



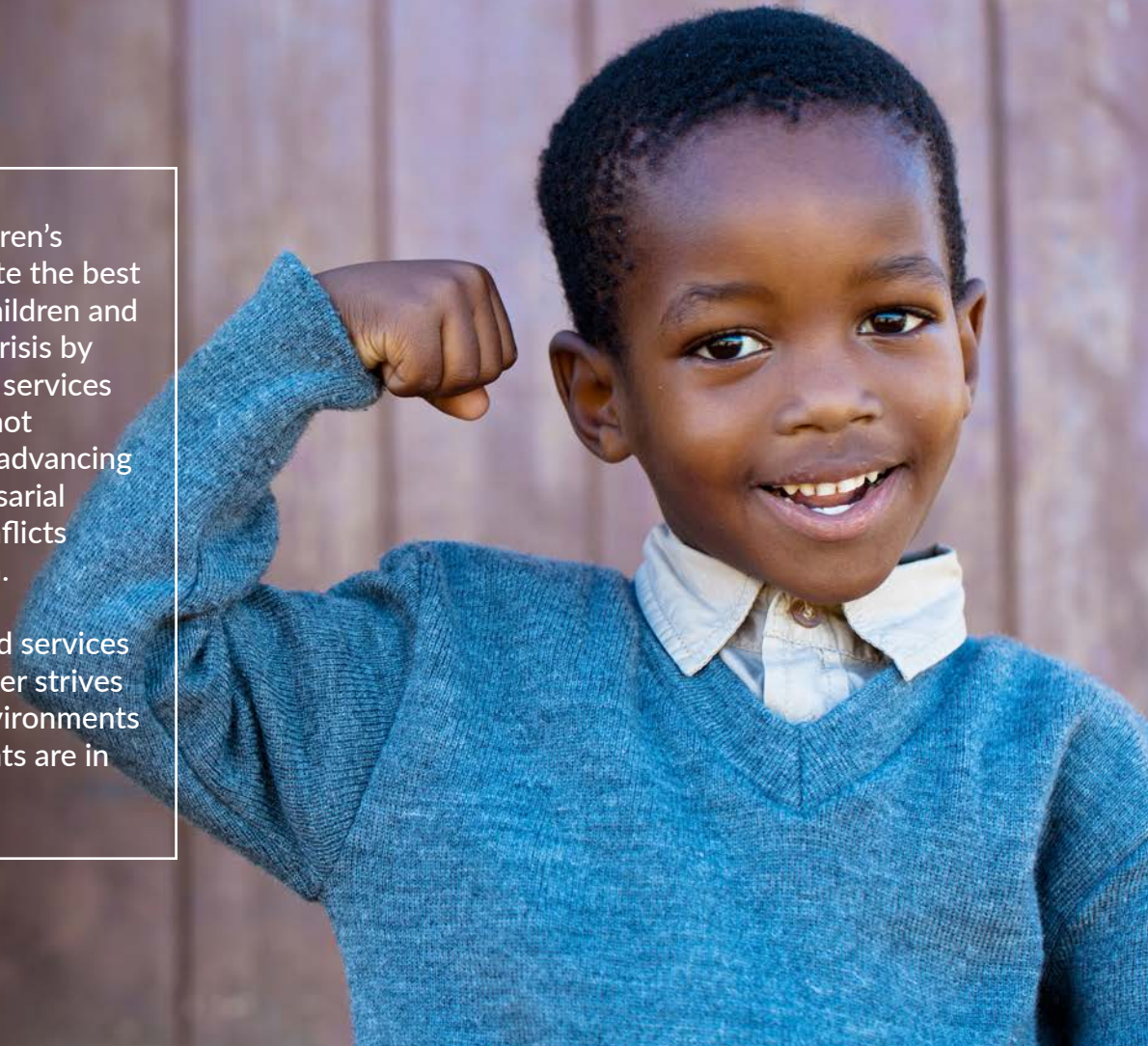
Envision
a kinder
future.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of The Children's **LAW** Center is to promote the best possible outcomes for children and families in transition or crisis by providing access to legal services and support they could not otherwise afford and by advancing collaborative, non-adversarial options for resolving conflicts outside the court system.

