

Kids' Voice of Indiana

2015-2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



Kids' Voice of Indiana
Advocate. Educate. Protect.



United Way agency



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Nick was 11 years old when his parents filed for divorce. The court appointed Kids' Voice to represent Nick's best interests as his GAL. A retired school principal volunteered to serve as Nick's GAL. Nick had been home-schooled, and the GAL discovered that Nick's academic knowledge and skills were at a level much lower than Nick's chronological age.

The GAL advised temporary guardian to enroll Nick in school and to request that the school test Nick to see if he qualified for Special Education services. The GAL recommended that his guardians enroll Nick in private tutoring. By the time Nick was 13, the teachers at middle school informed the GAL that Nick's grades and academic skills had improved dramatically. The GAL recommended that Nick continue to work with his private tutor and start working with a Reading and Recovery specialist at his school.

Nearly two years after the GAL began representing Nick's best interests, his parents had established good patterns of parental involvement in his education. Thanks to the GAL's continued monitoring, advocacy, and encouragement to the family, Nick is on track to graduate from high school and pursue technical education at IVY Tech to become an electrician. Nick plans to be able to support himself and give back to the community when he becomes an adult.

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 spend on each child's case, assisting hundreds of children in our community that are living in neglectful, abusive, 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 needs.

It is only through the help of each of you—volunteers, board members, donors, and staff—and your tremendous devlotion 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 Kids' 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 **250** active volunteers, who provide an average of **40** 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 **195** cases, for **228** children, which is at least **7,800** 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 a 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 five years. GAL fees are minimal 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, **1,528** individuals were educated and informed on children's issues. Our staff responded to **655** inquiries from attorneys and the community regarding children's legal issues, and **37** case law updates and **6** legal articles were posted to our website. Our website is continually updated with information and materials to assist the community and legal professionals in issues pertaining to children. Our website received over 2.3 million hits during the past year. www.kidsvoicein.org.

Protect — Supervised Parent-Child (PCV) Visitation 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.

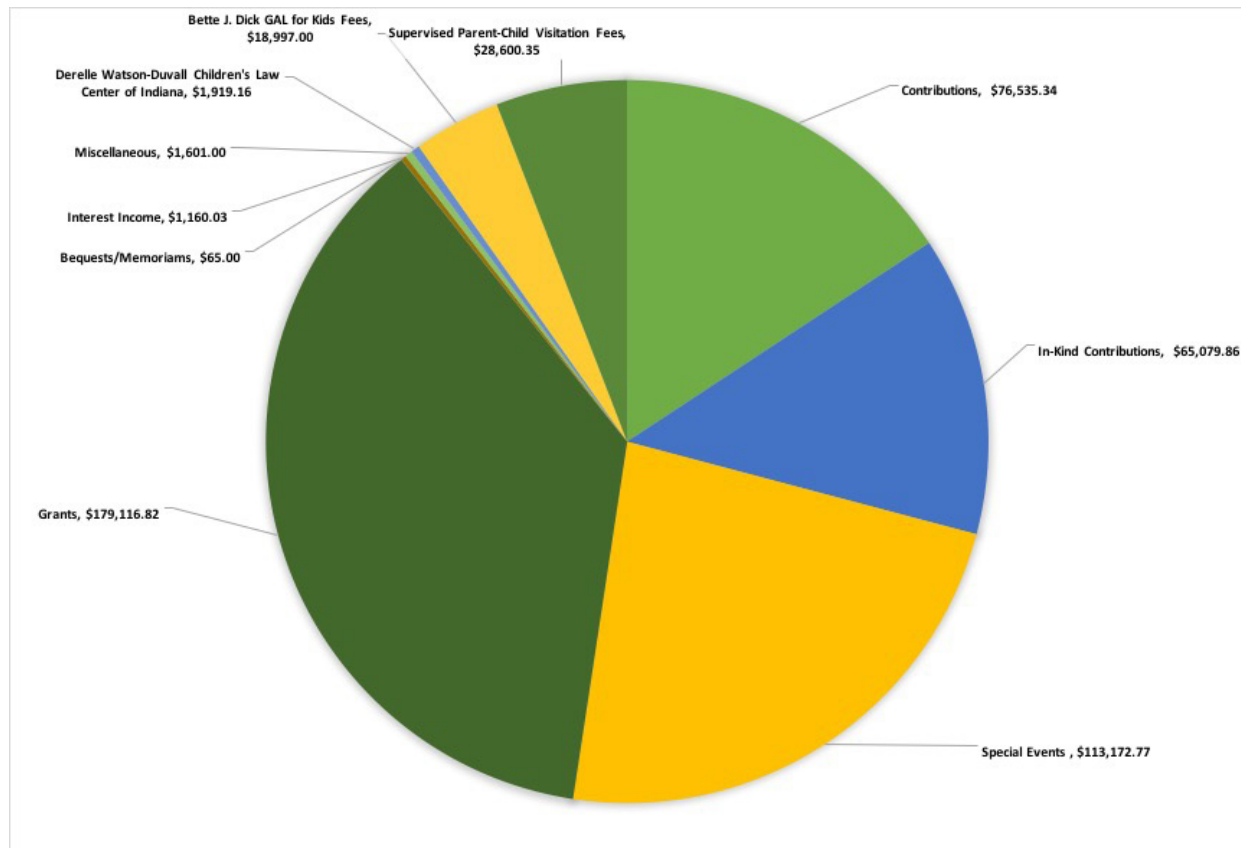


531 visits were supervised by Kids' Voice, providing a safe, secure, and comfortable environment for children to interact and have family time that is central to them.

