

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Advocating with Passion and Purpose



INDIANAPOLIS LEGAL AID SOCIETY

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#### LETTER FROM OUR CEO & GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of our generous supporters - - individual donors, foundations, corporate sponsors, volunteers, board members, and last, but not least, our outstanding and dedicated staff - - for helping The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society effectively serve more low-income individuals and families in 2019.

Indy Legal Aid's ongoing goal is to keep overhead low while increasing services in Central Indiana. This goal was achieved in 2019. Six full-time staff attorneys advising and/or representing 5,700 clients exceeded more than 12,000 hours. Volunteer attorney hours logged in at approximately 2,000 hours.

Every day we meet with individuals who are in despair, broken, with nowhere else to turn. Our attorneys listen to our clients and provide resolution for a myriad of legal issues. We take a holistic approach - - solutions-based, client-centered, one-stop shop - - with our clients. Our legal team is uniquely qualified to spot a client's ancillary issues. While clients have legal issues to resolve, they may have additional needs that require addressing. We work with these clients to help find solutions to their non-legal problems.

We look forward to continuing and expanding Indy Legal Aid's services, giving voice to the voiceless, solving problems for our clients, and strengthening our communities.

With gratitude,

John Floreancig

General Counsel & CEO

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Many thanks to our dedicated and magnanimous board of directors for their tireless efforts in focusing on the needs of our clients.

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# **SERVICES**

The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society has been giving Central Indiana residents of modest means a voice in their own legal matters with knowledgeable, highly-qualified attorneys.

Civil legal aid is a combination of services and resources enabling the poor and disadvantaged to effectively navigate the complicated legal system to protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families.

> Indy Legal Aid attorneys provide critically needed direct counsel and representation on issues including:

ADOPTION PATERNITY
VISITATION GUARDIANSHIP
SUPPORT CUSTODY
DIVORCE HOUSING

LANDLORD/TENANT RE-ENTRY ISSUES
DEBT ISSUES DRIVERS LICENSE

REINSTATEMENT

... & MANY OTHER CIVIL LEGAL ISSUES

The Indy Legal Aid Society provides services to individuals and families with incomes of less than 125% of the federal poverty guideline levels.

#### Mission Statement

Since 1941, the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society (Indy Legal Aid) has relentlessly provided our most vulnerable Hoosiers with direct and immediate access to comprehensive free legal assistance in civil matters. We restore hope as we work with our clients' side-by-side to resolve their legal issues. In doing so, we help to promote economic self-sufficiency, preserve dignity, and strengthen the community.

The majority of legal issues addressed by the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society involve:

### Women | Children | The Elderly | Disabled

# **CONTACT US**

WEBSITE: www.IndyLas.org

PHONE NUMBER: (317) 635-9538

ADDRESS: 615 N Alabama St Ste 122

Indianapolis, IN 46204

GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA: Boone,

Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks,

Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby

counties



#### 2019 in Review

# **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Indy Legal Aid Attorneys are in court more than **3** times per day.

The cost of each case is an average of less than \$175.

More than \$.90 of every dollar donated is directly used to provide services to our clients.

### **Number of Clients Served**

Family Law: 3784

Housing/Landlord Tenant: 551

Children's Guardianship Initiative: 326

Expungement & Driver's License Reinstatment: 248

Miscellaneous Cases (employment, wills, public benefits, etc.): 839

Total: 5,748



# **Indy Legal Aid Events**

Legal Aid's Continuing Legal Education:
The 7th Annual Timeless Tips From the
Bench and Bar on May 2 was a huge success.
The format for this all-day event featured 24
amazing speakers presenting in a fast-paced
"TED Talk" format of less than 20 minutes
each. Speakers included 15 judges, eight
attorneys and cartoonist, Gary Varvel.

