



advokids

Annual Impact Report
2018 - 2019

*Their Future
is Calling!*



Dear Friends,

2018 was Advokids' 25th Anniversary year and we could not be prouder of the organization's accomplishments and the community we have built. Over the past 25 years, Advokids has helped tens of thousands of relatives, caregivers, attorneys, social workers, therapists, teachers, and other concerned adults fight for children in foster care. They are the voices that keep the courts and child welfare agencies focused on every child's need for a safe, secure, and nurturing home. We fight for individual children while remaining deeply committed to child welfare reform and systemic change to improve the lives of all children who are in foster care in California.

Today, recognizing the ever increasing demand for our legal services, we are looking to the future, and see both significant challenges and tremendous opportunities.

Like every nonprofit in the Bay Area, we are struggling to keep up with rising costs, and striving

to honor the commitment of our extraordinary staff. Our transformative legal support for children

in foster care absolutely depends on talented young professionals being able to dedicate themselves to the cause. We need to be able to pay them what they are worth. It is our number one priority in the coming year.

We can and will realize a bright future by ensuring that we retain our committed staff and increase staff positions to allow our senior staff attorneys to focus on systems change, our most critical mission! Opportunities to impact county and statewide child welfare policies abound and we will continue to seize those opportunities on behalf of all children in foster care in our state.

We are honored and humbled by your support.

Margaret Coyne

Janet A. Sherwood



The number of children Advokids serves continues to grow!

Promoting Stability

Effective January 1, 2019, California state law requires county child welfare agencies to give foster and relative caregivers 14 days notice and implement a “placement preservation strategy” before moving a child. Our Hotline case data revealed that several counties were slow to implement this policy that protects children from precipitous or unnecessary moves, so Advokids intervened. We reached out to the offending counties, shared our data, and brought them into compliance.

Improving Access:

County juvenile court clerk’s offices are the gateway to the juvenile court. Anyone wishing to share information or concerns about a child in foster care must file documents with the clerk. Advokids’ Hotline data revealed that four California county clerk’s offices were improperly denying access to the court. County clerk’s offices were prohibiting the filing and serving of petitions by concerned adults seeking a court order to protect the best interests of a child. Advokids quickly wrote letters to each county court administrator demanding that their clerks comply with California laws and Rules of Court. Those county clerks are now all in compliance. Advokids protected a critical legal process that provides judicial oversight and keeps our children in foster care safer!

For children in foster care, Advokids’ work results in:



Fewer placement disruptions



Decreased separation and loss



Improved permanency outcomes



Less trauma and stress

Marco’s Story

Marco was eight months old when he entered the foster care system. He was removed from his parents after several hospital stays resulting from severe head traumas. When he was placed with his foster family, he was suffering from PTSD, night terrors, hallucinations, and general fear and anxiety. Marco was developmentally and emotionally delayed as a result of abuse and neglect. His foster caregivers, Valerie and Tom, cared for Marco for one year until he was reunified with his mother. Marco was removed from his mother a second time and returned to Valerie and Tom’s home. Valerie and Tom were concerned about Marco’s emotional health and his visits with his father, who had been convicted of felony child abuse. The visits were traumatic for Marco, and Valerie and Tom did not know what to do.

After attending an Advokids training for caregivers, Valerie and Tom learned that they could attend court hearings and file a **Caregiver Information Form** to help the judge understand all of the trauma that Marco had suffered in his short life and the indicators of stress he was exhibiting after visits. They also learned that they could reach out directly to Marco’s attorney. Advokids taught them how to be persistent advocates for Marco and to ensure his safe and secure future!



“I can say with my whole heart that Advokids actively, practically, and without exception, worked to keep Marco safe and healthy - consistently over many years. When there was no hope, Advokids was there.” -Valerie

“Your agency is amazing! We are currently fostering a baby, in hoping to adopt him and be his forever family. Speaking with one of the lawyers helped put our mind at ease with questions we had. And your website is a wealth of information for those of us who are unfamiliar with the whole process. Thank you for all you do!!!” -Char, Foster Parent, Santa Clara

“During this difficult time when it seemed like everyone was against us and no one cared about the best long-term care for my great-niece, Advokids was there to help guide us and reassure us.” -Rachael, Relative, Riverside

“As a dependency attorney, this organization gave me a wonderful introduction to this area of law, and provided a great background of law and practical information that has been a great asset to my practice.” -Joan, Dependency Attorney, San Mateo

Our goal for the next three years is to increase our total budget so we can:



Meet the growing demand for Advokids' free Telephone Hotline, mitigating and preventing trauma for children in foster care.



