

# ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015



Rights. Respect. Responsibility.



Advocates  
for Youth

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

# OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

**Shifting  
Cultural  
Paradigms**



**Promoting  
Evidence-  
Informed and  
Rights-Based  
Policies and  
Practices**



**Engaging and  
Empowering  
Youth as  
Activists and  
Leaders**



**Promoting  
Sexual Health  
Equity**



**Improving  
the Health of  
Youth in the  
Global South**



## Working at the Intersections towards a Strong Progressive Movement

### A letter from Deb Hauser

*President, Advocates for Youth*

Advocates for Youth partners with youth leaders, adult allies, and youth-serving organizations to advocate for policies and champion programs that recognize young people's rights to honest sexual health information; accessible, confidential, and affordable sexual health services; and the resources and opportunities necessary to create sexual health equity for all youth.

This new mission statement affirms Advocates' 35 year history working to promote the sexual health and rights of young people and is the result of a new, five-year strategic plan completed in FY 2015. Youth sexual health and rights will remain Advocates primary focus. In addition, however, we have added language recognizing our organizational commitment to connecting these efforts to the broader fight for economic, educational and social justice. As more young people engage in activism with a focus on the intersections of identities and issues ranging from police brutality to immigration reform, Advocates for Youth continues to listen to our activists, learn from our partners across movements, and inform our goals and objectives accordingly.

This past year Advocates worked hard to continue shifting the national narrative regarding abortion care through the 1 in 3 Campaign. We were proud to have the opportunity on hundreds of campuses, and through the first live-streamed abortion speak out and the debut production of Out of Silence, a play inspired by the 1 in 3 Campaign, to use story-telling to highlight women's real life abortion experiences and to showcase the positive impact abortion access has had on the lives of millions of women and their families. Through these efforts and our partnership with the CAARE Coalition, Advocates remains committed to demonstrating the deep connection between access to reproductive health care and economic justice.

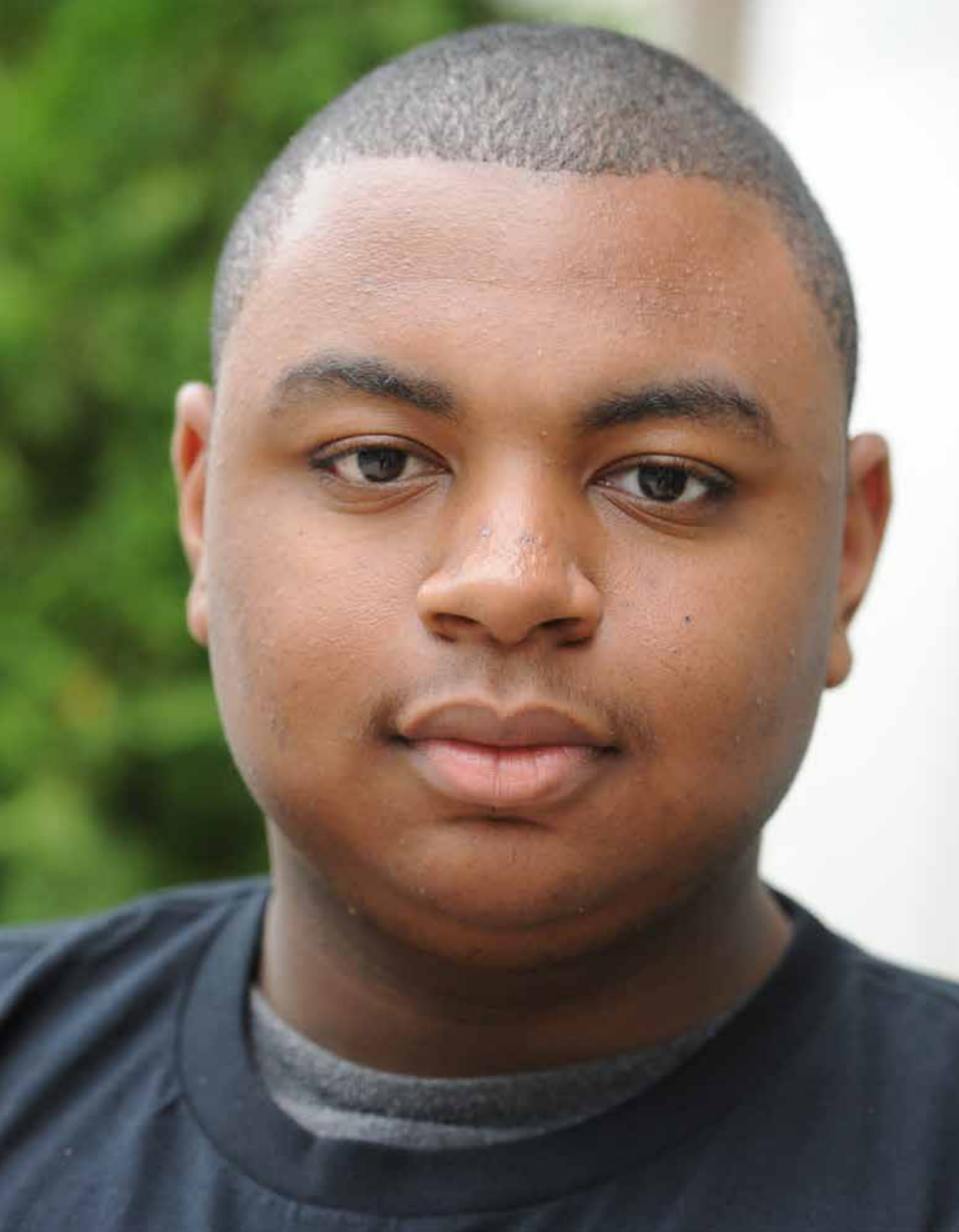
Staff also supported its youth activists in their efforts to improve the prevention and care of HIV infection among youth. Rates of HIV infection continue to rise among Black young men who have sex with men, but fewer youth report receiving HIV education in school and federal prevention efforts remain centered on a "test and treat" strategy. Advocates' youth activists continue to argue that they are more than their HIV status. We are proud to have assisted them to raise their voices in the media and with policymakers to demand better HIV prevention education and nothing short of the complete obliteration of the multiple stigmas of racism, homophobia and poverty that impact their lives.

