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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THOMAS D. YATES

Did you know that we have a big birthday coming up? Legal Council is turning 30! And we have our kind, generous supporters to thank for helping us reach this milestone.

Without that support, this agency would not be what it is today: a leader in client-focused "legal care" and powerful impact advocacy—providing hope, dignity, and stability for children and adults facing life-changing health conditions.

For clients of Legal Council, this past year has been one of the most challenging in our history. It's a scary time, with unprecedented threats to civil liberties and the social safety net. The push to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security while chipping away at hard-earned LGBTQ and immigrant rights will only continue.

As uncomfortable and hard as this time may be, it also presents opportunities to serve clients in new and innovative ways. This includes expanded partnerships with healthcare and social service providers across the region.

Our clients always come first, and from those client experiences grows our policy advocacy initiatives. This includes Legal Council's major class-action win defending Medicaid, which provides life-saving care for over 3.1 million Illinoisans—including 700,000 children, 200,000 seniors, and 20,000 people living with HIV. This high-impact litigation forced the state to pay billions of dollars to preserve Illinois' health safety net—ensuring that hospitals and clinics serving our clients and communities remain strong. It also spurred the state of Illinois to finally pass a budget for the first time in over two years!

We now offer free legal assistance at more than a dozen sites across the region. Our pioneering medical-legal partnership model means that clients can get help at the same location where they receive their primary care. Your support means that Legal Council's HIV, children's, and homeless programs will continue to expand and have tremendous impact in our communities.

As we move through Legal Council's 30th year of building better lives for those who have nowhere else to turn for help, your support will allow us to do that much more for the communities we serve. **Thank you for placing your trust in us.**

Sincerely,

Iom Yates

Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF FY2017



Major class-action win protecting Medicaid and safety net healthcare providers, requiring Illinois to pay \$486 million a month + extra \$2 billion to pay down Medicaid bills.

Amy Zimmerman honored by Health and Medicine Policy Research Group as Health Advocate of the Year. Class-action win forces Illinois General Assembly to pass a budget after a two-year impasse.

Children and families' program launches a large-scale medical-legal partnership at University of Illinois Health through the CHECK program.

Due to growth, Legal Council moves into new office space at 17 N. State Street.

HIV program significantly expands medical-legal partnership with Howard Brown Health to provide legal care in Englewood and Uptown.





AIDS

LEGAL COUNCIL

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL

Our HIV program provided free, immediate legal assistance to over 950 individuals this past year in 1,500 case matters. During fiscal year 2017, services were provided at our main office in Chicago's Loop and at partner organization sites, including Austin CBC, CORE Center, Howard Brown Health, Mercy Hospital, and TPAN. In additional to direct legal care, program staff conducted free trainings to nearly 1,000 people across the region and advocated at the state and national levels on behalf of people with HIV and their families.

Some program highlights:

1. EXPANSION OF PARTNERSHIP AT HOWARD BROWN HEALTH SITES

In late 2016, Legal Council received significant funding from Elton John AIDS Foundation and the LGBT Community Fund at The Chicago Community Trust to expand Legal Council's innovative medical-legal partnership (MLP) with Howard Brown Health. This MLP is designed to provide free, expert legal assistance to low-income people with HIV or at risk of contracting HIV who are patients at Howard Brown—a city-wide community clinic dedicated to eliminating disparities in health care. As a result of this additional funding, we were able to exponentially grow the legal services offered at Howard Brown. What started two years ago as a legal clinic offering services for eight hours per month is now 24 hours per week!

2. SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY INVOLVING AETNA AND HIV MEDICATIONS

In December 2016, we were notified by pharmacists at some of our partner sites that Aetna Better Health—a Medicaid managed care organization that serves many of our HIV-positive clients—was suddenly imposing new requirements on patients refilling HIV medications. In addition to being unnecessarily burdensome for patients and pharmacists, these requirements potentially violated anti-discrimination laws in the Affordable Care Act. Legal Council raised these legal issues to Aetna and facilitated negotiations between Aetna and the healthcare providers. As a result of our advocacy, Aetna agreed to make changes that removed barriers to care for HIV positive patients and those seeking to avoid infection by taking Truvada for PrEP.

