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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 success-

fully 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.

MISSION: Preserving and protecting the future of Indiana's children 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.

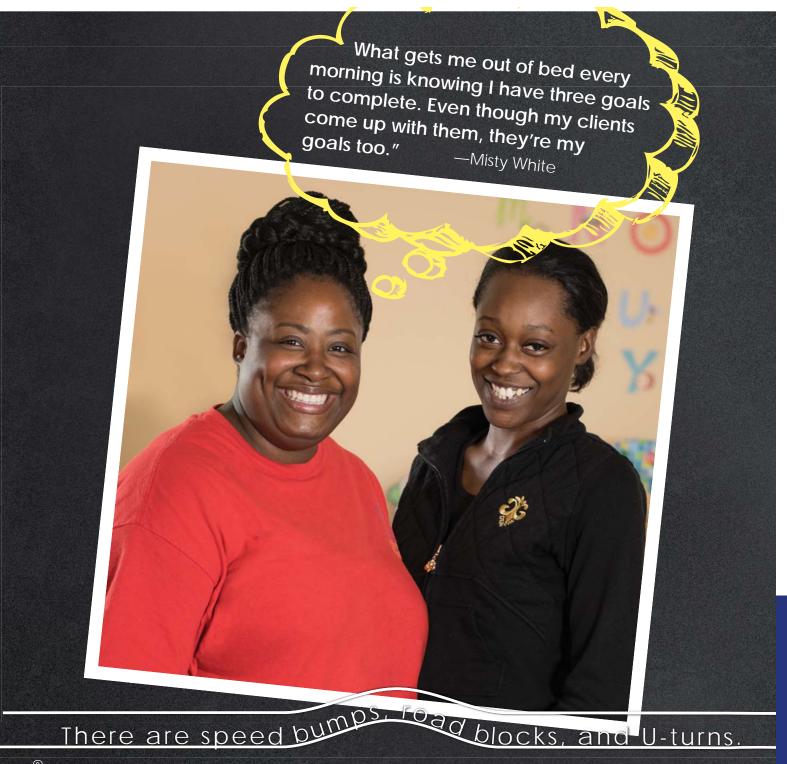
We could not do this very important work without the support and generosity of our donors, corporate partners, board members, communities and volunteers. We are truly grateful for all that you do to help us positively impact the lives of children so they can move forward, toward their destinations of fulfilling their dreams.

Fondly,

Dina Cloer

President & CEO





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*Deceased

Women's Auxiliary

Children's Bureau recognizes the many contributions of the following past members of the Children's Bureau Auxiliary who passed away in 2015:

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



Betty Winn Fuller died on December 15 2015. In addition to volunteering for numerous Indianapolis organizations, Betty was a gifted author and poet, having been published in numerous magazines and textbooks.



Eva Lorange Mitchell died on Saturday October 17, 2015, A former high school English teacher, Eva moved to Indianapolis in 1964 and was an active community volunteer



Kathryn Welch Hill Monbouquette died on December 12, 2015, Kathryn was not only a dedicated mother, spouse and friend, but she also gave much to this organization and our community She enjoyed golf, bridge and dancing.



Joan Catherine Rowe died on August 7 2015. A recipient of the distinguished Hoosier award from Governor O'Bannon, Joan was a devoted volunteer, artist, friend and family

Mary Louise Forkin Sommer died on July 14, 2015. Mary Louise had many talents and interests, including sewing, cooking, gardening, finance and politics. She was an active volunteer for Immaculate Heart of Mary, where her children attended school, and a founder of the Pennywives Investment Club

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Traveling Companion

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.

Erica's life became further complicated when Lance required an extended stay in neonatal intensive care. The stress of recovering from a C-section while spending long days at the NICU with him, made it impossible for her to get her children to and from school, so the children stayed in the shelter for several weeks.

When Erica filled out the initial intake papers for the shelter, she answered "yes" to a question about needing additional services. She was immediately referred to the Neighborhood Alliance for Child Safety (NACS) program operated by Children's Bureau. Misty White, the caseworker assigned to Erica, said, "She wanted the help and I could see that she wasn't looking for a handout; she really wanted the resources that came with having a caseworker."

