2018
Report to the Community
Allen County Children Services

Protecting our future, one step at a time.
Dear Community Members:
The opiate epidemic has hit Allen County hard leaving a destructive wake of battered lives and devastated families including the most innocent victims of all – children. No parent sets out to fail but addiction to opiates quickly leads them down that road.

The statistics in this annual report include numerous sad tales of children exposed to abuse and neglect as a direct result of the opiate epidemic. There are no easy answers or solutions. Helping our children and families in Allen County harmed by the epidemic takes a community-wide effort for parents to receive the necessary treatment and services to get beyond their addiction and work toward reunification with their children.

There are many community partners involved in this process beyond the walls of our agency, all united with a common goal. Those partners include mental health professionals, service providers, law enforcement and the courts. All are committed to helping children and their families. We also owe a debt of gratitude to grandparents and relatives and/or kin who open their homes and hearts to their young relatives, easing an already traumatic time. Our foster parents who help children without relatives or kin, do a tremendous job and care for children entering their homes as if they were their own.

The valuable help foster parents provide demonstrates the level of dedication they have for our children.

Beside opening their homes to children in need, many foster parents joined us to help in other ways primarily as agency ambassadors to recruit new foster homes. Foster families helped to staff the Allen County Fair booth and the fair parade.

Our partners in law enforcement are on the front lines, frequently the first to alert us, along with other partners, to help families in need. Social workers throughout our community coordinate a diverse pool of resources to help people facing addictions receive the appropriate treatment.

Internally, we continue to build on our programs to help strengthen families while never letting go of our principle objective to protect children. In May 2018, we launched our 30-Days-To-Family program that aims to identify relatives/kin as potential placement options when children cannot remain safely in their own home. Specialized training was provided for staff involved with the program to learn how to identify relatives in each case as potential placement options. In just over six months, relatives for 14 of the 16 children in our program were identified. A kinship provider for three children became the first person in Allen County in 2018 to receive child care funding from the state through the Kinship Child Care Program (KCCP).

Beyond our staff and the many professionals who work with us daily, we consider people in our community among our helping partners. Scores of people rallied to support children regardless of whether opiates or other circumstances led them to agency involvement. The Adopt-A-Family program brought holiday presents to 217 children in 83 families thanks to the generous support of sponsors comprised of individuals, businesses and groups in our community. The Cole Collection, started by Lima native Megan Rockey, continues to grow. A record 170 tickets were sold to this holiday shopping fundraiser to provide presents to 189 children in foster care or living with relatives.

Numerous people in the community also stopped by Walmart in December to buy a present to fill the 92.1 The Frog van to help children involved with our agency during the Holidays.

In closing, it’s hard to express in words the true sense of gratitude we have for our many partners who help us during these challenging times. We are grateful for all of them and value the role they play. We also value the job our committed staff perform, and the dedication shown daily to fulfill our mission to protect children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community.

Cyndi Scanland, MSSA
Executive Director
Services offered to children in 2018

Total Calls
3,864 referrals to agency.

Intake/Assessment
849 reports of child abuse/neglect/dependency assessed.

Protective Services
227 children with an order of protective supervision.

Relative/Kinship Placement
389 children were placed in the temporary custody of relatives/kinship.

Foster Care
109 children were in the custody of the agency.

Adoption Services
13 adoptions were finalized.
2018 in pictures