



The bottom section of the page features a large orange star graphic on the left. To the right of the star is the text "childadvocates" in a dark blue, sans-serif font, with a small white star above the "i". Below this is the tagline "YOUR VOICE. THEIR FUTURE." in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there is a white rectangular box with a thin orange border containing the text "ANNUAL REPORT 2017" in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

NEGLECTFUL LOVE

I am from “I love you,”
“I hate you,”
“I miss you,”
But also from “forget you”

I am from missed friends
I am from Justice Renee
I am from DaJuan “Fatso”
I am from lates, and greats

I am from a 16 year old mother,
A careless father,
A forgetting grandma,
I am from neglectful love...

.....
Poem submission for our Evening with Child Advocates event.
See page 11 for more details.





Annual Report 2017

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Mission

Child Advocates engages community volunteers and staff members to protect children who are victims of child abuse. We are their voices in court, ensuring all children thrive in a safe and secure home.

Vision

Child Advocates strives to ensure that the children we represent and advocate for: (i) receive a safe, permanent home as soon as possible; and (ii) thrive in home, school, and life.

THE CHILD ADVOCATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS STARTED OUT 2017 ASKING OURSELVES SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

How can we have a greater impact on the children we serve? Are we prepared to handle the continued increase in the number of children needing our help? How is the opioid crisis in our community affecting the children we serve?

Over the last three years the number of children we served doubled. Many factors in our community have driven this significant increase including a substantial rise in substance abuse and addiction, unforeseen growth in domestic violence, and political changes.

We have no doubt Child Advocates is making an impact in our community, but with these changes the board realized we need more help from the community. In the next year, you will see a continued intentional focus on recruiting and training more volunteers. The board has also committed to strengthening our fundraising program in an effort to reach more individuals who, like us, care deeply about children. We have a special story to share, and we intend to make sure our community has the opportunity to invest in our mission and in the lives of children we have the opportunity to serve.

Our annual report shares stories of children struggling and provides data proving our mission is more important than ever. You will also see signs of hope and the good work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers and devoted employees.

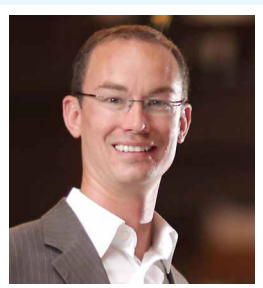
With your support we can advocate for more children and ensure we provide hope to every child in need.

With gratitude for all of you who support our mission,



Daniel Waninger, CPA
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Waninger".



Greg Gotwald, Esq.
Immediate Past President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Gotwald".



Cynthia K. Booth, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Booth".

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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11

In Marion County alone,
11 new children entered
the foster care system
EACH DAY in 2017.



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A story of hope

Melanie wanted to give back to her community and decided that the CASA volunteer program would be a good fit. “When I first signed up to be a CASA volunteer, I didn’t anticipate I’d be meeting these kids who handle their grueling situations with such strength and grace,” said Melanie. “I know I’ve made an impact in many of their lives, but the one child who touched my life the most is Jessica.”

“I met Jessica soon after she had been removed from her mother’s care. She was a guarded, withdrawn, and quiet 12 year old,” said Melanie. The police were looking for the mother’s boyfriend, a known violent sexual predator, when they found Jessica sharing that same home. The living conditions in the home were deplorable which resulted in Child Protective Services removing Jessica and placing her with her aunt. Unfortunately, stories like Jessica’s aren’t uncommon.

“For the first few months, Jessica didn’t share too much with me. It was clear she didn’t trust me despite my consistent visits and contact. I brought journals and art supplies to our visits as an alternative to conversation. I thought it may be easier for her to unleash her feelings through writing or artistic expression. I would text her and ask about her day. It took a while, but eventually she opened up,” Melanie said.

“It’s very empowering to watch a child leave a terrible situation and feel promise for her future.”

Like many parents, Jessica’s mother wanted them to live together, but Jessica didn’t feel that same way. It is the CASA volunteer’s job to understand the needs and wants of the child and to convey those needs to the judge. Melanie shared, “While the mother was completing all of her services needed to get her daughter back,



Melanie Martin, CASA Volunteer since January 2015

she remained with her boyfriend. In our visits, Jessica would talk about missing her pets, but not about missing her mother. I tried to help with that by bringing my own dogs on some visits.”

More than a year after the case was opened, Jessica continued doing well living with her aunt. She was enjoying her new school, doing great in therapy and was happy. These were all signs to Melanie that Jessica was in the right home. “It was at our permanency hearing that the mother, very surprisingly, gave up her parental rights. We asked that the aunt be granted guardianship. The Judge agreed and the case was closed with Jessica living in a safe and permanent home,” said Melanie.

Jessica’s story is similar to other children’s stories. However, not all children are as fortunate to find hope and a future in a permanent home with someone who loves them. “I’ve kept in touch with Jessica and her aunt. We have become friends who will go shopping or meet for lunch,” Melanie said. “It’s very empowering to watch a child leave a terrible situation and feel promise for her future.”