Calls for stronger sexual assault intervention raged across college campuses and Advocates and its activists responded by mounting campaigns demanding better campus policies along with the implementation of quality sexuality education, grades K through 12, that builds youth's knowledge and skills regarding consent and healthy relationships. Staff began drafting the first K-12 fully LGBT inclusive sex education curriculum mapped to the National Sexuality Education Standards and helped advocates and educators in 32 states to use the standards to improve school-based sex education.

Internationally, staff worked with activist in 10 countries to call for the promotion of gender equity at the national and international level and for the recognition that the rights of girls and young women to quality education, economic opportunity, bodily autonomy, and access to healthcare services, including reproductive and sexual health services are directly tied to the economic success of a nation.

In short, Advocates efforts over this past year recognize that sexual health is inextricably linked with economic and social justice. These efforts are driven by the thousands of youth activists with whom we partner who will settle for nothing less than working at the intersections of their lived realities in hopes of creating a new and better world order.

This year, as in years past, it has been an honor to work alongside them.



## IMPROVING SEX EDUCATION

“Mississippi has some of the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, and unintended teen pregnancy in the United States, and my community also has some of the highest rates within the state. People are too complacent about that - they almost seem to think it can’t be changed. But I thought I had to do something. I want to raise children in a community where they are safe and protected from unwanted pregnancy and HIV. That’s why I decided to join the Mississippi Youth Council, a project of Advocates for Youth and Mississippi First. My council coordinator and I made a plan to approach the school board with the idea of moving away from abstinence-only education. Schools in my district, McComb, used Choosing the Best, a brief session that told students to stay abstinent but didn’t provide any skills. I met with the Superintendent and spoke to him about the benefits of a more inclusive program. It took some time, but eventually he agreed to let us present to the school board. The board agreed unanimously to switch to a program which included information about abstinence as well as contraception and condoms.

“I learned from Advocates for Youth that when you do advocacy, you can’t let it die down - you have to keep approaching your targets. I believe one person can change the world - it only takes one person to step up and then others will follow. And they did.”

*Omarr, a youth activist with the Mississippi Youth Council, a project of Advocates for Youth and Mississippi First.*

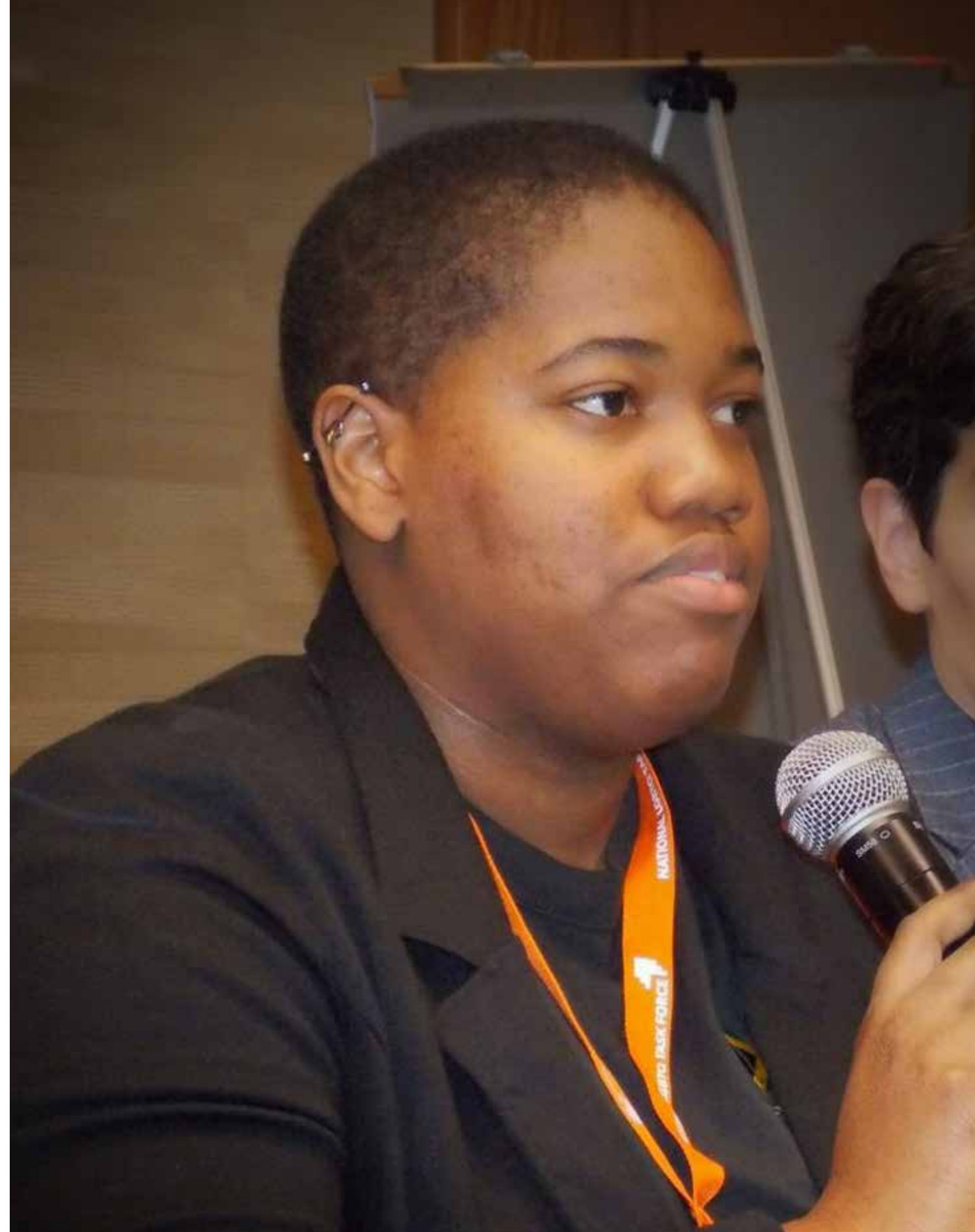
As part of its southern strategy, Advocates established new partnerships in Louisiana and Mississippi. The Deep South is home to some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and HIV/STIs in the country, in addition to strong conservative factions crusading to restrict young people’s access to sexual and reproductive health services and information. In 2014, Advocates began formal partnerships with Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies (IWES) in New Orleans and Mississippi First in Jackson to provide each organization with capacity-building assistance to engage in sex education advocacy efforts, led by a trained youth leadership council. Through their work and using community mobilization strategies, activists are advocating for improved policies and helping to leverage these policies in Working to Institutionalize Sexuality Education (WISE) communities. WISE is a national initiative through which eight state-based partner organizations are funded to work with school districts in their region. Advocates continued to provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building services to help WISE grantees institutionalize high-quality, comprehensive sexuality education in their states.