Misty worked with Erica to set goals for each of their meetings. Her first goal was to gain employment. After two weeks she became employed and the week before Lance was released from the hospital she got a house. "Since I met Misty, I have accomplished five of the six goals I set for myself. The encouragement from a strong female pushed me, and I took off. Meeting Misty was a big breakthrough for me," she said with a smile.

Misty explained that most of her clients are caught in a cycle. That is, they parent the way they were parented. "When parents yell at their children all the time, children grow up believing that yelling is an appropriate way to communicate. The cycle is continued with the next generation and even at their jobs. This is also why many struggle to maintain employment," she said.

"I did everything out of order because I wasn't raised to know you should graduate from high school, go to college, get a good job, marry someone and then have kids. I was starting to feel like I wasn't a fit mother because I had so many problems. But once you've got somebody to get you back on the right track again, like Children's Bureau, it becomes so much smoother," she said.

According to Erica, her fiancé likes the changes that he is seeing in her attitude. "He looked at me and said, 'I like the person you're becoming,' and I told him, well, if I wasn't meeting with Misty every week, I probably wouldn't be improving like this."

Erica said she hopes her kids will know they don't have to have everything to have a good life.

Children's Bureau prevention programs have a



rate at keeping children from entering the child welfare system

Unforeseen Lane Change

Preservation teams served

minimal staff

growth.

made me cry."

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 to his children.

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 in a string of tough blows for this family. Left with an estate and debt to settle, the family's only option was to move into a onebedroom RV and park it on the property of the kids' maternal relatives.

The neighborhood was unsafe children in 2015, with for children and tensions began to mount between the two families. Tim's back was against the wall. He was working 12-hour days, but it never seemed to be enough. Worse yet, the kids were being ridiculed at their new school, and the boys started cutting class

Children's Bureau received a call to send a case manager out and try to reroute this family. When Shannon Towles approached the RV, the first thing she saw was Tim with a big, welcoming smile on his face. He apologetically told her, "It isn't much, but it's what we have. As long as we're together, we've got something."

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.

She began to visit weekly — sometimes more — 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 most Children's Bureau workers. She says, "I think a lot of people would like to put a quick fix on it, and not go into what caused the behaviors in Children's the first place." **Bureau Family**

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," Tina Cloer, Children's Bureau 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 Tim diligently looked for affordable housing in areas with good schools — not an easy task. When they found the right place, donors and corporate partners support provided the rest. "The kids hadn't

When asked what makes her committed to this line of work, Shannon said, "A child's first experience is crucial. If parents are using effective modeling, their children will do the same when they get older, and hopefully we'll have a much better society. I believe in paying it forward and I know when Tim gets to that point where he can do the same, he will."

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

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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



Mike Pitts

Brad Riley

Welcomed new members.



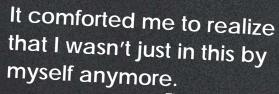
Accumulated volunteer hours that saved the agency \$8,833.



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.



—Tim McElvoy





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\$300,000

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Some Detours Take Courage

need at least

POSITIVE INTERACTIONS

to neutralize 1

negative incident.

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 mother in time for the start of school in August.
She has called several times to thank those

Chitdren's Bureau Strives to

Chitdren's Bureau Strives to differences. Eventually, Kasha started to smile more,

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

> 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.

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 of his dad and was disciplined home. Five months later, JaSha and her siblings went with physical blows throughout Children with a through another placement — this time to a foster history of trauma

"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

home licensed by Children's Bureau.

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.

Asking for Directions When JaSha turned 17.5 she was referred to

> 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

> Children's Bureau's Older Youth Services (OYS)

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.

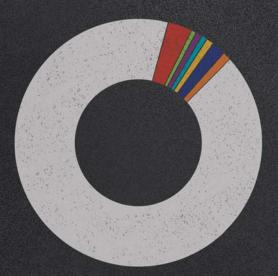
Last year Children's

Bureau Foster Care

licensed families by

increased its number of

10



Revenue

Earned/Gov't. Contracts \$25,443,611 United Way \$809,789 Other Income \$146,841 Individual \$196,056 Corporate \$162,670 Special Event \$232,882 \$449,153 Grants In-Kind \$266,413 \$27,707,415 TOTAL

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.



Programs & Services \$23,707,879Management/General \$2,638,581Fundraising \$710,874

Fundraising \$710,874

NET SURPLUS \$650,081

