

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Advocates  
for Youth**

Young. Powerful. Taking Over.



Rights.  
Respect.  
Responsibility.

# 2019

“I’m very proud that I was able to get the word out about and distribute free condoms, as well as advocate for making birth control available over the counter.

Sex is a common human experience, but nobody wants to talk openly about protection even though young people are some of the most affected by STIs and unintended pregnancy. We need that info and that protection.”

Working with Advocates for Youth, I have learned that I should speak up whenever possible because my voice matters. Advocates has shown me that speaking up for people’s human rights, and speaking not over them or for them but with them, is incredibly important. I appreciate the tactics and strategies Advocates has taught me for creating change on my campus and in my community.

My vision for the future of young people is that we are able to live truly free and pleasurable lives that involve love, justice, and peace. Although it may take a long route and more generations to do the work, we can get there. I am working toward gaining everything we have been owed for so very long. We have long been and must continue to shift conversations and empower the community as tactics for change. Advocacy must come with accountability on all sides and I believe that young people are the ones leading that conversation. Our future will be filled with abundant resources and the power of human compassion.”

*Courtney, Student Organizer*





“What motivates me to do this work is knowing that there are small victories to be made everyday. If it’s a simple ground rule or an entire policy change, there is work to be done everywhere. We always have more room to grow and we need to be making more space for people in our movements. **I have learned that youth all over the nation are doing groundbreaking work and so can I. Youth are able to be leaders in social change and all of our voices have power.”**

*Tyunique, Youth Resource, Free the Pill Youth Campaign*

Are you exhausted from 2019? I know I am. Anyone who cares about young people is worn out from the ceaseless attacks on their well-being, from violent immigration enforcement, to multiple near-total state bans on abortion, to new rules that allow LGBTQ youth to be denied medical care and housing, and more. The challenges, setbacks, and threats this Administration and Congress have created for young people are innumerable and the danger, incalculable.

**But what keeps me going are the young people fighting every day.**

Youth like Ameera, a trans, Muslim activist working to ensure she and young people like her are affirmed and ensured their rights as their full selves.

Like Jessy, who shared her abortion story to help ensure young people can get medication abortion – and was there when California’s governor finally signed a bill requiring it be offered on state university campuses.

Like Germany, who held HIV testing events on campus and worked to educate students on condoms, PrEP, testing, and destigmatizing HIV.

Like Courtney, who leads a large movement of Nevada youth to ensure young people’s rights across a wide swath of issues, including sex education, environmental justice, and ending homelessness.

And so many more. Advocates’ staff and youth activists have never stopped fighting. We fought restrictions to contraceptive access, rallied against the abortion bans, and raised awareness about the dangers of abstinence-only programming in our nation’s schools. We organized against the rollback of policies that protect immigrants’ rights and galvanized thousands of activists to fight the denial of healthcare services for transgender people. We continued to work alongside young people to center their voices and champion their rights to reproductive and sexual health and justice. They keep going, and we’ll keep going with them—as long as it takes.

**The challenges are enormous. But over time, the tiniest stream of water can cut through a mountain. Each small victory, each act of resistance, each opportunity to share lifesaving information or build empathy—is part of a movement. And as these young people continue the fight, we will see that movement triumph.**

With a network of 100,000 youth activists, on more than 1,000 college campuses reaching all 50 states and more than 103 countries, these dynamic young people are making change and impacting our tomorrow. Our young people won’t be silenced. And we will continue to support their efforts for as long as it takes.

**These young people, and so many more just like them, offer us hope for the future. They won’t back down. This generation of youth is dedicated to dismantling oppression and building a more equitable world. Together we can help them make their aspirations a reality, if we are smart enough and brave enough to work alongside them.**

Thank you for being our partner in this work.





“Living in the borderlands, I see how important it is for us to fight for reproductive justice. My community motivates me to continue doing the work I do. The Rio Grande Valley is filled with such resilience and a radiance of familia—the bond we all share can never be broken. The strength and power that we hold is what ignites me to continue my work. If it weren’t for my brothers, sisters, and siblings in the movement, I wouldn’t harbor the bravery I contain to keep moving forward.

As young people, fighting for our sexual health and reproductive rights is essential. We as young people contain such brilliance—we come from so many colorful backgrounds, identities, and experiences. It is because of these colors that we are able to paint our own futures. Only we know what is beneficial for ourselves. We must continue to take charge of our own decisions and carve our lives with our own tools.”