3. NEGOTIATING WITH STATE OF ILLINOIS OVER ACCESS TO CURATIVE TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS C

Legal Council is leading a coalition of patient-rights organizations that is seeking to increase access to breakthrough medications that can cure hepatitis C. Together with our coalition partners, we have conducted a campaign to encourage the state to eliminate restrictions on coverage for a new generation of medications that actually cure hepatitis C—a liver disease that causes cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. Legal Council and our partners have been meeting with the commissioner of Health and Human Services to discuss changes to their general criteria that would enable more Medicaid enrollees to have access to medications that can cure them of hepatitis C.

MEET A CLIENT:

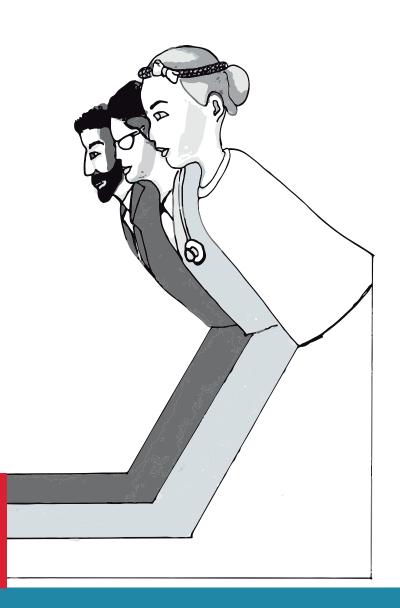
PHILIP

Philip, who has HIV, heart disease, and congestive heart failure, had worked for more than 30 years, with most of that time spent as a production artist. He was dedicated to his job, going right back to work even after suffering a major heart-attack.

By the time he met Legal Council, Philip's health problems had caught up with him and he could no longer work. Having already been turned down once for Social Security disability, he was suffering from depression and filled with anxiety and fear over the thought of having no income and being homeless. Every time he came upon more obstacles to stabilizing his life, he felt it deeply. "I just keep failing," he said.

After Legal Council took Philip's case, our staff helped him fight to get Social Security disability benefits, even accompanying Philip when he visited a top cardiologist who was able to verify that his patient was unable to work. Legal Council steadily worked with Philip through the appeals process, gathering the evidence needed to show that he met the onerous requirements laid down by the Social Security Administration. Legal Council even managed to get Philip a hearing in four months instead of the normal two years the appeals process usually takes.

Despite the complications involved in Philip's case, Legal Council eventually won and even got him back pay that predated his initial application date. Because Legal Council never gave up, neither did Philip. With a small but helpful income, Philip is better able to focus on remaining healthy. He has expressed an enormous sense of relief that he isn't homeless and can access his HIV medications.



CHICAGO

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

FOR CHILDREN

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

CHICAGO MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

During fiscal year 2017, our medical-legal partnerships targeting children with chronic illness or disabilities and their families collaborated with leading providers of pediatric care across Cook County, including Friend Family Health Center, UI Health's CHECK (Coordination of Health Care for Complex Kids) initiative, and the Under the Rainbow child/adolescent behavioral health clinic at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Some program highlights:

1. COLLABORATION MATTERS

Legal Council collaborated with other child health advocates to shape and help pass *Public Act 99-0927*. The act adds developmental as well as social and emotional screenings to child health examinations required for school attendance. This vital legislation will help families identify developmental delays or mental health concerns and seek interventions for their children much sooner.

2. LEGAL COUNCIL LEGISLATION SIGNED BY ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

A bill drafted by Legal Council was signed by Governor Bruce Rauner. This legislation clarifies and strengthens the ability of parents and guardians to pursue mediation where there are disagreements with the school about their child's special education services, and protects the child's placement until the dispute is resolved.

3. TACKLING CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

The Governor's Children's Cabinet identified lead poisoning as a priority issue for Illinois, and adopted our ongoing work to proactively expand eligibility to evidence-based therapies through Early Intervention (EI) to lead-exposed infants under a workgroup co-convened by Legal Council and Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University.