Through its programs and services the Children's **LAW** Center strives to create safe, stable environments for children whose parents are in chronic conflict.



Dear Friends,

2020 was an extraordinary year by any measure. It was a year in which each of us faced difficult personal challenges. It was a year when the parents of our child clients were disproportionately affected by joblessness and poverty. And most significant, it was a year when The Children's **LAW** Center discovered the strength and commitment of our supporters.

You, our donors, never wavered in your support of our mission. With your generosity and strong leadership from our Board of Directors, we were able to continue our critical work while keeping our clients, our staff, and the community safe.

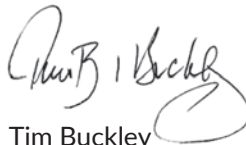
We thank you for being dedicated and exceptional supporters. You have our endless gratitude for helping to carry CLC during this unprecedented time. With your support, CLC was able to navigate 2020's challenging circumstances, allowing us to continue the work needed to be done with the children and families we serve.

Because of your support, we are able to help parents provide safer, more stable environments for their children, now and in the future.

With immense gratitude,



Justine Rakich-Kelly
Executive Director



Tim Buckley
President, Board of Directors



It is an honor and privilege to lead this organization and I am truly grateful for our friends and supporters. The CLC staff has worked so incredibly hard throughout the pandemic this year, never missing a beat. 2020 posed unthinkable challenges for everyone and I am hopeful that we are well on the road to "normal". At CLC, we remain dedicated to the work that is so important to kids and families, regardless of the obstacles we encounter.

— Justine Rakich-Kelly

IN 2020

LAW LINE

received a total of

757 Calls

regarding

1,081 Children

LEGAL

REPRESENTATION

359 Cases

563 Kids

FAMILIES IN

TRANSITION

29 Cases

44 Kids



A great example of our Legal Representation program's effectiveness and impact.

Jacob's mom, Carla, became unemployed in 2020. She had found a job working in Florida and wanted to relocate there with Jacob. She did not have stable housing in Connecticut and was burdened with the task of continuously trying to figure out where she and Jacob would be sleeping next. While the pandemic raged on, housing opportunities became less predictable. A move to Florida meant that Carla would have reliable income and that she and Jacob

could stay with family members until she saved up for an apartment.

The court had ordered that Jacob's father, John, have alternating weekend parenting time, but instead he chose to take Jacob just on alternating Saturdays. Carla notified John of her plan to move to Florida, yet he did not respond until nearly five months after her move, filing a motion in court. The court appointed Children's Law Center attorney, Aisha Roche, as Jacob's guardian ad litem to ensure that his best interests were being represented in this dispute.

Aisha had numerous remote conversations with John about the possibility of Carla remaining in Florida. At first John was very resistant. He explained that he wanted



to be able to see Jacob often and was nervous that the relationship would suffer if Carla remained in Florida. Aisha set up a Zoom conference call with Carla and John. Carla talked of her concern that if the hearing went forward she might be ordered to move back to Connecticut, and she would have no income or a place that she and Jacob could live. Jacob had always lived with his mom.

With CLC's help, John came to understand that he could continue to develop his relationship with Jacob and also allow Carla to provide Jacob with a stable home. Carla reassured John that he could have extended parenting time with Jacob in the summer and on school breaks. Since Carla was living in the same Florida town as John's cousin, John would be welcome to stay with his cousin any time he came to Florida to visit Jacob. Carla also agreed that John could have telephone and FaceTime access with Jacob nightly.

CLC's involvement in this case enabled a compromise that would benefit both the child and the parents.

