



2022 Annual Report



Kids Voice
INDIANA



OUR MISSION

We amplify the voice of children and youth in the legal system to improve individual outcomes and inspire system wide advances.





Our Values

Integrity

Integrity

Our values guide our actions and are not just words.

Equity

Equity

Our organization is anti-racist and inclusive.

Compassion

Compassion

Our approach is grounded in respect and understanding.

Justice

Justice

Our programs break down barriers.

Impact

Impact

Our team brings about real and positive change.

GET
INVOLVED
WITH
KIDS' VOICE



Continuing the Momentum

Dear Friends,

2022 was another exciting year at Kids' Voice of Indiana! After experiencing tremendous growth in 2021, our 2022 initiatives focused on continuing that momentum in several strategic ways:

- We obtained additional office space to accommodate our recent growth. The space is a beautiful modern environment that promotes team collaboration.
- We updated our logo and refined our mission, vision and values. Our enhanced brand now reflects who Kids' Voice is as an agency. These branding efforts also launched a new marketing campaign designed to highlight our larger agency and recruit additional volunteers to advocate for the children we serve.
- We doubled down on building a culture of teamwork and support, even being awarded Employer of the Year by the Indiana Paralegal Association.
- We hosted our first ever Go Blue for Kids Gala during April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) raising \$90,000 to support the work we do for thousands of children in Indiana. We also hosted our annual Monday Night Madness Event sponsored by the Indianapolis Colts, with our new Colts partner and Tight End, # 87 Mo Alie-Cox, raising over \$100,000.
- We launched a special fund called The Giving Tree at River's Edge named in honor of Eddie Rivers. Eddie has been involved with Kids' Voice in various capacities for over 20 years; this is a fitting way to honor his dedication and legacy of service.
- We launched our Youth Impact Board to amplify the voice of current and former foster youth. These courageous individuals will use their collective voices to educate those unfamiliar with the challenges foster youth encounter, implore the various stakeholders to action and influence program improvements at Kids' Voice.
- Our board and staff also spent the year completing our new Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. This process included obtaining important feedback from staff, board, volunteers, clients and stakeholders and really examining how Kids' Voice can make the biggest impact in our community. We cannot wait to put the plan into action over the next three years!

In addition to these initiatives, Kids' Voice continued to provide essential services for 5,031 children in Indiana through our programs. It's clear none of this would be possible without our amazing donors, board, staff, volunteers and friends – you are the true amplifiers of youth voices. Words aren't enough to express our appreciation for your support. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With all my gratitude,



Lindsay Scott
President & CEO

Strategic Plan

OUR 2023–2025 PRIORITIES

MISSION IN ACTION

- Align Programs to Amplify Impact
- Well Prepared, Trauma-Informed Volunteers
- Expand SCPT Visit Room Capacity

- Enhance GAL/CASA Training Curriculum
- Sustainable GAL Program Fee Structure
- Caseload Targets to Ensure Quality Service

- CLCI Influencing Statewide Commissions and Committees
- Expand Reach of CLCI Deskbook
- Contributing to Equitable Outcomes

2023

2024

2025

CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE

- Diversity Representing Children/Youth Served
- Great Place to Work
- New Brand & Messaging

- Competent, Caring & Consistent Staff
- Equitable Policies, Procedures & Structures
- Growing Cash Reserve

- Family Preservation Supports
- Advocacy Partnerships
- Robust & Relevant Data System

Our vision is a child-centered legal system that protects children, contributes to their well-being, and promotes family preservation.

SCPT: Safe Child Parenting Time • GAL: Guardian ad Litem • CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates • CLCI: Children's Law Center of Indiana

Advocate.

GAL/CASA PROGRAM

The Guardian ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate (GAL/CASA) Program amplifies the voices of abused, neglected and vulnerable children who are in Marion County family court cases or have been designated by the Department of Child Services as Children in Need of Services (CHINS), with a mission of preventing further abuse and neglect.

GAL/CASA PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

4,883

children ages 0-22 served

623

GAL/CASA volunteers leveraged

7,121

volunteer hours invested
in our kids and cases

1,521

new children assigned to our
GAL/CASA program by the
Court in 2022

- ▶ 1198 CHINS
- ▶ 323 Custody GAL



GAL/CASA PROGRAM OLDER YOUTH INITIATIVES

The Kids' Voice Older Youth Initiatives Program meets the unique needs of youth ages 16 and older who are aging out of the foster care system. In 2022, three staff GALs and several volunteers provided intensive advocacy and support for youth on their path to self-sufficiency and fulfillment of their individual potential.

