



Achieving Justice

2015 Annual Report



**Bringing Justice Home
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Dear Friends and Supporters:

Our Annual Report provides the opportunity to review the outstanding work our attorneys and paralegals achieved for our clients, how our funders supported our work, and how our private attorneys partnered with us by providing pro bono help and financial support. In the past, my messages have been generally optimistic, even when tempered by economic and funding downturns.

Now, as I write this a few days after the 2016 elections, it is challenging to find encouraging words, when staff and supporters are concerned about the new and possibly very serious challenges facing our clients, and what our program may face in the years ahead.

Legal aid programs and our clients are in a period of uncertainty. I fear that our clients who already have so many challenges and struggles in their lives will have even greater obstacles to overcome should they lose access to health care, consumer protections, or other safety net programs.

Land of Lincoln will not be involved in legislative struggles. But we are creative, dedicated advocates who will continue to fight for our clients in every way we can, staying true to our vision that "all people of central and southern Illinois should have access to justice, income security, adequate housing, quality education, healthcare, safety from violence and exploitation, and the opportunity to improve their own lives."

Please review our report to remind yourselves of what we accomplished together in 2015. Our attorneys and paralegals, together with our private bar panel members, served over 12,800 low income and senior clients, on their most critical legal needs. This includes over 1,100 clients served by pro bono attorneys.

Also during 2015, we launched our three-year Bringing Justice Home local campaigns focused on sustaining our current services. These campaigns led primarily by private attorney committees will continue through 2017 and have already achieved pledges and gifts of over \$2.5 million.

The work we do together with our civil justice partners inspires and strengthens us as a Program and as legal advocates. So, while there are many uncertainties right now, there is one absolute certainty. Land of Lincoln will survive, and in partnership with the private bar, we will continue to represent clients with passion and with the highest quality legal work, in ways that will have the most positive impact on our clients.

You help us make a difference for each of our clients. Thank you for all that you do for the poor and elderly of central and southern Illinois.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Wood".

Lois Wood
Executive Director

Our Clients

Fran and her husband resided in an assisted living facility. Fran asked for help from Land of Lincoln, because she was very distraught and frightened for herself and her disabled husband. Their son had been making threatening and harassing phone calls four to five times a day. He attempted to obtain guardianship of Fran and her husband by contacting their doctors. The son told them that he was trying to get guardianship so he could control their day-to-day lives. Fran and her husband did not want him to visit them, and he was advised to refrain from coming to the facility. Nevertheless, he continued to visit and the police were called to forcibly remove him. Fran wanted to get an Order of Protection for herself and her husband. Although she was very apprehensive and frightened about testifying, an attorney from Land of Lincoln prepared her and gave her the assurance and courage she needed for trial. The attorney represented the client at three contested hearings, and was successful in obtaining a Plenary Order of Protection for Fran and her husband. Fran and her husband no longer live in fear or anxiety.



Land of Lincoln assisted George, a middle-aged man, who was served with foreclosure. George had lost his job due to a work related injury and was unable to make his mortgage payment. Eventually, he was approved for workers compensation, and had the income to make his mortgage payments going forward. George contacted several companies that advertised their success at obtaining loan modifications for homeowners in foreclosure. Unfortunately, these companies were operating mortgage rescue scams, costing George thousands of dollars, while his foreclosure moved closer and closer to final sale. George requested assistance from Land of Lincoln after the lender had just asked for judgement of foreclosure and sale. Land of Lincoln represented George in mediation and obtained a permanent mortgage modification. The foreclosure was dismissed. In addition, if George remains in good standing on his loan for several years, he will receive over \$50,000 in principal forgiveness.

Marcy was served with an eviction notice for having an "unauthorized individual" living in her apartment. This unauthorized individual was Marcy's toddler-age nephew. Since the mother of the toddler was unable to, Marcy was caring for the child. Because of this generous and selfless act, this toddler was not at risk of foster care placement. However, Marcy and the toddler were now facing homelessness. Through Land of Lincoln's assistance, Marcy was able to obtain legal guardianship of the child and the eviction was dismissed. Marcy and her nephew are no longer at risk of homelessness, and the child's day-to-day personal, educational, and medical needs are taken care of.



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Our Pro Bono Attorneys Help Clients like Tina...

Tina, the mother of three small children, was working a full time job.

She had purchased a used car, which had multiple repair issues, and eventually stopped running. She stopped making payments on this car and had to purchase another car to be able to keep her job. The broken down car was repossessed, and a deficiency judgment was entered against her. Her wages were garnished because of the deficiency, and she could not afford her utility bills.

