

childadvocates



2019
Annual Report

2019 Annual Report

CONTENTS



- 3 Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- 4 Letter from the CEO, Cindy Booth
- 5 Our Strategic Plan
- 6 Finding a Forever Home
- 8 Donors and Sponsors
- 16 Who We Served
- 18 2019 Financials
- 19 In Loving Memory of Nikita Garner

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 receive a safe, permanent home as soon as possible and thrive in home, school and life.



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Over the last three decades, Child Advocates has worked diligently to ensure children have a voice in our court system and a safe future in our community. Thanks to your support, we're building upon our long history of trusted advocacy and launching an ambitious Three-Year Strategic Plan.

Our goals are ambitious because our work has never been more critical. Thousands of children languish in the child welfare system without a guide or a voice while racial disparities continue to serve as a barrier to communities where children can thrive. Child Advocates aims to not only speak for children in court but use the power of advocacy to dismantle the disparities that hold children back.

Child Advocates will focus on its organizational sustainability and adaptability over the next three years to remain the trusted voice for every child we serve. This overarching framework will be grounded by four key objectives focusing on industry leadership, workforce development, financial sustainability and organizational awareness. The next page outlines these objectives in more detail.

We believe that working toward these goals will help Child Advocates affect real, positive change and build a strong foundation for the organization's future growth. We look forward to sharing our progress with you throughout the months and years to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

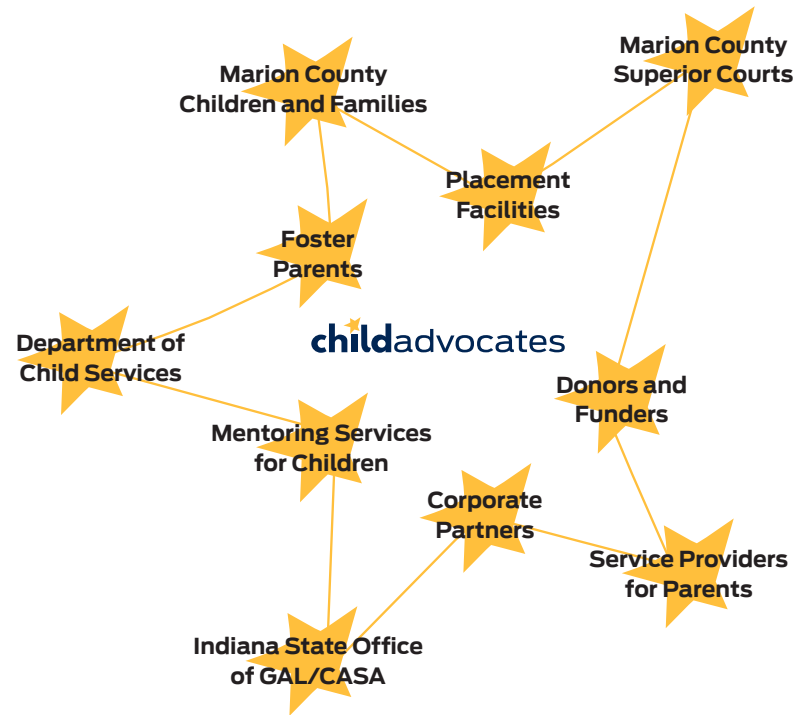
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Booth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia K. Booth, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

our strategic plan

Child Advocates Three-Year Strategic Plan Objectives

The objectives outlined below will be supported by strategies for Child Advocates to focus on its organizational sustainability and adaptability to remain the trusted voice for every child it serves.



1

Child Advocates is the leader for child advocacy in Indianapolis, setting the standard with results-driven programs, committed volunteers and a diverse array of strong partnerships.

2

Child Advocates has an active and skilled team of staff and board members contributing to a highly effective and collaborative culture.

3

Child Advocates has diversified revenue and is focused on building financial sustainability.

4

Child Advocates is positioned as the organization individuals want to support if they want to make a difference for children in need.



finding a forever home



December 17, 2019 will forever be etched into the minds of Michelle and Harry Dunn, as this long awaited day marked the official adoption of their foster son, Ra'Mir.

After signing the adoption papers and donning the family's matching "Today I'm being Adopted!!" t-shirts, foster parent turned adoptive mother, Michelle, can't help but reflect back on their journey to this moment and all of the teamwork it took to get them here.