81

 youth ages 16-22 served
through the initiative.

- ✓ 100% of eligible youth (18) graduated from high school.
- ✓ 100% of youth implemented a Plan of Self-Sufficiency.
- ✓ 91% of employable youth (73) were employed.



We advocate for children and youth in the family court system.

GAL/CASA PROGRAM
EDUCATIONAL LIAISONS

Each Kids' Voice GAL/CASA team includes an Educational Liaison (EL) to support the academic success of the children we serve. ELs are an extremely valuable resource. They provide individualized support by facilitating open communication between caregivers and school staff, attending children's educational meetings, monitoring educational data and more, all while considering the social-emotional learning and health of each child. The EL Program was supported by ten staff ELs and eight volunteer ELs.

- Served 945 students at Indianapolis-area schools from kindergarten through high school, a 23% increase over last year.
- 60% of students participating in the EL Program demonstrated academic improvement.



In abuse and neglect cases, the Court's initial goal is to safely reunify the child with their parent(s) to preserve important family bonds. That is not possible in all cases. 2022 case outcomes included 68.5% Reunifications and 21% Adoptions.



IMPACT STORY

CASA Volunteer

Ava was placed in a foster home at birth because her mother was struggling with substance use disorder. A Kids' Voice CASA volunteer was assigned to serve as Ava's advocate, uniquely charged with focusing solely on the baby's best interests. The CASA visited Ava every 3-4 weeks to ensure her safety, in addition to attending all meetings and hearings related to the case. The CASA diligently documented her observations and provided quarterly reports to the Court making decisions about Ava's future. While Ava was in foster care, her mother completed a treatment program and remained consistently substance free. In time, all parties to the case – including the CASA – agreed it was best for Ava to be reunified with her mother. Today, Ava is thriving in her mother's care. We are proud of the role the CASA volunteer played in the success of this family.

Educate.

THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF INDIANA (CLCI)

The Children's Law Center of Indiana (CLCI) is an integral part of the child and family law system in Indiana. With over 35 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.

Attorneys on staff answer questions regarding case law, statutes, and specific issues for attorneys, judges, youth serving professionals, other CASA agencies and the like. We also conduct in-depth professional and educational training, and technical assistance. Our Parenting Coordination Clinic is also a part of CLCI.

- ✓ Presented at 21 conferences and trainings locally and nationally.
- ✓ Conducted training for nearly one thousand attorneys, judges and child and family service professionals across the state in the areas of GAL practice, custody and parenting time laws, ethics in juvenile and family law, adoption, guardianship, jurisdiction; as well as more specialized trainings, such as substantiations in juvenile law and transgender youth in juvenile law.
- ✓ Facilitated free virtual summer Law Camp for Kids.
- ✓ Provided attorneys for 13 cases for other CASA programs across the state.
- ✓ Authored or were featured in multiple articles in Indiana Lawyer.
- ✓ Provided 37 new case law summaries and papers on legal topics.
- ✓ Served on the Family Law Taskforce, which authors the Statewide GAL Guidelines.



THE CHILDREN'S LAW
CENTER OF INDIANA (CLCI)

THE PARENTING COORDINATION CLINIC (PCC)

The Parenting Coordination Clinic (PCC) offers modest means and pro bono services helping resolve parental conflicts out of court and reducing stress placed on children by contentious co-parenting relationships. By minimizing tension or otherwise harmful environment and shifting the focus to the children's well-being and best interests, the PCC seeks to improve life-long health and wellness outcomes for the children we serve. The PCC is growing and served more than 30 families in 2022, a 37% increase over last year.



We educate to prevent abuse
and inform best practice.

Protect.

OUR SAFE CHILD PARENTING TIME PROGRAM (SCPT)

Safe Child Parenting Time Program (SCPT) allows a child to safely visit with a parent and maintain a healthy relationship with their parents, while reducing the sense of loss and/or abandonment that children often experience. The top priority is the physical and emotional safety of the children we serve. We get to know the parents and children we are working with and strive to provide a family-friendly, safe, and universal environment for everyone who comes through our door.

