



2017 Annual Report

LAND OF LINCOLN
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

OUR STORY

Organized in 1972, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to ensure fairness in the civil justice system for those who cannot afford it by providing access to legal help. Land of Lincoln provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to people who need it most and can afford it least. Over 600,000 people are eligible for free civil legal aid in the 65 counties Land of Lincoln serves.

Everyday, low-income Illinoisans struggle through the complicated legal system alone. In Land of Lincoln's 65 counties, there is only one legal aid attorney for every 10,000 low-income residents.

Justice should not be denied to those without resources. Legal aid protects people's livelihoods, families, health, and homes.

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.

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.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends & Supporters:

In 2017, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation celebrated its 45th Anniversary, which gave us the opportunity to pause and reflect on our remarkable history. In 1972, we served 13 counties. Today, we serve 65 counties—a service territory roughly the size of Indiana! As this 2017 Annual Report shows, we continue working to expand our legal advocacy to meet the needs of the over 600,000 Illinoisans who are eligible for our services. Below are a few highlights:



With the financial assistance of the Lawyers Trust Fund, we implemented a Ready to Work program in our Carbondale and Champaign offices. The program is designed to address the legal barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining employment. We partnered with local workforce employment and training centers to reach those who are on the path to getting a job, but need our help. The program has been overwhelmingly successful. We hope to expand it further.

Additionally, with the help of the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, Land of Lincoln added attorneys in our Carbondale, Champaign, Alton and East St. Louis offices, to provide legal assistance to veterans and active duty military members.

We also received funding under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to further enhance our services to domestic violence victims, and to strengthen our relationship with domestic violence shelters and partners.

As I previously mentioned, 2017 was a year to reflect on our organizational history. One key chapter came in 1985, when Land of Lincoln sued the East St. Louis Housing Authority, which provided subsidized government housing to low-income residents. In *Mary A. vs. Kemp*, Land of Lincoln successfully represented tenants challenging their deplorable living conditions. As a result, HUD took over the East St. Louis Housing Authority and began an expansive series of improvements to dramatically enhance residents' living conditions.

Those improvements are now in jeopardy. In September 2017, the Secretary of HUD visited the East St. Louis Housing Authority and declared, "Mission Accomplished!" HUD proceeded to return full control of the properties to the Housing Authority's management, even though HUD inspectors had recently failed nine of the twelve properties for health and safety violations which had escalated again over the past several years.

Poor living conditions, failure to make repairs, ignoring reasonable accommodation requests, and violating other federal housing rights will once again be common place. For many, this is the "housing of last resort," and if evicted a tenant may never receive housing again. At Land of Lincoln, we have once again reenergized and recommitted ourselves to respond to this very unfortunate turn of events, and will tirelessly continue to enforce federal regulations, ensure safe and secure housing, and keep our clients and their children safe and housed.

At Land of Lincoln, we can never declare, "Mission Accomplished!" Until there is justice for all, until all Illinoisans have their basic needs met, Land of Lincoln will be there to provide high quality legal services to as many low-income and elderly clients as we possibly can in our 65 counties. We will nimbly respond to developments that endanger our clients' opportunities to improve their own lives.

But we can't do it without you. Thank you to the legal community for your gifts to Land of Lincoln and your pro bono advocacy on behalf of our clients! And thank you to our funders for your generous support, which has helped to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors have access to justice. THANK YOU!