A mere 24 hours after completing the foster family certification process, Michelle and her husband, Harry, received an unexpected call that would change their family forever. A four-week-old boy named Ra'Mir was ready and waiting to meet his new foster parents and see the place that he would come to call home.

"Starting off I would say it was difficult.

Our kids were grown and, you know, parents do everything different now. Literally we had one hour to get a crib, diapers, and wipes, everything... we were asking ourselves, 'What kind of formula do they use now? How do they make the bottles now?'" Michelle wondered.

The Dunns were faced with some unique challenges when first caring for Ra'Mir. Having been born with several health related issues, he often cried at night and would even bump his head in his sleep. However, this did not deter Michelle and Harry from working hard to ensure their new foster son's health, safety and happiness.

When asked about their decision to become an adoptive foster home, Michelle said, "There is such a great need out there for good foster homes. There are so many children that didn't ask to be in their current situations and need a safe place to go. We wanted to fill that gap."

Michelle and Harry's initial nerves about caring for such a young child were quickly replaced by an overwhelming sense of love and attachment. Michelle says as soon as she held this innocent, beautiful baby boy, her motherly instincts kicked in without hesitation.

According to Harry and Michelle, Ra'Mir's dimples are his secret weapon. He works them to his advantage and his parents can't help but turn to putty in his now two-year-old hands. "Oh he works it alright," Michelle says, "They already get us into trouble."

The Dunns are overjoyed with their adoptive son and have no regrets regarding their journey over the past two years, even though fostering within the child welfare system can be emotionally challenging.

Michelle described the first year and a half as an, "up and down emotional roller-coaster," never truly knowing what the eventual outcome of the case would be. Despite the unknown, the Dunns never lost faith.

"I feel like God's hands were on this from the beginning," said Michelle. "All we had to do was be patient and wait for Him to work it out."

Throughout the long and emotional process, the Dunns say their court appointed Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Dana Hunter, assisted them every step of the way. She helped them navigate the child welfare system and advocated in Ra'Mir's best interests while in court.

"Dana was the only person that kept it real. She is family for life now," Michelle said. Harry agreed, describing Dana as the "pillar of connectivity," bridging the gap between their family and the system.

Despite the struggles and the long wait, if Michelle and Harry could go back, they would not change a single thing. Their patience, commitment and faith in the system were rewarded in the end.

Harry wants to encourage all families with a willingness to persevere and space in their hearts to open their homes and embrace the many other children currently waiting in the Marion County foster care system.

"This is not an adoption process. You are filling a gap, filling a need and there is a great need. So remember to be kind and patient with yourself, your family and most importantly, be patient with the system."



"I'll keep volunteering until my doctor tells me I can't. If I stop, that's at least one more child without a voice... and that's one too many for me."

— Carmen, CASA Volunteer

donors & sponsors

To all our supporters who made a gift to Child Advocates in 2019—we **thank you!**



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Hollie Donnon
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Maria Drake
Kelly Drews
Jessie DuBois
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Scott Duncan



“Following forty-plus years in public education, continuing to serve children through Child Advocates was a perfect link for me. My therapy dog, Sydney, is the real star of this effort as she models unconditional love for those less fortunate.”

— Mike, CASA Volunteer



“It’s heart work. There will be tough days, but without a doubt you will make an impact. Even if it feels small, as a CASA you are significant to that child.”

— Jennifer, Volunteer Engagement Specialist

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Diana E. Dunn
Jenise Dunn
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Emily Dyer
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Jeff Gill
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The Glore Fund
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 Hoover Family Foundation
 Horizon Bank
 Shawna Horton
 Joleen House
 Jeffrey Howell
 Amanda Huddleston
 Dana Hunter
 Huntington National Bank
 Hyatt Place
 The Indianapolis Foundation, an
 affiliate of CICF
 Indianapolis Fuel
 Indianapolis Indians
 Indianapolis Symphony
 Indy Eleven
 Indy Massage Company
 Inktel
 Kimberly Irwin
 Carol Isacson

Kimberly Iverson
 Stephanie Jack
 Cheryl Jackson
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 Amy L. Kiger
 Vicki Killion
 Hannelore Killion
 Mary M. Kimberlin
 King Dough
 Phyllis Kinghorn
 Shelley L. Kirkham



