



advokids

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Co-Directors: 2016—A Landmark Year

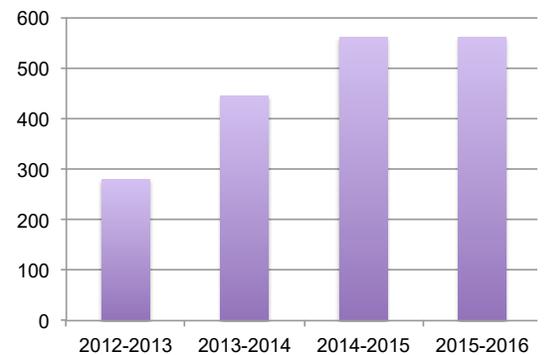
June 2016

Dear Friends,

Here at Advokids, we measure our success by our level of impact on the child welfare system in California, specifically our impact upon the degree of attention paid to preventing and mitigating trauma for foster children ages 0-3. Advokids continues to provide the only free telephone hotline in California providing legal information and support for those standing up for our young children in foster care. In the past 12 months:

- Advokids opened 558 new hotline cases and served 743 new foster children
- Over 95% of our callers were seeking assistance with bringing information to the juvenile court on behalf of a child under three years of age
- Of these hotline cases, 65% presented issues of threatened placement disruptions and/or compounding systemic trauma
- Advokids’ legal informational website provided legal information and resources to more than 24,000 visitors

Cases June 2012-June 2016



Increasing Need

As we launch into our 2016-2017 fiscal year, we are anticipating a continued increase in the demand for our child advocacy legal services. To meet this demand, we are striving to increase our capacity to:

- Respond to 25% more hotline callers
- Serve greater numbers of foster child advocates by expanding information on our website
- File more amicus and appellate briefs in appellate cases affecting child welfare policy
- Provide more free legal training to nonprofit groups, caregiver associations, CASA programs, and foster family agencies

We envision a better system for children in foster care and we work every day to protect hundreds of individual children in foster care while using the data we gather to reform the child welfare system through our legislative work, appellate work, and state and county-wide policy reform efforts.

There are no “do overs” for our children in foster care—thank you for joining us in the fight for their childhoods.

Margaret Coyne
Executive Director

Jan Sherwood
Deputy Director



Protecting California's Foster Children

MORE THAN 500,000 CHILDREN IN THE U.S. ARE REPORTED MALTREATED DURING THEIR FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE. ALMOST HALF OF THESE CHILDREN END UP IN FOSTER CARE AND ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS THEY REPRESENT THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATION OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY.

Currently more than 60,000 children are in the California foster care system.

- Infants in foster care—babies less than 12 months of age—are the largest group of children to enter, remain in and re-enter foster care.
- 50% of all foster children under the age of 5 will experience multiple foster care placements.
- On average, children who cannot be safely returned to their families spend nearly 2 years in foster care before they are adopted.

Children who come into foster care have suffered the trauma of abuse or neglect. Too often they are subjected to compounding trauma after entering foster care. When very young children in foster care experience repeated emotional stressors and trauma, their brains can be forever changed and compromised. Advokids' legal programs and services work to prevent the damage by acting early on their behalf and fighting for them.

Advokids serves extraordinary children with extraordinary needs.

"My grandson Jael was a victim of child endangerment and a foster care system that did not put his needs first. I will be forever grateful to Advokids for the help we received to make sure that his medical and emotional needs were met while he was in foster care."

- Pamela, Grandmother, Advokids' Hotline Client

"Advokids' hotline attorney's advice was indispensable as we sought to stop our foster daughter from being shuffled from home to home. Thank you Advokids. You are making a difference for children that have no voice."

- Charlotte, Foster Mom, Advokids' Hotline Client



Achieving permanency for Nathan who spent far too long in foster care.



Reuniting sisters Lily and Aurora in their secure foster-adoptive home.



Program Highlight: Project K.E.E.P.

Advokids' Project K.E.E.P. (Kids' Emergency Essentials Pack) is a community-based program serving foster children in Marin County, where each year more than 60 children enter foster care for the first time and nearly 50 additional children transition from failed placements.

These children are removed from their home or school under crisis circumstances, often with no personal belongings. Through the work of dedicated volunteers, Project K.E.E.P. provides every child entering foster care in Marin County with a new backpack filled with essential items including toiletries, clothing, school supplies and comfort items.

Advokids' Programs & Services



Advokids provides the only free telephone hotline offering legal information to anyone concerned about a foster child in California.



- Child welfare legal hotline
- Attorney consultation line
- Child welfare legal tools
- Early childhood mental health resources
- Statewide trainings
- Systemic reform
- Appellate and amicus project



Permanent placements and enduring relationships protect children's emotional, cognitive, and developmental health.

Statewide Reach

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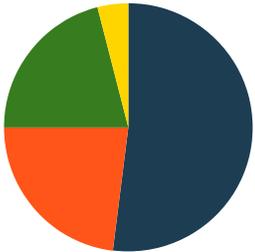
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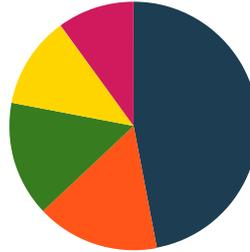
General Operations

In 2015-2016, Advokids raised more than \$470,000 to support our work.



Revenue by Category

- 52% - Foundations
- 23% - Individuals
- 21% - Special Events & Community Campaign
- 4% - Training Fees



Expenses by Category

- 47% - Hotline & Website
- 16% - Fundraising
- 15% - Training
- 12% - Administration
- 10% - Policy/Advocacy

Donor Profile: Michael Davis



Michael Davis, current Chair of the Advokids Board of Directors, is a tireless fundraiser and advocate on behalf of the organization. Each year Michael makes a generous donation and ensures his employer Charles Schwab matches his gift. In addition, last year Michael created Slam Dunk for Kids, a fundraising event for Advokids that brings teams together to compete in a day-long basketball tournament. This contribution of leadership, funding, time, and initiative makes Michael truly one of Advokids' donor heroes.

How You Can Help Too

As demand for our services continues to grow, we seek increased support from the philanthropic community to enable us to better meet the growing need. For more information about giving opportunities, contact us at (415) 924-0587.

Foundation Support

Approximately half of all Advokids' funding comes from foundations, including the Willow Springs Foundation, the Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Foundation, the George H. and Estelle M. Sandy Foundation and the Van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation.

Corporate Sponsorship

Advokids works with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and employee engagement programs to help employees learn more about the foster care system and to offer volunteer opportunities for teambuilding.

Individual Donors

Donations from individuals are crucial to our work. Give today on our website: www.advokids.org.

- \$1,000 – Helps us to serve 20 additional hotline cases concerning a child in crisis
- \$5,000 – Provides legal training for 50 child advocates
- \$10,000 – Enables a staff attorney to prepare a legal brief in support of a child-positive legal precedent



Thank you for your generosity!

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