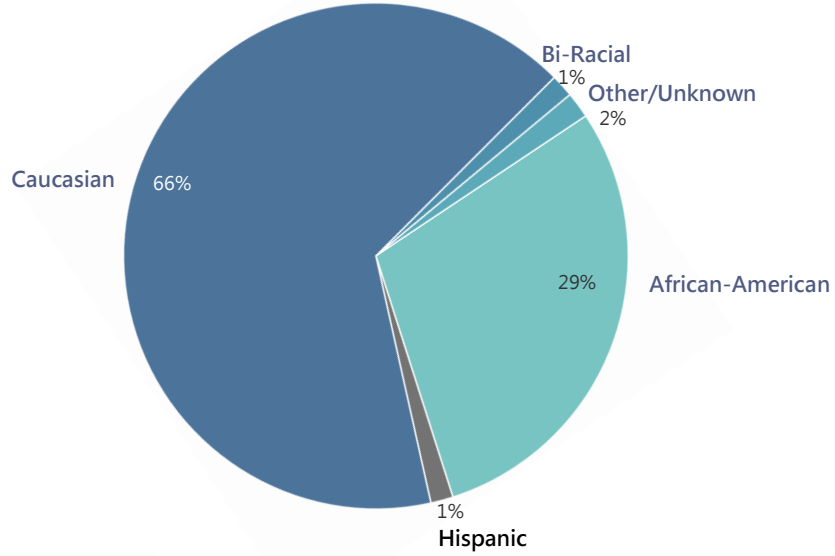
Sincerely,

Clarissa Gaff
Executive Director

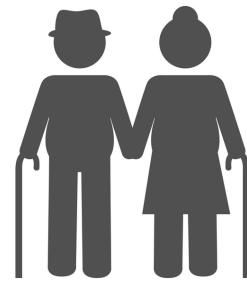
Clarissa Gaff has been an attorney with Land of Lincoln for 12 years. She managed the Western Regional Office for 4 years. She became Executive Director of Land of Lincoln on August 6, 2018.

WHO YOU HELPED IN 2017

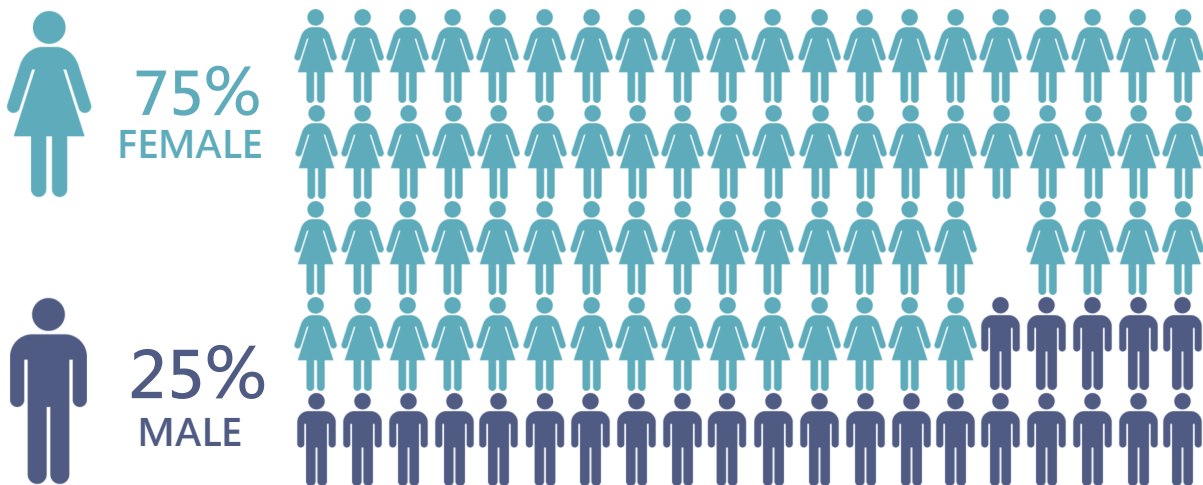
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Land of Lincoln was able to help nearly 10,000 clients throughout our 65-county service area, including:



523 Veterans



2391 Seniors



JUSTICE FOR CAROL



Land of Lincoln helped Carol, a 56-year old survivor of domestic violence. For over 30 years, Carol had been severely physically abused by her husband. He refused to allow her to leave their home and completely cut her off from her family and friends. After he had beat her so brutally that she had to be hospitalized, the hospital staff contacted her family members who were able to move her to a secure location where she was safe.

Due to severe and continuous abuse she sustained for years, Carol suffered from significant memory loss, post-traumatic stress syndrome, and other mental health issues. Our attorney assisted her with obtaining an order of protection and a divorce. After the divorce was finalized, Carol's sister contacted us when Carol's request for disability was denied.

Our attorney represented Carol at the evidentiary hearing. Carol was found to be disabled and received a past due amount of nearly \$30,000. During our representation, Carol's ex-husband passed away making her eligible for a higher monthly benefit amount along with Medicare benefits.