*Cathy, Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice*

“I’ve been organizing since high school, as soon as I realized that the world I lived in didn’t match my ideas of what the world should look like. I had to learn the hard way that the world I want to live in isn’t going to become a reality unless I put in the work to make it so. That’s why I fight, and why I won’t ever stop fighting.

My own struggles motivated me to start doing the work, but seeing members of my community suffer and struggle is what keeps me doing it. I stopped just fighting for myself, and now I fight for people like me who have struggled in similar ways but may not have the means to do the work alone.

For young people, our health is often written off and our rights to our own bodies are ignored and treated as trivial. Unless we fight for improved health education, improved access to sexual health services, and for a better world, we’re just going to be continuously written off.”

*Chad, Student Organizer*

# OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Shifting  
Cultural  
Paradigms



Promoting Evidence-  
Informed & Rights-Based  
Policies & Practices

Engaging &  
Empowering  
Youth as  
Activists &  
Leaders



Promoting  
Sexual Health  
Equity

Improving  
the Health of  
Youth in the  
Global South



The Muslim Youth Leadership Council reached over two million people with the #MuslimAnd campaign dedicated to highlighting the multifaceted lives of Muslim youth. MyLC members held events around the nation and shared resources designed to reflect, support, and share information with young LGBTQ Muslims.

“Advocates for Youth taught me that the most important, challenging and powerful work is done in, for, and with community. My vision is a generation of young people who are unashamed to voice their values and concerns in ways that push slow-moving bodies like government laws, school rules, and minds of people in power to change.

My vision is a generation of young people who are respected as equals, who are responsibly advocating for the good of everyone marginalized everywhere, and who are listened to and supported by their communities. This is my vision and through community building, I believe my life’s work is to achieve this for all of us.”

*Ameera, Muslim Youth Leadership Council*

# A LOOK BACK AT 2019

## Sex Education

### Promoting a Rights-Based Framework

- Partnered with Answer and Youth Tech Health to reach more than 30 million young people, ages 10 to 14, their parents, and educators with honest and inclusive puberty and sex education through over 90 AMAZE videos in the U. S. and helped partners adapt AMAZE videos in South Korea, Uruguay, Mexico, Columbia, South Africa, Uganda, China, Japan and other countries.
- Continued distributing and providing training/assistance on the *Rights.Respect.Responsibility* sex education curriculum which, over the last three years, has been implemented in more than 100 school districts and reached more than three million students.
- Worked with UNESCO to provide resources, training and assistance for educators, curriculum developers and school administrators in south and east Africa to help them implement standards-based sex education.
- Launched the groundbreaking Virtual PD for Sex Educators to help train teachers from the comfort of their desks to implement quality, inclusive sex education via technology. Virtual PD has the potential to shift the paradigm in teacher training and help us to scale sex education particularly in rural regions of the country.
- Through a cooperative agreement with CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health, and the collaborative WISE, assisted 28 school districts to implement comprehensive sex education, working intensively through WISE with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Prince George's County and Frederick County Public Schools (MD), and Montclair Public Schools (NJ), and through DASH with Albuquerque Public Schools, Houston Independent School District, New York City Board of Education, Newark Public Schools (NJ), and Portland Public Schools (OR).

## Sexual Health Services

### Championing Confidential, Affordable and Stigma-Free Care

- Implemented and evaluated the impact of systems reform models that successfully increased by 30 to 50 percent the number of highly vulnerable youth receiving contraceptive care across two large primary care systems (Washington DC and Tucson) and one social service system (Atlanta).
- Authored and disseminated a toolkit to assist young people living with HIV to transition successfully from adolescent to adult care while maintaining the standard of care.
- Worked with young people on 2,000 college campuses to distribute more than 1.2 million condoms and information on safer sex through the Condom Collective, formerly the Great American Condom Campaign.
- Launched Abortion. Out Loud, an offshoot of the 1 in 3 Campaign that focuses more directly on the use of policy and storytelling to remove the unique barriers young people face when trying to access abortion care.
- Assisted 28 local education agencies (LEA)s to create formal systems of referral to community based health centers to receive STD/HIV testing.

## Youth Organizing

### Nurturing a Pipeline of Diverse, Emerging Young Leaders

- Intensively trained more than 500 youth activists in policy and cultural advocacy, mobilization, media outreach, public speaking and youth sexual health, rights and justice.
- Assisted youth activists on more than 1,000 campuses to advocate for improvements to youth sexual health policy and practice, resulting in enumerated non-discrimination policies, gender-neutral bathrooms and housing, consent education, free menstrual products, LGBTQ resource centers, condom availability programs, and more.
- Worked alongside young people on state campaigns that contributed to securing: abortion medication at university health centers in California; comprehensive sex education at Miami/Dade County Public Schools; and the decriminalization of self-managed abortion care in Nevada.
- Coordinated state-level advocacy on college campuses regarding the rights of sexual assault survivors, that helped: thwart a Missouri bill which would have severely limited the rights of sexual assault survivors; amend a Kentucky bill that would have drastically narrowed the definition of sexual harassment; and stop a campus gun carry bill in West Virginia.
- Helped organize and facilitate the youth preconference at the International Conference for Population and Development for 200 young people from around the world.

## LGBTQ Youth Health and Rights

### Cultivating Safe and Affirming Spaces

- Worked with more than 30 youth-serving organizations, health departments, and teen health clinics to improve their capacity to serve LGBTQ youth, and provided intensive assistance and training to Quest for Change (Albany, GA); California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (Los Angeles), and Annex Teen Clinic (Robbinsdale, MN) resulting in shifts in organizational policy and practice to better support LGBTQ youth.
- Produced the innovative YouTube series, *Kikis with Louie*, that reached more than one million LGBTQ youth of color with intimate conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity; HIV prevention, disclosure, treatment and de-criminalization; relationships; family; love; and sex.
- Published *I'm Muslim and I Might Not Be Straight* along with other culturally responsive sex education resources for Muslim LGBTQ youth and widely disseminated them for use by more than 200 professionals serving Muslim youth .
- Drafted *Medical Mentorship for Young People Living with HIV: Toolkit and Guide* to help adult allies mentor and support youth, ages 13 to 24 living with HIV to smoothly transition to adult care.
- Worked throughout the year with—and hosted for a week in Washington DC—a cohort of Pakistani transgender and khwaja sara youth leaders to help them gain knowledge and skills to effectively advocate for their human rights within their country and globally.

“I have always wanted to work on challenging these toxic notions, but I didn’t know how. Working with Advocates and the International Youth Leadership Council has provided me with the tools and resources I need to be able to influence the United States to pursue policies that protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of individuals, not only in Ethiopia but the larger international community as well.

In October, I organized a Lobby Day for the Keeping Girls in School Act on the International Day of the Girl Child. Over 30 students from American University and other schools in the D.C. area came together to encourage their Representatives and Senators to support this legislation. Growing up partly in Ethiopia, child marriage, homophobia, and abstinence-only sex education were normalized parts of the culture.

My vision for the future of young people is one where girls everywhere have access to quality education and factual information to make informed decisions about their health. A world where girls aren’t forced into marriages at a young age or abused. I envision a world where young people who identify as LGBTQIA feel safe, loved, and protected. I envision a world where all young people feel empowered to advocate for themselves and speak out on issues they care about. And a world in which they are actually listened to.”

*Keke, International Youth Leadership Council*



# THE URBAN RETREAT

Every year, Advocates brings 120 youth activists together in Washington, D.C. for four days of training, sharing knowledge, building skills, and creating community. The event—the Urban Retreat—culminates in a policymaker education day on Capitol Hill where all 120 youth activists provide education and urge their Representatives and Senators to support policies that expand young people’s reproductive and sexual health and rights.

This year, youth activists participated in and helped lead in-depth trainings within their programs, and had the opportunity to learn from and lead conference-style sessions in a wide variety of topics in youth reproductive and sexual health and rights, organizing skills, and more.

During their day on Capitol Hill, youth spoke to 90 Congressional offices about the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act as well as the Global HER Act.

*“The breakout sessions, keynote speaker, and activities were really good. I was also able to learn more organizing skills and build community with people.” Muslim Youth Leadership Council member*

*“I love the environment! I love the way I felt safe and loved. It really was a safe space where I was fearless and accepted for who I am.” Student Organizer*

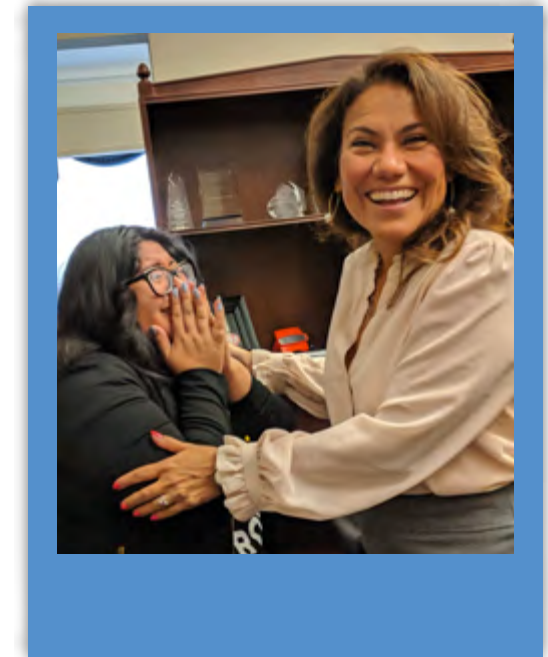
*“I had the best leader I could ask for. Not only did he make sure all of us were completely comfortable with the material, but he put it in a way that helped us incorporate our life experiences into the work.” ECHO member*



Young people shared expertise in youth-led workshops on sexual health, rights, and justice topics.



Youth activists met with their legislators on Capitol Hill to advocate for quality sex education for all young people and for an end to Trump’s Global Gag Rule that prevents organizations receiving U.S. aid from discussing abortion.







“With the passing of SB24 no one will ever have to face the barriers that I went through in order to get an abortion. I am elated that the state of California decided to center the voices of young people in the conversation of reproductive freedom, and abortion care will be provided on state university campuses. It was a long fight, but totally worth it.”

*Jessy, Abortion Out Loud*

“The support of my peers and communities that I didn’t even know existed gave me the strength to be a voice of reckoning and reconciliation. The strength, knowledge, confidence, and resilience that I gained in my status and sexual health: I want that for other youth. Young people living with HIV deserve to live in a de-stigmatized and more accepting world where people don’t discriminate against them because of their HIV status. Until that is achieved, the job is not done.”

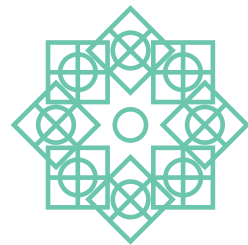
*Jamaan, Engaging Communities Around HIV Organizing (ECHO) member*

# Kikis with Louie

reached



# 1.5 million video views



Over

# 2 million

reached with info about #MuslimAnd

# 1 new campaign name.

1 in 3 Campaign evolved to:



Know Your IX trained

# 400,500

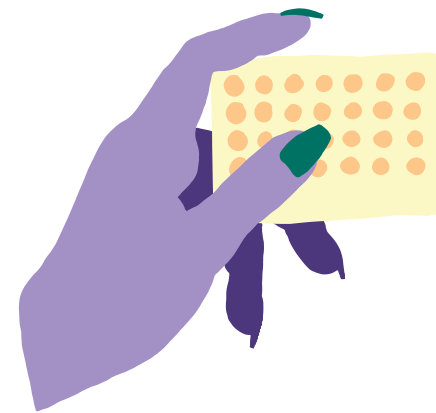
people in their civil right to an education free from violence

# 2,300 students

 DISTRIBUTED

# 12 MILLION

# CONDOMS



# 200 campuses

joined the youth movement

# # FREE THE PILL.

# 12 trading cards

featuring outdated & shaming **Sexual Risk Avoidance**

lessons, used to **educate** **150 members of Congress** about the importance of **honest sex education**



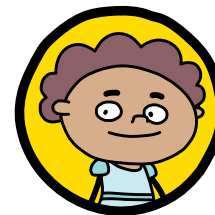
# 200 youth

joined a lobby day in Nevada to petition for a broad platform of policies including

**decriminalization of self-managed abortion**



# AMAZE

 videos reached 30 million young people across the country and welcomed 20 young people as **Amaze Youth Ambassadors** to help determine the future of the project

“I’m an Advocates for Youth alumna—I was in the Campus Organizer program from 2012-2015. Advocates had a really significant impact on my life in the way that it was my first resource as someone who identified as a Black queer femme. Each year I had the opportunity to learn more about different topics—even as a returner there was always something new to learn or a new skill to perfect. Advocates has a great way of centering those who face systemic barriers. Now I am a manager at an organization which works to end sexual violence. I’m using what I learned as a student organizer to lead my own group of students in anti-sexual-violence actions.”

*Ana Sanz, Advocates for Youth Alumna*



# VISION AND VALUES

Advocates for Youth envisions a society in which all young people are valued, respected, and treated with dignity; sexuality is accepted as a healthy part of being human; and youth sexual development is recognized as normal. In such a world, all youth and young adults would be celebrated for who they are and provided with the economic, educational, and social opportunities to reach their full potential. Society would recognize young people's rights to honest sexual health education and provide confidential and affordable access to culturally appropriate, youth-friendly sexual health education and services, so that all young people would have the opportunity to lead sexually healthy lives and to become sexually healthy adults.

Advocates' vision is informed by its core values of Rights, Respect, Responsibility.

Advocates believes that:

- Youth have the inalienable right to honest sexual health information; confidential, consensual sexual health services; and equitable opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Youth deserve respect. Valuing young people means authentically involving them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that affect their health and well-being.
- Society has the responsibility to provide young people with all of the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health, and young people have the responsibility to protect themselves.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Why I Support Advocates for Youth



“The Advocates for Youth program YouthResource was the first space where I felt belonging. Advocates for Youth created a space for LGBTQ youth of color to learn from each other and build organizing power in our communities. Now, as I serve on the Board of Directors for the organization, I find that Advocates for Youth continues to listen, respect, and work with young people just as they did almost ten years ago when I first joined a youth council. Advocates for Youth has leaned into mindful and intersectional organizing, policy work, and nationwide training. I continue to be in awe at how willing and able the organization is to meet the needs of young people across the country. It is the reason I serve on the board, and why I donate monthly.

When I give to Advocates for Youth, I know that I am giving to a multi-faceted organization that values and respects young people, and blends policy, organizing, community engagement, and research, to advance the reproductive health and rights of folks across the U.S. I also know that I am giving to an organization with a network of thousands of activists across the country that are fighting every day to make sure that we continue to defend our reproductive health and rights.”

*Adrian Nava, Board Member*

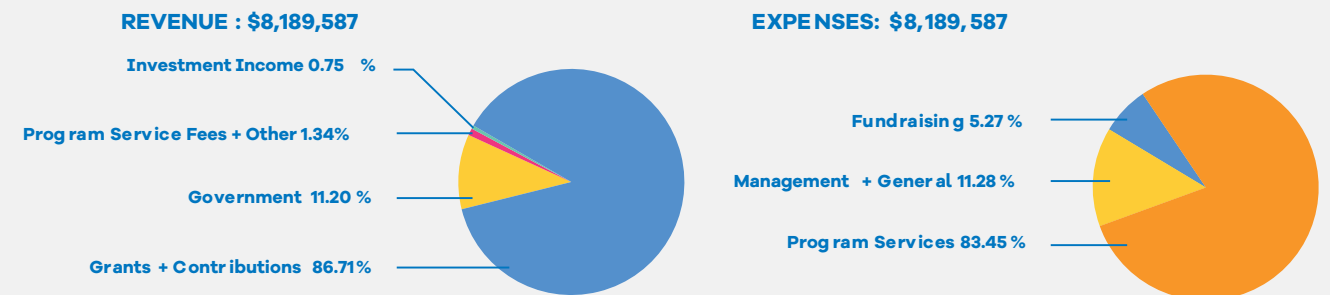
DONATE

[www.advocatesforyouth.org/donate](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/donate)

## OUR FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 2019 | APRIL 1, 2018 - MARCH 31, 2019

In FY2019, Advocates' expenses totaled \$8,189,587. Income included new revenue of \$4,632,049 allocated from grants, contributions, and other sources received in FY2019, as well as \$3,557,538 in grants and contributions received in previous years for use in FY2019.



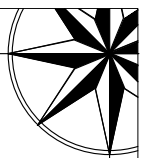
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR: \$7,870,317 NET ASSETS END OF FISCAL YEAR: \$4,312,779

NOTE: The financial data have been summarized from the financial records of Advocates for Youth. A complete copy of the audit and/or Form 990 for the year ended March 31, 2019, prepared by Advocates' independent public accountant, is available upon request.

**Advocates  
for Youth**

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

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WASHINGTON DC, 20005 USA



**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**

Four Star Charity