“A few years ago I experienced sexual violence, at gunpoint. Even as I wondered if I would live through the experience, I asked myself: What have I contributed to society? From that moment on I began working toward creating change. In 2013 I founded the organization Quality of Citizenship Jamaica, the only organization in Jamaica which works specifically on issues surrounding lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. We have presented before Congress and before the International Human Rights Commission about the dangers LGBT people face in Jamaica, and I have personally been recognized by President Obama for my work. I reached out to staff at Advocates for Youth when I started the organization because I knew of Advocates’ expertise, and my organization became the recipient of a grant and technical assistance from Advocates. Advocates is a bold leader in the field because they actively seek to serve segments of the population often left out of programming, like lesbian and bisexual women.

“In Jamaica, the fear of physical and sexual violence is constant. But we envision a world where lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women are safe, fully protected from discrimination, and fully integrated into society.”

*Angeline Jackson, Founder and Executive Director, Quality of Citizenship Jamaica*

In 2011, Advocates launched an initiative to meet the needs of and engage LGBTQ youth in low- and middle-income countries, seeking to drive in-country programming and advocacy efforts to impact national and international policies affecting LGBTQ youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. Currently, nearly 60 organizations receive training and technical assistance from Advocates to help strengthen their youth LGBTQ health and rights efforts and a select group receives seed funding, intensive support and capacity-building assistance to advocate for progress in their community and/or in their country.





## VIEWING SEXUAL HEALTH ACTIVISM THROUGH A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LENS

“I applied to Advocates’ Young Women of Color Leadership Council (WYOCLC) because of my interest in the connections between sex education and reproductive justice. I started a campus group at the University of Chicago called Tea Time and Sex Chats, with the goal of educating and encouraging communication among my fellow students about sexuality and safer sex. I researched sexuality issues and made lesson plans - I adapted many lesson plans from Advocates for Youth, but made them more casual, more accessible to a college-age audience. Then in every lesson I would relate issues of safer sex, communication, and consent to real-world experiences. Over 70 people showed up to our very first session.

“Advocates has made a huge impact on my career choices, activism, and outlook. It is invaluable to be able to spend time in person with the Young Women of Color Leadership Council - this small, driven group of women who are all working on incredible projects. I especially love the focus on reproductive justice across all of our activism. We can support one another and exchange advice, it’s invigorating and much better than feeling like you’re working alone. I feel humbled by my fellow WYOCLC members - in the best way possible.”

*Patty, Young Women of Color Leadership Council, Chicago*

More and more young people are coming to the work at the intersections of identities and issues, such as through a reproductive justice framework. Advocates uniquely sits at the nexus of the sexual health, rights, and justice fields, often serving as a bridge between them and always advocating unequivocally for the sexual health and rights of young people. Advocates understands that sexual health is inextricably entwined with social, economic, and educational opportunities. Poverty; inequitable resource allocation; lack of access to culturally competent, affordable health care or quality educational opportunities; internalized oppression; and institutionalized homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, and gender inequity, all fuel sexual health disparities. As such, Advocates works to empower youth from marginalized communities as activists and leaders. In 2015 staff also provided technical assistance and onsite training to reproductive justice organizations including California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), Black Women for Wellness, SisterReach and Forward Together to better integrate message frames that engage young people of color in support of contraceptive access, services for young parents, safe abortion access, and LGBT health and rights.

“When I graduated high school in 2012, about 13 fellow female students I knew had become pregnant. My graduating class was less than 200, so 12 was a large number. I was friends with some of the new moms and continued those friendships as I went off to college. They matured quickly and became great moms, but I couldn’t help but notice the differences in opportunities we were provided. As I was considering studying abroad and potentially pursuing a masters degree, they were struggling to find employment and affordable, quality childcare.

“The differences in our access to educational and professional opportunity was very upsetting to me. These young moms were obviously more mature than me, but were being held back by stigma and lack of access to higher education. Then I began to hear of fellow students who were forced to drop out due to unexpected pregnancies. Our university does not provide many support services to pregnant and parenting students. The opportunity gap widened again. That’s why I am such a passionate advocate of sexual health education and abortion rights.

“Unplanned pregnancy can drastically change a person’s access to education and opportunity. Our public schools do not provide proper sexual health education, so non-profit organizations and activists must fill the void.

