

LIGHT

IN THE DARKNESS

Lives renewed. An agency transformed.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Children's Bureau and Families First have helped to shape human services in Central Indiana. Working independently and collaboratively, our commitment to meeting the needs of clients and the community led to talks about joining forces as one agency – to achieve economies of scale, provide complementary, unduplicated lines of service, and leverage limited resources to ensure the continuation of quality care. The outcome was a merger on April 21, 2021.

We are now Firefly Children & Family Alliance.



LETTER FROM THE CEO | *Light in the Darkness*

Dear Friends,

For all of us, 2021 was another challenging yet exciting year. As the pandemic dragged on into its second year, our staff continued to step into the needs of our community. We began the year by completing the merger between Children's Bureau and Families First. The merger has provided us a chance to reimagine what is possible, and to reaffirm our commitment to giving children and families what we would give our own: love, belonging, safety, respect and hope for a brighter future.

Our organization provided critical services to 91,016 children in more than 46,000 families this year. These numbers represent families addressing significant barriers to staying together, survivors recovering from domestic violence, young people transitioning from the child welfare system and growing into successful young adults, and children becoming part of their forever families. All this happened through your help.

Most of the families we served came to us while in a broken, desperate situation. Many were struggling with the impact of long-term poverty, domestic violence, mental health issues and substance use problems. We assisted many parents who found it impossible to care for themselves and the basic needs of their children. For these families, our staff was called on to be the light in the darkness.

I recently listened to a young mother share her story of loss and eventual renewal. She described what it was like to lose her job and her home. She explained the trauma and marital challenges that put her family at risk. She and her children were living in a car when found scouring through dumpsters looking for food. It was then the children were removed from her care.

Despite the darkness and despair, she let us help her. She didn't think she would ever know stability or have the stamina to accomplish all that was needed to get her children back; she could barely get out of bed. But together, her therapist and case manager helped her. Each assured her she was worthy and eventually convinced her she was a capable mother who could get a job and eventually a place to live and that she wasn't irretrievably broken. They assured her that her children needed her and she deserved to have them back. She went on to describe how her therapist helped her resolve her own trauma history and marital issues. During her darkest days, our staff was the light in the darkness for her.

The dedication of our staff is unmatched as we work with individuals to help them overcome trauma to bring positive and lasting change for themselves, their children and their families. We are deeply grateful to each of you who support our work and make it possible for us to bring light to darkness in the lives of so many. You are a critical piece of the work we do and we couldn't do it without you.

Fondly,

Tina
President & CEO

OUR MISSION

Empowering individuals to build stronger families and communities

OUR VISION

Inclusive and healthy communities of thriving people

OUR VALUES

Inclusion

Strive to honor people's unique potential through empathy and access.

Innovation

Explore creative ways to deliver an exceptional experience.

Impact

Achieve positive and lasting change for individuals, families and communities.

The energy of volunteers provides the power behind our outcomes for children and families.



525

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS



8,357

HOURS



\$227,316

VALUE TOWARD CLIENT SERVICES

Thanks for a stellar year. Look what you helped us accomplish.

91,016 CHILDREN AND 46,856 FAMILIES SERVED

Child Abuse Prevention

- Family Resource Centers → 446 individuals
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) → 26,705 children, 14,380 families
- Community Partners for Child Safety → 56,280 children, 27,355 families

Family Preservation & Reunification

- Home-Based Services → 1,571 children, 895 families
- Adoption/Post-Adoption Support → 1,440 children, 835 families
- Older Youth Services → 802 youth

Youth Placement

- Foster Care → 122 children, 64 families
- Rachel Glick Courage Center → 143 children
- Children's Shelter → 302 children, 95 families

Recovery Services

- Batterers Intervention Services → 345 individuals
- Survivor Advocacy → 991 individuals
- Survivor Counseling → 394 individuals
- Mental Health Counseling → 347 individuals
- Substance Use Treatment → 611 individuals

99%

OF FAMILIES HAVE NO REPORTS
OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT FOR
12 MONTHS AFTER SERVICE

73%

IN SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT
HAVE INCREASED KNOWLEDGE
OF COPING TECHNIQUES

90%

OF FATHERS REPORT GREATER
UNDERSTANDING OF
APPROPRIATE PARENTING
& DISCIPLINE SKILLS

97%

OF OLDER YOUTH CAN IDENTIFY
A SUPPORTIVE ADULT

Everyone deserves a chance to shine.



