



JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

To raise the consciousness of our society about the failure of our governmental agencies to protect victims of child abuse, to provide legal advocacy for abused children, and to develop and implement, on a collaborative basis where possible, a full range of solutions that enhance the quality of life for these children.

2017 marks 30 years of service for Justice for Children

BIG CHANGES

The agency has been through a lot of changes in the past year and a half but we've landed on our feet. We ended 2017 with a full time Chief Operating Officer, two full time and one part time child advocates plus several volunteer attorneys. Outreach activities resulted in approximately 40% of our client cases coming from Texas versus previous percentages as high as 85%. The staff has taken advantage of many training opportunities to become better advocates for abuse children.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A bequeathed donation in the amount of \$99,000 was received and put into savings. This savings account has not been accessed to date to cover operation costs. The \$33,568 deficit was covered by donations received in 2017 and remnants of a \$40,000 donation from a prior year. The existing VOCA grant covers most of the personnel and operating costs of the agency.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

A major undertaking in 2017 was to establish ways to record, document and quantify services to clients at low cost. Documentation revealed that this appeared to have been done manually over the past five years. The online case management system was described as "not really for the work you're doing" by the vendor itself. This was replaced by excel worksheets for quantifying and keeping track of client demographics and the use of OneNote for case management. These methods have provided more expedient reporting to our grantor, enabled us to assemble better statistics and allowed advocates to access each other's "files" when necessary.

LOOKING AHEAD

It is our goal to return to the activities and services JFC provided in its "glory days." Using our mission statement to drive the efforts, they include:

- Client Advocacy and Legal Representation - *to protect victims of child abuse, to provide legal advocacy for abused children*

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The VOCA application (for the next two years) submitted in February 2018 was increased to include the hiring of a staff attorney to provide legal representation and file protective orders for clients.

- Outreach - *to raise the consciousness of our society*

Participating in outreach events (schools, food banks, United Way and other community events) will continue.

- Education and Training - *to develop and implement, on a collaborative basis where possible, a full range of solutions that enhance the quality of life for these children*

In 2018, Child abuse/neglect workshops will be available for parents and children in schools and other settings.

The agency will also provide legal training regarding child abuse cases to attorneys who then donate their time and services on future cases.

- Public Relations - *to raise the consciousness of our society about the failure of our governmental agencies to protect victims of child abuse, and support the agency*

Email newsletters, press releases and interviews related to JFC's advocacy and CourtWatch activities will be used to increase public awareness of failures to protect children and our agency's services to right that wrong.



Lisa Mikosh
Chief Operating Officer

Financial Information

| | 2017 | Prior Year |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 125,738 | 138,747 |
| Grant Receivables | 11,259 | 33,132 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 136,997 | 171,879 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | 2,575 | 3,115 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 2,575 | 3,115 |
| CAPITAL | | |
| Fund Balance | 134,422 | 99,189 |
| Net Income | | 69,575 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL | 134,422 | 168,764 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL | 136,997 | 171,879 |
| REVENUE | | |
| Grants | 139,553 | 118,232 |
| Corporate Donations | 3,000 | 1,276 |
| Individual Donations | 10,082 | 97,468 |
| In-Kind Donations | 55,438 | 72,215 |
| Interest Income | 27 | |
| Other Income | 31 | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 208,130 | 289,191 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Program | 223,793 | 183,888 |
| Management & General | 11,659 | 32,376 |
| Fundraising | 7,020 | 3,352 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 242,473 | 219,616 |
| TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS) | (34,342) | 69,575 |

* 2016 based on independent audit and 2017 unaudited

Programs

Advocacy

Justice for Children provides direct assistance in cases with credible, documented evidence of child abuse where the child remains at risk for repeated abuse. Casework includes phone calls and letters to officials such as prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, child abuse investigators and medical examiners. Caseworkers also coordinate legal interventions, accompany children to court and secure therapy for abused children. Justice for Children received 443 intakes, via telephone or website, and provided direct assistance to 985 clients in 2017. While 54% represent Texas cases, 46% of these cases were from out-of-state. Legal referrals were made on 330 intakes benefitting 753 clients.

Legal Representation

Our agency provides legal representation and guidance through the civil and criminal courts, and children's protective systems as it relates to protecting abused/neglected children. Justice for Children relied on pro bono attorneys and referrals to legal aide in 2017 for clients' requiring legal services. Most of the needs were for custody modifications as CPS does not provide such services even when they have recommended it.

CourtWatch

Staff and trained volunteers attend court hearings to assist those advocating a child's protection, and they monitor court proceedings to ensure that the child's best interests are considered in the case's outcome. Two cases came to the attention of our staff in 2017 both involving physical abuse and neither of which has gone to trial or concluded by plea arrangement by the end of the year.

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- Abuse of 8 month old - <http://www.chron.com/neighborhood/cyfair/news/article/Mother-boyfriend-charged-in-abuse-of-8-month-old-11170451.php>
- Stabbing death of 4 year old - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/laquita-lewis-texas-woman-charged-in-stabbing-death-of-4-year-old-daughter/>

Outreach/Education

Justice for Children believes in an informed community. Toward that end, the organization engages in outreach to educate community members of the magnitude of the problem of child abuse and steps they can take to recognize, report and reduce such abuse.

Agency staff set up displays and presented at 14 outreach events throughout 2017 reaching approximately 7600 people.