



ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**children's**  
law center

**2016**  
*Annual Report*



Dear Friends of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center,

2016 was an exciting year for Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center! We want to take this opportunity to thank you, our supporters, for all that you have done to better the lives of Colorado's most vulnerable children.

We believe that every child, no matter the fight, deserves the chance to have a safe, stable and healthy childhood. And we won't ever stop fighting for kids. That's why, in 2016, we began a strategic expansion of several of our programs and started additional innovative programs. We are strengthening existing community partnerships and building new ones.

As we celebrate 35 years of advocating on behalf of more than 20,000 children, we continue to focus on our motto that every child deserves a champion. We are truly grateful for all of the support that makes our work possible, and are excited to continue our work serving children and families for the next 35 years and beyond!

With appreciation,



Becky Miller Updike, PhD  
Executive Director



James Markus, Esq.  
Board Chair



**35**

YEARS



ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**children's law center**

**20,000**

KIDS SERVED IN 35 YEARS

**750**

IN 2016 ALONE



**340**

Children received guardian ad litem services served through our Domestic Violence Program



**48**

Clients served and consultations provided to families through our education advocacy program



**362**

Caregivers given assistance to promote the best interest of more than 460 children in their care



# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Selected from hundreds of nonprofits by the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce as the **2016 Nonprofit of the Year**.



Selected as the Colorado lead partner for Every Child Matters fall **Step Up For Kids** rally at the Colorado State Capitol building.

**Shari Shink, Esq.**, the founder of the Children’s Law Center, was inducted into the **Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame** in March. Through nearly 4 decades of service, Shari has established a legacy of incredible achievements on behalf of abused, neglected, and at-risk children in Colorado and across the country.



**Jennifer Eyl, Esq.**, Director of the Domestic Violence Program, was named **Task Supervisor of the Year** from the Metropolitan State University Graduate School of Social Work, and was also awarded **Domestic Violence Victim Advocate of the Year** from the Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

## CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

**1982**  
Children’s Legal  
Clinic founded

**1982**  
First CASA program  
in Denver

**1992**  
Domestic Violence  
Program founded

**1994**  
University of Denver Sturm College of  
Law Lawyer Training Program founded

# OUR PROGRAMS

## EDUCATION ADVOCACY

We directly represent and advocate for kids and their families in establishing education plans, working through disciplinary issues and getting students back into school.

## CAREGIVER ADVOCACY

We work with caregivers in navigating the court system to get the authority to work in the best interest of the children in their care.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The only program of its kind in the country, we provide guardian ad litem teams to ensure the child's best interests are addressed when protection order is filed.

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

In 2016, we created a youth-led, peer-driven, advocacy group of young people, ages 15 to 25, who have previously experienced or are currently in foster care.

## PUBLIC POLICY

We work to make children a political priority at the local, state and federal levels by being the voice for children who are voiceless.

## CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Our clinical staff assists lawyers in addressing the needs of children who have experienced trauma. They also lead our new **Bloom Trauma-Informed Yoga** and **The Dandelion Project** therapeutic garden. Both offer research-based options for helping children and their caregivers to grow and heal.

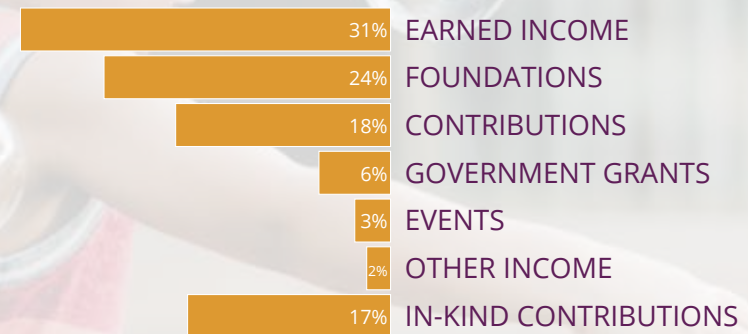
# 2016 FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES



**\$1,988,281.00**

## REVENUE



**\$1,913,418.00**

## ASSETS

**\$867,046.00**

**1998**

- Changed name to Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
- Dandelion Project garden founded

**2005**

- First \$1M Donation
- Caregiver Advocacy Program founded

**2013**

Successfully argued to Colorado Supreme Court that foster parents be allowed to fully participate in dependency hearings

**2014**

Began hosting the Colorado Children's Caucus

**2016**

- Bloom Yoga founded
- Youth Empowerment Program founded
- Dandelion Project 2.0 founded

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## **\$50,000+**

Colorado Business Bank  
Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation  
Monfort Family Foundation  
The Piton Foundation

## **\$25,000-\$49,999**

Nancy and Anthony Accetta  
Community First Foundation  
Morrison & Foerster  
David and Suzu Neithercut  
Noble Energy, Inc.

## **\$10,000-\$24,999**

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Anna and John J. Sie  
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## **\$1,000-\$4,999**

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## **\$250-\$499**

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Linda Wackwitz

**Help us go for another 35 years  
by pledging \$35 a month!**

*for thirty five*  
**35**

[childlawcenter.org/35for35](http://childlawcenter.org/35for35)