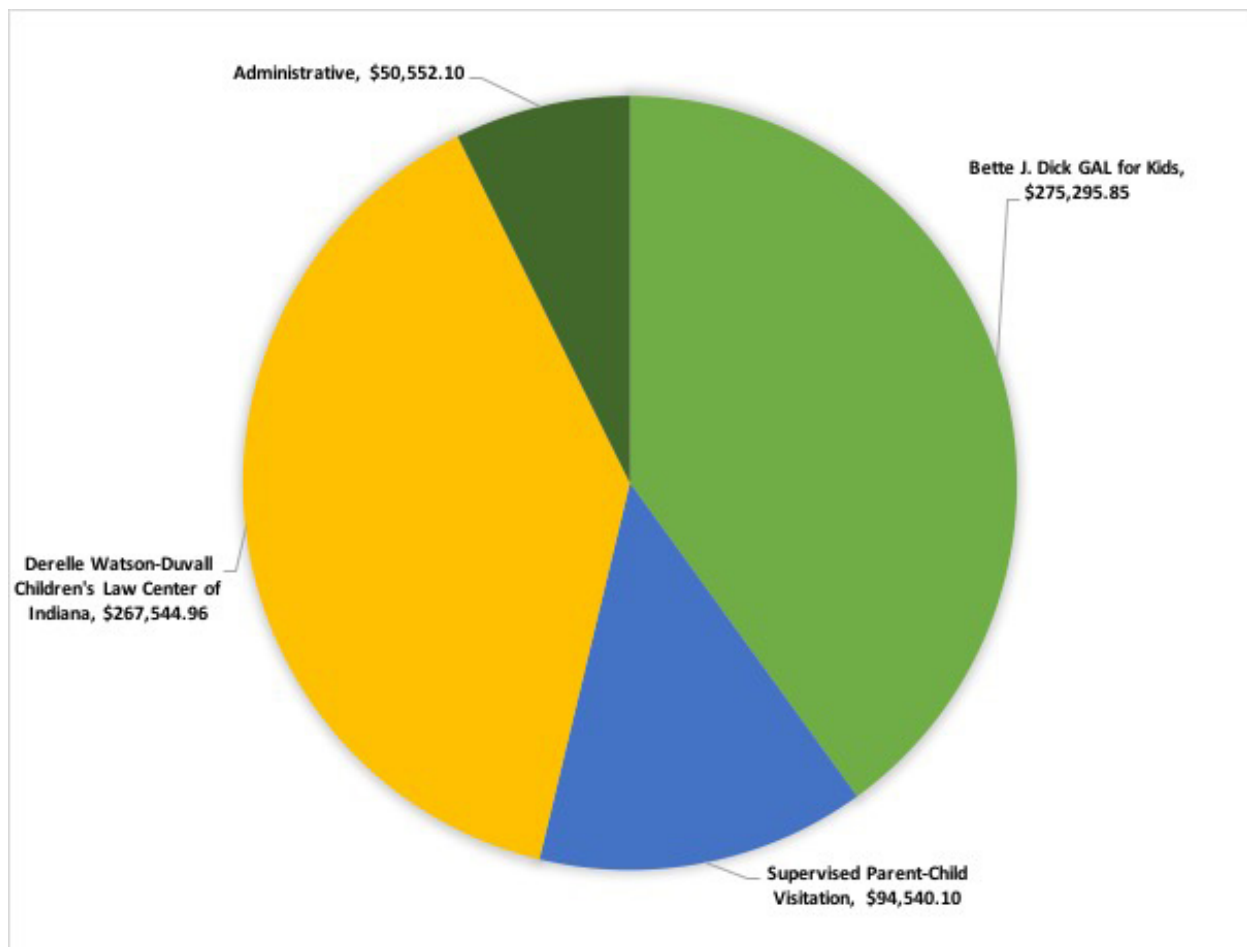
Supervisors are screened and trained by Kids' Voice and keep detailed notes regarding observations of each session.

845 hours (531 visits) were provided from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016

REVENUE July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016



EXPENSES July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016





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!

LEGACY

\$10,000 and Above

TenderCare Home Health Services
Millenium Steel

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Eddie and Jennifer Rivers
Donna Smithers

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PATRON

\$250-\$499

Abbott Fund
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Jay and Venus Thorne
Candice Whetsel

*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 the family financial situation!*

SUPPORTER

Up to \$249

Amazon Smiles
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Debarati Bardhan
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Bob Ellis
Emswiller, Williams, Noland & Clarks, PC
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Joyce Schooley – PCV Program Manager

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.

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