Prosids



2016 Report to the Community

Our Vision

A safe, permanent and nurturing home for every child.

Our Mission

What: ProKids mobilizes our community to break the vicious cycle of child abuse and neglect.

How: ProKids helps our community discover the power of investing in the promise of our children. We recruit, train and support community volunteers to speak up for children who have been abused and neglected and help guide them into safe environments where they can thrive. ProKids creates alliances within the child protection system to maximize outcomes for our children.

Why: To create a new cycle of growing up safe and secure, fundamentally changing the future for our children and our entire community.

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Click here for the most current list of ProKids' Board of Trustees

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Facing the Challenge of More Children, Overwhelmed System Tracy Cook is the Executive Director of ProKids.

In my work at ProKids, I have witnessed children with broken bodies and spirits. And I have also witnessed the power of resilience.

Over the last year, I have heard serious concern about our community from so many people – about what is happening right now and what this means for our community's future.



We are facing some brutal truths. Abuse and neglect, mental health, substance abuse, and poverty are completely intertwined, leaving kids so traumatized it affects every part of their lives.

But another brutal truth we must face is that children are pouring into the system. Just in the last two years, there has been a 36% increase in the children entering the child protection system due to abuse and neglect. Most of the children under our court's jurisdiction as a result of maltreatment are placed in foster care.

There is no sign of this trend letting up.

ProKids exists because we share a vision of a safe, permanent, and nurturing home for every child. We work to achieve this vision by mobilizing our community to break the vicious cycle of abuse and neglect. We recruit, train, and support community volunteers to speak up for them and help guide them to safe environments where they can thrive. Since 1981, ProKids has served thousands of children.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, known as CASA Volunteers, are amazing people who bring the gifts of time, common sense, and caring. They come from all walks of life and are united in their deep belief in a safe, permanent, and nurturing home for every child.

These volunteers visit our children; call their social workers, therapists, and teachers; and work with all of these individuals to create plans to get each child to their forever family. At ProKids, we also work to create alliances within the child protection system to maximize outcomes for our children.

We want everyone to pull together for our kids because it is not an agency or a system that cares for our children: it is a committed community.

Since we began asking our community to join us in our work, our volunteers and supporters have shown us what is possible. We have more than doubled the children we serve, advocating in 2016 for 757 children thanks to 224 CASA Volunteers.

Best of all, abuse and neglect stopped for 99% of the children we served – a rate we've maintained for two decades.

We must continue to expand this important, direct work for the growing number of abused and neglected children and we also need to disrupt the influx of children into the system by launching new strategies and building stronger alliances for our children.

At ProKids, our vision of a safe, permanent and nurturing home for every child is what drives our staff, volunteers and supporters every day.

To view Tracy's presentation at the 2016 Friends of Children Breakfast, click here.

In 2016, ProKids Advocacy Teams, including 224 trained CASA Volunteers, supported by staff CASA Managers and attorneys, advocated for 757 Greater Cincinnati children.

Children in foster care are 30% more likely to be abused than other children.

99% of ProKids' children were free from abuse and neglect.



On average, 17-18 year olds in foster care read at a **7th grade** level. 97% of our children received appropriate educational placement or achieved developmental milestones.



The average foster child changes homes **two times** a year.

89% of ProKids'

children
experience
stability during
their case.



More than **half** of foster children are separated from a sibling.

80%

of ProKids' children were placed with their brothers and sisters.

70% of foster children are diagnosed with a mental health issue and 60% have a chronic physical illness.

97%

of our children have access to the interventions and services they need.



Up to **half** of youth who age out of foster care have unstable housing.

89%

of ProKids youth aging out of foster care have a place to live.

Creating a Better Tomorrow Requires Our Best Efforts Today

Local businessman Manuel Chavez III is a member of the Friends of Children Society. This is adapted from remarks he made at the 2017 Friends of Children Breakfast.

65,000.

That's how many calls came into Hamilton County last year because someone was frightened about what was happening to a child.

If you took all those children to Paul Brown Stadium, you would fill every single seat.

This number tells only part of the story. There is a traumatic toll when many of these children are removed from their homes and placed into the child protection system because they have been abused and neglected.

These numbers are growing at a rate we've never seen before.

Here in Hamilton County, the governmental response can be pretty limited. The system is operating on a levy rate set 20 years ago. Even with last fall's renewal, the operating dollars have actually decreased since 2007 and we are lagging behind communities like Cleveland and Columbus. We have lost millions of dollars of matching state and federal funds that could have benefitted our children.

This means the social workers at Job & Family Services are working with increasingly limited resources to serve increasingly more children.