Clover, our therapy dog, has been instrumental in facilitating some of those visits and is able to provide comfort and emotional support when families are experiencing nervousness, stress, or anxiety.



510 safe visits supervised for a total of 944 hours of visiting time.

- ✓ Provided service for 79 children and 53 families.
- ✓ Experienced rising demand for services and increased the number of children served by 34% and the number of adults served by 17%.
- ✓ Served youth from 11 Indiana counties.
- ✓ Delivered services in multiple languages including Spanish, ASL, and Punjabi.



We protect children and family relationships.



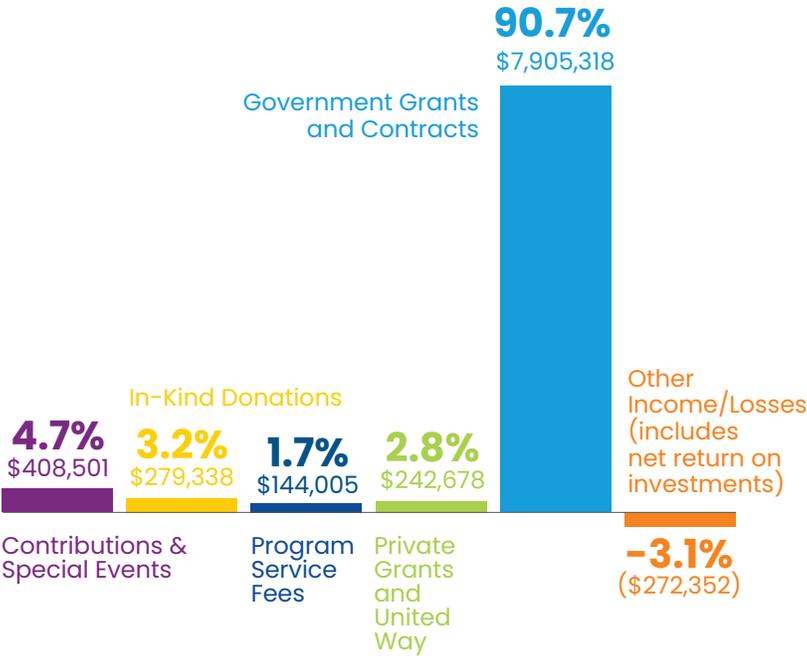
IMPACT STORY

Safe Child Parenting Time Program

Gabriel was two years old when he came to SCPT to start having safe, supervised parenting time with his father. Up until this time, Gabriel had a strong bond with his mother but had not yet had the opportunity to build a relationship with his dad. During the first few visits at SCPT, Gabriel was tentative about interacting with his dad and spent most of the time on the visit supervisor's lap or playing with toys on his own. However, over time, with the support of the visit supervisors and in the comfortable family room environment that SCPT provided, Gabriel and his father were able to establish a healthy, loving relationship. As their relationship blossomed, visits were extended from two hours to three and ultimately, they were able to start having unsupervised visits on their own. The family has expressed gratitude for being referred to SCPT, which played a pivotal role in enhancing Gabriel's overall well-being now and in the future.

