Special thanks to our corporate partners:

Each of the companies listed provides an annual, unrestricted gift to Children’s Bureau. The impact of this support is felt throughout each of the services we offer. In addition to providing needed resources, our partners’ employees take part in volunteer activities, special events and act as advocates for Indiana children.
In 2015 we helped 43,644 kids on their journeys!

The road of life is rarely straight and is never completely smooth.

No child or parent has to travel the road of life alone.
Dear friends,

Children are amazingly resilient. Even when facing adversity, they will freely share what they want to be when they grow up, their hopes for the future and even their dreams for their broken families. This is my reminder that we are doing important work at Children’s Bureau.

For 165 years, Children’s Bureau has responded to its various communities’ needs by providing critical services to children and families throughout Indiana. In 2015, we worked with more than 43,000 children to help them and their families access the resources needed to become safer, healthier and happier. For many of the families we serve, the road to recovery and self-sufficiency is not always a straight one, but is a journey filled with bumps and setbacks along the way. As someone who grew up in a similar situation, I am living proof that children can heal and families thrive.

It is impossible to talk about 2015 without recognizing that we are serving communities that are in crisis. Throughout Indiana, many young parents are struggling with addictions, poverty and domestic violence; and as a result, their children are suffering. Children’s Bureau has responded to this crisis by partnering with its various communities to identify strategies to improve the lives of children through our child abuse prevention programs. We expanded our services throughout the state to reach more parents in order to offer them the help they need to successfully care for their children and restore balance to their homes. And we have expanded our foster care program to provide more loving, nurturing homes to care for children if they must be away from their parents.

I am truly indebted to an amazing team. As someone who spent years working in residential services and as a case manager, I know the toll this type of work has on the staff that provide direct services to children and families. I am genuinely grateful for your tireless effort to keep children safe and to help youth and families have the resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency. Many of you gave until you were depleted, went home and cared for your own families and then came in the next day and did it all again. Thank you.

We remain committed to empowering children to choose paths that lead to becoming successful, productive adults. We believe each child and family is worth the investment, that each of them is worth saving and that all have the potential to change their circumstances. We could not do this very important work without the support and generosity of our donors, corporate partners, board members, communities and volunteers. We are truly grateful for all that you do to help us positively impact the lives of children so they can move forward, toward their destinations of fulfilling their dreams.

Fondly,

Tina Cloer
President & CEO

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CB’s annual Hope for the Holidays was a huge success in 2015 with more than 800 children sponsored by individuals and corporations. Dozens more families were the beneficiaries of charitable deliveries from numerous groups, like these kiddos from Douglas MacArthur Elementary!

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Fondly,

Tina Cloer
President & CEO
There are speed bumps, road blocks, and U-turns. What gets me out of bed every morning is knowing I have three goals to complete. Even though my clients come up with them, they’re my goals too.”
—Misty White
Erica never dreamed a difficult pregnancy would lead her to a stable road. But, when complications with the birth of her third child dictated a hospital stay, she needed a safe place for her two older children.

She immediately thought of the children’s shelter at the Gene Glick Family Support Center.

“I remember staying at the children’s shelter when I was a little girl. I enjoyed being there and I just never forgot it,” Erica said. When she called the shelter she was told she could bring Kayiona and Adam over that same day.

Ione Louise Allbright De Bolt died on October 24, 2015. Ione was a dedicated volunteer and philanthropist. Not only did she serve as a volunteer for 25 years with the Auxiliary, but also 20 years with Goodwill Industries, and more than 40 with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Ione was also a lifelong world traveler.

Mary Louise Forkin Sommer died on July 14, 2015. Mary Louise had many talents and strengths, including drawing, cooking, gardening, finance and politics. She was a voluteer for Immaculate Heart of Mary, where her children attended school, and a founder of the Pennington Investment Club.
Unforeseen Lane Change

Racing is in Tim McElvoy’s blood. It was an enjoyment he learned and shared with his mom. But when he learned his children had been removed from their mom’s home and placed in foster care, he willingly changed his lane of focus. He brought Haley, Dakota, Tyler and Austin to live with him and his mom in Kokomo. It wasn’t long before Tim’s mom lost her battle to cancer. Her death was another blow. Left with an estate and debt to settle, the family’s only option was to move into a one-bedroom RV and park it on the property of the kids’ maternal relatives.

For Shannon, that was all it took. She could see that Tim was a good father and his kids loved him. They had just fallen on tough times and needed help. “I felt connected to them, like something greater had drawn us together,” she explained. For Shannon, it began to visit weekly — sometimes more often — and was the only case worker (out of several agencies) who stuck with them through the whole process. Shannon knew making real progress would mean practicing the trauma-informed care that is mandatory training for a lot of people would like to put a quick fix on it, and not go into what caused the behaviors in the first place.”

Meanwhile, she brought the family’s story to the attention of the Children’s Bureau leadership team. “This family is a perfect example of why we need private support,” CEO said. “Uses for contractual dollars are strictly defined; this family needed the stability of a home as soon as possible,” she added. Shannon and Karissa Blackford had beds in such a long time, and they were so happy,” Shannon said. “Haley screamed, jumped up and down, and said she finally had something that was hers. It made me cry.”