OUR VOLUNTEERS

700+

Total CASA volunteers

249

New CASA volunteers
recruited and trained in 2017

19,127

Total volunteer hours

6-8 hours

Monthly time commitment
per volunteer

Children with a Volunteer Advocate:*

- ✓ Do better in school
- ✓ Spend less time in long-term foster care
- ✓ Are less likely to re-enter the system

* Compared to their peers in the system with no Volunteer Advocate. Based on studies from the National CASA.

CASA = Court Appointed Special Advocate
CHINS = Child in Need of Services

93%

Of our volunteers report
feeling they make
a difference

30%

Child Advocates is one of 81
CASA Programs in Indiana,
yet represents 30 percent of
Indiana's CHINS cases.

DONORS AND SPONSORS

We extend our gratitude to all the donors who made a gift to Child Advocates in 2017.
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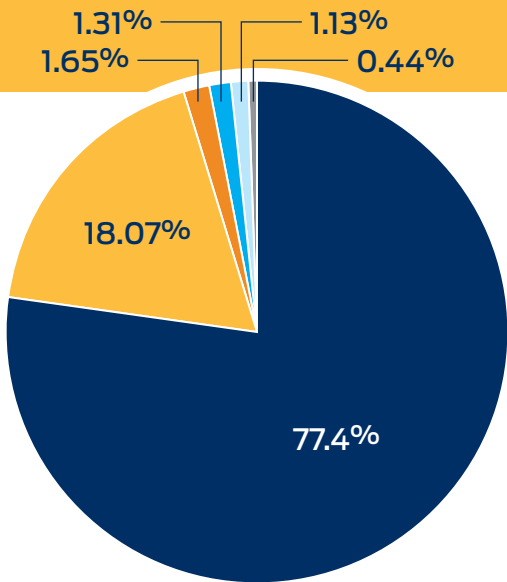
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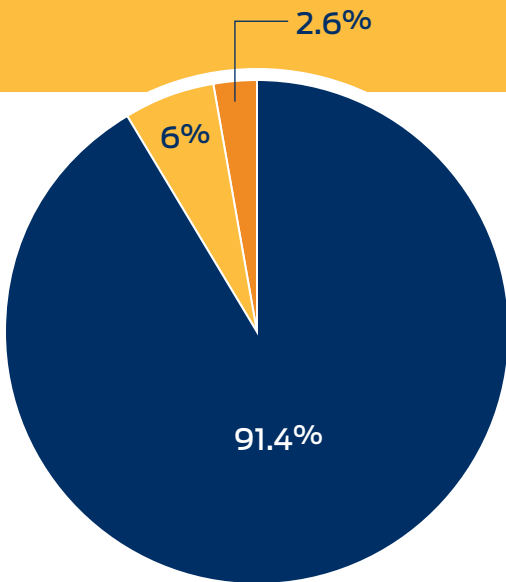
*deceased

2017 FINANCIALS



SOURCES OF INCOME

- 77.4% ■ State and County
- 18.07% ■ Contributions and Grants
- 1.65% ■ United Way
- 1.31% ■ Investment Income
- 1.13% ■ Government Grants
- 0.44% ■ Miscellaneous



OPERATING EXPENSES

- 91.4% ■ Program Services
- 6% ■ Fundraising
- 2.6% ■ Management and General

For the fiscal year January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

2,000+

During the holidays, we provided gifts to over 2,000 children

Wishing Well Fund

Through the Wishing Well Fund, we provided youth in foster care clothing, various classes, and participation in special interest groups like the Latino Youth Leaders of Indy.

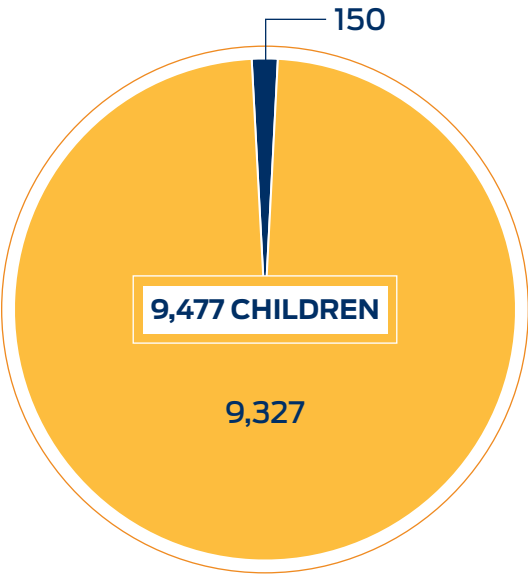
Each gift was transformed into hope for a child in our community.

WHO WE SERVED

In 2017, Child Advocates served 9,477 children in Indianapolis who were victims of abuse and neglect.

CHINS: 9,327 children
CHINS means Child in Need of Services. This is a child who has been removed from home due to abuse or neglect.

