Provids



2017 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 to 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.

Our Volunteers

At ProKids, Court Appointed Special Advocates – known as CASA Volunteers – look out for the best interests of individual children in the child protection system. CASA Volunteers work with ProKids CASA Managers/Guardian ad Litems (GALs) and ProKids staff attorneys in and out of Hamilton County Juvenile Court to make sure children are safe and secure. By working with others in the community, such as county case workers, therapists and teachers, CASA Volunteers make ProKids' outcomes possible.

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"We Want Everyone To Pull Together For Our Kids"

By Tracy Cook Executive Director, ProKids

Thanks to so many in our community, abuse and neglect stopped for 99% of the children ProKids served last year – a rate we've maintained for more than two decades.

At ProKids, our first job is to make sure abused and neglected children are safe.

Then we need to make sure our children have access to the services they need to help them heal.

What they are healing from is trauma – not only the trauma of abuse and neglect, but also after being taken from the only family they have ever known.



Each year we learn more about trauma and the price it extracts from its youngest victims. Because of research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (also known as ACEs) and the brain development of children, we know that abused and neglected children are more likely to develop chronic health conditions, more likely to die young, more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol and more likely to get in trouble with the law. We also know they are less likely to have a job and a secure home.

It is a stunning price generations of our children pay when adults don't nurture and protect them.

At ProKids, dedicated and compassionate volunteers and staff help make sure our children get the right care. They advocate passionately and persuasively on behalf of our children's best interests before the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, which oversees all the children in the child protection system. ProKids volunteers and staff collaborate with all sorts of busy, hard-working professionals from every system that touches a child's life. ProKids also works to create alliances within the child protection system to maximize outcomes for our children.

We want everyone to pull together for our kids. Their lives and futures hang in the balance.

I'm proud to be a part of an organization that works every day to break the vicious cycle of abuse and neglect. We recruit, train and support our Court Appointed Special Advocates, known as CASA Volunteers, to speak up for these children. Together, our staff and volunteers help guide children to safe environments where they can thrive.

But so many foster children still need our community's help. In just the last three years, there has been more than a 50% increase in the children entering the court system, due to abuse and neglect.

As you can see in these pages, last year, a record-setting 267 CASA Volunteers spoke up for 887 children. We need more people spreading the word about ways to help our children. More devoted CASA Volunteers stepping forward to serve. More passionate staff to train and guide them. More strong alliances with other child protection professionals. And more committed donors to make this important work possible.

We have to do more.

Because each and every child deserves a safe, permanent, and nurturing home.

In 2017, ProKids Advocacy Teams, including 267 trained CASA Volunteers, supported by CASA Managers and attorneys, advocated for 887 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.

98% of our children received appropriate educational placement or achieved developmental milestones.



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

87% of ProKids children experience stability during their case.



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

75% of ProKids children were placed with their brothers and sisters.

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

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

97%



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

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

Looking at the Facts, But Finding Hope

By John Hands President, Board of Trustees

As an attorney, I always look to the evidence. Asking what the evidence shows to be true is a necessary part of my work and has become a lens I often use in other aspects of life.

So when I first learned about ProKids, and took the time to review the evidence – some of which you see here on these pages – I found not only a positive impact on children who face incredible odds, but also reason for hope.



- 98% of ProKids children receive appropriate educational placement and achieve developmental milestones.
- 97% of ProKids children who have experienced abuse and/or trauma receive access to the interventions and services they need.
- 75% of ProKids children are placed with their siblings.

And, just as it was when I first looked at ProKids, 99% of the children served by ProKids are free from abuse and neglect.

What I have also found from looking at the evidence is that abused and neglected children – who are often in foster care – face a dark future.

- Kids in foster care are twice as likely to miss school, falling behind so that only half of them will graduate from high school.
- Boys who spend their teen years in foster care are 55% more likely to commit a crime as an adult.
- Only I out of 2 foster kids who age out of the system will have gainful employment by age 24.

That is not just a dark future for these children, that casts a dark shadow on our entire community.

In order to serve as many of these children as possible, ProKids has a five-year strategic plan. We work to intentionally make sure abused and neglected children move to safe, secure homes where they can thrive. And we calculate how many dollars we need to support the right number of volunteers and increase the number of children we serve.

But another fact has clouded that plan. The number of children who need ProKids keeps growing: for the last two years, ProKids has experienced twice its expected annual growth rate.