Deepen our statewide child welfare systems reform actions and expand our statewide pro bono network.



Pay our amazing Bay Area staff a living wage, securing their ongoing commitment to the children we serve.

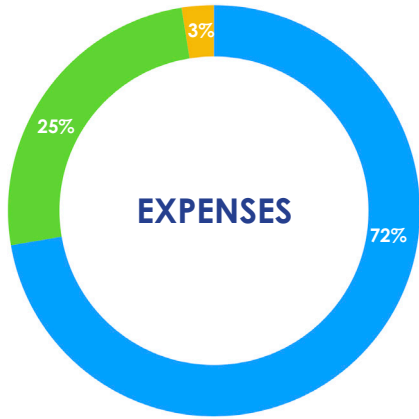
Melody's Story



At the age of thirteen, Melody was entering the foster care system for a second time because her mother struggled with mental illness. She was already on her fourth foster care placement when her foster caregiver contacted Advokids. Melody had disclosed that she had been in foster care before, at age five, and had lived with her out-of-state grandparents, John and Karen, for one year. She had not had any contact with them since. Melody expressed a desire to reconnect with her grandparents and live with them again.

Advokids' Hotline staff suggested that Melody's foster mom have John and Karen contact Advokids directly. Our Hotline staff learned that they had never been notified that Melody was in foster care in California. Our Hotline staff instructed John and Karen on the proper court forms to use to petition the juvenile court for placement. Advokids also assisted John and Karen with providing critical information to Melody's attorney and her Court Appointed Special Advocate in order to advocate for Melody's needs. The court ultimately granted an extended holiday visit for Melody with her grandparents. The visit was successful and Melody was placed with John and Karen permanently. Melody now enjoys life with a large extended family of her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all around her.

2018-2019 Financials



PROGRAM SERVICES

\$403,722

OPERATIONS

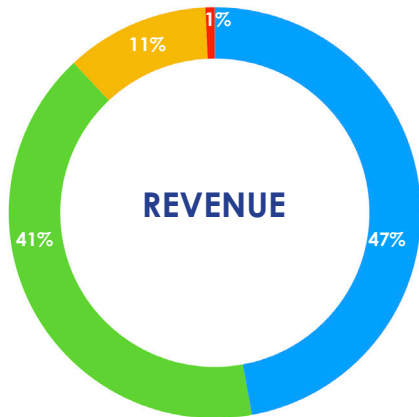
\$140,480

FUNDRAISING

\$13,055

TOTAL:

\$557,257



GRANTS

\$272,582

DONATIONS

\$236,470

TRAINING FEES

\$65,277

OTHER FUNDRAISING

\$4,250

TOTAL:

\$578,579

Tomorrow Makers Program



Thank You, Charles Schwab!

This year, Advokids was thrilled to participate in Charles Schwab's Tomorrow Makers Program. Charles Schwab Corp.

is a longtime supporter of Advokids. This year, in addition to a generous \$50,000 grant, Schwab produced a video recognizing Margaret Coyne, Executive Director of Advokids. Margaret was invited to join a "fireside chat" for Schwab employees to learn about children in foster care. Schwab shows continued dedication to children in foster care in California and believes in our collective responsibility to this vulnerable population. We would like to give a special thanks to Mike Davis, Peter Vaughan and Brittany Lauer for their personal involvement with Advokids and passion for supporting our children in foster care. We hope to see Mike at another staff meeting in the future!

Please join Advokids and Honorary Chairman Danny Glover for our Advokids' 25th Anniversary Casino Night Celebration

*Saturday, November 9th
7pm*

The Green Room

*San Francisco War Memorial
and Performing Arts Center*

Tickets

Sponsorships