Custody: 150 children
These are high-conflict custody cases involving children.

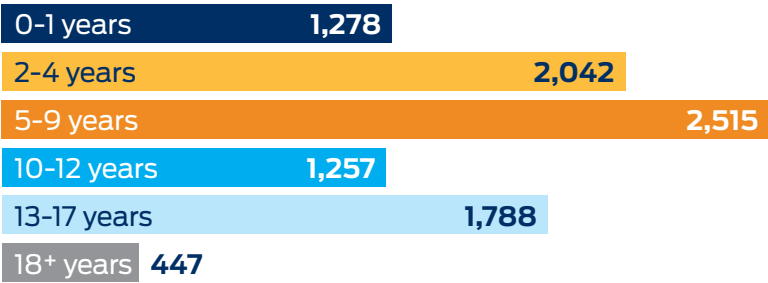


2017 CHINS DEMOGRAPHICS

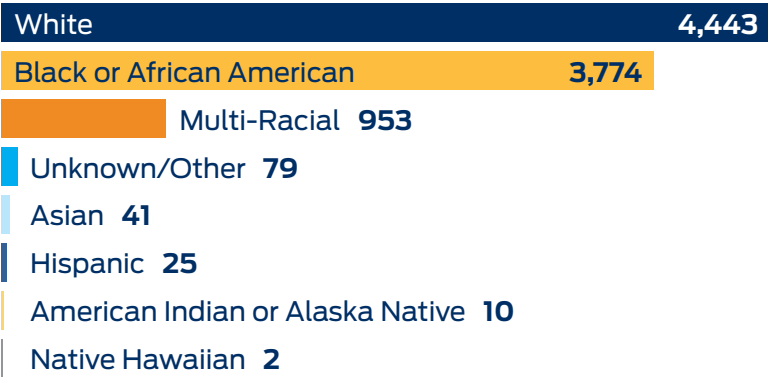
GENDER



AGE



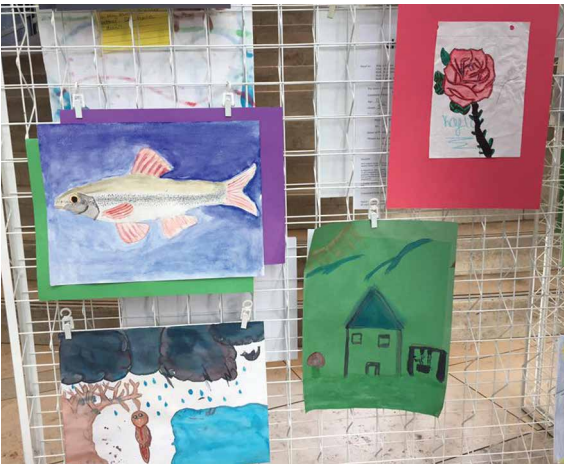
RACE



EVENTS

Evening with Child Advocates

The evening was a special way to celebrate the artistic talents of the children represented by Child Advocates. Guests enjoyed hearing the honest account of the lives of children in foster care and seeing their artwork.



▶ Perseverance

*Growing up fatherless, seeing the
Whole world before my eyes,
Most of the things I've seen was the
Devil in disguise.
I spend days and nights, trying to figure
Things out,
Struggling to realize what life is about.
Is it about finding my father or fitting in,
Or trying to push through a world full
Of sin?
Negative thoughts overwhelm my soul,
Becoming worry free is my #1 goal!
It's so easy to give up and quit,
But that doesn't help not one bit.
It's hard to stop feeling the way that
You feel,
And open your eyes to realize, what's
Happening is real.*

Written by: Na'Kiya B.

Kids' Fair

Each year, Child Advocates invites all foster families in Marion County to the free Kids' Fair. With the help of generous sponsors and many volunteers, we host a day of fun in addition to giving away thousands of backpacks and toys!



EVENTS, CONTINUED

Superhero Run

Child Advocates hosted this run and walk to support children whose lives have been affected by abuse and/or neglect. Participants came dressed as their favorite superhero. Every child needs a hero, but abused children need superheroes!



Join us for this year's Superhero Run!
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018
Fort Harrison State Park

Learn more at www.indysuperherorun.org.



Undoing Racism Workshops and The People's Institute

Child Advocates is committed to understanding and addressing the reason for the disproportionate percentage of African American children in foster care which led to a partnership with The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. Undoing Racism training helps to uncover conditions that contribute to racial disparities. To date, Child Advocates has offered 56 Undoing Racism workshops and approximately 2,500 people have attended.



.....

“Every child
is one caring adult away
from being a success story.”

Josh S.
Former foster youth

.....



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Gen Con 2017



Gen Con, the longest-running game convention in North America, chose Child Advocates as its Official Charity Partner for 2017. This partnership not only provided much appreciated proceeds, it assisted in making our city aware of our need for more volunteers. Child Advocates celebrated our 35th year of advocacy for children in Indianapolis and Gen Con was a wonderful way to celebrate with the community.