**Total number of
 Interrupting Racism For Children participants in 2019**

1,301

Kiss Kiss Bang Bang Salon
KJ Media Company
Cheryl Klepper
Michael Kobrowski
Kona Ice
Stephanie Kovacs
Kroger
Mark A. Kryah
Sherry Kunkel
Debra Ladyman
Suzanne Lake
James Lake
April Lam
Sarah Lane
Chuck and Susan Lang
Late Harvest Kitchen
David Lawrence
Sharon Lawrence
Donna Leahy
Cynthia Leask
David Lee
Anthony J. LePere
Michell Leslie
Lessonly
Didier Leveille
Lewis Wagner, LLP
Angela Lewis-Bettcher
Chelynn Lile
Lilly Endowment Inc.
Lilly Nail Spa
Maureen Lindsey
Tracy Line
Mary Lochner
Emily Loewen
Phillip Loftus

Kristy Lombardo
Christopher E. Long
Moises Lopez
Luis David Lopez-Minutte
David D. Lufcy
Lumina Foundation
The Luminous Fund
Elizabeth J. Lynch
Travis Lynch
Main Event
Harriett Majors
Katherine Malarsky
Shelly Mann Odendahl
Andrea Manning-Dudley
Sheila March
Lewis Marcus
Marian, Inc.
Danielle Marks
Cindy Markus
Joan M. Marsden
Barry Marvin
Hannah Marvin
Jeffrey Mason
Tim and Helene Massey
Michelle Mauboussin
Janie Maurer
Laurane Mayfield
MBP Distinctive Catering
Eric McCombs
Sara McDonald
Sara McGuyer
Shawn McKeen
Sean McKnight
James M. McMechan
Tanika D. McNeal

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MD Wise
Nancy M. Meek
Meijer Supermarket
Kristine Meiners
Amanda Meko
Chuck Mella
Tara Melton
Rita Mennen
Merchandise Realty Corporation
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Metazoa Brewing Co.
Metropolitan School District of
Lawrence Township
Tonda Mettler
Microsoft, Inc.
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Don Miller
Marian P. Miller
Charlotte M. Milton
The Mind Program School
Corporation
Jerry L. Miser
Tina M. Mitchell
Jerry Carl Mitchell
Holly Mohr
Moms Club of Carmel East
Mary Margaret Montgomery
Scot Montgomery
Scott and Janice Montross
Stacey A. Moore
Donald Moore Jr.
Lesia Moore
Mary Deborah Moore
Michelle Moorman



“When I hold my baby, I can’t help but to think that there has to be more we can do for the most vulnerable children in our community, and I want to be part of that solution.”

— Tom, Board Member



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Tina Morris
Barbara Moses
Tracey Motz
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Chris Mundy
Christopher and Lisa Murphy
John and Carolyn Mutz
Massage Envy
Krista Neeley
Judith A. Nelson
Dave Nerad
Network For Good
Newfangled Confections
Newfields
Ryan Newland

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Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable
Trust
Cheryl Norris Trice
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Christy Nunley
John A. O'Brien
Tracy O'Toole
Lauren O'Neil
Elizabeth Odle
Amani Odle
Ruth Odle
OneCause
Vickie Owens
Pacers Foundation
Pacers Sports & Entertainment
Denise Page
Erin Patterson
Sue Patterson

Payne & Mencias Foundation
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Alfred Popper
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Praxis Media Group
Robert J. Pruitt
Ruthie Purcell-Jones
Krystal Quinn
Shun Radford
Ki Radkins
Gwen Raine

volunteers in 2019

**Total active CASA
volunteers in 2019**

665

**Total number of new
volunteers trained in 2019**

152

**Total number of volunteer
hours in 2019**

15,370



Max Raine
 Ross Rannells
 Victoria Raymond
 Reagan Outdoor Advertising
 LaShawn Reed
 Bryant O. Reed
 Nikolas Reed
 Brooklyn Reed
 REI Investments
 Michelle Reynolds
 Sue S. Richardson
 Surisa Richardson
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 Bryana Schreiber
 Therese Schroeder
 Daniel Schroeder
 Meredith Schulte
 Lynn Schwarz
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 State Employees' Community
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 Christopher Sullivan
 Renee Sullivan
 Sullivan Hardware
 Sun King Brewing
 Derek Sutton
 Autumn Sutton
 Jemimah Suttor
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 Aaron Sweet
 Eric Swihart
 Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
 Karen Talbot
 Megan Tannenbaum
 Target Corporation
 Shannon Taylor
 MacKinsey Taylor
 Matthew Teeple
 Jennifer Wheeler Terry
 Laura Therault
 Kyla Thomas
 E. Lois Thomas
 Ethan Thomas
 John and Norma Thompson