Carol is now safe, and she has a steady monthly income and health insurance.

JUSTICE FOR DAVID



When David, age seven, and his family became homeless, they had to move into a shelter far from his elementary school in another school district. Everything around David was changing.

David's mom wanted David and his siblings to stay enrolled in their elementary school so their lives would not be entirely disrupted. However, the school refused to allow them to stay and would not provide transportation services, all in violation of federal law.

David's mom got in touch with Land of Lincoln. When our attorney contacted the school on behalf of the family, the school offered to provide transportation vouchers. The school's plan required David and his siblings to ride two public buses and a train to get to school.

Land of Lincoln's attorney filed an appeal, which resulted in the school agreeing to give David and his siblings private transportation to and from school.

Because of Land of Lincoln, David and his siblings were able to stay in school and maintain some stability while his mom searched for housing.

JUSTICE FOR ANTHONY



Land of Lincoln helped Anthony, a 63-year-old disabled, widowed veteran. Anthony's disability involved the loss of his vision. When his wife passed away, Anthony's adult son moved into his house to provide assistance. Unfortunately, his son began to take money.

After an altercation with his son, Anthony came to Land of Lincoln very frightened. He thought his son's behavior was getting worse, and was afraid that he was using drugs. Anthony wanted to get his son out of his house.

After a contested hearing, the Judge granted an Order of Protection for two years, and gave the client exclusive possession of his home. Our attorney explained to Anthony about safety planning and other community resources.

Anthony was very relieved to get the Order of Protection, and now lives in peace, knowing his son cannot come to his home.

CLOSED CASES BY PRACTICE AREA



Family Safety & Stability 4,087

Orders of Protection, Divorce, Custody, Guardianship, Education

Housing 1,975

Rental, Homeownership

Elder Law 1,719

Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation, Advanced Directives and Wills

Consumer Protection 1,099

Consumer Fraud, Illegal Debt Collection, Bankruptcy

Health & Income Security 632

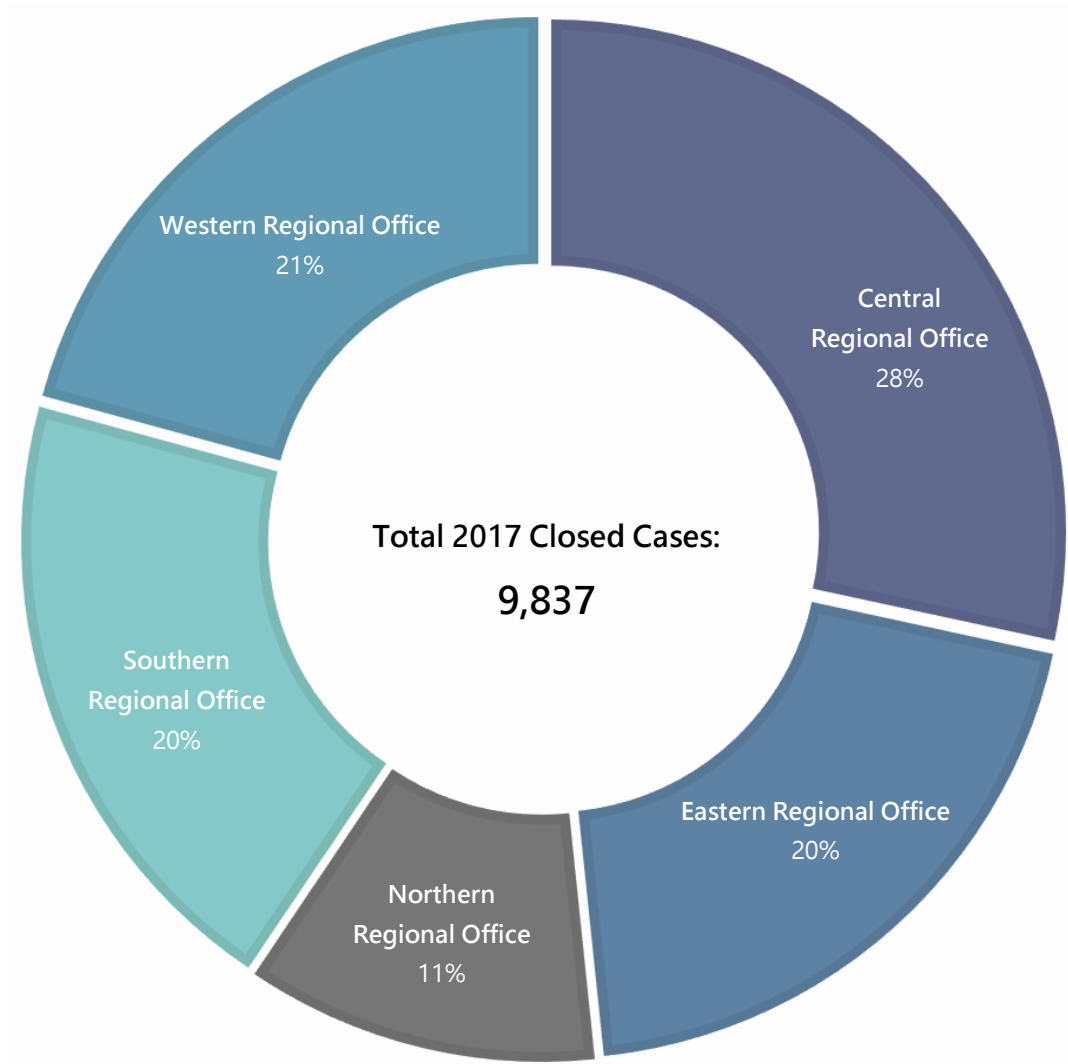
Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, SSI, Employment