I'm proud that ProKids has stepped up its efforts by working across the system, by drawing more dollars from our generous donors and by attracting more committed volunteers. In fact, ProKids serves our community with a workforce that is 87% volunteer.

These CASA Volunteers are the eyes and ears of our Advocacy Teams, which include staff attorneys and staff CASA Managers. They are the people children turn to when they have no one in their corner. And they are the people who make the results you see in these pages possible.

And looking at the evidence, including their work, their passion and their commitment, gives me hope.

The Bond of Brothers

When Adam and Jacob were growing up, they thought their lives were normal.

They moved around a lot, going from apartments to motel rooms to what they called "camping," when they were sleeping in their car with their parents. They looked forward to little things like getting chicken nuggets when their parents had the money, and visits with their grandmother. Sometimes they got to go to school if they stayed with their grandmother long enough.

But when they didn't show up regularly, the school called Hamilton County Job & Family Services to investigate. A caseworker oversaw their moves to an aunt's and then back to their grandmother.

But no family member could make it work long-term so the boys moved into a foster home. It was there that they first met Debbie, a ProKids Volunteer...

Debbie's Story

Debbie Jacobs, ProKids CASA Volunteer

Adam and Jacob were safe with Pam, their foster parent. But what would their future look like?

I learned their relatives loved them. But I also learned both of their parents were using heroin.

At ProKids, we've learned that substance abuse makes child abuse and neglect more likely. We advocated that the parents needed treatment; they could only visit their children with supervision; and that foster care was best for Adam and Jacob for a while. We also helped make sure the boys had the services they needed: medical care, dental care, therapy and extra attention to catch up in school.



Then their father got arrested, went to jail, and dropped out of his sons' lives.

Their mother continued her visits, quitting one drug treatment program after another. She told me that with Adam and Jacob happy in their foster home, she thought it best if they could be adopted.

But just before we could finalize that in court, she told the boys she was going to have another baby. I learned that Adam, who was just II, was shocked and asked how she could be having a baby when, "you can't even take care of us."

That broke my heart. And made me even more committed to making sure Adam and Jacob got the permanent home they deserved.

It was my privilege to witness Pam adopting the boys later that year, reciting vows promising to love and cherish Adam and Jacob forever.

Pam made the loving decision that she could not give enough time to the new baby who was coming. But her desire to make sure Adam and Jacob always had a relationship with their sibling touched me deeply.

My CASA Manager, Erin, and I decided this new child would need a CASA Volunteer with an exclusive focus on both the baby and a different foster family.





Margaret's Story

Margaret Joyce, ProKids CASA Volunteer



When I joined the team, I knew one thing: this baby, who was named Kyle, deserved to land in the same kind of loving arms his older brothers had found with Pam. This little guy had been born with enough strikes against him.

I met Kyle in the newborn intensive care unit, where he was under the care of an orthopedist, a neurologist and a urologist. He'd been diagnosed with spina bifida, probably linked to his mother's drug use as well as her lack of prenatal care. After his birth, she was showing no signs of living differently.

Kyle was going to need foster parents who were comfortable handling Kyle's catheter and his other medical needs. And at the foster home he moved into, he was incredibly sweet, always smiling.

But something did not seem right.

I did some investigating and learned these foster parents were not representing themselves or their family honestly. ProKids raised our concerns with both Job and Family Services and the foster care licensing agency. We filed a motion to remove Kyle from that home. Then, the night before we were to go to court, they lost their foster care license.

I wondered what would have happened if ProKids had not been involved in Kyle's life.

Leah and Nathan, the new foster parents, formed a bond with Kyle within days. It was as though his world had been cloudy and suddenly the sun had come out.

When Adam and Jacob visited their little brother, they said his new home "feels right."

Pam and Leah continue to encourage the brothers' relationship. The older ones sometimes watch over Kyle as he runs and plays at the park. Thanks to intensive treatment and other services, Kyle is exceeding his doctors' expectations.

Leah and Nathan are hoping to finalize their adoption of Kyle in 2018, creating another ProKids forever family.

To see a video version of this story, visit www.prokids.org/2017AnnualReport

To protect the confidentiality of our children, the images above are of actors.