“My advocate encouraged me to stand up for
 what I wanted, she listened to my opinions,
 spoke up for me when I needed her to and
 made sure my voice was finally heard.”

— De'Corianna, Former Foster Youth



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Michigan
United Way of Bartholomew County
United Way of Central Indiana
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Atlanta
United Way of Greater Philadelphia
and Southern New Jersey
United Way Suncoast
Upland Brewing
UPS

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Angie Vaszari-Evans
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Steve Walker
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Brittney Young
Benjamin M. Young
Your Cause
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Joe Zieldorff



“I tell my own children, as their parents, our most important responsibility is to keep them safe and loved. I truly believe that every child deserves to feel like someone is doing everything they can do to keep them safe.”

— Melissa, CASA Volunteer



who we served

CHINS means Child in Need of Services.

Total number of
CHINS in 2019

6,985

Children who were removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.

Total number of
custody cases in 2019

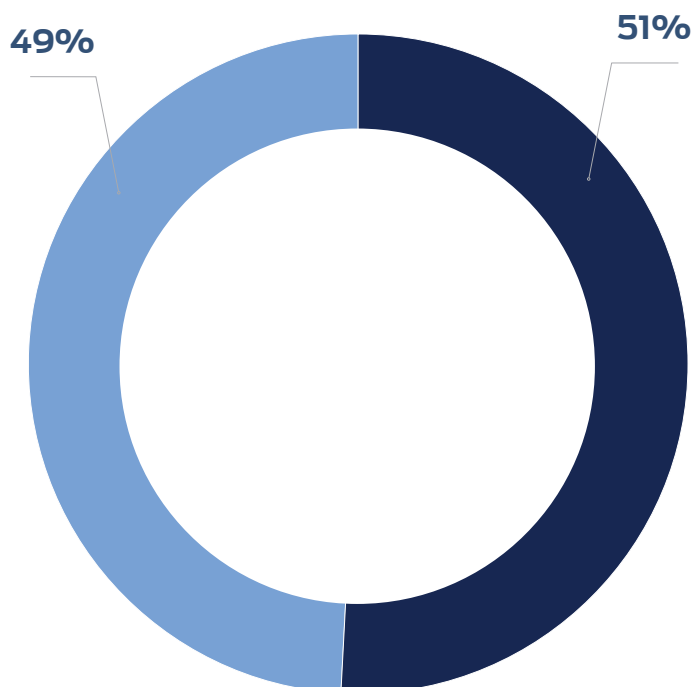
141

High-conflict custody cases involving children.

CHINS served by an
Educational Liaison

1,223

18% of CHINS cases involved an Educational Liaison.