Expungement & Sealing 196

of Criminal Records

Miscellaneous 129

CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE



Central Regional Office	1,949
Eastern Regional Office	1,370
Northern Regional Office	761
Southern Regional Office	1,360
Western Regional Office	1,425

OUR PEOPLE

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Western Regional Office

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Sandy Bohlen
Ben Bozicevic
Debbie Bowermaster
Clarissa Gaff*
Chelsea Hubbard
Daniel Kuehnert
Amy Morgan
Andrea Neubauer
Cami Plough
Ashley Shula
Levora Taylor

Administrative Office

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Debby Brown
Mike Ferry
Kathy Fleshren
Calvin Hwang
Lura January
Dawn Miller
Sue Simone
Jackie Tate
Kathy Taylor
Denise Wiegand

As of December 31, 2017

*Clarissa Gaff became Executive Director of Land of Lincoln on August 6, 2018.

WHERE WE WORK

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 202
Springfield, Illinois 62703
(217) 529-8400/(800) 252-8629
*Cass, Christian, Logan, Macon, Mason, Menard,
Morgan, Sangamon, Scott & Shelby Counties*

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

302 North First Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 356-1351/(800) 747-5523
*Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford,
Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar,
Effingham, Ford, Jasper, Moultrie, Piatt &
Vermilion Counties*

Eastern Region Satellite Office

737 Windsor Road
Charleston, Illinois 61920
(217) 345-4063

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

310 Easton Street, Suite 330
Alton, Illinois 62002
(618) 462-0029/(800) 642-5570
*Adams, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Greene,
Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery,
Pike & Schuyler Counties*