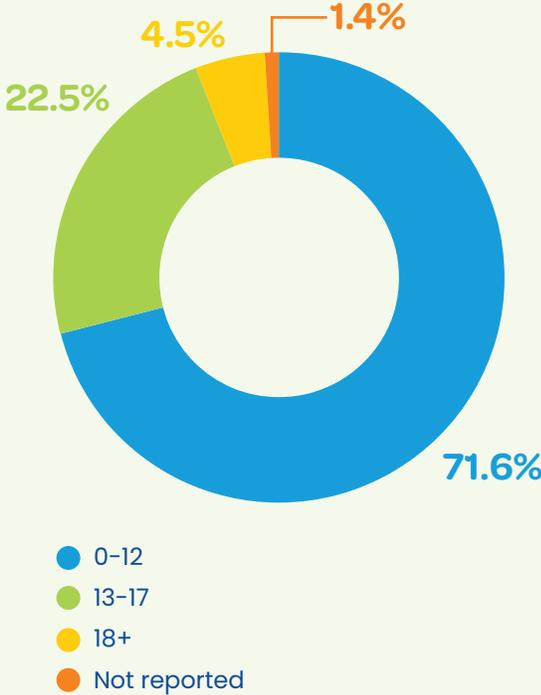
Financials

TOTAL REVENUE

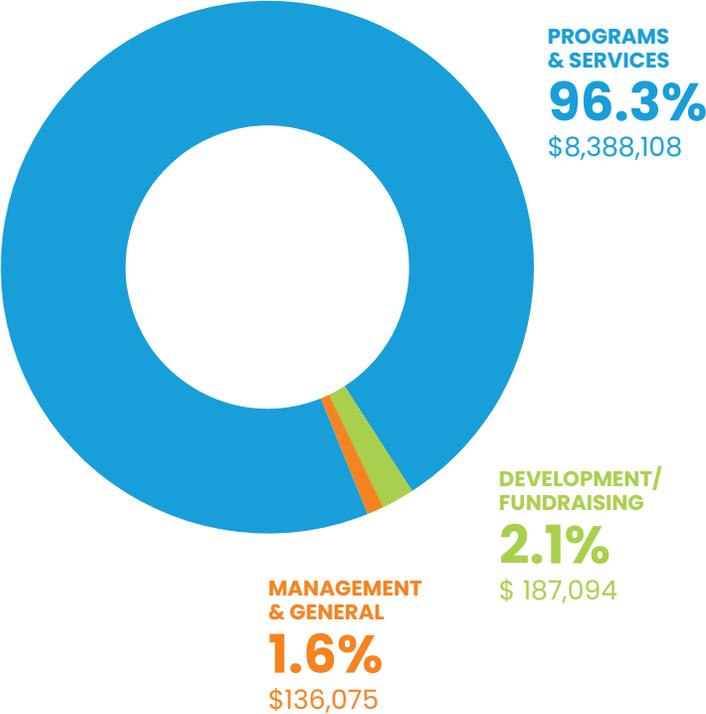


By the Numbers

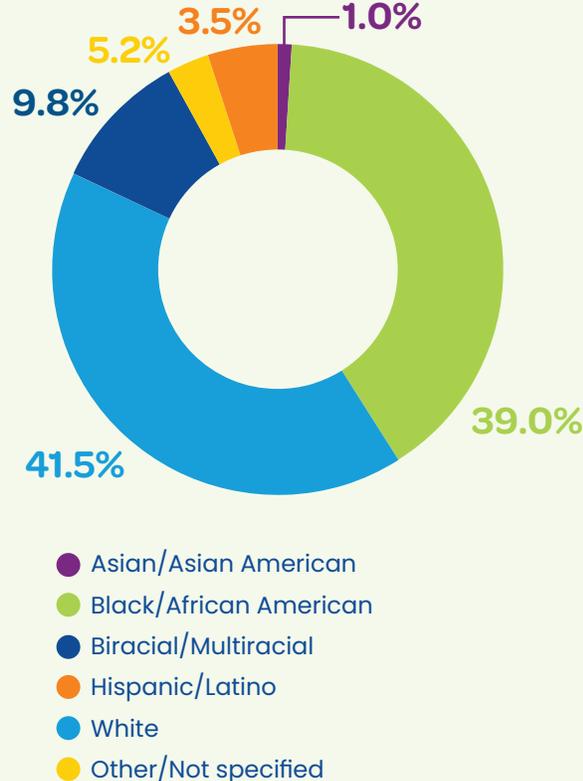
AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED (ALL 3 PROGRAMS)



TOTAL EXPENSES



RACE & ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN SERVED (ALL 3 PROGRAMS)



Board of Directors

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Delta Faucet Company

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Chief of Staff
to Dave Lindsey
DEFENDER Investments, LLC

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Chief Business Development
Officer
Raymond James

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Attorney/Owner
Huettner Law

LINDA D. CALVIN
Chief Impact Officer
Reboot Representation

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*Warren Township
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JESSICA ARMSTRONG
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*Armstrong Accounting
Solutions, Inc.*

NICK BREWERS
Business Integration
& Execution Lead
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Stoffel Law

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MICHELLE WALKER
Creative Bus Sales

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LAUREN RAVENELL
Eli Lilly and Co.

KYLA THOMAS
Jeff Links Law

SARAH ELSER
Legislative Services Agency

JANET THOMPSON
Hoover Hull Turner LLP

Amplifying Kids' Voices

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



"Being a CASA will give back more to you than you give to the program, I assure you!"



DENNIS
Kids' Voice Volunteer Advocate



Learn why Dennis is a CASA with Kids' Voice

"This work is super important."

