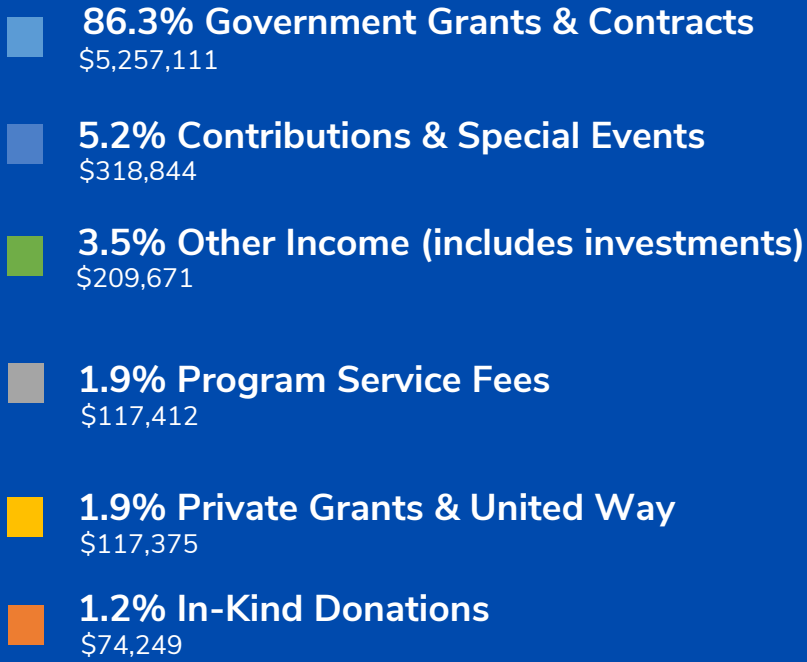
Like Amber, many families would be unable to afford these necessary services if we did not offer a reduced rate for families in need. Amber told us that she would do whatever she had to in order to spend time with Eli, but she was very appreciative of the discounted rate we were able to offer her.

When Eli entered the visitation room for his very first visit with his mom, he stopped and stared at Amber for several seconds. Amber's eyes welled up with tears. Eli smiled and said, "Hey, I remember you." The Safe Child Parenting Time Program provided trauma informed care in a safe place for Eli, Amber and Nate.

Who is the biggest winner in this family?
That would be Eli.

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Revenue



Total Expenses



2021 BY THE NUMBERS

\$174,436

The value of the 6,112 hours our Volunteer Advocates invested in kids in 2021*

*In 2020, the average value of one hour of volunteer time was determined to be \$28.54, by the Independent Sector/ Do Good Institute study.

Race & Ethnicity of Children Served



White (43.45%)

Black/African American (40.46%)

Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial (10.42%)

Other/ Not Specified (2.41%)

Hispanic/Latino (2.30%)

Asian/Asian American (0.96%)

Ages of Children Served

0-12 years old (73%)

13-17 years old (21.9%)

18+ years old (5.1%)



81%

REUNIFICATIONS

1,384 out of 1,700 CHINS* cases that closed reunited children with their primary caregiver.

*Child in Need of Services





\$10,000 OR ABOVE

Bruce and Christine Arians
The Arians Family
Foundation
Stephen Blaising
City of Indianapolis
Firefly Children and Family
Alliance
Indiana Criminal Justice
Institute
Kappa Alpha Theta
Foundation /
Gamma Chapter
Microsoft
Joni Saxon
George Sechrist / ALO
Property Group
United Way of Central
Indiana

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Brave Heart Foundation
Gerry Griffith
Robert and Derelle Watson-
Duvall

\$2,500 - \$4,999

FlexPAC
Kory M. Futa
Healthcare Initiatives, Inc.
Indianapolis Zoo
Jim Lines
James Richter
The National Bank of
Indianapolis

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Arcamed
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Fifth Generation, Inc.
First Internet Bank
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COMMUNITY!**

*It is with your help and generous
donations that we are able to
serve so many children.*

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Elizabeth Whitaker
Melissa Yanckello
Jean Younger-Brown
Adriana Zeljkovic
Gerald Zore

We also want to thank each of the **787 volunteer advocates** who worked diligently on behalf of our kids in 2021. Every conversation with a child, home visit conducted, email sent, phone call made and court report written help change a child's story.



Kids' Voice of Indiana

Advocate. Educate. Protect.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

GAL/CASA OF MARION COUNTY