

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report



From the Board Chair



Russell L. Brown, Board Chair

Only 4% of civil legal issues faced by those in poverty are represented by a lawyer, according to a Civil Legal Needs Study commissioned by the Indiana Bar Foundation. This means that most of the 1.15 million Hoosiers who live below 125% of the poverty line are forced to face injustice alone.

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic steps into this gap, because we believe God instructs us in the Bible to "do justice." It is active, not passive. We work to bring justice to our low-income neighbors by seeking right judgements from the courts, right relationships with other people and with government, and right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, so that all of our neighbors may flourish.

This past year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cast a shadow over our world, we worked to adapt to the changing needs and disproportionate effects on those we serve. In partnership with the city of Indianapolis, we launched IndyRenterHelp.org, an online self-help tool for renters facing eviction. We were part of a joint effort with Indiana Legal Services that resulted in a half-million dollar victory for migrant farmworkers who faced human trafficking and labor abuse. After receiving a one million dollar grant award from the Lilly Endowment, we also expanded our services to help ex-offenders looking for a new start in life.

By partnering with the Clinic, you play an active role in making justice more accessible to your community. Thank you for joining with us in this mission, and for the care you show your neighbors in need.



Fiscal Year 2021 Accomplishments

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic helped 5,419 individuals and closed 5,136 cases. We were assisted by our volunteer network, who contributed 2,238 hours of volunteer service. To all of our generous supporters—you made this possible, and we are so thankful to do this work arm-in-arm with you! We look forward to continuing to partner to make justice more accessible in our community.







"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

—Proverbs 3:3

"People look at my background and think I'm a dishonest, violent person, but I'm just a God-fearing homebody that made mistakes that I have been paying for—for years now. I just want to be GREAT.

. . [and] maintain a livelihood with a fresh start. I appreciate all your help during this journey."

-Expungement Help Desk client







- worked with 1,256 immigrants—including asylees, refugees, and survivors of violent crime—to resolve family law matters, help with work authorization, or provide other legal remedies that allow for safety and stability here in the United States.
- saved taxpayers \$324,895 in corrected tax liabilities and dollars refunded.
- helped **2,556** individuals with criminal records learn about their options for expungement at our Expungement Help Desk.
- assisted 396 families in avoiding foreclosure.
- mediated 494 tenant disputes with their landlords, allowing these individuals to maintain safe and stable housing.

Justice for Farmworkers

Have you ever had to sleep in a freezer or beg for food? Unfortunately, some of your neighbors have. This is what happened to a group of farmworkers that we represented in partnership with Indiana Legal Services.

The workers had been recruited for a short-term agricultural job assignment in northern Indiana. Their contract outlined that their employer was responsible for providing adequate hourly wages, housing, and food. Shortly after they started the job, however, the abuse and neglect began. Their employer stopped paying them or giving them any time off from their strenuous work. They were forced to sleep in overcrowded rooms with vermin and bedbugs, and at one point, on the floor of a refrigerated storage unit. The employers failed to provide adequate meals, and the workers ultimately had to beg for food.



When they spoke up, their employer made threats concerning their immigration status. After a worker complained to the Department of Labor, one of the employers allegedly threatened to strangle him. These workers were stranded, far from home and surrounded by a language many of them didn't speak, with no financial resources, inadequate shelter, little food, and fear for their safety.

Our staff attorney and an Indiana Legal Services attorney spent over a year working tirelessly to prove these allegations. When the verdict came in, justice prevailed. The workers were awarded \$460,000 in total damages, divided evenly among them.

An Answered Prayer



When Nicholas received an eviction notice, he was overwhelmed at the possibility of being out on the street.

New management at his apartment complex had suddenly raised the rent. He was on disability and a fixed income after sustaining injuries from many years working as a delivery driver, and affordable housing was hard to find. He felt alone.

But Nicholas prayed that God would "make a way" through this situation. That's when he saw Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic's offices right down the street from where he lived. Our housing attorney was able to advocate to keep him in his home.

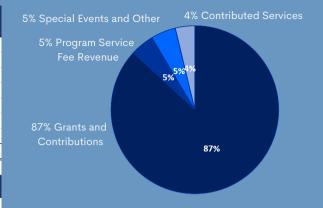
Nicholas thanks the Clinic for being part of God's plan. "I've got this big smile on my face," he says, "I get joy talking about the goodness of God."

Financial Statement and Notes

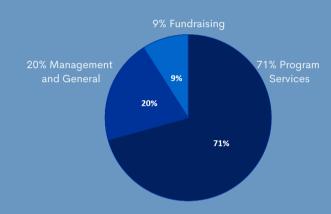
	Without Donor	With Donor		
Support & Revenue	Restrictions	Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
Grants and Contributions	745,549	2,130,176	2,875,725	1,713,246
Program Service Fee Revenue	151,325		151,325	239,115
Contributed Services	124,710		124,710	202,499
Special Events Revenue	98,440		98,440	175,018
Other Revenue	53,031	7,913	60,944	63,939
Net Assets Released from Restriction	1,098,485	(1,098,485)	-	
Total Support and Revenue	2,271,540	1,039,604	3,311,144	2,393,817
Expenses				
Program Services	1,547,565		1,547,565	1,733,878
Fundraising	197,708		197,708	297,866
Management and General	443,852		443,852	232,510
Total Expenses	2,189,125	-	2,189,125	2,264,254
Assets				
Net assets, beginning of year	1,169,505	432,628	1,602,133	1,472,570
Net assets, end of year	1,251,920	1,472,232	2,724,152	1,602,133
Change in Net Assets	82,415	1,039,604	1,122,019	129,563

These consolidated financial statements are compiled from our complete Fiscal Year 2021 financial statements, which are prepared and audited by Blue & Co., LLC. The complete audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.

Support & Revenue:



Expenses:



Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic thanks its Board of Directors for serving in Fiscal Year 2021.

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We also thank our Young Professionals Advisory Board for their service in Fiscal Year 2021.

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Thank you to our generous partners!

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If you have made a gift between July 1st 2020 and June 30th 2021 and your name was inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apologies for this oversight and call us at 317-429-4131 so we can correct this error in our records.



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

Justice for the vulnerable so that all may flourish.

Fort Wayne | 347 W Berry Street, Suite 101, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Indianapolis | 3333 N Meridian Street, Suite 201, Indianapolis, IN 46208

