

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ALLOWED US TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER ALLIES FOR MARYLAND’S CHILDREN.**

In FY2014, we began new projects as well as those funded and recognized in FY2013. As in years past, we continued to be responsible stewards. For every dollar you invested in Advocates for Children and Youth, 90 cents was spent on policy and programmatic services to improve the quality of life for the children we serve. In FY2014, we invested $18,066,340 and made the following financial statements:

- **FY2014**
  - Contributions and Grants $18,066,340
  - Program Services $11,085,712
  - Management and General $6,981,276
  - Total $18,066,340
- **FY2013**
  - Contributions and Grants $14,700,000
  - Program Services $10,438,000
  - Management and General $8,350,000
  - Total $14,700,000

**Note:** Advocates for Children and Youth’s fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30.

**REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

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**EXPENSES**

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**SECRETARY**
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Jan L. Friedman, SurgeCenter Development

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**HEALTH**

**SOCIAL EQUITY**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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- Robert J. Gessner, PhD
- Jennifer A. Hare, MS
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- Rebecca Wagner
- Anna L. Davis, JD
- Melissa Rock
- Rais Akbar
- Susan P. Leviton, PhD

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- Valley Forge Asset Management, LLC
- University of Maryland School of Public Policy

**REVENUE, EXPENSES,** and **OTHER SUPPORT**

- **FY2014:** $18,066,340
- **FY2013:** $14,700,000

**REVISED:**

- **FY2014:** $11,085,712
- **FY2013:** $10,438,000

**FOR EVERY DOLLAR YOU INVESTED, WE SPENT 90 CENTS TO BETTER THE LIVES OF MARYLAND’S CHILDREN.**
In FY2014, we began new projects as well as those funded and recognized in 2013. As in years past, we continue to be responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs that support children and families. The following information was derived from audited financial statements. For a complete copy of our financial statements, please contact our business office at One N. Charles Street, Suite 2400, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.
Advocates for Children and Youth's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. We focus on child welfare, health, education and juvenile justice systems because they both have a significant impact on a child's outcomes. Our work is far reaching because when we improve the situation for the least fortunate child, we impact the lives of many children.

For this reason, we are every child’s ally.

Our children’s environment is comprised of the people and systems that touch their lives. For our children to be successful and thrive, these systems must be effective. Advocates for Children and Youth focuses on child welfare, health, education and juvenile justice systems because they are critical to a child’s growth. It is also important to examine racial equity and economic sufficiency because they both have a significant impact on a child’s outcomes. Our work is far reaching because when we improve the situation for the least fortunate child, we impact the lives of many children.

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FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE EVERY CHILD’S ALLY.
HOW REACHING FOSTER YOUTH

200 foster youth and 73 youth-serving organizations use of their benefits.

An online search revealed that the available expungement resources were sometime inaccurate and outdated serving a myriad of websites. How could we help to eliminate these barriers and assist families in becoming more economically secure?

PROBLEM: Although former foster youth are eligible for health benefits up until the age of 26 and tuition waivers for post-secondary education, it was unclear if they knew about their eligibility and more importantly, how to access these benefits. How could we reach former foster youth? Once we made contact, how could we increase awareness about these benefits and encourage their use?

SOLUTION: A community outreach associate was hired to engage former foster youth as well as the community leaders and organizations that serve them. We concentrated our outreach efforts in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County where we have the highest reported foster youth populations.

Our plan to reach out and engage this vulnerable population included:

- Developing a strong working relationship with organizations and community leaders
- Hosting foster youth in outreach activities to ensure that the health and tuition benefits were explained in a way that their peers would appreciate and understand
- Bringing in an insurance navigator to guide former foster youth in the selection of health plans
- Creating presentations and brochures to assist organizations in the explanation and activation of benefits

RESULT: We reached more than 200 foster youth and 73 youth-serving organizations to create awareness and encourage use of their benefits.

PROBLEM: Securing a job in a tough economy is challenging enough. However, having a criminal record can make it doubly hard, especially for parents who need a job to provide food, clothing and shelter for their children.

What some parents do not make is that although their case was dismissed or given a not guilty verdict, the criminal record remains public for all to see. It exists affects employment and housing opportunities. For this reason, it is important for eligible parents to get their criminal records erased.

SOLUTION: A free online tool—www.ExpungeMaryland.org—was created to provide a resource that consolidates general expungement information, eligibility determination and referrals to low-cost or no cost attorneys for those who are eligible for expungement.