Rosibeth is just one of thousands whose lives have been changed by Firefly Children & Family Alliance. While our agency has a new name, our impact is unchanged. Working together, we're building strong and thriving families and communities.

Rosibeth entered the foster care system three years ago. Now a stable, semi-independent college student, her path to young adulthood has not been an easy one.

Many young adults in foster care choose to discontinue services provided by the state at the age of 18. Often, these youth have lived through multiple traumas, including abuse or neglect, multiple foster home placements, lack of continuity in education and losses of family and social relationships. Further, they may not have received adequate support and guidance on transitioning to adulthood.

As a result, former foster youth experience negative consequences far greater than their peers who were not in the system: unstable housing, lack of secondary education and college enrollment, lack of employment, problems with physical and behavioral health, lack of access to health care, lack of social connections and support systems, and involvement in the justice system.

Fortunately for Rosibeth and other young people like her, voluntary services for these young people are available and serve as a bridge to fill the role a parent or caregiver would provide. As Rosibeth was close to aging out when she entered foster care, she was enrolled in Firefly's Older Youth Services (OYS) program, as well as our survivor counseling.

When placed in the foster care system, Rosibeth had serious trust issues. With therapy, she's learning it's OK to lean on others. She said in the past she would rely on herself and try to solve problems alone. Her therapist is slowly getting Rosibeth out of her comfort zone. "I used to just sit on the couch and binge watch episodes of 'The Office,'" Rosibeth said. Now she's making friends and social connections and is also working full time as a restaurant hostess.

Rosibeth is also a full-time college student, studying criminal justice. Her OYS caseworker describes her as amazing. "She is able to maintain good grades. And any time I give Rosibeth an assignment, she always has it completed at our next visit and she has never missed an appointment. She is always open to learning new things and frequently comes up with skills she would like to improve on. She is also doing great at saving most of her earnings," her caseworker said.

Rosibeth said some of the independent living skills the OYS program is working with her on include getting her supervised driving hours so she can get an operator's license, socializing and cooking. Her favorite thing to cook is chicken enchiladas.

This young woman's life may have taken a rocky path, but her future is bright thanks to the support she's received from Firefly's Older Youth Services and Survivor Counseling.

Your Impact

Thank you for your generous donations. Your gifts to Firefly supported more than services. Your gift provided real, tangible necessities that enable children and families to thrive:



RUNNING WATER IN
A FAMILY'S HOME



CAR SEATS
FOR CHILDREN



CAR REPAIRS FOR YOUTH
IN FOSTER CARE



BUS PASSES



DORM SUPPLIES FOR YOUTH
AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE



BEDS FOR CHILDREN



TEMPORARY
SAFE HOUSING



BIRTHDAY PRESENTS FOR
KIDS IN THE SHELTER



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Programs + Services

Child Abuse Prevention

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS provide a wide range of child and family support services to the communities they serve.

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) is a state-administered program designed to increase access to one of the most critical family support services: child care.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR CHILD SAFETY is aimed at preventing child maltreatment by alleviating stress and connecting families with community resources.

Family Preservation & Reunification

HOME-BASED SERVICES meet families where they are and help families navigate and work through their challenges.

ADOPTION/POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT helps families navigate one of the most important moments in their lives.

OLDER YOUTH SERVICES prepare young people exiting the foster system for successful entry into adulthood.

Youth Placement

FOSTER CARE provides safe homes to foster children and assists adults interested in becoming foster parents by providing licensing, education and training resources.