CLC's involvement in this case enabled Carla and John to reach a compromise that would meet their needs and, more importantly, benefit Jacob. They understood that their focus needed to be on what was best for Jacob and that each could have a meaningful relationship with their child, even if Jacob lived in Florida..

Today, Jacob lives in Florida with his mom, who has reliable income, stable housing and available child care for Jacob from her family. On most days, Jacob talks to his dad and

he knows that he will get to spend time with his dad soon, either in Florida or in Connecticut. Now Jacob can enjoy the love and support of the two most important people in his life.



2020 Staff



Justine Rakich-Kelly
Executive Director



Margaret Bozek
Staff Attorney



David Coughlin
Staff Attorney



Randa Hojaiban
Deputy Director



Brendan Holt
Staff Attorney



Artila Lubonja
Staff Attorney



Kathryn Phillips
Staff Attorney



Aisha Roche
Staff Attorney



Monique Ryan
Staff Attorney



Deb Shulansky
Director of Development



Nicole Silva
Staff Social Worker



Jenna Trott
Development & Marketing Associate



Tonia Tubaya
Professional Assistant

In 2020, we said farewell to:
Artila Lubonja & Kathryn Phillips

And welcomed:
Brendan Holt

2020 Interns

Ama Frimpong Ansah
Olivia Benson
Jennifer Cooney
Catherine Craig
Gianna DeMasi

Bailey Frankel
Leslie Macedo
Emma Robertson
Kylee Verrill
Taylor Weischet

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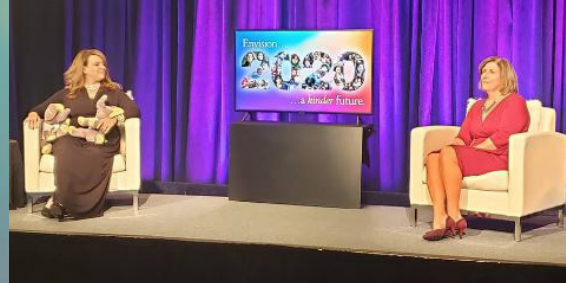


Thank you for making our Gala a success!



On November 13th, 2020, World Kindness Day, The Children's Law Center Gala was hosted virtually! With technology at our fingertips, we delivered an unforgettable event with inspirational stories, unique auction packages, plush

animals for donation and purchase, plus so much more! Radio personality, Renee DiNino of iHeart Radio served as the evening's emcee. We also proudly celebrated Justine Rakich-Kelly's 20th anniversary as CLC's Executive Director!



2020 Gala Committee

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Do You Hear What I Hear?

Led by presenters Attorney Kim Duell and Dr. Elizabeth Thayer, attendees to this training session learned the factors that promote or interfere with effective listening, how to listen to families in conflict and what listening skills will allow them to resolve disputes more efficiently and effectively.



Elizabeth S. Thayer,
Ph.D.



Kim L. Duell
Attorney



Thank you to our generous supporters!

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REVENUE

\$1,201,765



Grants & Foundations \$709,340

Legal Representation \$255,171

Event Income \$107,986

Individual & Corporate Contributions \$45,130

Rebuilding Families \$6,332

EXPENSES

\$1,028,579



Program Services \$802,056

Fundraising \$149,597

Management & General \$76,926

The Children's Law Center's Year-End financial strength is thanks to emergency relief funding made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, as distributed through various agencies and government partners at the federal, state and local level. These funds, and the expenses they cover, include:

AGENCY AND PROGRAM	AMOUNT OF FUNDS RECEIVED	EXPENSES COVERED
Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program	\$167,062	Administrative and Staff Salaries
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development	\$5,000	General Operating Expenses
The U.S. Small Business Administration Covid-19 Economic Injury Disaster Advance	\$10,000	General Operating Expenses

The Children's Law Center is especially grateful to Webster Bank for helping CLC secure the Paycheck Protection Program funds.



The Children's **LAW** Center, Inc.

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www.clcct.org