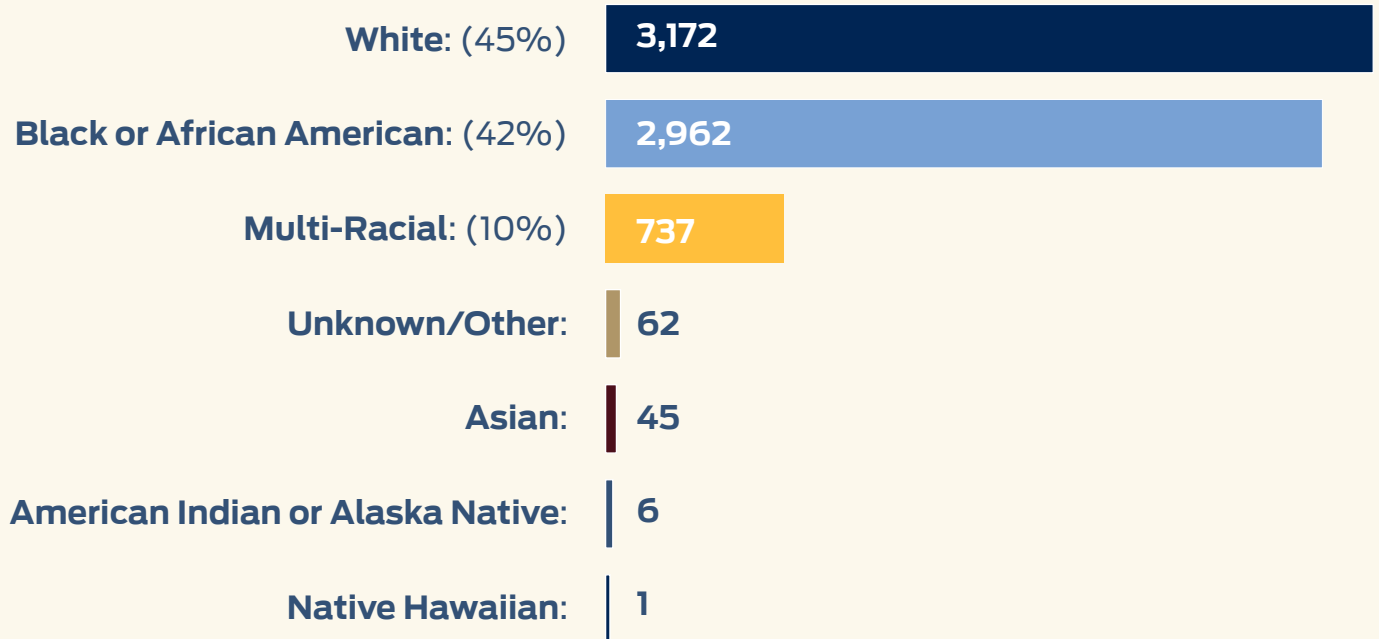


**CHINS (Child in Need of Services)
demographics:**

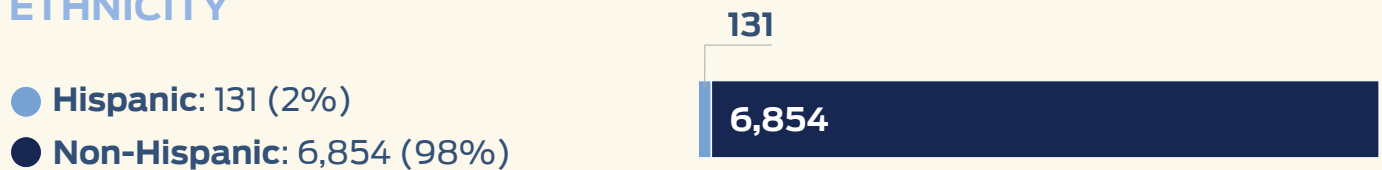
- Male: 3,540
- Female: 3,445



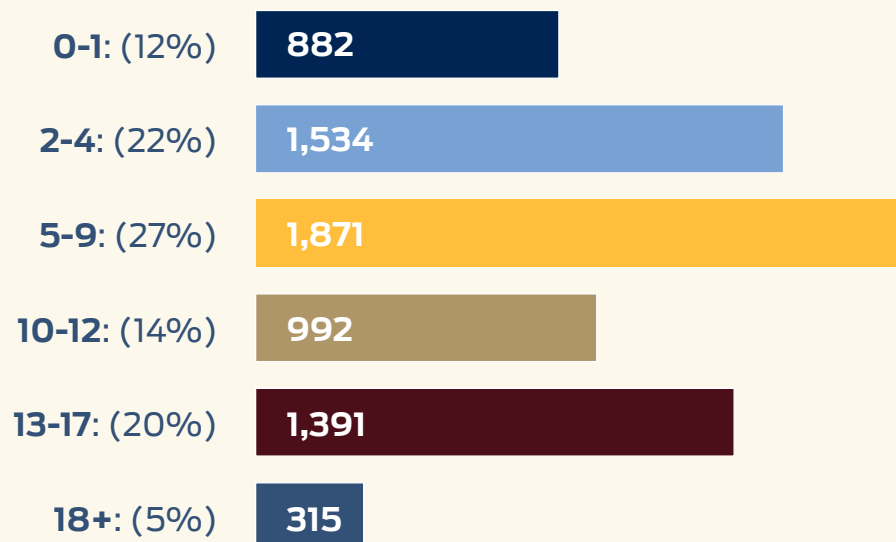
RACE



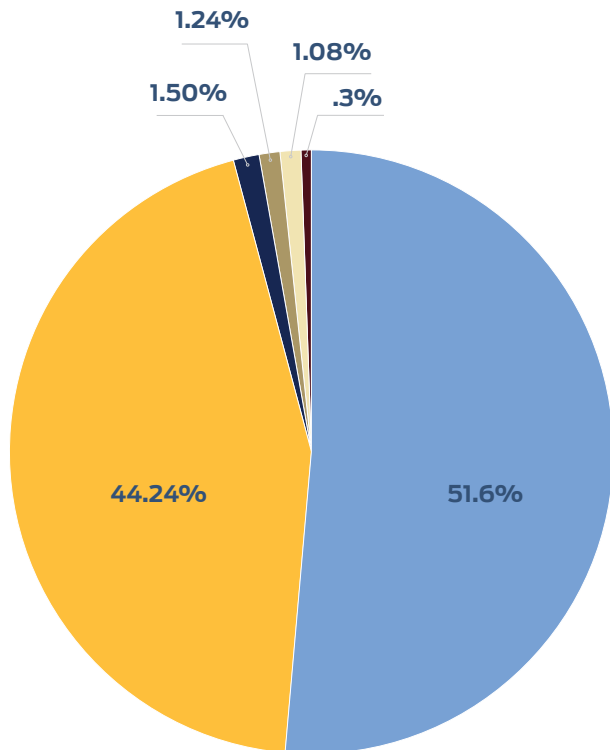
ETHNICITY



AGE



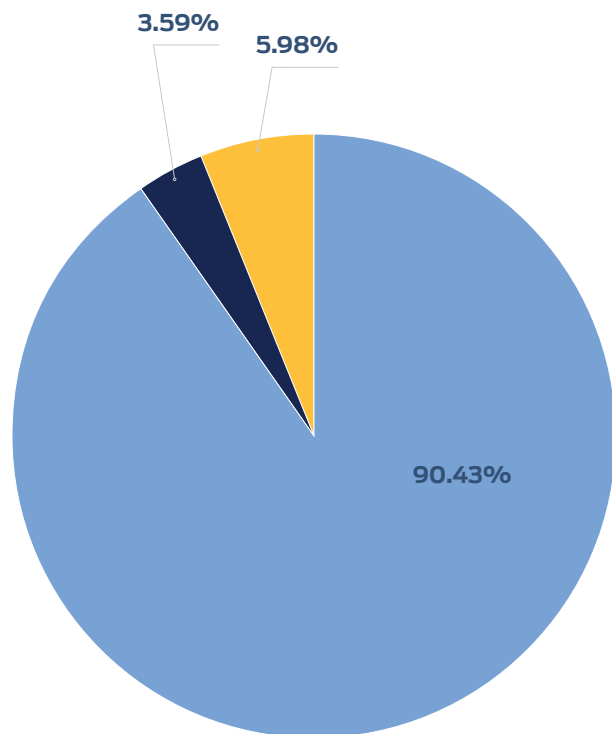
financials



Sources of Income

- 51.6% ● State and County
- 44.24% ● Contributions and Grants*
- 1.50% ● Investment Income
- 1.24% ● Miscellaneous
- 1.08% ● Government Grants
- 0.3% ● United Way

*Includes \$5 million gift from Lilly Endowment Inc. to start an endowment at Child Advocates.



Expenses

- 90.43% ● Program Services
- 5.98% ● Fundraising
- 3.59% ● Management and General

Fiscal year:
January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019



“Working here gives me peace in knowing that there are staff and volunteers that really do care about children and will do everything within their power and ability to ensure that the mission of Child Advocates is fulfilled.”

— Dionne, Volunteer Manager



in loving memory of Nikita Garner

This annual report is dedicated to our colleague and friend Nikita Garner who passed away in 2019. Nobody cared more about the children we serve than Nikita and she worked hard every day to do what she could for them. Nikita was a shining light, full of energy and life, and we miss her dearly.





YOUR VOICE. THEIR FUTURE.



8200 Haverstick Road, Suite 240
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Phone: 317-205-3055

childadvocates.net