“That’s why I am a part of Advocates’ Great American Condom Campaign. We distribute the condoms at our annual sexual health fair, Sextival, as well as through our condom fairy delivery program. Condom fairies knock on dormitory doors and distribute condoms to campus residents. They also attend events put on by other student organizations and residence halls. I distribute condoms to help my fellow students, sorority sisters, and friends avoid the emotional and financial consequences of unexpected pregnancy - even as I also advocate fiercely to reduce the stigma and discrimination that young families experience.”

*Ashlea, Great American Condom Campaign SafeSite*

Advocates for Youth assisted more than 2,600 activists on 1,200 campuses to provide condoms and safer sex information to more than a million young people—more than half on campuses with little or no condom availability—and to advocate for improved student access to sexual health services on 30 campuses. This year, Advocates also entered its fourth year of a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the CDC. Through this initiative, Advocates has developed an innovative, research-based model to engage and mobilize community leaders and residents to support the prevention of unintended teen pregnancy prevention efforts. Advocates provided extensive training and technical assistance to ten communities across the country, helping them mobilize key stakeholders, including young people, to institutionalize sexuality education and expand youth-friendly clinical services for adolescents at disproportionate risk of unintended pregnancy.





## ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH-TARGETED HIV PREVENTION AND CARE

“Finding out I was HIV positive and accessing care sparked my activism and allowed me to connect with educators and activists. I became a National Minority AIDS Council Youth Scholar, and attended the United States Conference on AIDS, where I learned about Advocates’ National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD). I think anytime youth have a voice on a specific issue, it’s a great opportunity. I began to work to have the city of Denver issue a proclamation in support of NYHAAD. I worked with All the TEA, an outreach and prevention organization, to contact the mayor. We were surprised at how quickly and enthusiastically the mayor responded - the proclamation was signed within a week.

“Advocates for Youth asked me to travel to Washington, DC for a briefing to inform Congress about HIV and AIDS among young people. I was humbled to be in a room with such amazing advocates, able to address lawmakers directly about why the government should prioritize young people in the fight against HIV and AIDS. It’s time to stop beating around the bush. We need honest, accurate, comprehensive sexual health education in this country, as well as access to health services.”

*Kahlib, National Youth HIV and AIDS Day Ambassador*

In 2015, youth activists secured NYHAAD proclamations in Brooklyn NY, Denver CO, and Madison County, IL, and held over 135 educational and/or testing events nationwide. In addition, Advocates for Youth held a congressional briefing in collaboration with Congresswoman Barbara Lee’s Office featuring the Director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health, at the CDC, Dr. Stephanie Zaza, NYHAAD Youth Ambassadors Kahlib Barton and Uzoamaka Okoro and Advocates for Youth President Deb Hauser. After the briefing, Rep. Jim McGovern, Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, and Rep. Alcee Hastings all signed onto a House Resolution recognizing NYHAAD.

To mark National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 6, Advocates launched the Testing Makes Us Stronger (TMUS) campaign, [www.advocatesforyouth.org/stronger](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/stronger). The adaptation of TMUS is part of a five-year cooperative agreement between Advocates and the Centers for Disease Control Division of Adolescent and School Health to reduce HIV and other STD risk and disparities among black and Latino young men ages 13-19 who have sex with men. Advocates works with education agencies in Broward County, Florida, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, California that are collaborating with community-based organizations to implement supportive, school-centered HIV/STD prevention programs and policies. The Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention cited TMUS in his agency update of March 3, 2015.

# AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP IN BURKINA FASO



“When the youth booklets that we developed with Advocates for Youth on youth sexual and reproductive health were distributed to young people, one parent of a student came some days later to talk with me. He said, ‘I saw a booklet with my son and he said that Mwangaza distributed it to students. I quickly looked it over because I thought that it would contain things that we don’t want for our children. But I realized that it’s very good for them, but it’s also very good to for us the parents.’ It is a great pleasure to work with Advocates because

it’s an organization that is loyal to its commitments and respects the ideas of its partners. Advocates has always given us the liberty to initiate activities and to set them in motion based on what our partners in the field indicate that they would like. In addition, in our partnership, Advocates is constantly working towards strengthening our capacity and that of our partners in the field, in a diversity of ways, of which one is the provision of materials, resources on youth sexual and reproductive health for both Mwangaza and the field partners.”

*Roger Thiombiano, Director, Mwangaza Action, Leo, Burkina Faso*

## THE BEGINNING

Advocates for Youth first began to work with Mwangaza, an NGO in Burkina Faso, in 1999. We were seeking a partner to work on improving adolescent reproductive and sexual health through community mobilization. Mwangaza worked nationally on maternal health and human rights, and saw adolescent health as a natural extension of their work. Mwangaza identified local partners in provinces across Burkina Faso. Together, using tested community involvement methodologies, Advocates and Mwangaza spent the first year learning communities’ needs. This process created buy-in from these communities, and promoted a sense of everyone being involved in working to improve young people’s health.

Communities identified topics like unintended adolescent pregnancy, HIV, and female genital mutilation/cutting which they wanted to tackle. They appointed committees to create a strategy, and then to move the strategy forward with assistance from Advocates and Mwangaza. They came up with amazing solutions – local theater, health education sessions, and more. Villages that did not so much as have electricity would bring a TV and generator to their village to show films.

## THE RESULTS

Young people in each village were trained as peer educators. Even those who could not read tracked their work using a tally system in notebooks of their own design. They enlisted a local carpenter to build models of contraception methods so it would be easier to talk about them. They visited homes in



the village and talked about sexuality and contraception with parents and teens, to promote parent child communication. They came to be regarded as experts. The communities valued their work so highly that even when the funding for this project was over, they continued it. Evaluations showed improvement in both knowledge and behavior. An increased proportion of sexually active youth reported current condom use (up from 51 to 73 percent). There were increases in young people reporting that they felt able to talk to their parents about sexuality issues (up from 36 to 55 percent); showing improved knowledge about HIV (rising from 70 to 86 percent); and knowing how to use a condom correctly (up from 52 to 84 percent).



