

# *joining hands*

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*2015 Annual Report*



**FamiliesFirst**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO...

In early 2015, Edie Olson announced her intention to retire from Families First. For over twenty-two years, Edie had her hands firmly on the reins of the organization as its president, and in January 2016 she retired. I was privileged to be able to overlap with Edie for a couple of weeks as she graciously handed over the reins to me. I am very grateful to Edie for the capable leadership that she provided to Families First for many years, and for her smooth hand-off of an organization that is clearly in exceptional condition with an excellent reputation.

Twenty-three years ago, when I was a Master of Social Work student at Indiana University, I did my first internship at Families First (then called Family Service Association), so this is a bit like coming home for me. However, the home has grown tremendously since that time. Without question, this organization is serving more people than ever, and working even harder to achieve the vision of a community of healthy, capable and loving families.

With this report, we reflect on 2015 with mixed emotions – great satisfaction for the privilege to serve our community, yet deep concern for the growing needs of individuals and families. The opioid epidemic, the increasing numbers of individuals struggling with mental illness and the disturbing growth in violence are among the enormous challenges facing our community. We look ahead with great determination to be a part of the solution, and we will rely on your support more than ever to help us continue our mission of service.

Let's **join hands** and forge ahead together, to make central Indiana a model of a caring, loving and compassionate community that reaches out to those most in need – as Families First has done since 1835.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Siler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**David Siler, LCSW**

*President & CEO*



## OUR MISSION:

To create healthier communities by strengthening families and individuals during life challenges and changes.

## OUR VISION:

### A Community of Healthy, Capable and Loving Families

Because of generous donors like you who have chosen to invest in our mission, we celebrate 2015 as another successful year of progress toward our vision of a community of **healthy, capable and loving** families. Last year **more than 8,700 adults and children** in central Indiana reached out to Families First for a “**hand up**” toward a healthier, happier and more productive life. Your generosity ensured that struggling individuals and families could access the counseling, education and support they needed, regardless of ability to pay. Allow us to share just a few examples of how the community was strengthened and lives were changed because you cared enough to “lend a hand”...

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✿ Significantly expanded our support services for victims of domestic violence by securing increased funding to add 5 new staff members.
- ✿ Further expanded our array of services by launching several new programs, including: Parent Cafés, individual recovery coaches for clients battling addiction and specialized services for victims of sexual assault.
- ✿ Obtained new funding to support services for older and challenged adults who have been victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- ✿ Opened a new outreach location at Westminster Adult and Family Services center on Indianapolis' near Eastside, to improve service access for struggling families in a high-need area; also closed a less-utilized branch office in Hendricks County.
- ✿ Achieved a 4-year full re-accreditation by COA, attesting that the organization continues to meet rigorous national standards for professional performance.
- ✿ Undertook a Board-led executive search process in preparation for President Edie Olson's retirement in early 2016, resulting in a smooth leadership transition to David Siler.



# healthy families

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## COUNSELING FOR INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES AND FAMILIES

Your 2015 gifts enabled **710 adults and children** to receive high-quality mental health counseling at a price they could afford, helping them to repair relationships, cope with loss, heal from trauma and find new perspectives for their lives.

*"I was cautiously optimistic at first when considering counseling, but this facility and counselor have made a huge difference in my overall quality of life."*

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION AND TREATMENT

In 2015, our addictions counselors worked to free **more than 1,100 adults** from a crippling dependency on drugs, and also helped partners, parents, siblings and children better understand and cope with their loved one's disease.

*"After years of treatment centers, working with Families First changed my life and I finally feel hope, joy and opportunity."*

## PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR OLDER AND CHALLENGED ADULTS

Last year, your generous gifts helped **more than 50 vulnerable and endangered seniors and adults with disabilities** to receive intensive support that ensured their health and wellbeing as well as protected them from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

*"I love everybody there and I'm staying with Families First forever."*

*"She's a very caring and understanding person and I feel like I can talk and she listens and cares."*



# capable families

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## PARENTING EDUCATION

In 2015, your generosity helped **277 parents graduate from parenting education courses** with the tools and knowledge needed to be more effective and positive parents, encourage their children's healthy development, and promote their academic success.

*"I wasn't sure of what to expect at first, but have found the classes to be rewarding and informative."*

## PARENT CAFES

Last year, we launched a new program called Parent Cafés, a best-practice model featuring a series of guided conversations among groups of parents to promote personal growth, enhance peer support networks and strengthen parenting skills.

*"This experience was a great way to express myself with other parents who listen and did not judge me."*

*"This is the best experience I've had in a long time. Helpful and challenging and makes me want to be a better parent."*





# loving families

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## FAMILY PRESERVATION

Last year, your gifts enabled **540 at-risk families** to receive intensive, in-home therapy and case management services that improved children's wellbeing, fostered more nurturing parent-child interactions and enhanced family stability.

*"[My counselor] is always helpful above and beyond. Always has resources for me and my family to utilize."*

*"Best case manager ever. She is very helpful and encouraging and makes me feel motivated."*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Last year more than 2,500 men, women and children learned about the cycle of violence, developed personal violence avoidance/safety plans and acquired the understanding and skills to form healthy, respectful and loving relationships.

