Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

abundant | 2016 annual report
More than 1,200,000 people in Indiana live below 125% of the federal poverty line. That means we have thousands of neighbors struggling to make ends meet every day. Unfortunately, this means that many of our neighbors can’t afford to pay for legal help when they need it, and that leaves them vulnerable to becoming victims of abuse or fraud. It leaves them without the opportunity to provide safe homes for their families and live financially secure, self-sufficient lives.

Too many of our neighbors lack access to justice because they can’t afford it. Too many of our neighbors face a cold, impersonal legal system that treats them like a number instead of a person.

The Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic believes that everyone should have access to justice regardless of their income bracket, so we provide free civil legal services to people who cannot afford them. We serve all of our clients, regardless of background or religion, in a way that reflects Christ’s love and God’s heart for justice. Each year our programs serve more than 10,000 clients, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes; ex-offenders working to make a new start in life; families on the brink of losing their homes to foreclosure; refugees and asylum seekers looking for safety in a new country; taxpayers struggling to overcome disputes with the IRS; and homeless youth who need help navigating our complex legal system.

Thank you for supporting justice in our community!

Christopher L. Purnell
Executive Director
In 2016, the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic helped more than 10,000 people. You made this possible with your generosity, and our work continues because of you. We look forward to continuing to partner with you for the sake of justice throughout the state of Indiana.

We are so grateful for you!

During the year, 4,010 people attended one of our neighborhood-based intakes seeking legal counsel and representation.

8,747 people learned about their legal rights and responsibilities.

Our 36-person staff team and volunteer network (who provided 4,919 hours of volunteer service) had the following impact...
Clients served in our Immigrant Justice Program include asylees fleeing brutal regimes, refugees seeking to start a new life here, and children who were brought to the U.S. at a young age. We seek to help our immigrant clients fully integrate into the U.S., which includes seeking the authority to work.

Client story

Manuel came to the Clinic after fleeing gang violence in his home country. Manuel was a hardworking taxi driver who, though not wealthy, was able to provide a decent living for his family. Then gang violence started to escalate in his town. Several children who were close in age to Manuel’s daughter and son were recruited into violent gangs, and other children who refused to join the gangs were killed. Gang members started to threaten teachers in his daughter’s school, killed the mayor of their town, and threatened several other local officials. After a young girl was murdered by a gang member and two other girls at her school went missing, Manuel’s daughter became afraid to go to class. Then Manuel’s taxi was stolen from him at gunpoint. He reported the crime to the police, but they lacked the resources to help him, as several police officers had recently been killed by gang members. Left with no way to provide for his family and afraid that any day one of his children could either be recruited by a gang or killed by the violence that surrounded them, Manuel was facing a future of inescapable poverty. He took his wife and children and fled to the United States. He and his family made their way to Indiana and then to the Clinic, where they filed for asylum. The Clinic was able to help them file their asylum application, giving them the opportunity to find safety here in our community. Now, this hardworking immigrant and his children have the chance to make a new life here in the United States.

- filed 187 applications to help our immigrant neighbors become citizens of the United States
- helped 104 refugees and other immigrants file applications to get their green cards
Partnering with agencies such as The Julian Center and Families First, we provide critically needed legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes that will help victims secure immediate safety and long-term well-being.

Client story

Vicky came to the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic struggling to make an important decision: Should she divorce her husband?

Vicky did not take this decision lightly, but she also knew that staying in her marriage would risk her safety and the safety of her children. Vicky had been in an abusive marriage for seven years. She decided to separate from her husband and was attempting to work toward reconciliation, but he was not helping her care for their children in any financial or emotional way. After months of counseling, Vicky realized that she needed to end her marriage.

With the help of one of the Clinic’s staff attorneys and through our partnership with The Julian Center, Vicky received sole custody of her children and receives weekly child support payments from her ex-husband. Now she can focus on nurturing a safe and loving environment where she can raise her children.

Victim Justice Program

- provided immigration assistance to 136 victims of violent crimes
- helped 97 victims of violent crimes resolve family law matters such as child custody or child support issues
Whether there has been a loss of employment, divorce/separation, or unexpected health expenses, we help protect clients’ income and provide a fresh financial start. Our Helping Hoosier Homeowners program provides a full range of mortgage foreclosure prevention services.

