### Children's Bureau, Inc.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

HOPE POSSIBILITY

142

# **Compassion Endurance**

In reality, the process of

### emotional healing takes time,

just like physical healing. - Tina Cloer

### Dear friends,

It brings me joy to know that we were able to help 40,777 children across the state in 2018. Each year I am amazed at how many children and families' lives we collectively have the opportunity to impact. Last year, we stood beside 71 youth who graduated from high school and helped 51 of them begin some form of higher education. We supported 656 men in their journey to establish relationships with their kids and experience the joy of being active Dads. We celebrated beside each child who met their forever family through adoption. We saw countless women move forward by taking steps to break the chains of addiction and domestic violence in order to give their children safety and stability. We saw many of the youth served through our shelters and in foster care begin to heal from the effects of traumatic childhood experiences.

I always tell our new employees that it would be wonderful if Children's Bureau had the ability to wave a magic wand to make the recovery process for the children and families go more quickly. But, in reality, the process of emotional healing takes time, much like physical healing. Because each person and each pain heals at a different rate, we must have compassion and provide hope to each Mom, Dad and child that we serve. I am especially proud of our staff who stand beside these families as they overcome their challenges, each at their own pace.

I am thankful to see many examples of compassion endurance, not only in our staff but also in our volunteers, donors and community partners. It would be easy to become overwhelmed with the need in our communities, but we continue to witness the positive impact of the compassion that drives us and renews our capacity for the next person in need.

In the coming year, I look forward to implementing new strategies to help children and their families move forward toward well-being and self-sufficiency. I am grateful to each Auxiliary member, donor, volunteer, corporate partner, community leader and staff person who helps us better our communities one life at a time. I appreciate you for finding it in your hearts to show enduring compassion to the children and families in our community who so desperately need it. As someone whose family was served by Children's Bureau and shown life changing generosity, I am living proof of the lasting impact of a caring community.

Fondly, Tina Cloer

### Driven by Compassion

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Almost all of us have a childhood memory connected to this daunting question. For Linda Hershman, helping people was the answer.

"Actually, I wanted to be an attorney first," laughed Linda. Even if the career path wasn't exactly clear, it was Linda's compassion and desire to help others that led her to social work.

"I grew up in a very poor family," she said. "Both of my parents worked around the clock and barely made ends meet. But, we were taught to help others."

The inspiration from her parents led Linda to earn a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Indiana University and become a home-based case manager at Children's Bureau. Today, she serves families just miles away from where she grew up.

"I'm here to help parents move past the stigma of asking for help," Linda said. She advocates for families in the child welfare system by helping them identify and address the things that have led to instability and unsafe environments for their kids.

Basic necessities that most of us take for granted are far out of reach for the families Linda meets. She has learned that each family faces its own unique challenges. "At times, it can be frustrating to watch a mom or dad's lack of progress. But I stop and ask myself, what are the barriers that I am not seeing?" with a young girl named Hope. After Hope's mother died in a car accident, her father was referred to Children's Bureau for crisis support services. At the time, Hope was 18, expecting her first child and grieving. Transportation was a major barrier for this family. Then an unforeseen opportunity presented itself. GEICO, one of Children's Bureau's corporate partners, announced a car giveaway. Linda

One of Linda's most inspiring cases was working

nominated Hope to receive it, and she won!

"Safe, stable transportation was life changing for this family," said Linda. The new car allowed Hope to get to work and safely transport baby McKenna to doctor appointments.

P. Nearly a year later, Hope's journey with Children's Bureau has come full circle. The car from GEICO and support from Linda guided her to find steady employment and build up her savings.

When Hope began looking for her first apartment, she knew just who to call. Linda referred Hope to another Children's Bureau program to help her find safe housing, create a budget and enroll at Ivy Tech. Today, Hope is closer to her dream of a career in nursing.

"I'm just so proud of her and the mother she has become. She's unstoppable," Linda said.