Southern Region Satellite Office

1702 Broadway, Suite B
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864
(618) 244-3924

CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

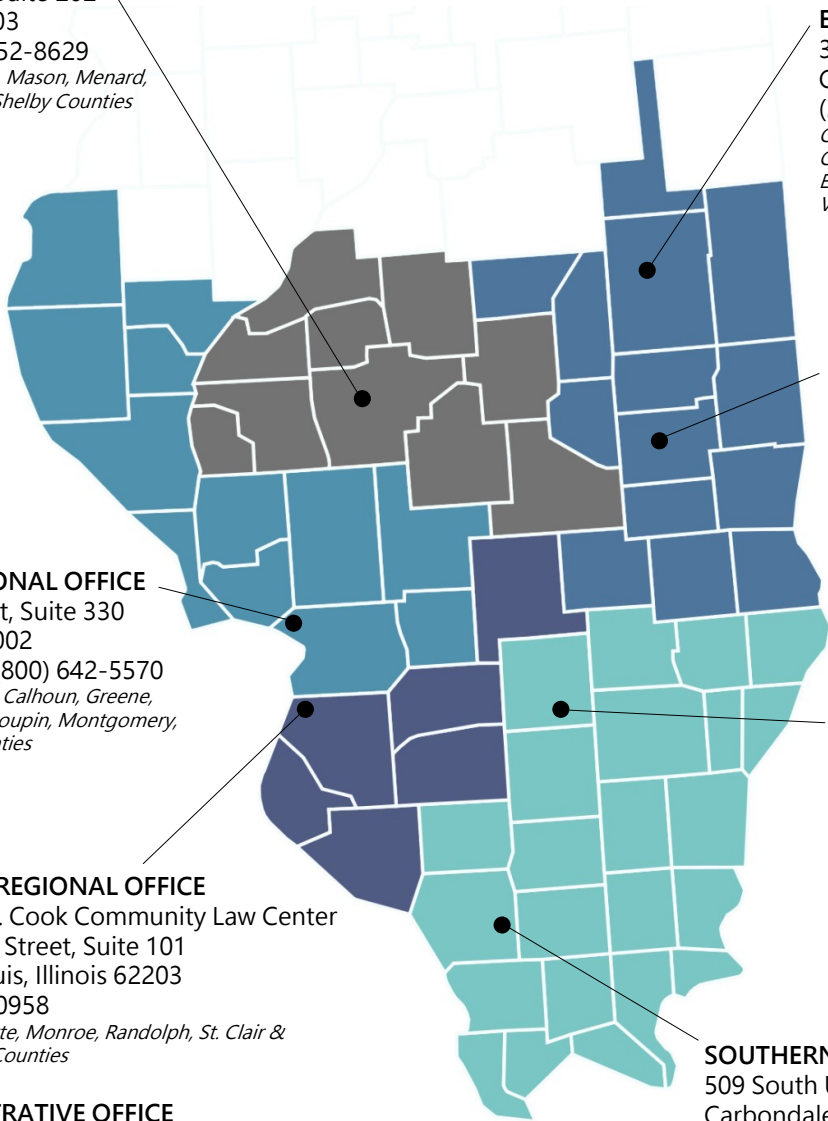
Dorothy O. Cook Community Law Center
8787 State Street, Suite 101
East St. Louis, Illinois 62203
(618) 398-0958
*Clinton, Fayette, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair &
Washington Counties*

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

509 South University Avenue, 3rd Floor
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 457-7800/(800) 642-5335
*Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton,
Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion,
Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union,
Wabash, Wayne, White & Williamson Counties*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Dorothy O. Cook Community Law Center
8787 State Street, Suite 201
East St. Louis, Illinois 62203
(618) 398-0574



PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Land of Lincoln places eligible clients with private attorneys who agree to provide free legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. The private attorneys who volunteer their time believe in the principle of equal access to the legal system, of making "justice for all" more than just a promise. These attorneys are convinced that our legal system must work for all its citizens. They donate their time and considerable talents to make that ideal a reality.

During 2017, pro bono attorneys closed 456 cases representing more than 3,264 hours of legal representation. The following attorneys are currently active in our Pro Bono Attorney Program:

Central Regional Office

Jeanne Aubuchon
Jennifer Behme
Gary Bement
Thomas Benedict
Curtis Blood
Larry Brockman
Pearson Bush
Don Collins
Ryan Connor
Heather Dabler
Brad Denney
Jayni Desai
Heidi Dodd
Van-Lear Eckert
Carla Ehlers
M. Caitlin Embrich
John English
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Natalie Lorenz
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Paul Storment III
Guice Strong
Tim Stubblefield
Marleen Suarez
Judith Trentman-Wilson
Shira Truitt
Kristi Vetri
Samantha Walley
Gary Wangler
Dennis Watkins
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Eastern Regional Office

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Judy Baker
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Edwin Barney
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Thorpe Facer
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Mark Ferguson
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Kristen Fischer