## IMPROVING CLINICAL SERVICES

Advocates next began to work with clinics in the area to create youth friendly spaces. Advocates trained providers in the province of Leo. Each approached the problem differently – creating assigned private spaces for youth consultation, setting youth-specific hours, developing a reward system for training on sexual health topics, and more.

Over the course of 15 years, Advocates and Mwangaza have worked together to authentically engage communities in Burkina Faso, and as such have seen a true and organic commitment to reproductive and sexual health grow.

## IMPROVING SEX ED

Most recently, Advocates was approached by teachers in the region, asking if they too could have sexual health materials to distribute. Advocates for Youth was already creating a sex education curriculum and teacher training for use in other countries throughout Africa. As part of these efforts, teachers have been engaged along with other stakeholders to ensure community support. As a result of their engagement, last year, teachers approached the project partners to request support for implementing sexuality education in 11 primary schools. In response, Advocates is providing technical assistance including translating and adapting 20 lesson plans for grades 4 and 5 from Advocates’ life skills education resource entitled, When I’m Grown.



# USING ART TO CREATE A CULTURE OF SUPPORT FOR ABORTION RIGHTS



“I took inspiration for my play for Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign from the abortion stories on Advocates’ 1 in 3 website. As I started to work on it I became personally invested, realizing how deeply the issue affects me personally. Part of the institution of sexism is that these things are trivialized because they involve women’s minds, hearts, bodies. When I started to remember stories of women I knew, I realized it affects all of us, no matter what

gender. It is a part of our humanity. My mission was to create something hopeful and uplifting, connected to my own artistic mission, asking people to look directly at something that might be hard to look at and inviting them to do so with comedy and tragedy, sorrow and joy. To take them on a journey and reflect on what it means to be human and what it means for their own lives.”

*Anu Yadav, Playwright, Out of Silence*

## THE PLAY

The 1 in 3 campaign’s all-new theatrical production Out of Silence, Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign debuted in January 2015 to a packed house at the Studio Theatre in downtown Washington DC. The heart-wrenching, humorous and thought-provoking play featured 13 individual stories acted out by young, diverse and vibrant professional actors, who depicted many of the experiences women and their loved ones, friends and families face.

The play got great media coverage, from MTV to Elle to Salon and many others. One critic, writing for DC Metro Theater Arts observed, “Proponents and advocates on both sides of the contested issue have often argued in ways that are more polemical than true, more point-scoring than personal, more partisan than humanly honest. And until I saw a remarkable original theater piece called Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign, I had not realized what has been missing: the compelling and illuminating focus on character, motivation, and story that live theater does best.”

Demand to perform the script on campuses and with partner organizations across the country began pouring in. Advocates will have made the script available to campus activists and community groups to mount their own productions in Fall 2015, and will produce a multi-city tour of the play in Spring 2016 in collaboration with partners on the ground.



## STUDENT ARTIVISM

In April the 1 in 3 campaign launched its “Week of Artivism,” a week of student activism dedicated to using art as a tool to broaden the conversation around abortion stigma. Ninety colleges from around the country created pop up sticker art displays featuring real people’s abortion stories. Campuses were provided with a roll of sticker art as well as toolkits with tips on generating media and general best practices.

Student activists used the stickers in a variety of ways. Some created large displays in high-traffic areas, while others placed the stickers widely around campus in various unexpected locations. The goal, however, remained the same – to reach new audiences and expand the conversation around abortion stigma. One student at Colorado Mountain College said that the stickers “got people talking and sharing their stories.” She even noted that she heard about a math class “ending up in a debate for the 3 hour duration of the class about abortion” and that by the end of it, many people seemed to have changed their minds. Another student in San Antonio said that “most viewers were surprised at how common abortion is and were mostly shocked by the 1 in 3 statistic, which isn’t widely known in Texas.”

The Week of Artivism also got coverage in Mic.com, giving praise to our student activists around the country. Campaign director, Julia Reticker-Flynn was quoted saying that this student activism aims to create “a new culture, one that is ending the stigma and shame around abortion and centering the conversation around people’s lives.” In addition, both Bitch Media and Feministing, included the Week of Artivism in their weekly news round ups.



## LIVE STREAMED ABORTION SPEAKOUT

“This week, I participated in the 1 in 3 campaign’s Abortion Speakout. I was really nervous and for days, every time I sat at my computer and saw the little spot where the camera is, my stomach flipped. Writing is one thing. The anxiety of speaking into a camera almost made me bail. I kept asking myself, Why? Why will I do this? In the end, I had lots of reasons. Because just imagine if we could change enough minds... If our politicians weren’t controlling our bodies. Imagine if we trusted women to take care of their families and left them alone to do it.”

*Jacqui Morton, writing in Huffington Post about the 1 in 3 Speakout.*

On November 20, 2014, the 1 in 3 Campaign hosted the first ever online abortion speakout. People from around the nation shared their stories. The 8-hour long Speakout included: participants from across the reproductive rights and justice movements (including Lizz Winstead, Jessica Valenti, Cecile Richards, Marcia Greenberger, Jodi Jacobson, Monica Simpson, Yamani Hernandez, Shivana Jorawar and many, many others); faith leaders from the Baptist Church, United Church of Christ and Unitarian Church; videos from Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Philadelphia City Council member Cindy Bass as well as supportive statements from members of Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mike Quigley, Jan Schakowsky, and Gwen Moore; appearances by several abortion providers; and many people from all across the U.S. who shared stories of their experiences with abortion. Every segment of the SpeakOut was hosted by a 1 in 3 campus activist and a young professional from the field to highlight that young people are leading the work to change the conversation about abortion access.