STEVEN
Kids' Voice Volunteer Advocate



"The best way to change the world is to invest in the next generation."

MICHAELA
Kids' Voice Volunteer Advocate

\$226,448

(7,121 hours x \$31.80* = \$226,448)

Estimated value of our volunteer hours. Truly quantifying the immeasurable value of the time and effort freely given by our dedicated and compassionate volunteer advocates is an impossible task.

*The 2022 value of one hour of volunteer time is \$31.80, as determined by the Do Good Institute study.



“I’m often the longest-serving member on my cases and it’s important to me to be a consistent presence. The kids deserve to have passionate advocacy, especially as they may go through several placements. I also have gotten to be a part of reunifications, which to me, has made it all worth it. I’ve seen families grow into themselves, and really cherish the relationships I’ve gotten to form.”

MARGARET

Kids’ Voice Volunteer Advocate



**BECOME A
KIDS’ VOICE
VOLUNTEER**

Visit us at KidsVoiceIN.org/get-involved to learn more about becoming a Kids’ Voice GAL/CASA volunteer, to donate, or to sign up for our monthly news.



Youth Impact Board member sharing her lived experience in the foster system and how Kids’ Voice Director of Older Youth Initiatives, Brian Robinson, impacted her story.

IMPACT STORY

Youth Impact Board

In November 2021, Kids’ Voice established a Youth Impact Board (YIB) to amplify the voices of older foster youth and young adults who have aged out of foster care. YIB members meet monthly to connect with each other, connect with stakeholders who provide individualized leadership and professional development opportunities and to improve the advocacy efforts of Kids’ Voice by sharing lived experiences. In 2022, the YIB interviewed and accepted five members. Those members include:

- A senior in high school who has a full-ride scholarship to UIndy and has plans to study forensic psychology.
- A freshman at Indiana University studying dentistry who has also earned his pilot’s license.
- A junior in high school who has overcome significant trauma and is now thriving in his foster home and on the school track team.
- A senior in college who is graduating Indiana University with a BS in Nursing while working full time as a Certified Nursing Assistant.
- A recent graduate of Indiana Math & Science Academy who has launched a career as a licensed electrician.
- Members have attended community events including Monday Night Madness with the Indianapolis Colts and have spoken at events to amplify the impact Kids’ Voice has on foster youth and older youth aging out of foster care.

Donors & Sponsors

\$10,000 OR ABOVE

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Firefly Children and
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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M.D.
Rogers Family
Foundation
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Joseph Brinkman
Sherry Brooke
Jessica Brown
Yalonda Brown
Nathan Buell
Meg Burk
David Bybee
Café Patachou
Stephen Calderon

We sincerely thank those in our community who have supported our mission in so many ways. Every effort has been made by Kids' Voice to verify information for accuracy and completeness, however, the possibility of error always exists. We regret any errors in the spelling of names or omissions, and we request that you notify us with any corrections. Please contact Drew Dienhart, Director of Development, ddienhart@kidsvoicein.org, with any questions, concerns, or corrections.

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 Carrier
 Tracy Carrillo-Whitton
 Terri Carroll
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 Stephanie Chey-Sluss
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 Scott Wegeng
 Karen Wehman
 Donald Whitaker
 Jason Williams
 Lacy Wooten
 Mark Worthley
 Barbara Young
 Gerald Zore



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree at River's Edge was named in honor of Eddie Rivers. Eddie is a 20-year Kids' Voice supporter, having served as a volunteer, board member, and as our previous CEO. To honor his dedication and legacy of service, The Giving Tree at River's Edge was founded. Although children's basic needs are usually met by safety net resources, there are often times when needs related to their opportunity to thrive can fall through the cracks. That's where The Giving Tree comes in. Some needs we were able to meet in 2022 include purchasing:

- Laptop computers for 2 older youth heading to college.
- An iPod for a young boy living in a residential facility so he could use music to calm and soothe.
- A suit, tie, shoes, etc. for a high school boy to attend senior prom.
- A gift card for a special needs older youth so he could get his favorite food (sushi!) and a new Lego set.
- A hair appointment for a teenage girl before starting at a new school.



Contribute to The Giving Tree at River's Edge.



Kids Voice INDIANA

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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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F: 317.558.2945

KidsVoiceIN.org