Legal partners were consulted to ensure that the information was accurate.

RESULT: Since its introduction in July 2014, 406 website visitors were eligible for expungement services and were referred to a low-cost or pro bono attorney.

PROBLEM: At one point, so many children were receiving out-of-school punishment in Maryland that it was equivalent to suspending the entire student population in all of the 32 high schools in Coca, Montgomery and Howard counties. More specifically, minor and children with disabilities were disproportionately suspended or expelled as compared to their peers. We knew it would take a coalition of the Maryland State Board of Education to reverse this trend and hold all children accountable for their actions in an appropriate and fair manner.

SOLUTION: A nine-month campaign was launched to engage and educate our more than 3,000 supporters about the high rate of out-of-school punishments and the disparate observed. We also called upon our supporters to send letters to encourage the Board to institute new discipline regulations.

RESULT: Our supporters sent more than 6,300 letters to the Board in favor of the enactment of the regulations. The Board decided to eliminate zero tolerance policies and improve a common-sense approach to school discipline in Maryland.

These statistics show the challenges some of our children and youth face. They also provide the reasons why our work is important.

676 foster youth aged out of foster youth without a permanent home

28,276 juveniles were arrested in Maryland for nonviolent and violent offenses

1,388 children were sentenced to a juvenile facility instead of community detention where they would have received rehabilitative services and familial support.

51,000 students were suspended from school a total of 92,000 times

59,285 children did not have health insurance

184,220 children were living in poverty in Maryland

392,525 children needed free and reduced price meals at school

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Advocates for Children and Youth made significant strides in bettering the lives of Maryland’s children through coalition building, outreach, educational campaigns and technological development. We also collaborated with various organizations to improve policies and programs by providing research that was used as a foundation for our many legislative wins. We accomplished the following:

COALITION BUILDING

- Convened a multidisciplinary group of almost 30 stakeholders from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to develop recommendations—including increased use of trauma-informed services, increased training, and greater use of preventive interventions—to improve outcomes for girls involved with both systems.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- Developed educational materials for foster youth to explain their eligibility for Medicaid and facilitated enrollment as outlined in the new provisions which allows them to receive health care coverage until they turn 26.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

- Developed and implemented public education and advocacy efforts to end the automatic prosecution of youth as adults.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

- Developed a web-based app, ExpungeMaryland.org, to help parents and former offending youth determine if they are qualified for the expungement of a criminal record.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPROVEMENT

- Advocated for and won the passage of Maryland State Board of Education’s new school discipline regulations designed to hold both accountable and keep them connected to their education.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH improves the lives and experiences of Maryland’s children through policy change and program improvement. WE ARE EVERY CHILD’S ALLY, working with the community, nonprofits, government agencies and elected officials to continuously improve each child’s present and future.
HOW

PROBLEM: Although former foster youth are eligible for health benefits and tuition waivers for post-secondary education, it was unclear if they knew about their eligibility and how to access these benefits. How could we reach former foster youth? Once we made contact, how could we increase awareness about these benefits and encourage their use? How could we ensure that the health and tuition benefits were explained in a way that their peers would appreciate and understand?

SOLUTION: A community outreach associate was hired to engage foster youth as well as the community leaders and organizations that serve them. We concentrated our outreach efforts in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County where the highest reported foster youth population existed.

Our plan to reach out to and engage this vulnerable population included:

- Developing a strong working relationship with organizations and community leaders to ensure that the health and tuition benefits were explained in a way that their peers would appreciate and understand.
- Bringing in an insurance navigator to guide former foster youth in the selection of health plans.
- Creating presentations and brochures to assist organizations in the explanation and administration of benefits.

RESULT: We reached more than 200 foster youth and 73 youth-serving organizations to create awareness and encourage use of their benefits.

PROBLEM: How could we reach more than 4,300 letters sent to us requesting help in expunging their criminal records. What could we do to continuously improve each child’s present and future.

SOLUTION: A free online tool—www.ExpungeMaryland.org—was created to offer a resource that consolidates general expungement information, eligibility determination and referrals to low-cost or no-cost attorneys for those who are eligible for expungement. Legal partners were consulted to ensure that the information was accurate.

RESULT: Since its introduction in July 2014, 405 website visitors were eligible for expungement services and were referred to a low-cost or pro bono attorney.