The power company was threatening to shut off her electric service.

She was referred to one of our pro bono attorneys who filed a bankruptcy for Tina. He was successful in getting the judgment discharged, and stopped her wages from being garnished. She and her children no longer live in fear of having their electricity shut off, and she has more income each month to spend on their day to day needs.

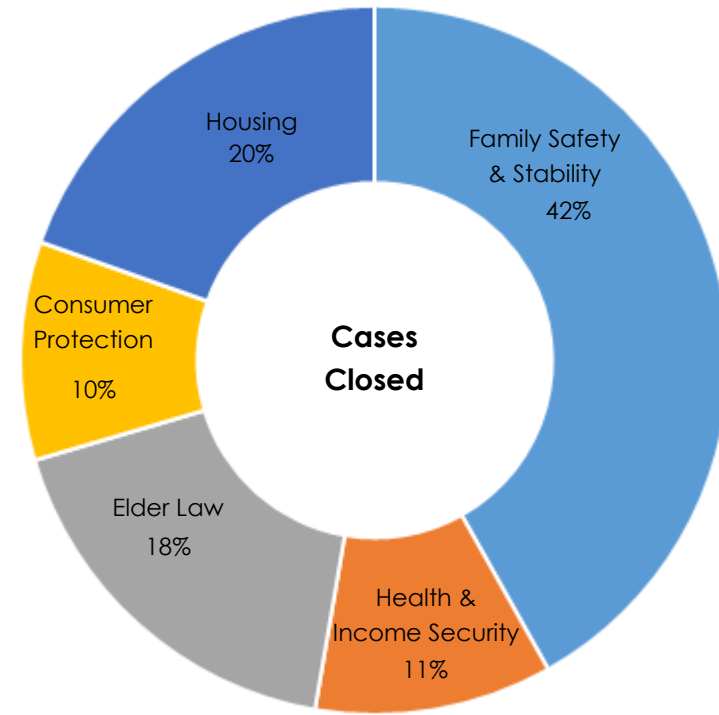
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Our Impact

Our Mission

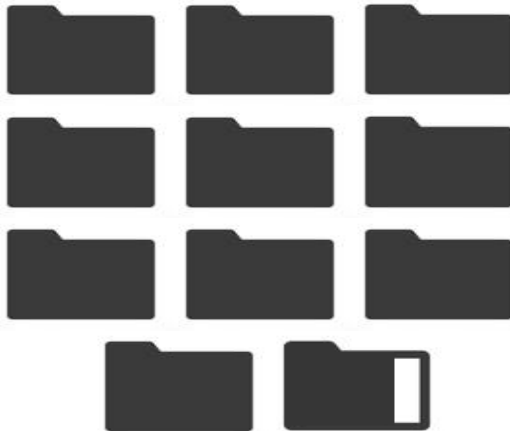
To provide low-income and senior residents of central and southern Illinois with high quality legal services in order to obtain and maintain their basic human needs. Through advice, representation, advocacy, education, and collaboration we seek:

- to achieve justice for those whose voices might otherwise not be heard;
- to empower individuals to advocate for themselves; and,
- to make positive changes in the communities we serve.



2015 Cases Closed

Family Safety & Stability Orders of Protection, Divorce, Custody, Guardianship, Education	4,513
Housing Rental, Homeownership	2,112
Elder Law Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation, Investigation and Enforcement of Rights and Quality of Care Issues for Nursing Home Residents, Advanced Directives and Wills	1,914
Health & Income Security Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, SSI, Employment	1,170
Consumer Protection Consumer Fraud, Illegal Debt Collection, Bankruptcy	1,074



Land of Lincoln Staff and Pro Bono Attorneys closed over 10,700 cases in 2015.