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Dan Fossier
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Stephanie Hall
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Andrew Hatch
Kent Heller
Mia Hernandez
Forrest Heyman
Drew Hickey
Austin Hill
Sarah Hocking
Brent Holmes
Jason Hortenstine
Kaylan Huber
Liya Hussmann Rogers
Robert Jacobson
James Jankowicz
Fred Johnson
Jerry Johnson
Dan Jones
Carlton Kagawa
Arthur Kapella
Richard Kash, Jr.
Robert Keller
Brian King
Jennifer Koebele
Ronald Langacker
Doug Lawlyes
Ellen Lee
Scott Lerner
Stephen LeSueur
Todd Lichtenberger
Jerome Lyke
Bryce Lynch
Holly Lynch
Cristina Manuel
Anne Martinkus
Steve Mayberry
John McFetridge
Bryan McIntyre
Rana Meents
Thomas Mellen
Charles Mockbee III
Charles Mockbee IV
Cynthia Morgan
Faruq Nelson
Kevin Nolan
Joseph Pappas
Darrel Parish
Alyx Parker
Leon Parker
Matthew Peek
Dustin Probst
Marilyn Resch

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L. Drew Hickey
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Tim Londrigan
Walter Lookofsky
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Nrupa Patel
Lisa Petrilli
Andrew Ramage
R. Phillip Reed
Erica Riplinger
Amber Sanges
Ron Stradt
Dan E. Way
James Zachry

Southern Regional Office

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Robert Bateson
John Brewster
William Broom
Amanda Burton
Winter Campanella
Linda Cantrell

Joseph Cervantez
Tania Cullison
Diana Douglas
William Easton
Edward Eytalis
Alan Farris
Andrew Flynn
Joseph Ghibaudy
Amanda Gott
Maria Hafford
L. James Hanson
Mark Hassakis
Christine Heinsz
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Eugenia Hunter
Chelsey Hurn
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Letisha Luecking Orlet
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Anna Vick
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Barbara Woodcock
Bartley Zuber

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Robert Bas
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Betsy Bier
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Chad Brigham
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Julia Chaney-Faughn
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Zachary Clark
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Kurt Dittmer
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Ellar Duff
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Jared Giuffre
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Tim Graham
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Justin Mattea
William Meckes
Russell Meyer
Dedra Moore
Stephen Morris
Andrew Mossman
Ian Murphy
Mary Nalefski

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Ryan Schnack
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JUSTICE FOR ALICE



Alice, a 58-year-old grandmother, came to Land of Lincoln looking for assistance with an adoption. She had been raising her biological 6-year-old grandson since her daughter, the child's mother, died two years prior. Alice had previously adopted three other grandchildren who were the child's cousins.

Alice was referred to one of our pro bono attorneys who agreed to assist her. The attorney, who is an adoption specialist, was able to locate the child's father. The father did not have a relationship with his son, and, after being located, made only a minimal effort to establish a relationship.

Our attorney presented evidence to the court that the father was unfit to raise the child. The court found that the father was unfit and granted the adoption.

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Land of Lincoln thanks its many donors and sponsors for their generous gifts of support in 2017.

\$100,000 +

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M. Ann Hatch
Thomas Q. Keefe

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Scott & Scott, P.C.

