

INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION

Intelligent, dedicated, compassionate, and funny. Those simple words outline who Chuck Dunlap is. Approachable, inquisitive, encouraging, and determined add another layer of descriptors to the man credited with guiding the Foundation from a two-person agency to today's nationally recognized and growing organization.

"So, my first day was in our offices on East Ohio Street. I recall the challenge of getting a feel for what I needed to prioritize and to understand all of the various programs," recalls Dunlap. Under his guidance, the Foundation has consistently grown, having moved offices five times. "One of the most notable moments in the last 20 years was acquiring the resources to hire our third employee to help with development. The initial staff of three has grown to 12," said Dunlap.

Among all the Foundation's successes during his two decades of leadership, Dunlap beams with pride whenever he talks about the passage of Indiana House Bill 1384. A seismic accomplishment in advancing civics education, H.B. 1384 established a commission that will set standards and ultimately lead to one semester of required middle school Civics. Held as a national model, H.B. 1384 is an extension of the Foundation's commitment to education. The popular We the People program and the Mock Trial competition have advanced civic education for more than 15 years.

Dunlap is equally proud of the impact the Foundation has made through its work with civil legal assistance programs. "We continue to bring people and organizations together to support a variety of programs and initiatives," added Dunlap. "Whether it's the Coalition for Court Access or Indiana Legal Help, we are positively impacting lives of Hoosiers. It's a humbling opportunity to serve." The Foundation has established trusted partnerships with the Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Courts, healthcare providers, the faith community, housing assistance, re-entry programs, community agencies, and more.

With the Foundation entering its seventh decade of serving Indiana, Dunlap predicts the continued expansion of civic education and civil legal assistance. "Our future is bright. As the scope of our organization broadens, we foresee growth in the number of donors, supporters, and partners. I am excited and humbled by what the next 20 years hold for the Foundation," concluded Dunlap.