MEET THE CLIENTS:

KEARA AND TASHA

To consent to medical care for a child, an adult must be that child's parent or legal guardian. Simple enough. But what if a child's only parental figure is legally unrelated to them? Keara, who is seven and suffers from severe kidney problems and asthma, and her older sister, Tasha, came to Legal Council facing this conundrum.

Rhonda was the only parental figure Keara and Tasha had. She had been the partner of Keara and Tasha's biological mother for many years but never married or obtained a civil union because neither option was legal in Illinois at the time. The relationship ended and Rhonda's partner abruptly left Illinois. Although she was the girls' only parent and sole provider, Rhonda had no legal relationship with the children who called her "Mom."

Without a recognized legal relationship, Rhonda could not consent to the medical care that Keara desperately needed. Sometimes, understanding medical providers would look the other way, but sometimes they wouldn't. When Legal Council met this family, Keara desperately needed surgery, which required consent from the child's legal guardian.

First, we attempted to get the biological mother to sign powers of attorney over to Rhonda, but she refused. Our second option was to try to get Rhonda legal guardianship through the courts.

What made this difficult was that Rhonda had a serious criminal conviction from over 20 years ago. The law demands that a judge deny guardianship to an adult with a violent criminal history, unless the adult can prove the guardianship is still in the child's best interest.

Growing up in Chicago's public housing projects, Rhonda was caught in a shoot-out when she was only 19. She fired her gun in self-defense. Rhonda served her time in prison, and has since been a shining example of rehabilitation. For decades, she has worked in a highly skilled construction trade, and mentors young women to enter such trades as an alternative to a life of crime. She speaks to at-risk teen groups and at national conventions. She owns her own home and more importantly, she does everything she can to provide her daughters with love, stability, and opportunity. We argued to the court why Rhonda's past conviction should not bar her from being the guardian of the girls. The court agreed. As a result, Keara and Tasha's mom is now also their legal guardian who can consent to medically necessary treatment.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT

The Homeless Outreach Project serves those who are homeless or at-risk of being so, while living with a serious mental illness. During fiscal year 2017, services were provided at our main office in Chicago's Loop and at partner organization sites, including Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Franciscan Outreach, and Matthew House.

Some program highlights:

1. RAISING THE BAR FOR CLIENT SUCCESS

The program secured nearly 100 awards of disability benefits for clients. This is a tremendously challenging population to serve. These complex cases can take anywhere from one to five years to resolve. Nationally, approximately 70% of these types of cases are denied, yet we have a 90% client success rate.

2. SUCCESS IN THE "HOUSING FIRST" MODEL

The program received an investment from AIDS Foundation of Chicago to assist formerly homeless persons who are currently housed to secure federal disability benefits. As the "housing first" model continues to serve persons who are chronically homeless, more and more persons with chronic and disabling conditions are securing housing. However, without income to cover housing expenses, transportation and personal essentials, life remains challenging. We continue to work to secure disability awards for eligible clients to promote long-term housing stability, health, and wellness.

3. MEDICAL RECORDS MARATHON

The program hosted our third annual "Medical Records Marathon," during which law students from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and University of Illinois College of Law donate an entire Saturday to reviewing and summarizing medical records. Because of our focus on representing persons living with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders, many disability claims involve hundreds to thousands of pages of records. This effort assists staff to develop compelling narratives supporting our clients' disability applications.

MEET A CLIENT:

KENNETH

Kenneth had a hard life growing up. Coming from a chaotic and abusive household—where his mother would abuse him both physically and mentally—Kenneth had few resources. With no support from family and with few friends, Kenneth frequently received the most affection from the farm animals he helped his family raise in rural Virginia.

Though he suffered from depression that dated back to his childhood, Kenneth was still able to get his Licensed Practical Nursing degree and worked as a nurse for five years at a hospital in Virginia. It was during this time that Kenneth first pulled his back while lifting a patient at work. Shortly thereafter, he lost his job. After this, Kenneth's depression grew as he went from working as a nurse, to becoming a construction worker, to working maintenance at a fast food restaurant, to eventually becoming unemployed and homeless.

By the time he had moved to Chicago, Kenneth was thin, frail, and nervous. He had a downtrodden, disoriented appearance that people with traumatic histories normally display. He was homeless, drinking excessively, suffering from severe back pain, had trouble sleeping, and felt a loss of appetite. But these problems were just the surface of deeper issues, including severe depression, suicidal thoughts and feelings of shame and worthlessness. In other words, Kenneth had "just given up on life."