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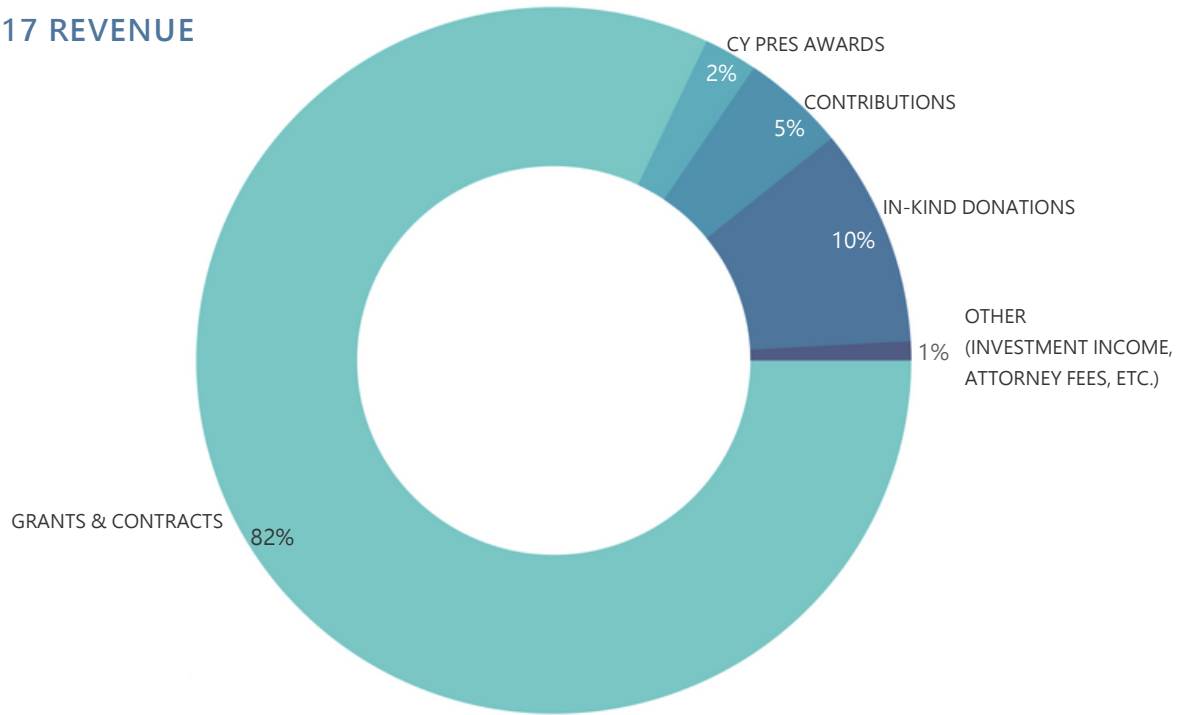
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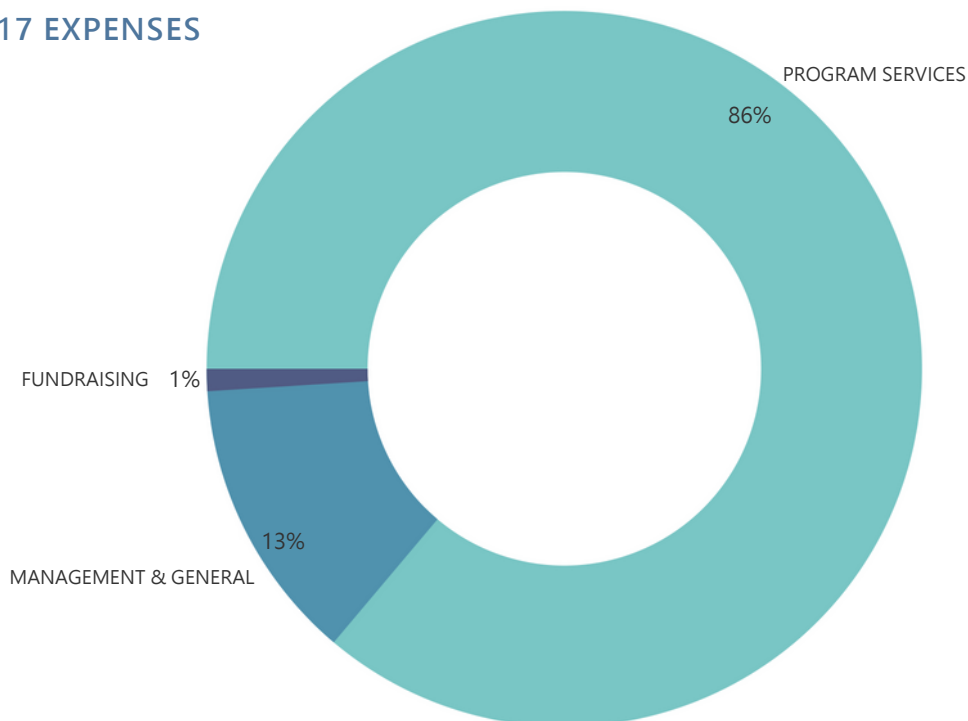
2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2017 REVENUE



2017 TOTAL REVENUE = \$8,994,484

2017 EXPENSES



2017 TOTAL COSTS = \$8,768,079