4th Annual Ignite the Night:

The Celebrity Roast of retired Judge John D. Tinder held on September 26 was not only an outstanding event, but it helped us raise more than \$150,000 to provide legal services to the underserved in the greater Indianapolis area. Featured roasters included Kevin Farrell, Linda Pence, Judge Buzz Lorch, Judge Sue Shields, and Norm Tabler.

# **CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES**

### Donor Dollars at Work!

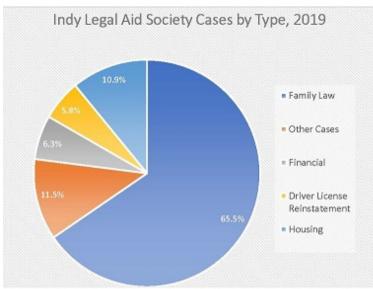
"Kelli", a young woman in her late twenties, had fallen on hard times due to alcohol abuse that affected her both physically and mentally. Kelli's mother had her placed in rehab for nearly two years. She decided it was time to leave the facility but soon learned that her mother had obtained guardianship. This meant Kelli had limited rights - even her social security was being sent to her mother. Kelli left rehab and decided she needed the guardianship terminated. Kelli contacted Indy Legal Aid and met with one of our attorney's who advised and represented Kelli in court. After Kelli's guardianship termination, her friend who helped her leave rehab, sent our Indy Legal Aid attorney a letter saying "Only with your invaluable legal expertise and assistance is Kelli now free to live her own life. Thank you for helping her find justice. There should be more attorney's like you."

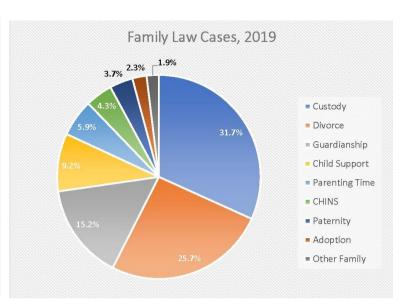


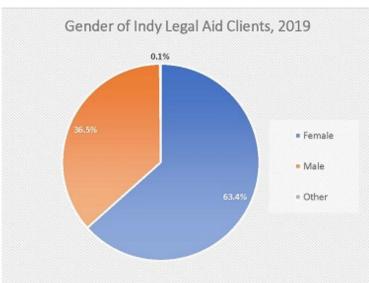


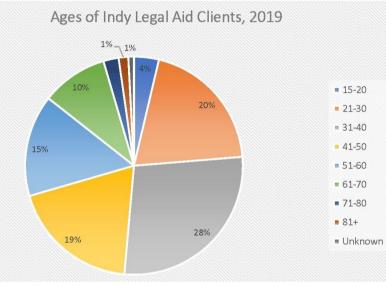
Franci's story begins with her health starting to fail and Franci becoming unable to keep up with the demands of both the inside and outside of the home she owns. As a result, a neighbor filed a complaint and Franci was cited in Court for Health Code violations. Without anyone to help her and living on a fixed income, Franci was not able to resolve these issues on her own. This meant Franci was in danger of being ordered to vacate her home. Indy Legal Aid was able to help Franci after receiving a referral from the Health Department regarding Franci's case. In less than a year, Franci achieved compliance with the Health Code and is now able to stay in her home and focus on her health. According to Franci, "What started as a nightmare turned into a godsend with the help of Indy Legal Aid." The Indiana Supreme Court heard about Franci's story and invited her to the 2019 State of the Judiciary where Chief Justice Rush recognized Franci in her remarks regarding the judiciary's commitment to closing the justice gap for people like Franci. "Today, Franci is in her home. Having a lawyer represent her made all the difference," said Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush.