When he first met Legal Council, Kenneth had been primarily living in shelters, and had just transferred to Franciscan Shelter, because the first shelter where he had stayed for seven years had changed their policy, thus preventing long-term residency for transients. Kenneth did not leave the area around the shelter as he felt too overwhelmed by a city as big as Chicago.

With the help of Legal Council and a program partner, Thresholds, Kenneth was awarded disability benefits, and placed in permanent housing with his own room. He had also stopped drinking and was being treated for his back pain and depression. Kenneth became more upbeat and had even gained weight. He gets out more and is less afraid of the city around him.

Though Kenneth still suffers from depression, he is receiving treatment and is no longer suicidal. Also, now that he has a more permanent roof over his head and is receiving income, Kenneth now has a brighter outlook regarding his life and his future.

LEGAL COUNCIL

POLICY UPDATE

VICTORY FOR HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND EQUITY:

Just after the 2016 elections, we joined a small group of Illinois advocates dedicated to protecting access to health care and Medicaid to convene several strategy meetings and begin building a plan to fight what we knew was very first on the agenda in Washington: Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal. The outcome of those meetings was the Protect Our Care Illinois Coalition (POCIL), now over 100 organizations strong, for which we serve on both the Executive and Steering Committees. The work came fast and furious and Legal Council engaged in every aspect of POCIL's campaign to save the ACA, protect Medicaid, and reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, from writing fact sheets, to getting letters to the editor placed in Illinois newspapers, to attending rallies, to meeting with elected officials, to holding press conferences, to conducting trainings, to podcasting, to invigorated engagement with social media, to fundraising, to participating in national sign-on campaigns, to coordinating days of action for advocates and voters.

In our efforts with POCIL, we focused particularly on amplifying the significance of health coverage to creating greater health equity for people living with HIV, people of color, and children, and worked closely with our partners to develop data on Medicaid payments to schools and other entities serving children and bringing early childhood advocates into the fight for coverage. Our efforts have run the gamut of every type of advocacy imaginable and together with our partners, we have definitely won the first round of what will undoubtedly be three more years of battles on health coverage.

At the same time, we are following and fighting the current administration's other efforts to de-stabilize health insurance markets, limit federal Medicaid protections, and otherwise sabotage access to coverage. We use a variety of tools such as commenting on proposed federal rules, advocacy with the Illinois Department of Insurance, public education on sabotage efforts and how to defeat them, and drafting state legislation to protect access to coverage in this ongoing fight.

LEGAL COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Legal Council continues to significantly increase its influence and policy footprint.

Some highlights from fiscal year 2017:

STATE BUDGET IMPASSE LITIGATION

Beeks v. Bradley & Memisovski v. Maram: The Beeks and Memisovski cases were in the news throughout the year. Legal Council and our co-counsel filed a motion for further relief to enforce the consent decrees based on evidence that the State of Illinois was delaying Medicaid payments, action that was especially painful to safety net healthcare providers upon which Legal Council clients rely.

Judge Lefkow ruled in early June 2017 that the State needed to pay more in Medicaid and instructed the parties to negotiate to provide for more dollars paid to Medicaid. On June 30, 2017, Judge Lefkow issued a federal court order requiring Illinois to make nearly \$500 million Medicaid payments monthly plus an additional \$2 billion over the following 12 months. The order was pivotal in helping to end an historic two-year state budget impasse and will continue to protect Medicaid in Illinois.

CHILD IN-HOME NURSING SERVICES LITIGATION

M.A. v. Norwood and O.B. v. Norwood: The Seventh Circuit sided with the plaintiffs, O.B. v. Norwood, 838 F.3d 837 (7th Cir. 2016), and held that Illinois had failed to arrange delivery of the services that the State approved. The parties have been working to identify steps that will improve staffing to allow entry of a final consent decree ending the litigation. In M.A. v. Norwood, which concerns how Medicaid-eligible children in Illinois qualify for in-home

nursing services, the state agreed to jettison the eligibility system that triggered the litigation, return to its prior process of approving in-home nursing hours, and clean up its decision notices to comply with due process. The parties are now negotiating a consent decree to end the litigation.

MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR HEPATITIS C MEDICATIONS

Legal Council is working with community and medical partners to convince Illinois to liberalize its Medicaid prior approval policies for coverage of new hepatitis C medications. Illinois has one of the most restrictive policies for hepatitis C medication coverage among the states. Federal litigation remains an option if the State will not agree to change its policies on these new hepatitis C medications.



Photo of the Protect Our Care Illinois strategy team including Carrie Chapman (left), Legal Council's Director of Policy Advocacy and Strategic Innovation. Legal Council is a leading agency in the statewide coalition dedicated to protecting and expanding access to quality affordable health care for all Illinoisans.

BOARD OF AMBASSADORS

Spreading awareness about Legal Council and the clients we serve, and working to bring new supporters into the fold.

The Board of Ambassadors is a diverse group of dedicated professionals who help to increase awareness of Legal Council and to support its services for low-income people with HIV and other chronic, disabling and stigmatized health conditions, as well as our educational programs and policy advocacy.

AMBASSADORS

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Lauren Carter self-employed

Allison Castillo Office of the Public Guardian

Stacey Dembo Law Offices of Stacey J. Dembo

Angelo DiBartolomeo Clark Hill PLC

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Sue Yellen retired

CLIENT AND CASE PROFILE

1,473

Individual Clients

2,166

Cases

4

Class-Action Lawsuits 3.1M

Individuals Represented in Class-Action Lawsuits

POPULATIONS SERVED

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS 60%

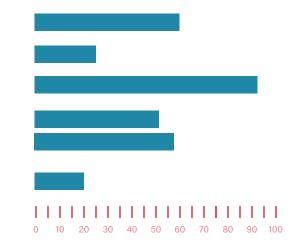
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES 25%

DISABILITY 91%

HISTORY OF TRAUMA 52%

HIV-POSITIVE 58%

HOMELESS 20%



GEOGRAPHY



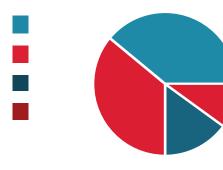
CHICAGO NORTH SIDE 534 36%

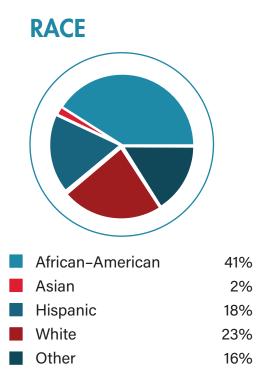
CHICAGO SOUTH SIDE 568 39%

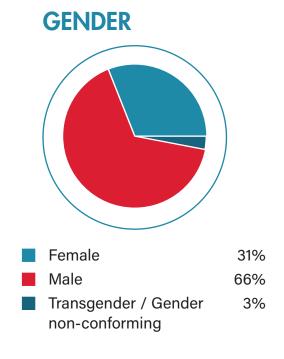
CHICAGO WEST SIDE 220 15%

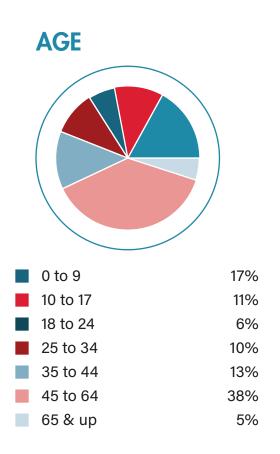
OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO 151 10%

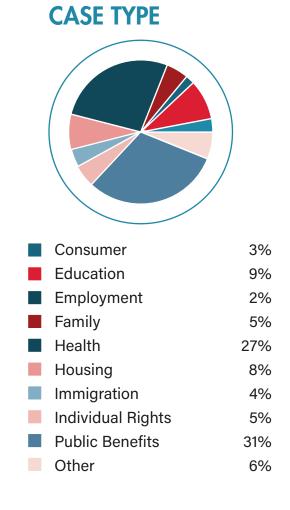
1,473 100%











FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS: YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