In my world this is a dynamic that does not lead to sustainability. And in this case, childhoods hang in the balance.

At ProKids, we know the solution is speaking up for the best interest of the child by getting the community involved: investing time, making sure children are safe and helping to get them to permanent homes where they can thrive.

It is connecting all the pieces: a home, medical care, mental health services and help at school.

ProKids does this every day but the growth in the need is staggering; we have to do more.

Each of these children deserves our best efforts. Each of them are as special as my daughters.

It is our moral duty to take care of as many children as possible and disrupt the vicious cycle of abuse and neglect in our community. This is how we can create a better tomorrow.

Nelson Mandela once said "there can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

We have done many things for children in Greater Cincinnati like focusing attention on childhood poverty and on parents' substance abuse issues, especially when it comes to heroin. We are creating a plan so that more children go to preschool.

But all of that work is for nothing if we do not invest in the most basic thing: making sure every child has a safe, nurturing, permanent home.

Every minute of a childhood is a minute that matters.

To view Manuel's presentation at the 2016 Friends of Children Breakfast, click here.



"All Children Deserve a Childhood"

Donald Swain is a ProKids CASA Volunteer. This is adapted from remarks he made at the 2017 Friends of Children Breakfast.

When Taylor was a high school sophomore, she missed school a lot, taking care of her little brother and four sisters. Their mother wasn't around a lot. Their home was dirty and they were often hungry.

They sometimes saw their mother shoot up. But when they asked questions, their mother would get angry with them and sometimes hurt them.

One day, the children found out that their mom was in jail and they all had to move somewhere else.

There was a lot of moving around after that – from relative to relative. There were six children after all.

Their mother showed no signs of living differently. The father of the two youngest children – who had not known what was going on – opened his heart and his home to his two and another one of the children, whose father had never been in her life. We advocated for them to have a permanent home with him. They are doing great.

But what about Taylor and the next two girls, "Missy" and "Macy"? Their father could not care for them. But his mother and stepfather lived nearby. The children did not know their grandparents well because their mother hadn't allowed much contact. But could they care for the girls?

There were lots of issues that had to be addressed, like medical care and getting back on track in school. They had serious tooth decay and had to have teeth removed. Macy had never had the glasses she needed. And Missy, whose untreated, chronic ear infections as a small child had destroyed her inner ear, now needed surgery and a hearing aid.

While we advocated for all these needs, I got to know the grandparents. They were retired and had a limited income and a small empty-nester of a house. But they had plenty of room in their hearts for the girls.

As we went through all the court hearings and dealt with other matters, I encouraged them to create a forever home for Taylor, Missy and Macy.

About 18 months later, the storybook ending I was hoping for came when Pam and Larry adopted the three girls. At ages 17, 14 and 12 they had a safe, stable home. They were all on grade level at school and had learned what it meant to have someone take care of them.

These young women inspire me with their kindness, their thoughtfulness ... and their sheer grit. And now, they finally have the love and security they deserved.

But I wondered: what would have become of these children if ProKids hadn't been a part of their lives?



believe all children deserve a childhood.
That's why I joined ProKids.

As a ProKids CASA
Volunteer, I learned
about how trauma can
impact a child: from
chronic health problems
to adult unemployment;
substance abuse to
early death.

I thought I knew trauma. I had served in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine.

But what I had seen there was nothing compared to what our children go through."

Taylor



remember when I woke up at my grandparents' house for the first time and realized I had slept all night. I didn't have to worry about anything anymore.

But I had other things to do. I brought up my grades to A's and B's. I got a job. I got my driver's license.

And I get to be a kid and do things like go to prom.

It seems like a long time ago we lived with our mom. I know we looked like normal kids. But inside, we were torn apart.

And now, we are OK."

Missy



y grandma tells me that I don't have to settle for anything less than extraordinary, so I'm trying to do that.

I know that would not be possible if my life hadn't changed so drastically.

I've learned that I can work really hard in school so I can be a trauma doctor someday.

I know what it's like to be at the bottom. To be hungry. To be hurting. To be scared.

Now, I look at everything differently.

And someday, I want to give back to help kids like us who are going through what we went through."





y grandma told me there would always be a place for me with her. I wasn't scared anymore because I knew I had people who actually cared about me.

When I think about what I might do someday, I think I want to be a firefighter. I want to help people.

But for now, I like to help my Grandma cook.

In my old house, it seemed like everybody didn't feel anything other than sad. Now, I have this crazy, loving family.

It just makes me think: we must be very special."