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic assists taxpayers who have a dispute with the IRS and offers educational outreach programs to inform low-income and immigrant taxpayers of their tax rights and responsibilities. Our consumer attorneys assist with bankruptcy.

client story

Greg is a veteran who came to an intake seeking help for a tax issue. When the Clinic’s tax attorney called Greg to open his case, it was clear that Greg had a bigger problem than just his taxes. Greg was inconsolable. He told his attorney that he was homeless and that he had no desire to live any longer. Then he quickly hung up. Greg’s attorney acted swiftly to contact a partner agency that helped locate him and bring him back to their facility. The entire Clinic staff spent time in prayer for Greg that week. Greg is alive, and our attorney was eventually able to connect with him and provide him with tax assistance. More importantly, though, Greg began receiving the other supportive services he needed.

- saved taxpayers $450,221 in corrected tax liabilities and dollars refunded
- helped 536 families avoid foreclosure
- provided representation or advice to 191 families who needed to file for bankruptcy
Project GRACE

Project GRACE (Guided Re-entry and Community Education) works with ex-offenders, helping to remove barriers to successful re-entry. Services include limiting access to criminal histories, restoring driving privileges, and assistance with child support and visitation issues.

Client story

Megan needed a second chance. Several years ago, she struggled with a crippling drug addiction. Eventually, her drug use got her into legal trouble, and she was sent to prison for non-violent drug offenses. While there, she overcame her addiction and started thinking about what her life would look like after she was released. She knew she wanted to make a fresh start.

When she got out of prison, Megan immediately began looking for a job so she could support herself and get back on her feet. Unfortunately, her options were limited. Her driver's license was suspended, which meant she could only work somewhere close to her home, and few of the places close to her were willing to hire someone with a criminal record. When she eventually found a job, it only paid minimum wage, which didn’t leave her with enough money to make ends meet.

That’s when Megan heard about the Clinic’s services and came to us for help. A Clinic attorney helped her filed for expungement, and we just received notice that her expungement was granted! This will allow Megan to apply for jobs previously out of her reach—jobs that will help her cover her most basic expenses. The Clinic is still working to help her resolve her driver’s license issues, but once that’s resolved, Megan will be able to drive herself to and from work. Finally, she will have the chance to build the new life she dreamed about.

- assisted 3,088 people with criminal records learn about their options for expungement at our Expungement Help Desk
- provided legal representation or advice to another 112 people with criminal records, helping them deal with driver’s license issues, more complicated expungements, bankruptcies, family law matters, and other cases
The goal of the Project PEACE (Peaceful Engagement And Conflict Education) was to provide an alternative to contentious litigation for family law disputes. Rather than "lawyering up" to deal with custody, parenting time, and child support, we provided volunteer "peace coaches" who help facilitate collaborative co-parenting relationships, and a lawyer/mediator who can ensure agreements reached are legally sound and in the children’s best interests.

HVAF Partnership

The Clinic is proud to partner with the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indiana (HVAF) to provide legal services to homeless veterans in our community. This targeted partnership allows the Clinic to assist veterans with a variety of legal issues—including expungement, bankruptcy, family law issues, and more—to ensure that those who have faithfully served our country have the help they need.
Homeless Youth Justice Program

The HYJP allows the Clinic to provide legal services to a particularly vulnerable population—homeless teenagers and young adults. By partnering with Outreach Inc. and other organizations that provide supportive services, the Clinic can help these clients deal with a variety of legal issues, such as family law issues, accessing education, dealing with domestic violence, landlord/tenant law (if they do manage to find housing), accessing benefits, obtaining identification, and more.

Civil Legal Advice Line

For Hoosiers living outside of our intake area, we offer a toll-free Advice Line: 1.877.230.7521 - Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. An attorney is on-hand to offer legal information & advice on: Bankruptcy, Consumer/Debt, Wills/Estates, Tax Controversies, Driver’s License, Expungement, Family Law, Landlord/Tenant, Housing/Foreclosure, and Immigration matters.
These consolidated financial statements are compiled from our complete 2016 financial statements, which are prepared and audited by Blue & Co., LLC. The complete audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.