## SETTING A BOLD AGENDA FOR GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD

“I live in Pakistan, where I am lucky to grow up in a liberal area with progressive parents. I know how lucky I am: my family supports my choices and advocates for my education and healthy upbringing.

“But my upbringing has not shielded me from the harsh realities of living as a woman in my country. Even though I grew up in a progressive household in Pakistan, I have never been outside my house without male accompaniment, and I am always covered head to toe. I’ve seen my cousins outside of the city married at fifteen to much older men. They did not protest; marriage is all they were raised to expect. Girls don’t get enough education and parents prefer to send boys to school. Girls are not allowed to go to school and must work in the home.

“Even when girls do go to school, they are harassed by teachers and other students. Families are reluctant to send girls to school because they might get kidnapped or raped. Young women here are fundamentally unsafe. That has to change.

“I began work with Advocates’ Girl Engagement Advisory Board because Girls are equal and contributing members of society. Why don’t we listen to girls voices? Girls should be independent and make their own choices. And they should be included in decisions which affect them.”

*Hamna, Girl Engagement Advisory Board member*

Advocates leveraged its international policy expertise, high-level contacts both in the U.S. Administration and at the UN, global network of partner organizations, social media savvy, and unique youth-led strategy of engagement that amplifies the voices of adolescent girls themselves to advance the Girl Declaration principles, goals and/or targets in the post-2015 agenda. Advocates put girls at the center of efforts by using its muscle to increase the number of adolescent girls who engaged in direct advocacy in UN processes. Advocates also developed and launched a media and communications campaign that positioned adolescent girls themselves as visible, recognizable leaders in their own right in creating a sustainable world. A highlight from the past year as a result of stepped-up media outreach efforts includes the media coverage secured through op-eds, letters to the editor, and editorial board memos by leveraging media opportunities in the spring around the post-2015 processes that put girls at the center. Examples include a letter to the editor for The Washington Post written by Girl Engagement Advisory Board member, Mai of Egypt; an op-ed for MSNBC written by Hamna of Pakistan; an op-ed placed in the Huffington Post and written by Caren of Kenya; and a column in a local paper, written by Patty of Madagascar.

## YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING EFFORTS TO PROTECT ABORTION RIGHTS



“I started with COLOR last summer, when we were trying to defeat an amendment that would have added ‘unborn human beings’ to the state’s criminal code, effectively attempting to assign ‘personhood’ to fetuses at any stage and banning abortion. COLOR, or the Colorado Organization for Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, had programs around comprehensive sex education and youth leadership, and was beginning a pilot program of a community organization sponsored branch of Advocates’ 1 in 3 Campaign. I was recruited as one of many young people from several campuses across Colorado. Using the abortion stories in the 1 in 3 campaign as a foundation, we shared personal stories while canvassing and phone banking, hoping to help people understand how the amendment could really hurt people. Giving an example made it personal and made people more invested in voting no on the amendment. Ultimately, voters rejected the amendment by a wide margin. Training from Advocates for Youth helped me become comfortable with and more skilled at doing this work.”

*Clara, COLOR*

Clara is an activist with the Colorado Organization for Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR). Advocates also worked closely with California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and Texas Freedom Network to integrate abortion storytelling into their advocacy and mobilization efforts. Advocates worked closely with 20 campuses - and provided technical assistance and materials to 70 more - building the core skills of youth activists, and scaling up the 1 in 3 Campaign to a wider group of activists looking to get engaged around abortion. Students held 300 events across the country reaching 100,000 students with messages about the 1 in 3 Campaign such as hearing first-person abortion stories and learning that one in three women will have an abortion in her lifetime, creating empathy and understanding of the need for access to abortion care.

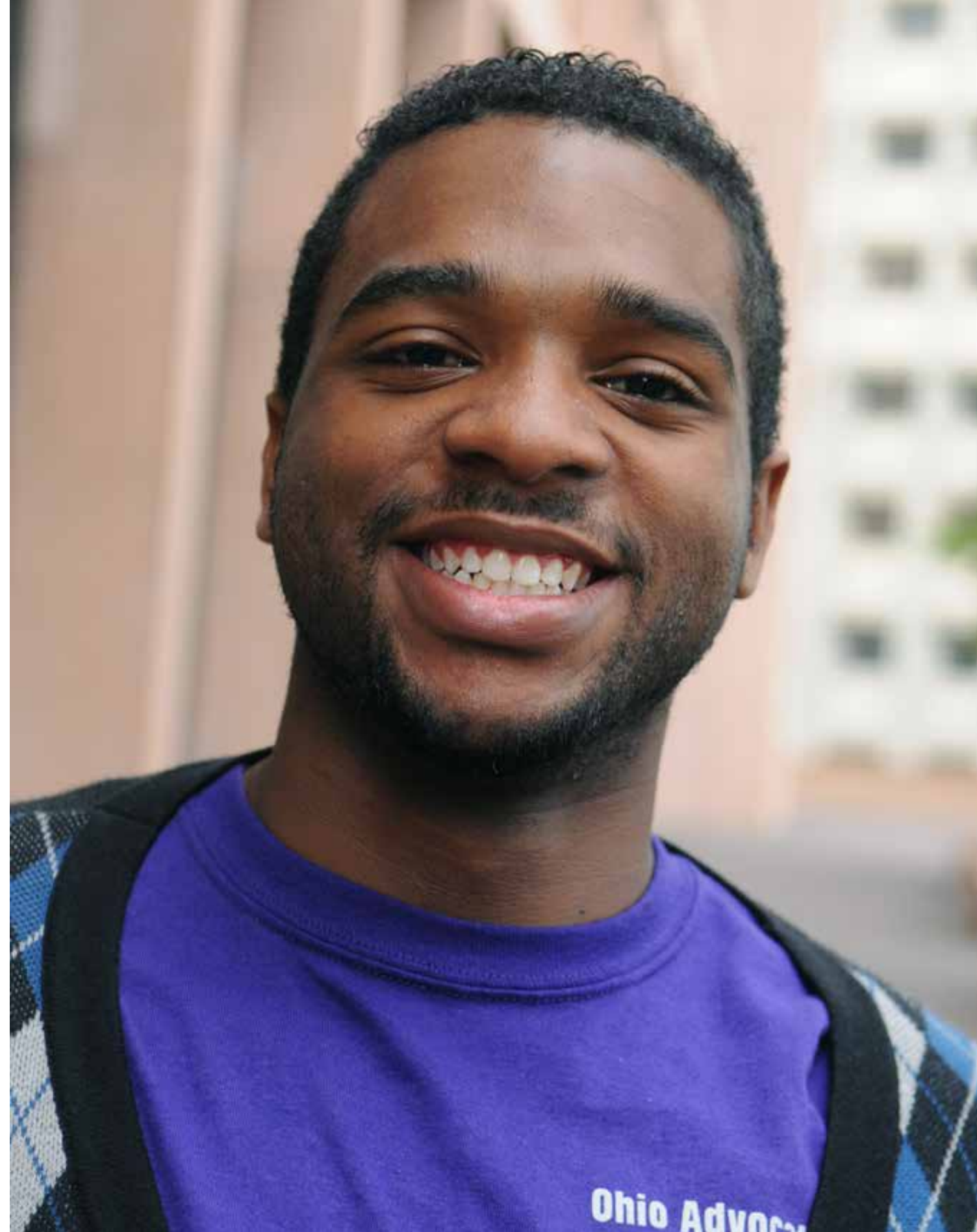
## SUSTAINING THE PIPELINE OF NEW LEADERS