The Friends of Children Society

This list represents our Friends of Children Society members between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. For a current list of Friends of Children Society members, please click here.

Gift of Love (\$25,000+) Gift of Hope (\$2,500+)

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Our multi-year giving program enables ProKids to have the stability we need to serve more waiting children. These Friends of Children members have committed to supporting ProKids for five years or more. Thank you!

Gift of Security (\$1,000+)

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Thank you!

As a nonprofit agency, ProKids depends on the generosity of our friends who support our advocacy. When you give to ProKids, you are investing in the promise of Greater Cincinnati's future and the possibility of a safe, secure and nurturing home for all children. We are deeply grateful for your support.

<u>\$100,000+</u>

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Endowments, Planned Giving Mean Stability for ProKids

At ProKids, we work every day so that abused and neglected children have stability in their lives. Now, there are two important ways to ensure that ProKids has long-term stability and can serve these children into the future.

Through our endowments, donors can be part of funds which will keep ProKids strong while directly serving our children.

Many of our donors are also finding that ensuring the legacy of ProKids and the children we serve can be part of their will or revocable trust.

Amy Merrell Steps to Success Endowment

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ProKids Legacy Fund

The Austin E. Knowlton Foundation

If you are considering making a gift to ProKids as part of our endowments or in your estate planning, please contact Community Director Jennifer McKettrick at jmckettrick@prokids.org or at 513-487-6445.

\$2,500+

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"I became a CASA
Volunteer after I
became a dad. I
wanted to be sure
other children had a
chance, just like my
own children."

- Cliff Mentrup, ProKids CASA Volunteer & 2016 Darlene Kamine Advocate of the Year Taft Stettinius & Holster LLP Jennifer Tenney
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"ProKids helps support me in my role of helping these children find their own path for their lives. We really can have an impact."

- Ann Wong, ProKids CASA
Volunteer & 2016 Darlene Kamine
Advocate of the Year

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"That's why I'm a CASA Volunteer. You are put into the very life of a child and you just have to hope."

- Phyllis L. McCallum, ProKids CASA Volunteer & 2016 Darlene Kamine Advocate of the Year

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Clinton R. Collins

Patricia Congdon

Jason Conte

Lauren Cox

Susan Studt Crossland &

Earl Crossland

John & Theresa Cummins

Steve Delosh

Elizabeth Demis

Magistrate Paul DeMott

Marty DeWald

Christopher DiCesare

Gwen DiMeo

Kristen Dodson

Laura Dolan

Stephanie & Andrew Dunne

Eastern Hamilton County

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #74

Michelle Edwards

William Enigk

Janie Evans

Jennifer Ewing



Doug Feichtner
Douglas Ferguson
Kerri & Matt Finke
Monica Fitzpatrick
Karen Floyd
David Foote
Michael Forgus
Natalie Foy
Funky Artsy
LeeAnne Galioto
Jack Garrity
Joel & Sandra Gayet

Joel & Sandra Gayetsky William & Josette Gearhart

Susan George

Tom & Cathy Gerrety

Christina Gilligan

Lisa Gillis

Cody Gilstrap

Lena Gionnette
Joy Glaser
Bob & Hallie Goldcamp
Amy Goodwin
Kathy Graeter
Martha Gramss
Michael Gray
Paul & Heidi Grundy
Bruce & Susan Hartung
Tammy Hatcher

Thomas Hattersley

Dale C. Hays Erin Heidrich

Abby Hold

Abby Held

Sophia Helms

Michelle Hendrickson

Gretchen Hils

Kathleen A. Hipple

Nathan Hirt

Daniel Hoffheimer

Miranda Hogg John Hopkins

Charles Howard

Kathi Huber

Mary Hudson

Jamie Huelskamp

Gina G. Huffman

Joseph L. Huffman

Cecil & Keith Hylton

Natalie Ibold

Carl & Diane Iseman

Lynn & Don Jacobs

Carol Jennewein

Karen Johnson

Shelley & Rodney Johnson

Jack Jouett

Margaret Joyce

"Being a CASA
Volunteer is about
making a difference
for one child.
And that changes
everything."