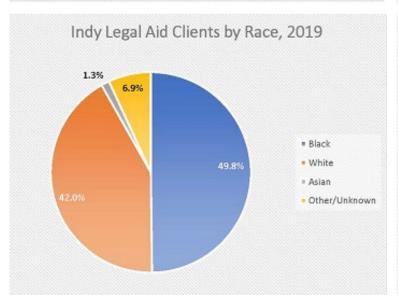
# 2019 DEMOGRAPHICS

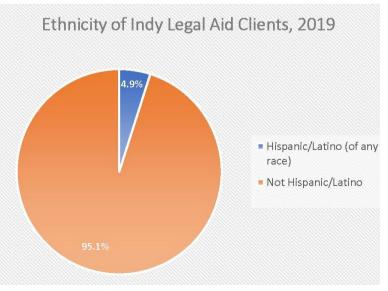






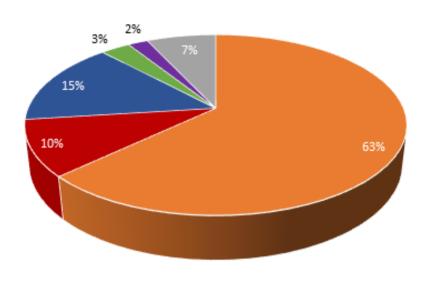






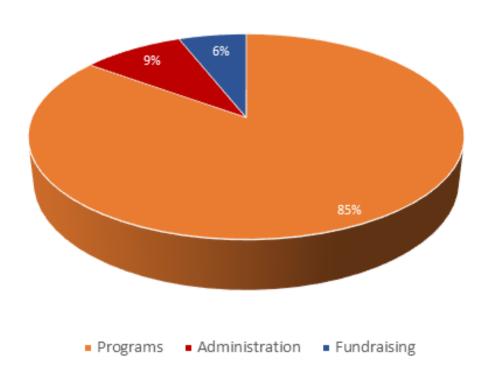
# **FINANCIALS**





- Grants
- Special Events
- Fees (i.e. Lawyer Referral)
- Individual Contributions
- In-Kind
- Miscellaneous Income (i.e. Interest)

### EXPENSES: \$1,061,484



# **OUR SUPPORTERS**

We wish to extend our appreciation to our generous individual donors, funders, and sponsors that supported us in 2019. Without their financial assistance, we would not be here to help the most vulnerable in our community. THANK YOU!

### Foundations and Organizations

Central Indiana Community Foundation Indiana Civil Legal Aid Fund Indiana Bar Foundation Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership

Lilly Endowment Inc. Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust United Way of Central Indiana

### **Sponsors**

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Heartland Pro Bono Council
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Indiana Landmarks
Indiana State Bar Association
Indiana Supreme Court

Indianapolis Bar Association

John Boner Center
Julian Center
Kids Voice
La Plaza
Lutheran Child and Family Services
Marion County Health Department
Marion Superior Court Probate Division
Mary Rigg Center
Meals on Wheels
Mental Health America
MLK Center
Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
NeighborLink Indianapolis

Salvation Army
Second Helpings
Sheltering Wings
Shephard Center
Social Health Association
Southeast Community Services
St. Mary's Child Center
St. Vincent Hospice
The Damien Center
The Villages
Visiting Nurse Service
Volunteers of America
WellSpring

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Indy Legal Aid change – and save – the lives of disadvantaged individuals and families in Indianapolis and surrounding counties.

### Your Philanthropic Investment Will Help:

- · Families stay together
- · Children live in a safe and stable environment
- · Seniors and the mentally and physically disabled adults remain in their homes
- · Remove civil legal obstacles for Veterans
- · Ex-offenders live productive and valuable lives
- · Strengthen communities throughout Central Indiana

#### Indy Legal Aid has several ways to make a donation:

- · One-time
- · Monthly
- · Tribute Gifts
- · Major Gift Donation Indy Legal Aid's Leadership Circle
- · Planned Giving Indy Legal Aid's Legacy Fund

## Learn more by visiting www.indylas.org

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, (Tax ID Number: 35-1045153) you can make a donation online at http://www.indylas.org/donate/ or contacting Gina Woods, Development and Communications Director, at ginaw@indylas.org or her direct line 317.217.5347.

When you support Indy Legal Aid, you empower individuals and families. You can make a profound impact in our communities by investing in Indy Legal Aid.