RACHEL GLICK COURAGE CENTER hosts a short-term residential program for kids who need therapeutic intervention and treatment in a safe setting.

CHILDREN'S SHELTER provides a safe, temporary shelter for Indiana children experiencing a crisis.

Recovery Services

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES help children, families and adults recover from domestic violence through counseling and advocacy.

SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING & ADVOCACY provides resources, support and treatment to sexual assault survivors and their families.

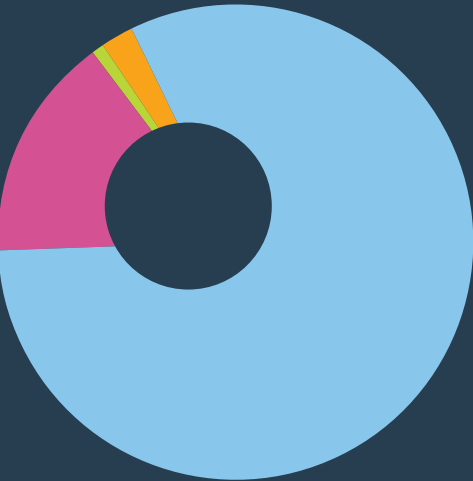
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING addresses the mental health crisis by providing affordable treatment to people suffering from a range of mental health conditions.

SUBSTANCE USE ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT delivers assessment and treatment services to individuals suffering from substance use disorder.

Revenues + Expenses



Revenue		
Contributions & Special Events	\$1,080,480	(2.97%)
In-Kind Donations	\$284,801	(0.78%)
Non-Government Grants	\$1,556,898	(4.27%)
Government Contracts, Grants & Service Fees	\$31,693,434	(86.98%)
Other Income (includes investments)	\$1,140,655	(3.13%)
United Way	\$682,328	(1.87%)
TOTAL		\$36,438,596



Expenses		
Programs & Services	\$29,337,568	(81.66%)
Management & General	\$5,563,016	(15.48%)
In-Kind Donations	\$284,801	(0.79%)
Development/Fundraising	\$740,360	(2.06%)
TOTAL		\$35,925,745

NET SURPLUS / (LOSS) \$512,851

Young Professional Advisory Board

Members of the Young Professional Advisory Board (YPAB) are a critical volunteer crew. Innovative, creative and full of energy, they support our mission by planning two fundraisers per year, volunteering with kids in our residential facilities and serving as ambassadors for Firefly in the community. We thank this group of dynamic young people for the difference they make year after year.

Executive Committee

CHAIR: Megan Scott, *Etica Group*
SECRETARY: Kayla Nymeyer
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Ashley Larson, *Bradley and Montgomery*
VOLUNTEER CHAIR: Jenna Klein, *Raytheon Technologies*

Members

Amber Bowman	Drew Dienhart	Kevin Long	Jack Phillips
Marie Cameron	Kenny Eltzroth	Aerionna Martin	Megan Scott
Olivia Cloer	Caroline Hall	Lauren McNabb	William Shroyer
Kristina Coleman	Jenna Klein	Calob Meinzer	Caitlin Smarrelli
Lexie Dames	Megann Kramer	Kayla Nymeyer	Yvette Tran
Jessica De La Cruz	Shelby Lannan	Brittany Ocubillo	Andrew Ullirich
	Ashley Larson	Alyse Phillips	
	Michael Lombardi		

Board of Directors

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TREASURER: Michele Kawiecki
SECRETARY: Tony Bonacuse
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR: Nick Shelton

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Katy Stowers, *FirstPerson*
Doris Tolliver, *Health Management Associates*
Chris York, *DTE Energy Trading*

Our Partners

Ambassador \$20,000 Leader \$15,000



Champion \$10,000



Educator \$7,500



Mentor \$5,000



Supporter \$2,500



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Use "Firefly Indiana" to find us on social media | 317.264.2700 | fireflyIN.org