### EXPENSES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>2,295,726</td>
<td>2,110,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>211,673</td>
<td>165,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>113,198</td>
<td>127,463</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>2,620,597</td>
<td>2,403,184</td>
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### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>1,169,666</td>
<td>793,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>1,283,729</td>
<td>1,211,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>114,063</td>
<td>190,383</td>
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</table>

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

**Contributions**
- Unrestricted: 212,307
- Temporarily Restricted: 890,566
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Program service fee revenue**
- Unrestricted: 1,097,566
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Contributed services**
- Unrestricted: 507,718
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Net revenues from special events**
- Unrestricted: 98,290
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Other revenue**
- Unrestricted: 4,258
- Temporarily Restricted: 722
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Net assets released from restrictions**
- Unrestricted: 814,721
- Temporarily Restricted: 814,721
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Total support and revenue**
- Unrestricted: 2,734,660
- Temporarily Restricted: 76,567
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Management and general**
- Unrestricted: 211,673
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Fundraising**
- Unrestricted: 113,198
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Program Services**
- Unrestricted: 2,295,726
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Contributed services**
- Unrestricted: 507,718
- Temporarily Restricted: 0
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Other revenue**
- Unrestricted: 4,258
- Temporarily Restricted: 722
- Permanently Restricted: 0

**Net assets released from restrictions**
- Unrestricted: 814,721
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**Total support and revenue**
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- Temporarily Restricted: 76,567
- Permanently Restricted: 0

These consolidated financial statements are compiled from our complete 2016 financial statements, which are prepared and audited by Blue & Co., LLC. The complete audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.
“Being a part of the faith community here has really helped open my eyes back up to what’s important in life. It’s just made me realize much more that everybody is struggling; everybody needs patience, needs a listening ear, needs to be given the dignity of being treated like a human being. I think that’s what the Clinic does for the community... I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

- Matthew Barr, Board Member

Joshua W. Abel, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
James J. Ammeen, Jr., Ammeen & Associates PC
Matthew Barr, Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Timothy Dooley, Common Ground Christian Church
Herb Jensen, Jensen & Associates PC
Fatima Johnson, Law Firm of Fatima Johnson
Abby Kuzma, Office of the Indiana Attorney General
Ann Preston, Easter Seals Crossroads
Rogier Reece, Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County
Jason R. Reese, Wagner Reese LLP
Janet Stephenson, Community Volunteer

$10,000+
College Park Church
Grace Church
Indiana Civil Legal Aid Fund
Indiana Consumer Law Group
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership
Internal Revenue Service
Kuzma, Benjamin & Abigail Noblesville Housing Authority
St. Vincent The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF Affiliate
United Way Of Central Indiana
Wagner Reese, LLP

$5,000 - $9,999
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP
Buttrey, Donald Faegre Baker Daniels, LLP
Gurchiek, John & Kara Ice Miller, LLP
Mindrebo, Peggy & Norman Parker, Douglas & Patricia Reese, Jason & Jill Stephenson, Todd & Janet The Saltsburg Fund Trinity Church

$2,500 - $4,999
Anonymous
Aram, Robert & Nancy Brown, Jennifer & Sean Connor Reporting
Rowe & Hamilton, Attorneys At Law
Rubin & Levin, P.C.
Southport Presbyterian Church
Tait, William & Barbara VanHleen & Associates

$1,000 - $2,499
Armmeen, James J. Barr, Matthew & Kellie Bloxsome, Jeffrey & Kathleen Blood, David & Julie Bose, McKinney & Evans, Tyler Brehob Nursery, Inc. Brotherhood Mutual Foundation Brown, Gary & Catherine Community Foundation Of Greater Fort Wayne

$500 - $999
Amidon, Gregory & Sarah Baeverstad, Mark & Katie Beers Mailers Backs & Salin, LLP
Benjamin, John A. BKD, LLP
Burrus, Kevin Carter, Nick & Kendra Clark, Quinn, Moses, Scott & Grahn LLP
Conner, Michael & Susan Core, Braden Dudley, Mark & Christine Eskenazi Health Foltz, Jim & Judy Gaye, Mark & Alison E. Griswold, Joshua & Andrea Hayes, Michael & Jennifer Ho, Chang & Angel Humphrey, James S. Hussey, Michael & Kate Johnson, Derek & Sarah Krieg DeVault, LLP
Lamberi, Joe & Ida Mayer, Tracy Perez-Contreras, Wendy Preston, Ann & Chuck Riegler, Christopher & Laurie Senior Home Companions Smith, Ilene St. Louis, Matthew Sweeney Law Firm Sweetwater Sound, Inc. Tabernacle Presbyterian Church Teller, Daphne Valenzuela Law, LLC
Willen, Sharon
Our Vision
“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
Psalm 82:3-4

Our Mission
To promote justice through legal representation and legal education for our low-income neighbors as a way of demonstrating Christ’s love.

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nclegalclinic.org

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization.