

# Kids' Voice of Indiana

## 2014-2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015



Kids' Voice of Indiana  
Advocate. Educate. Protect.



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## Kids' Voice of Indiana

Advocate. Educate. Protect.



We recently shared with you the story of Delaney\* and Derek\* whose mother is a heroin addict, and neglected and abandoned them. Two years ago, Delaney and Derek were adopted by a family member. When Delaney was 3, the adoptive family decided they could no longer care for her, but would keep Derek, so Delaney was sent to live with another family member who became her guardian. That guardian then quickly decided she could no longer care for Delaney either and asked the Court to be relieved of those duties. That is when Kids' Voice became the Guardian ad Litem for Delaney. Kids' Voice set out to find Delaney a permanent home, and more importantly, find a way for her to stay connected with Derek.

This life story is just one example of what the Kids' Voice staff and volunteers handle daily. Working to advocate, educate, and protect these children requires trained, caring, and patient volunteers and staff. Each year, hundreds of hours are spent on each child's case, assisting hundreds of children in our community that are living in neglectful, abuse, and unsafe situations. Our goal is to work on behalf of these children to assist in providing them the care, support, and love that they deserve and need.

It is only through the help of each of you—volunteers, board members, donors, and staff—and your tremendous devotion that Kids' Voice is achieving the goal of providing a safe home for children. We exist to advocate—educate—protect the children in our community!

Thank you,

Eddie L. Rivers, Jr.  
President/CEO



# Advocate. Educate. Protect.

Kids' Voice of Indiana protects abused and neglected children by providing child advocacy, legal education, and family visitation through three programs:

Bette J. Dick **Guardian ad Litem for Kids Program**  
Derelle Watson-Duvall **Children's Law Center of Indiana**  
Jenny Miller **Supervised Parent-Child Visitation Program**

**Advocate** — Guardian ad Litem (GAL) — program provides court appointed GAL representation for children involved in civil court cases — guardianship, adoption, divorce, and paternity.

There are **260 active volunteers**, who provide an average of **50 hours** for each child's case. A typical case for a child involves an average of **14 months** of assessment, records, reporting, and court hearings. For this fiscal year, we had **197 cases**, for **287 children**, which is at least **9,850 hours** provided for these children—keeping them from becoming a Child in Need of Services (CHINS), or a ward of the state.

An intensive assessment is made for each child, including: home visits; interviewing various individuals involved in the child's care, education, and support; and requesting and reviewing criminal histories, Department of Child Service records, school, and medical records;

speaking to counselors and teachers — all prior to preparing recommendations to the Judge. Kids' Voice provides a comprehensive view of the child's situation with reports, home studies and evidence.

**A 14 month case for a child costs kids' Voice approximately \$2,000.** *We have had some cases last as long as 5 years.* GAL fees are minimum, are offered on a sliding scale, waived in many cases, and are only collected in approximately half of our cases.

**ALL children receive help from Kids' Voice, regardless of financial situation**

**Educate** — Children's Law Center of Indiana (CLCI) — provides legal information and training for legal professionals and the community.

Through presentations and trainings, **1158** individuals were educated and informed on children's issues. Our staff responded to **448** inquiries from attorneys and the community regarding children's legal issues, and **89** case law updates and **10** legal articles were posted to our website. Our comprehensive CHINS Deskbook 2014 was also completed and distributed to **317** courts, DCS offices, and attorneys. Our website is continually updated with information and materials to assist the community and legal professionals in issues pertaining to children. Our website received **1,468,088** hits during this past year. [www.KidsVoiceIN.org](http://www.KidsVoiceIN.org)

**Protect** — Supervised Parent-Child Visitation (PCV) — program provides a safe and fully supervised parenting time (visitation) for children to visit with a parent as required by a court order or the parties' written agreement.



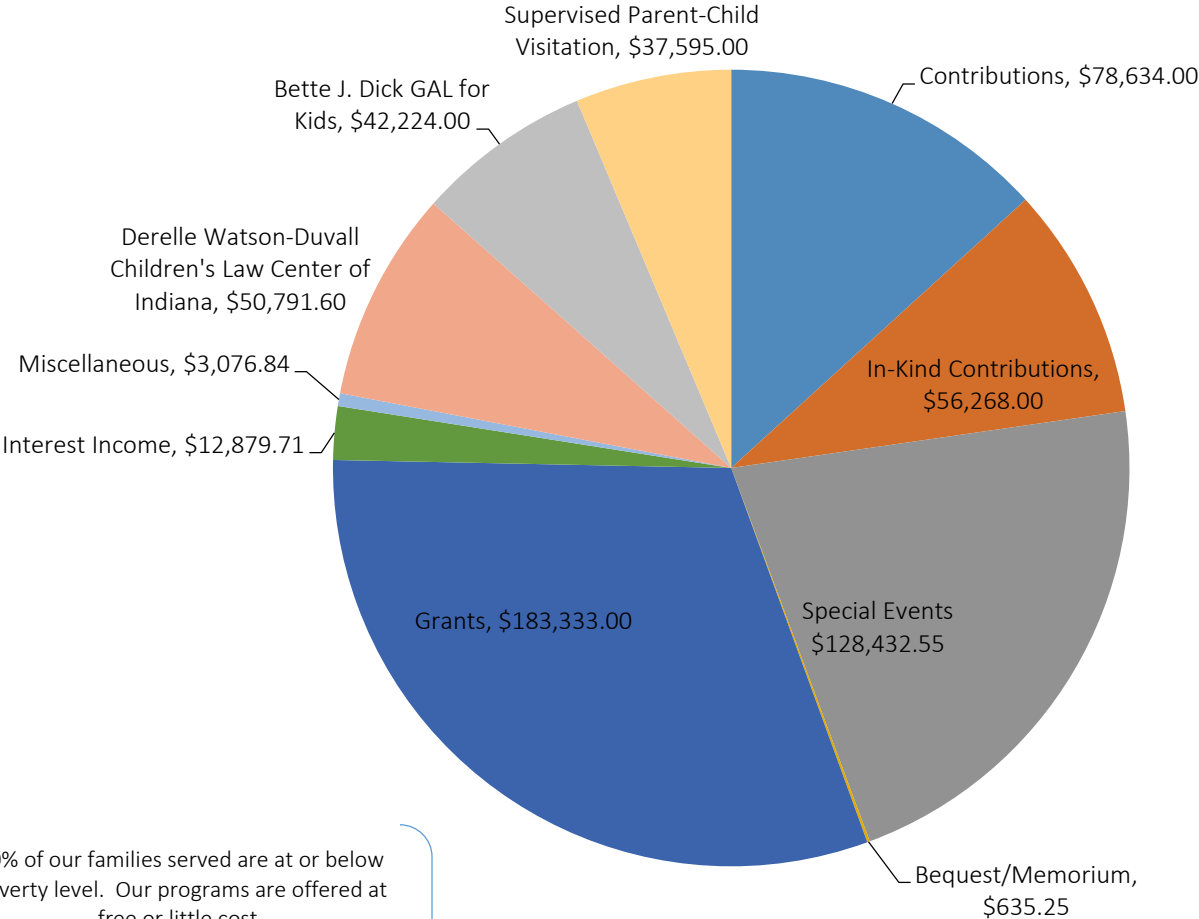
**632 visits** were supervised by Kids' Voice, providing a safe, secure, and comfortable environment for children to interact and have family time that is central to them.

Supervisors are screened and trained by Kids' Voice and keep detailed notes regarding observations of each session.

**978 hours** (632 visits) were provided from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015

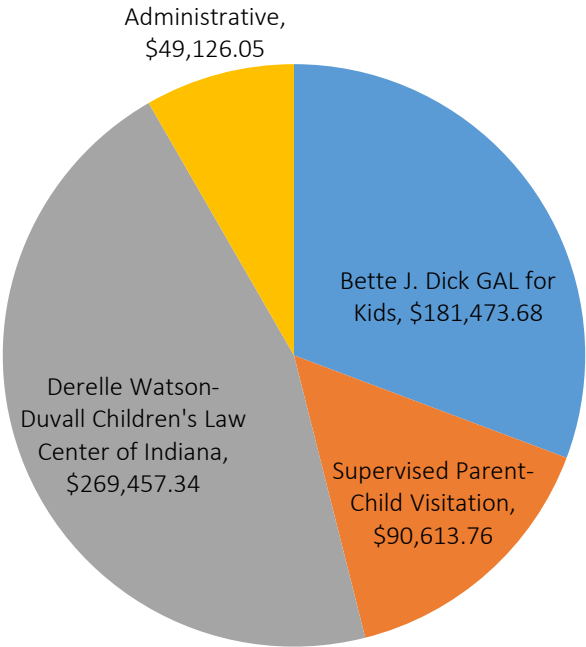


# REVENUE July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015



70% of our families served are at or below poverty level. Our programs are offered at free or little cost. All children are helped – regardless of family financial situation!

# EXPENSES





**THANK YOU** to our donors who have supported Kids' Voice of Indiana through financial and in-kind gifts. Your gifts are vital in providing the children we serve with the quality programs and dedicated, trained volunteers and staff who are always working for the best interests of the child. **We are grateful for your support!**

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## **Legacy**

\$10,000 & above

Deborah Agard  
Bruce and Christine Arians  
Anthony Castonzo  
Jim Lines - JLA Bakery Solutions  
Millenium Steel  
Jim & Leslie Deitchman - TenderCare Home  
Health Services

## **Guardian**

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Alice & Greg Aldridge - Aldridge Insurance  
Erie Insurance  
Ice Miller  
Ogletree Deakins Law Firm  
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Smart IT Staffing, INC  
Donna Smithers

## **Inspiration**

\$2,500 to \$4,999

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Lou Hensley  
Indianapolis Colts  
The National Bank of Indianapolis  
Jay and Denise Pittas

## **Hope**

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Jessica & Jenny Aldridge  
Maple Creek Golf & Country Club  
Pinkus & Pinkus Attorneys at Law  
Sullivan's Steakhouse

## **Benefactor**

\$500 to \$999

UAW Local 933  
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Family Leisure Indianapolis  
Leanne Fuhs  
HH Gregg  
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Open Control Systems  
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\$250 to \$499

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Erin Puckett  
Michael Wukmer & Jo-Anne Beitel

## Supporter

to \$249

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Debra Tapley  
John & Patricia Torr  
Derelle Watson-Duvall  
Melanie Woods  
Wayne & Tracy Woods  
Jeffry & Belinda Young  
Gerald Zore

We appreciate all our supporters, each who are crucial to our ability to help children. We carefully review the generous donations that are provided. If we have made an error, we apologize, and please notify us at [info@kidsvoicein.org](mailto:info@kidsvoicein.org)

## Staff

Eddie L. Rivers, Jr. – President & CEO  
Derelle Watson-Duvall – Attorney  
Bethanne Gruner – Director, Internal Operations  
Katherine Meger Kelsey – Attorney  
Lindsay Faulkenberg – Attorney  
Dara Readus – Program and Event Coordinator  
Joyce Schooley – PCV Program Manager

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