The Friends of Children Society

This list represents our Friends of Children Society members between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

GiftofLove:\$25.000+

Atkins & Pearce (leb & Nirvani Head) Manuel & Cynthia Chavez Keith & Debbie Jacobs Thomas & Pamela Mischell Chip Turner

Gift of Faith: \$10,000+

Jennifer & David Bastos Manuel & MacKenzie Chavez Harmony Project (Judy Harmony & Richard Jackson) Scott & Cathy Heiser Ron & Phyllis McSwain Tommy & Leah Sedler The Craig Young Family **Foundation** (Craig & Mary Beth Young)

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Diane & Tom Adamec Ed & Cathie Beckman Janel Carroll Thomas & Sally Cuni From Our Angels to Yours Inc. Joseph & Louise Head Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation Michelle & Jim Hudepohl T.D. & Linda Hughes Jon & Idit Isaacsohn Thomas & Susan Kirkpatrick Ceil Kuzma Steven & Gail Moore Nathan & Christina Neyra Dick & Joanie Paulsen Ronald Rosselot Ben & Amy Russert Peg Thompson

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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 Society members have committed to supporting ProKids at \$1,000 per year for five years or more. Thank you!

GiftofSecurity:\$1,000+

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Henry & Paula Potts

This list represents our Friends of Children Society members between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

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.

\$1,000,000+

John J. & Mary R. Schiff Foundation

\$100,000+

Marge & Charles J. Schott Foundation United Way of Greater Cincinnati

\$50,000+

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EndowmentsStrengthen ProKids

At ProKids, we work every day so that abused and neglected children have stability in their lives. Our endowments ensure that ProKids itself has the stability to serve abused and neglected children into the future.

Amy Merrell StepstoSuccessEndowment

Yousef Aouad
GBQ Partners
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\$1,000+

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"You...always think about the kids.
They need us. And I've seen it work."

Beth Adele Katerberg, CASA Volunteer

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No matter what "we keep trying because that's what our children deserve."

Charles Scott Riley III Foundation

Jim Lake, CASA Volunteer



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\$500+

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"ProKids is the place to make a difference. You can do something about an overwhelming problem."

Carol Wiggers, CASA Volunteer **\$250+** (continued)

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Skyline Chili - Norwood

Skyline Chili - Lebanon

"These children ... are survivors. And they have amazing lessons to teach me."

Margaret Kremer, CASA Volunteer

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Anonymous (12)

Yousef Aouad

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Jim & Kathy Prevost

Julie Raney

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Jim Reynolds Greg Riley **\$100+** (continued)

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Daniel K. Schneider Kathleen Schnelle Lynn Schumacher Chelsea Scully Greg Sherman

John & Patty Sherman Steven & Julie Shifman Robert Shingleton Steve & Patti Sholtes

Don Shuller Mike Sifri

Sisters of Hope Nathan Skowronek Stephanie Smith

Barbara J. Smitherman Christopher Smitherman

Nick Spadaccini Keith & Amy Spiller Malinda Steele

Kathleen & James Stocker

Michael J. Suffern & Karen L. Imbus

Sarah Swisher

Laura Taylor & Bill Dattilo

Lee Tenaglia Sue Terwilliger Beth Thress

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Courtney Weber Nicci & Greg Weber

Bryan & Christine Wheatley T. Patrick & Tonja Wilson



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Sharidon Wolz Ann Wong

Gordon W. Wright Family Robert & Sharon Wyenandt Mark Yurick & Karen Carroll

Debra Zevallos

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Sharon Adams
Sally Ahrens
Inez Allen
Kaush Amin
Anonymous (9)
Linda Armsey
Arrasmith
Barbara Baker

Barbara Beaver

Beckman Weil Shepardson LLC

Kortney E. Bennett

Jeni Berreth

Sarah & Ross Bextermueller

Ryan Bickett

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Magistrate Kathy Boller-Koch