Donna Salmon,
 ProKids CASA Volunteer &
 2016 Darlene Kamine
 Advocate of the Year

Up to \$99 (continued)

Jaime Juenger Ronnie Jurkowitz Amber Justice-Manning

Alison Kamine

Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of

Kappa Alpha Theta Bill & Joan Keating Sheila Kinnen Patricia Kiser Celia Klug Courtney Koester

Barry & Stephanie Kogan

Steve Komrska Nancy Kuhl Chris LaFarge

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Robin LeFevre lessica Leon Kathy Linsenmeyer Craig Lloyd

Ricky & Karen Mathews

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I. Michael McNamara Tom & Amanda Meade Tom & Kris Meade

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Meyer

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Cadence Moore Olivia H. Moragne Katie & Mike Moroski Lisa Muething & Travis Smith John & Maryanne Mulder Thomas & Janet Murphy Mary Jo Neumann

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Don & Mary Lee Olinger

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Dan & Rebecca Roessner

Felicia Rosemond Kyle Rudduck

Arthur & Brenda Russell

Dan Ryan Roxann Rybolt Dan Schaefer Alexandria Schirmer Donald & Joan Schmitt lames & Michele Schoen David Schottelkotte lay Schuermann Morgan Schuler

Anna Schweikert J. Scott & Susan Stegman

Richard Seal Lori Selm

Kevin & Jane Shea Kathryn J. Sheffield Lamonica Sherman

Ali Shermer

Aimee & Bill Shinkle Kevin & Lise Sigward

Tiffany Sipe P.G. Sittenfeld

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Ayana Sloan Hilda L. Smith Susan Snyder Bradley Stahlhut Lee Stautberg Harry Stebbins

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Martin & Patty Stewart Marissa Stone Bonnie L. Stowell Dan Straub **Bob Suess**

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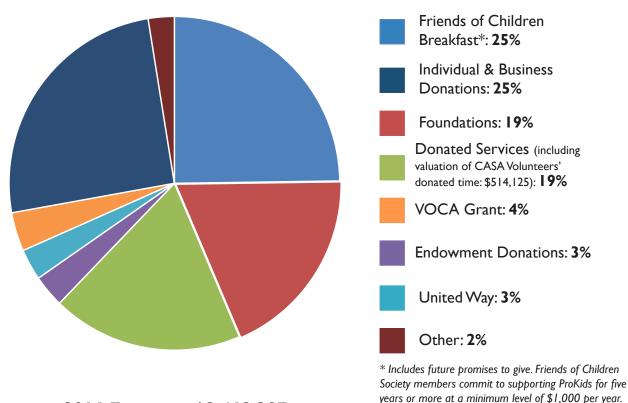
Iohn Zerhusen Cathy Zimmerer



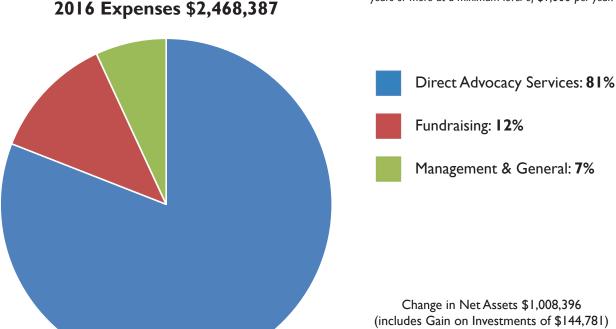
Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If you notice an error, please contact Carol Igoe at 513-487-4952 or cigoe@prokids.org.

Audited Financials

2016 Revenues \$3,476,970



2016 Expenses \$2,468,387



End of Year Net Assets \$4,242,730

Who will speak for our children? Make it you. Make a difference.

There are many ways you can be an active part of ProKids.

Make a difference not only for abused and neglected children,
but for our entire community.

Learn. Attend a one-hour, in-person Snapshot, regularly presented at ProKids. Make a reservation at www.prokids.org/snapshot.

Serve. You can become a CASA Volunteer by starting with a Snapshot. Then you can begin our flexible and supportive training which prepares you to work directly with the children ProKids serves. Find out more at www.prokids.org or by contacting Stephanie at 513-487-4961 or reach her at skuzma@prokids.org.

Contribute. Your financial support enables ProKids staff and volunteers to speak up for abused and neglected children in Hamilton County. Donate online anytime at www.prokids.org. While you're there, find out about helping ProKids through Amazon Smile or Kroger Community Rewards. If you are considering making a gift to ProKids as part of our endowments or in your estate planning, please contact Jennifer at jmckettrick@prokids.org or 513-487-6445.

Join. You can be a part of the ProKids Young Professionals and help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and support ProKids. Find out more at www.prokids.org/pkyp or by contacting Stephanie at 513-487-4961 or skuzma@prokids.org.

Share. Subscribe to our monthly eNews by visiting www.prokids.org. Be a part of our social media outreach and help us build awareness throughout our community.



Looking for another way to help? Need more information? Visit www.prokids.org and click on "Contact Us" at the top of the home page, or call us at 513-281-2000.