“I got into the activism that I do now in 2009 because of a program sponsored by Cleveland AIDS Taskforce along with Advocates for Youth, that empowered young people to speak to legislators about their sexual health needs and rights. I became more and more active on HIV and AIDS issues. I worked as the Mobile Health Services Specialist/Youth Services Coordinator for the Public Health Division of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland/ AIDS Healthcare Foundation and now work as Project Assistant/HIV Prevention Specialist for Abounding Prosperity Inc in Dallas Texas. I testified before the President’s Council on HIV and AIDS (PACHA) as one of the first HIV positive young people to speak with them. I was nominated by Advocates for Youth staff and invited to serve as one of PACHA’s first youth representatives. I provide insight to help reduce HIV incidence and ensure care for those living with HIV and AIDS. It’s an honor, but I didn’t get into this work for accolades. I got into it to help fight the HIV and AIDS epidemic. I think the biggest challenge we have is not being taken seriously because of our age. But just because you’re a young person doesn’t make your experience less valuable – it gives us a unique viewpoint. We can end AIDS by working together and meeting young people, especially young men who have sex with men, where they are – they have so many worries and challenges, like family rejection and homelessness, that protection isn’t the first thing on their minds. We need to help them find acceptance as well as education.

“Advocates for Youth is the reason I became the activist I am. They provided me with so many opportunities and so much training about how to become an effective messenger. They are a group of people who care about young people and their rights. I could not be the activist I’ve been lucky enough to be if it were not for every single person at Advocates.”

*Lawrence, President’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)*

Advocates for Youth is proud to recruit, train and support a cadre of diverse and passionate young leaders for the sexual health, rights and justice fields, providing support for more than 1,000 youth activists throughout the world. Advocates alumni include nonprofit leaders, health care educators, health care providers, elected officials, and professionals in all aspects of the reproductive and sexual health, rights and justice field.

