

Annual Report

Dear Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Hocker and I have spent the past year focused on transitioning smoothly from her Executive Directorship to mine. Elizabeth created an amazing transition notebook and actively mentored me as I prepared for the possibility of succeeding her as Executive Director. Elizabeth was also able to rekindle some important relationships with funders and transfer those relationships to me. In her final month as Executive Director, Elizabeth navigated the Payroll Protection Plan to obtain additional funds to ensure a financially sound transition in leadership.

In my first month as Executive Director, there have been a number of unforeseen hurdles to ensuring zealous representation of children. In light of COVID-19, the courts have constantly adjusted their hearing and trial procedures, with profound impact on our ability to represent clients. I could never have anticipated that one of my first acts as Executive Director would be to purchase facemasks for TLC's staff. However, good things are still in the works.

- TLC will be one of the first organizations to post volunteer opportunities on Oklahoma's first pro bono attorney portal, a project of the Oklahoma Access to Justice Foundation.
- TLC is exploring a collaboration with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services to improve our online resources with ICWA-specific guidelines and procedures.
- TLC was permitted to submit a Letter of Inquiry to the Sarkeys Foundation despite our transition in leadership.
- TLC received a \$25,000 grant from the Coretz Family Foundation, despite being cautioned not to expect a gift in light of their COVID-19 response efforts.
- Oklahoma Bar Foundation has offered assistance in advertising our training opportunities to a wider audience.

As the year progresses, I intend to position TLC to weather the potential impact of the current financial crisis on next year's funding and to thrive amidst possible changes to parent and child representation models in Oklahoma.

Thank you all for the support you have provided me in this transition. I could not do this without you. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future.

Sincerely,

/s/Timothy Michaels-Johnson
Timothy Michaels-Johnson
Executive Director