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Advocates for Children and Youth made significant strides in bettering the lives of Maryland’s children through coalition building, outreach, educational campaigns and technological development. We also collaborated with various organizations to improve policies and programs by providing research that was used as a foundation for our many legislative wins. We accomplished the following:

COALITION BUILDING
- Committed a multidisciplinary group of almost 30 stakeholders from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to develop recommendations—including increased use of trauma-informed services, increased training, and greater use of preventive interventions—to improve outcomes for girls involved with both systems.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS
- Along with coalition members, we advocated for and saw the passage of laws that:
  - Expanded kinship caregiver packages to include eligible relatives
  - Included biological relatives as resources for foster youth and who are back in the system after a disrupted placement
  - Allowed for more collaboration between investigative case workers and a family’s medical providers
  - Ensured that foster youth are informed about all of their benefits, such as the tuition waiver
  - Increased the minimum wage to $10.10/hour by 2028
  - Increased Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMA) budget by $3.75 million, allowing access to breakfast in the classroom to 44,000 more children
  - Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit by 3 percent over a 5 year period for qualifying families
  - Granted $31 million in funding for Fresh Food Retail Financing to begin creating access to healthy food in food deserts throughout Maryland

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS
- Developed and implemented public education and advocacy efforts to end the automatic prosecution of youth as adults
- Raised awareness about Maryland’s practice of using federal benefits, such as Social Security Disability and Social Security Survivor Benefits, to reimburse the state for the cost of those youth’s foster care placements

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES
- Developed a web-based app, ExpungeMaryland.org, to help parents and foster offending youth determine if they are qualified for the expungement of a criminal record

EXPUNGING CRIMINAL RECORDS

How did they provide support to former foster youth and ensure that they were aware of health and tuition benefits?

SOLUTION: A community outreach associate was hired to engage foster youth as well as the community leaders and organizations that serve them. We concentrated our outreach efforts in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County where the highest reported foster youth population existed.

Our plan to reach out to and engage this vulnerable population included:

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- Bringing in an insurance navigator to guide former foster youth in the selection of health plans.
- Creating presentations and brochures to assist organizations in the explanation and administration of benefits.

RESULT: We reached more than 200 foster youth and 73 youth-serving organizations to create awareness and encourage use of their benefits.

PROBLEM: How could we reach former foster youth who are back in the system after a disrupted placement?

SOLUTION: A nine-month campaign was launched to engage and educate our more than 1,388 children who are back in the system after a disrupted placement. What some parents do not realize is that although they are often temporarily returned to foster care placements, the information was accurate.

RESULT: Since its introduction in July 2014, 405 website visitors were eligible for expungement services and were referred to a low-cost or pro bono attorney.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH improves the lives and experiences of Maryland’s children through policy change and program improvement. WE ARE EVERY CHILD’S ALLY, working with the community, nonprofits, government agencies and elected officials to continuously improve each child’s present and future.
By County and Percentage of Entire County Population

In FY2014, we began new projects as well as those your financial support allowed us to become every child's ally. Our children's environment is comprised of the people and systems that touch their lives. Every dollar you invested in Advocates for Children and Youth, 90 cents was spent on policy and programmatic improvement for vulnerable children and families. The following information was derived from audited financial statements. For a complete copy of our financial statements, please contact our business office at One N. Charles Street, Suite 2400, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Maryland's Child Population

- **FY2014**: 1,493,952
- **FY2013**: 1,344,522

Number of Children in Maryland:

- **FY2014**: 1,131,859
- **FY2013**: 981,406

### Board Members and Staff

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Christie Carrick Cox, Community Volunteer

Hope A. Cooper, TrueNorth Group

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Leslie A. Dawson, M.S., Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office

Todd J. Born, Venable

Arnold C. Lewis, Ph.D., Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles

Mitchell T. Mervis, Venable

Hugh W. Muller, Jr., KBRG LLP

Rosalie Mervis, McKay Bank

Abby McGarvey Nolan, Writer and Editor

Linda S. Spears, Child Welfare League of America

Arlene E. Williams, Economic Policy Institute

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- Neela Trivedi, Health Policy Director
- denne Dufresne, Research Director
- Naima Sangster, Research Associate
- Erika Taylor, Director of Operations
- Carol Walker, Director of Communications
- Leigh Stevenson Cobb, Health Policy Consultant

**We are EVERY CHILD’S ALLY.**

Advocates for Children and Youth

For every dollar you invested, we spent 90 cents to better the lives of Maryland’s children.

**Note:** Advocates for Children and Youth’s fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31.