Brady & Carolyn Bowler

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Katharine Bridgman

Meghan Broderick

Bill & Alberta Brown

Sandra Brown

Stephanie Brown

Vickie Brown-Smith

Mollie & Paul Brumm

Mark & Ann Caesar

Gay M. Caldwel

Marilynne Chapman

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Olivia Cook

Tracy Cook

Erin Cotner

Carolyn Crombie

Susan Studt Crossland &

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Peggy Daly

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Norma Holt Davis

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Danise Distasi

Doug Dodd

Samantha Doktor

Diane Drobeck

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Amy Feeney

Erin Frey

Michael B. Ganson

Joel & Sandra Gayetsky

Tom & Cathy Gerrety

Carrie Gilbert

Dana Gilbert

Amy & Chris Gilles

Erica Gillum

Jaime Ginney

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Kathy Graeter

Brian Gregg

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David & Laura Groenke

Meridith Grommon



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Steven Henkel

Mike Hennigan

Gretchen Hils

Jeremy Hopkins

Sara Hornsby

Barbara Howard & Michael

Belmont

Mary Hudson

Brandi Hurier

Magistrate Liz Igoe

Ralph Isaacs

Michael Jackman

Nicky Jeffries

Gregory Johnson

Lakisha Johnson

John & Donna Johnston

Stephanie Jones

Jack Jouett

Bethany Judy

Ronnie Jurkowitz

Joseph & Nancy Kane

Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

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Monica Kittrell

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Kristin Knoebber

Patrick Kollmeier

Steve Komrska

Ally Kraemer

Martin Kraft



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Patricia & Frank Leggio

Deanna Leib Stephanie Leuck Kathy Linsenmeyer Lloyd Family

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Ricky & Karen Mathews

Judy Mause

Paul McCoy Family Office Services

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Aftab Pureval Julie Ranz Karen Rathbun

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Patricia Riehl Christal Rogers Robert Rogers Christina Roth Grace Royalty

Debra Ruehlman Sabika Inc

Nancy D. Sauer Kathleen Schaefer Donald & Joan Schmitt

James & Michele Schoen Mike & Natalie Schoeny Iim & Missy Schroeck

lan Schwartz
Jerry Schwartz
Marla Schwartz
Kevin & Jane Shea
Theresa L. Sheeran

Up to \$99 (continued)

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Tammy Soloman Gray

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Ellen Steiner
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Patricia Stone

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Frannie Thompson & Don Kunkel

Linda Tong Kenya Tuck Megan Ulrich Pam Umney

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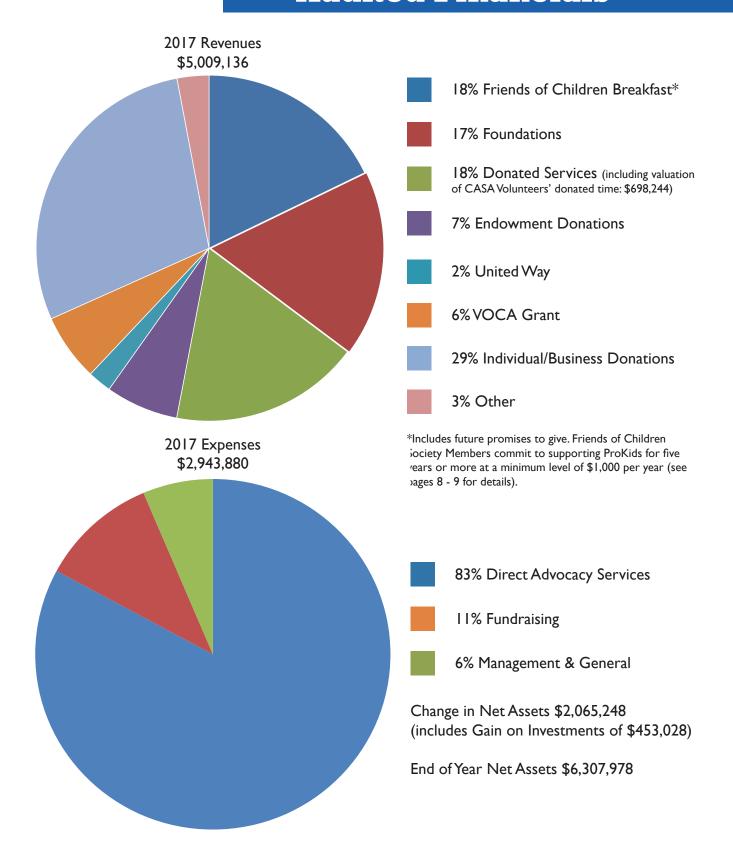
Donald Washington
Sally Wehrman
Kent Wellington
Beth Welter
Marcie Winter
Julie Wirtz
Carol Wong

Alan & Dianne Yaffe

Maria Zarick 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



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

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

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but for our entire community.

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