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It comforted me to realize that I wasn’t just in this by myself anymore.
—Tim McElvoy

Young Professionals in the Driver’s Seat

Last year was a milestone fifth anniversary for our Young Professionals Advisory Board. Members of YPAB act as ambassadors for Children’s Bureau in the community, generating awareness and support. Their generosity and caring spirits propel Children’s Bureau staff in making lasting, positive impact in young people’s lives. The group’s accomplishments last year are a perfect example. We thank these 26 dynamic young people for the difference they’ve made in the community while growing a strong network of future leaders.

The group’s accomplishments last year:

- Accumulated volunteer hours that saved the agency $8,833.
- Held two volunteer experiences with the children’s shelter and collected needed items.
- Helped plan two events. Raised $11,558 at Trivia Night and $9,221 at the Cornhole Tournament.
- $100-499
  - ALST Services, Inc.
  - Ball & Voorhees Foundation
  - Ballantine Shambaugh & Company
  - Battle & Morris
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The Children’s Bureau staff encouraged me to slow down, relax and think about what I wanted.
—JaSha Loynes

$300,000
The Glick Fund

$50,000-$99,999
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Thank you to all our donors!
The Rachel Glick Courage Center is a secure residential facility for youth who suffer from emotional/behavioral disorders caused by trauma. It reopened in May 2015 after extensive renovations created a home-like environment where children benefit from a strengths-focused, optimistic treatment approach called the Teaching-Family Model. TFM has been proven to help young people transition back to a traditional home environment faster and with better results. Five youth “graduated” from Courage Center in 2015. Here are two of their stories.

Kasha arrived at Courage Center at 11 years old after her third suicide attempt. She struggled with depression, panic attacks and hopelessness — the effects of trauma from a life filled with abuse and chaos. After three months of treatment, she began to open up about the abuse she endured and her fears about the future. She wrote a personal narrative about how it felt to witness her mother’s abuse. She shared it with her mom during therapy sessions, and they began to work through their differences. Eventually, Kasha started to smile more, her grades improved and she began to enjoy reading. Through the wellness activities at Courage Center, she discovered a talent for volleyball. She went home to her mother in time for the start of school in August. She has called several times to thank those who supported her and to share that she joined the school volleyball team and is living life again.

Brian came to Courage Center as an angry, physically destructive 8th grader who had just failed his third foster care placement. He watched his mom suffer at the hand of his dad and was disciplined with physical blows throughout his life. As he grew into a strong young man, he started fights to make sure people knew he wasn’t to be challenged. During his seven months at Courage Center, Brian changed with his family. His mom left the marriage, got a home for herself and her boys, and a job. Brian learned about the cycle of abuse and decided he didn’t want to repeat his dad’s behavior. He focused on learning the skills to recover and celebrated each day he went without being violent. His streak grew from one to more than 30 days. There were missteps along the road, but he started over each time, confident that he could learn a new way to cope. At Thanksgiving, Brian went home to live with his mom and brothers. He started his freshman year, is on track to graduate with his class, and made the honor roll. He has been back to visit since he left and texts often to share what is going on in his life.

Children’s Bureau strives to direct every child to a safer environment.

Sometimes children become lost through no fault of their own. After JaSha’s mother died, she and her brother and sister went from living with their father, to their paternal grandparents, to their first foster home. Five months later, JaSha and her siblings went through another placement — this time to a foster home licensed by Children’s Bureau.

“My role is to make sure the children are getting necessary services, provide support to the foster parents, and ensure there’s harmony in the home,” Tameka Buggs, the Children's Bureau caseworker assigned to JaSha’s family said. “So much change and associated instability can be overwhelming — even for the adults,” Tameka explained. Unlike a lot of kids in similar situations, JaSha listened, was never disrespectful, and openly shared her desires.

It didn’t take Tameka long to realize that one of the best things she could do for JaSha was encourage her to move toward independence. “I could tell that her dreams were very alive but she didn’t want her siblings to feel abandoned by her,” she said. Tameka reached JaSha by explaining that she could mentor and inspire her siblings by accomplishing her personal goals. After taking part in a work study program at Teacher’s Credit Union, she graduated a semester early from high school. When JaSha turned 17.5 she was referred to Children’s Bureau’s Older Youth Services (OYS) Program. “When a child turns 16, we begin to work on independent living skills. When they reach 17.5 an independent living caseworker takes over to provide ongoing support,” Tameka explained. Roger McCoy, JaSha’s independent living caseworker, helped her with finding and furnishing an apartment. “As someone who was once in foster care, I feel like I have a unique perspective to understand and to help these young people keep pushing themselves to succeed,” Roger said.

JaSha’s long- and short-term goals guide her today. After she moved out of the foster home where her siblings still reside, she enrolled at IUPUI. While she could have stayed in foster care, she decided moving was a step closer to accomplishing her dreams. Today, she remains very focused and is pursuing an education degree in hopes of mentoring young people like herself through the public school system. “JaSha had a choice; she could rise to the occasion or fold. I believe her circumstances helped to propel her to understand that she is the only person who will drive her failure or success,” Tameka concluded.
Children’s Bureau programs serve as a roundabout for families facing challenges in their journey. They may enter at any point, circle as needed, and return at if needed.