With compassion as the driving force, Linda continues to provide guidance and support to countless other Indiana families.

I'M HERE TO HELP PARENTS MOVE PAST THE STIGMA OF ASK-ING FOR HELP.

L L



new beds for children in a reunited family



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Children's Bureau is proud to partner with companies that invest in the community by providing ALL kids a chance to succeed. The Children's Bureau Corporate Partners Program provides companies with a measurable model for accomplishing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), or actions for social good. Our team is always identifying new ways to engage corporate partners' employees in the mission supported by their employer. We take responsibility for informing and engaging a company's greatest asset – its employees – through branding, recurring visibility and regular invitations to volunteer.

#### 

I BELIEVE WHAT YOU GIVE, YOU GET BACK. READING TO THE KIDS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERI-ENCE IT. I FEEL BEYOND HUM-BLED AND BLESSED TO BE A PART OF THEIR LIVES EACH AND EVERY TIME! -Leslie Dickman, AAA Exterminating

## Revenue

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/Management/General .	\$3,607,820
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### The Cause is her Endurance

Ashley Asante-Doyle describes herself as a "lifer." Although she's only been with Children's Bureau for seven and a half years, her commitment to serving others has been a lifelong journey. There was never a doubt in Ashley's mind that she was born to advocate for those in need.

"I didn't pick social work, it picked me," she said.

Now the Director of Home-Based Services in Marion County, her time in the social work field

has been filled with determination and growth. Ashley's career path began with a job at the Indiana Juvenile Detention Center. She recalls how difficult it was to watch young people struggle and how helplessly she wanted to support them. "I wanted to be on the treatment side. I wanted to help these kids before they got to this place in their lives." So she set her sights on social work. Ashley was first hired as a part-time administrative assistant at Children's Bureau.

"I was immediately connected to the mission," she said. It was that connection that made her decide to go back to school to finish her Associate's degree and begin working directly with the families. Building rapport with clients came naturally to Ashley. So when the opportunity arose, she returned to school, earned a Bachelor's degree and started working as a case manager.

"I fell in love with the job," Ashley said. "Hearing 'you changed my life' - even from just one person makes everything worthwhile. I knew what I was doing was truly meaningful," she explained.

Working with families "in the system" can be challenging even on the best days. After her time in the field, Ashley is no stranger to secondary trauma. "We experience the side effects from what our clients are going through. We see families in crisis. We see domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness and hopelessness. But we're here to help them get to the other side," she said.

Ashley remembers working with a young mother named April who was struggling to escape domestic violence. "April wasn't a bad person, but she wasn't making good choices for her kids. I would get texts at

10 or 11 o'clock at night, and I'd be on my way,"

she said. "I picked her up from the side of the road after fights with her boyfriend and even after she was sent to jail. I she wanted to change. And it was my job to get her there."

When April was ready, Ashley helped her move away for a fresh start. The separation allowed her to focus on being a better mother for her kids and get her life back on track.

"I try to focus on the success stories," Ashley said. "I focus on the families I know I helped get to a better place. We

come into their homes. We see them regularly. We do our best to help them through a very dark time. In a way, we become their family."

Ashlev's determination led her to take a leap forward and return to school once more to earn a Master's degree. Today she uses her education, experience, passion and commitment to excellence in her position as Director of Home-Based Services in Marion County. "It's so rewarding to look back. I started in a support position — what feels like a lifetime ago — and now I'm overseeing that same program."

After seven and a half years with the agency, this "lifer" is still looking ahead. "I'm fighting for a cause greater than me — I'm fighting for our children. As long as I can make a difference in people's lives, I'll be right here," Ashley said.

IN A WAY, WE BECOME THEIR FAMILY.

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The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths.

These persons have an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern.

> Beautiful people do not just happen.

> > - Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

# This annual report is dedicated to the Children's Bureau

# Auxiliary

for **87 years** of compassion endurance.