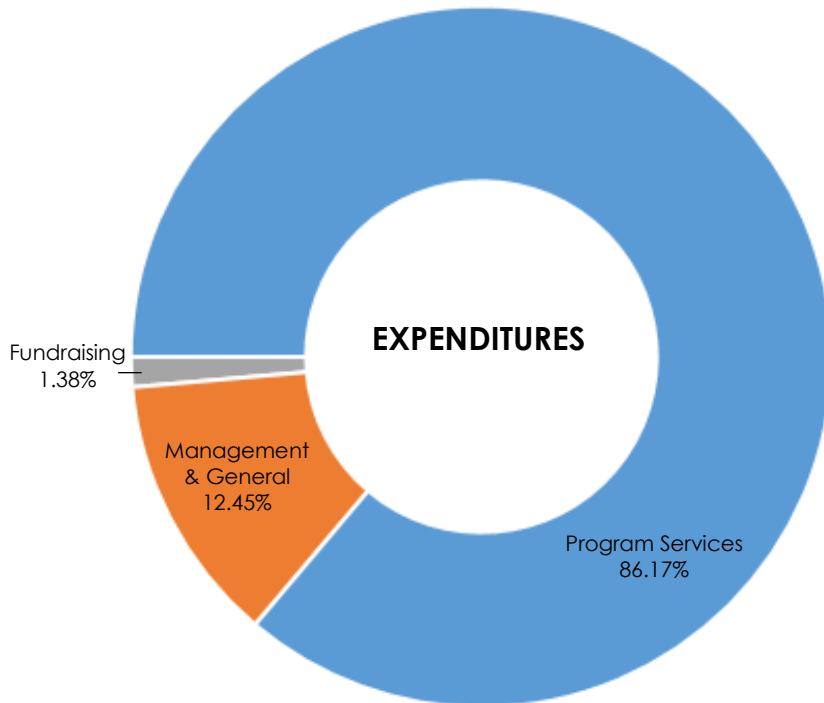
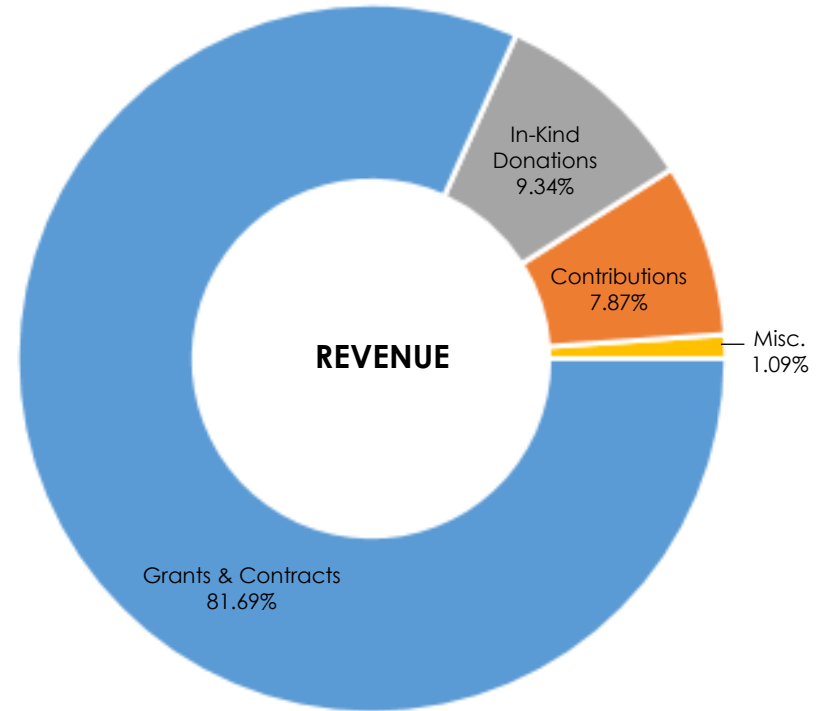
Our Vision

We believe all people of central and southern Illinois should have access to justice, income security, adequate housing, quality education, healthcare, safety from violence and exploitation, and the opportunity to improve their own lives.

Our Financials

REVENUE

Grants	\$ 7,461,204
Reimbursements	\$ 54,671
Interest & Dividends	\$ 29,299
Attorney Fees	\$ 17,025
Contributions	\$ 727,691
In-Kind Donations	\$ 863,651
Contract Services	\$ 89,689
Other	\$ 49
Total Contributions & Revenue	\$ 9,243,279



EXPENDITURES

Program Services	\$ 7,636,467
Management & General	\$ 1,103,309
Fundraising	\$ 122,573
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,862,349

Our Institutional Funders

Thank you to the institutional funders who supported Land of Lincoln in 2015.

AgeSmart Community Resources
Alton Woman's Home Association
Americorps VISTA - Equal Justice Works
Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland
Carle Foundation Hospital
East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Illinois Bar Foundation
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
Legal Services Corporation
Midland Area Agency on Aging
Office of the Attorney General of Illinois
Public Interest Law Initiative
Saint Clair County Health Department
Saint Clair County Intergovernmental Grants
Southern Illinois Healthcare
Southern Illinois School of Medicine—HIV Care Connect
United States Department of Justice: Office of Violence Against Women
United Way of Greater St. Louis
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