*"I feel like my eyes were opened up tremendously throughout my time here. I feel I have grown as a father, boyfriend, and person."*

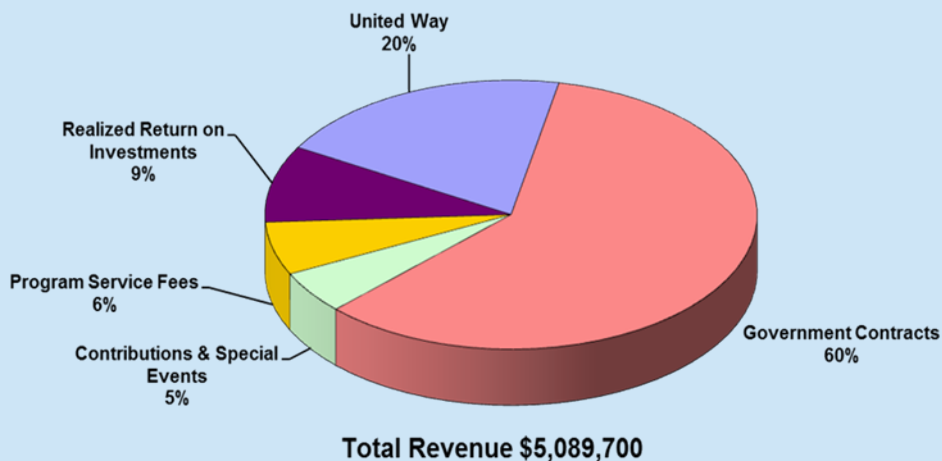
*"Thank heavens for this organization! Families First has saved my sanity. I am very grateful for all your help."*



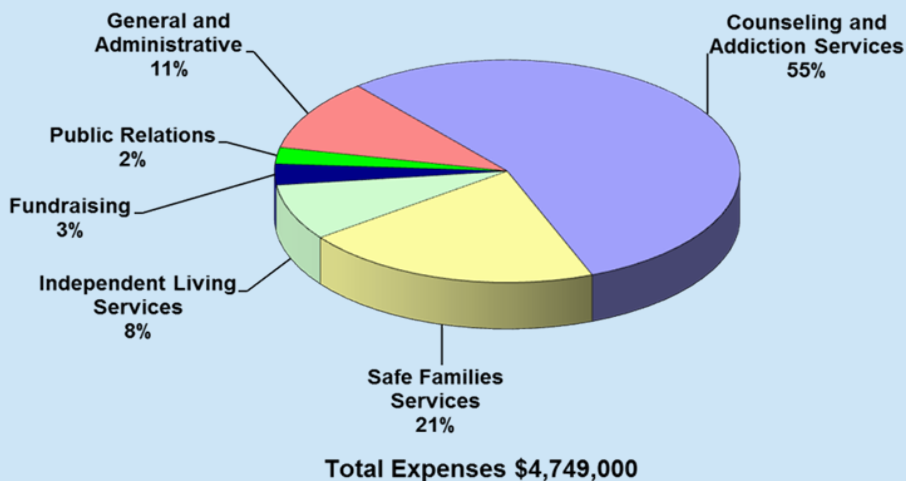
# *financial overview*

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## REVENUE BY SOURCE 2015



## EXPENSE BY SOURCE 2015



# 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

Chris York, Chair  
Doug Fick, Vice Chair  
Roni Ford, Vice Chair  
David Nie, Vice Chair  
Jolaine Hill, Treasurer  
Christine Cook, Secretary  
Edie Olson, President

Pinkie Evans  
Leonard Gurin  
Diana Kleyman  
Jan Lindemann  
Penny Lewis  
Travis Lozier  
Christine Marson  
Chelsea Meldrum  
Rose Milto  
Pam Owens  
Brian Senninger  
Neelu Sondhi  
Julie Sterle  
Crystal Wade

Mary Weiss  
Mark Winzenread  
Erik Zimmerman

## DEANS

Brad Boyd  
Dave Maas  
Tom Peck  
Rose Popovich  
John Purcell  
Carol Risting  
Jane Ann Stautz  
Jane Watson

## ELECTED DIRECTORS

Nick Alford  
Kelly Brown  
Jane Crawford  
Veronica Davis

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***We are encouraged that there are so many of you who believe, as we do, that putting families first is the key to creating a stronger community.***

***Thank you for **joining hands** with us as we work to realize our vision of a community of healthy, capable and loving families.***

## LOCATIONS:

### Families First – Marion County

615 North Alabama Street, Suite 320  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone 317.634.6341

### Families First – Boone County

396 North Mount Zion Road  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
Phone 765.482.6396

### Families First – Hancock County

98 East North Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
Phone 317.462.3733

### Families First – Westminster

2325 East New York Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46201  
Phone 317.537.0038



Community Partner



FamiliesFirst



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[familiesfirstindiana.org](http://familiesfirstindiana.org)