Expenses by Category		
Program Services	79%	\$ 1,901,121
Administrative	11%	\$ 270,869
Fundraising	10%	\$ 239,153

TOTAL EXPENSES

100% \$ 2,411,143

Revenues by Category		
Non-government grants and contributions (including individuals)	39%	\$ 1,073,875
Government	38%	\$ 1,047,746
Program services fees	16%	\$ 444,891
Special events	6%	\$ 166,438
Donated legal services	1%	\$ 36,637
Earned interest	<1%	\$ 3,613

TOTAL REVENUE

100% \$

2,773,200

FISCAL STATEMENT

	Unrestricted		Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support				
Government grants	\$ 1,047,746		_	\$ 1,047,746
Non-government grants and contributions (including individuals)	\$ 227,275	\$	846,600	\$ 1,073,875
Special events	\$ 166,438		_	\$ 166,438
Program services fees	\$ 444,891		_	\$ 444,891
Donated Legal Services	\$ 36,637		_	\$ 36,637
Earned interest	\$ 3,613		_	\$ 3,613
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 632,613	\$	(632,613)	_
Total Revenue	\$ 2,559,213	\$	213,987	\$ 2,773,200
Expenses				
Program Services	\$ 1,901,121		_	\$ 1,901,121
Administrative	\$ 270,869		_	\$ 270,869
Fundraising	\$ 239,153		_	\$ 239,153
Total expenses	\$ 2,411,143		_	\$ 2,411,143
Change in NET assets	\$ 148,070	\$	213,987	\$ 362,057
NET assets, beginning of year (restated)	\$ 1,415,595	\$	362,917	\$ 1,778,512
NET assets, end of year	\$ 1,563,665	\$	576,904	\$ 2,140,569

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Chicago Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Public Health
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Parts A & B
University of Illinois-Chicago Coordination of Health Care for Complex Kids (CHECK)

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

\$100,000+

Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois

\$50,000—\$99,999

Elton John AIDS Foundation
Chicago Bar Foundation
LGBT Community Fund
at The Chicago Community Trust
Polk Bros. Foundation
Irving Harris Foundation
Telligen Community Initiative

\$30,000—\$49,999

Robert R. McCormick Foundation Prince Charitable Trusts United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$20,000—\$29,999

Anonymous Anonymous Illinois Equal Justice Foundation

\$10,000—\$19,999

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS
(DIFFA/Chicago)
Friend Family Health Center
Medical Home Network
Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

\$5,000—\$9,999

Families' and Children's AIDS Network (FCAN) Illinois Bar Foundation Louis and Nellie Sieg Foundation Season of Concern

\$1,000—\$4,999

Equal Justice Works
Everthrive Illinois
Hamill Family Foundation
Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
(LAGBAC)

CORPORATE SUPPORT

JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

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Family Health Network
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Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
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Precision Graphics
Scorpio Art
Windy City Media Group

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

The listing reflects gifts made during the 2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017). We apologize for any inadvertent omissions—we appreciate all our supporters!

\$5,000+

Christopher Dickinson & Dr. Douglas Lee D. Matthew Feldhaus & Mark Larson Smith T. Powell, IV & Eva Janzen Powell **Philip Tortorich**

\$2,500—\$4,999

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\$1,000—\$2,499

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Karen Gatsis Anderson & Kimball Anderson

Anonymous

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Andrea Raila

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

Paula Raila

Diane Ratekin & Thomas Yates

Chad Ray

Benjamin & Leah Rosemergy

Andrew Skiba

Rick Stuckey

Mike Sullivan

Barry Taylor

Brian Tiemann

Gail Weprin

Sue & Larry Yellen

Dr. Chad Zawitz

\$500—\$999

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Daniel Lange & Geoffrey Theron Rice

Marilyn Longwell

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Robert Saqueton

Jim Schiff

John Schomberg

Thomas Sinkovic

Jillian Sommers

David Thomas

Patricia & Pete Werner

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\$250—\$499

Robert Bloch

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Nora Bryne

David Chen

Fraser Clark

Kenneth Creech

Gary D'Alessio

Anthony D'Amato

Gwenn Darlinger

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JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

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Benjamin Dryden

Kim Dulin

Dr. Walter Eppich

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