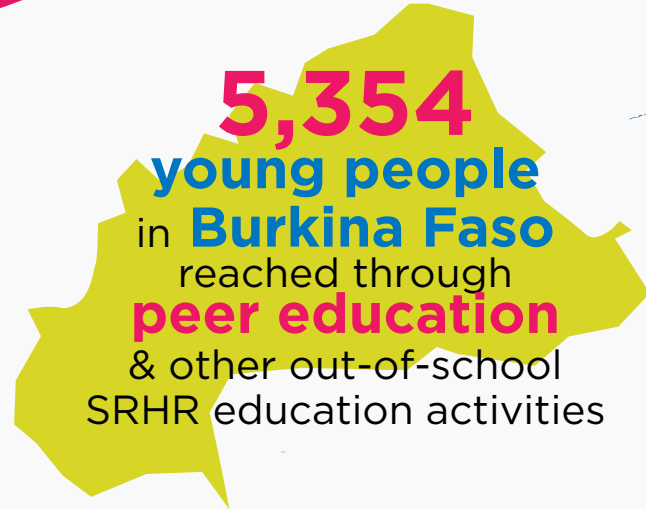


8 hours +  
100 stories +  
131 Million  
media impressions

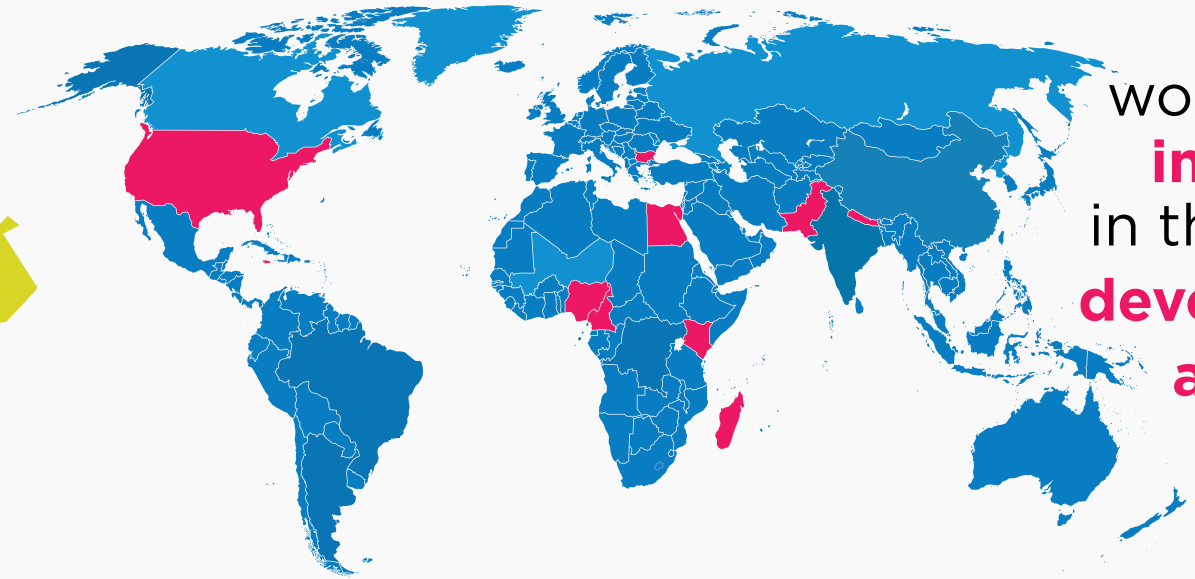


First Ever Online  
Abortion Speakout

5,354  
young people  
in Burkina Faso  
reached through  
peer education  
& other out-of-school  
SRHR education activities



Girl Ambassadors from 10 Countries



working for  
inclusion  
in the world's  
development  
agenda

12 million

CONDOMS

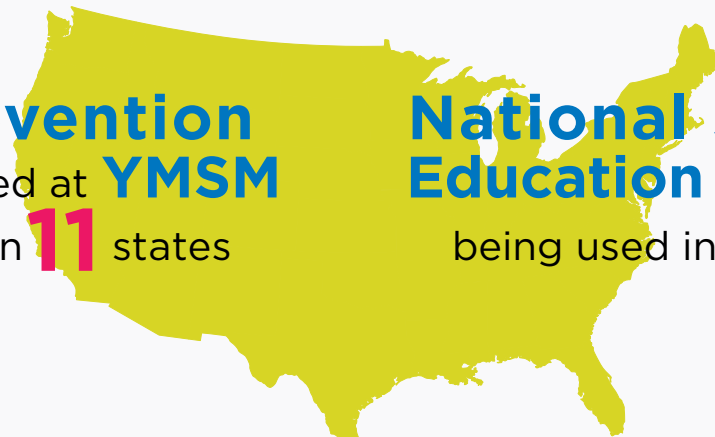
distributed at over

1,000 SAFESITES  
on campuses nationwide



HIV Prevention  
materials aimed at YMSM  
distributed in 11 states

National Sexuality  
Education Standards  
being used in 32 states



A NETWORK OF

75,000+  
YOUTH ACTIVISTS

135

NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
HIV+AIDS  
AWARENESS  
DAY

EVENTS



Groundbreaking  
Theatrical Production  
on Abortion Stigma

# 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.

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# Why I Support Advocates for Youth



“As a reproductive health writer, donor, and advocate, I think carefully about where to put my time and money. Advocates for Youth is smart and strategic, and good at partnering with other organizations in this space. Even more impressive is how well the staff teams up with youth advocates, whether high school students seeking better sex ed in Florida or college students working to destigmatize abortion, or queer youth doing HIV outreach in Africa. Many organizations talk about being youth-friendly. Advocates walks the walk.”

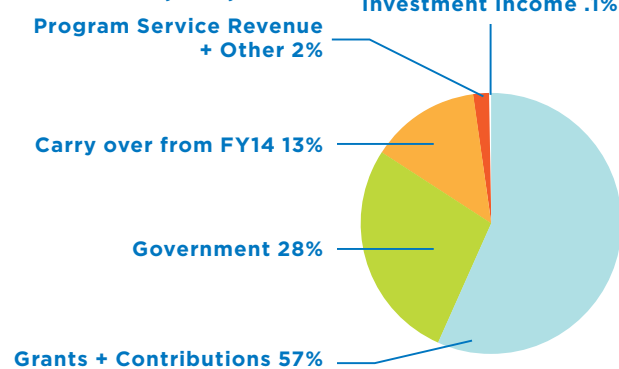
*Valerie Tarico, Advocates for Youth Board Member*

## OUR FINANCIALS

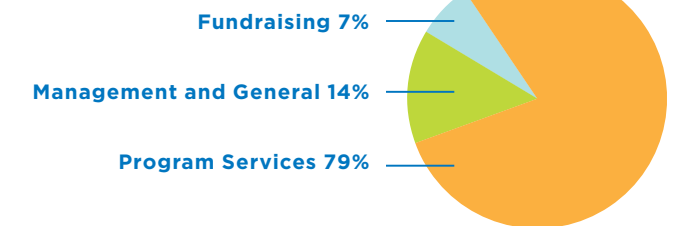
APRIL 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2015

In FY2015, Advocates' expenses totaled \$6,866,088. Income included new revenue of \$5,942,390 from grants, contributions and other sources received in FY2014, as well as \$923,698 in grants and contributions received in previous years for use in FY2015.

REVENUE: \$6,866,088



EXPENSES: \$6,866,088



NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR: \$6,531,998

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR: \$5,608,300

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, 2015, prepared by Advocates' independent public accountant, is available upon request.

**Advocates**  
**for Youth**  
Rights. Respect. Responsibility.  
2000 M STREET NW, SUITE 750  
WASHINGTON DC 20036 USA

