

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

 **Advocates
for Youth**
Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

“I have worked with numerous organizations in the past, and I can honestly say that Advocates for Youth is the only organization that genuinely centers, supports, and partners with young people, especially people of color and LGBTQ+ folks. Advocates recognizes that, historically, young people have been at the forefront of progressive movements and works with young people in a way that isn’t simply a transaction but a partnership.

As a member of Advocates’ Young Women of Color Leadership Council and Campus Organizing groups, I have learned immensely about organizing, strategizing, and building power. However, the most important thing I learned was how valuable youth voices are. Advocates reaffirmed for me that my voice was important and missing from the movement. They reminded me that I deserve to have a seat at the table which ultimately changed the way I carry myself, treat others, and what I expect and demand in the spaces where I work.”

***Winnie**, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and Master’s Degree student at Stony Brook University*





“I think what Advocates for Youth does best is centering the narratives of the young people. As a young person, my voice is often excluded from conversations because my opinions and experiences are considered less valid or credible. Because of those same ageist ideas, my agency is disregarded when it comes to my ability to make decisions about my body and sexual practices. What Advocates does so well is put young people’s thoughts and experiences at the center of any of the advocacy work they do. As an organization, Advocates uses their capacity not to speak for young people, but instead to provide the platform upon which young people can speak for themselves.”

Lexus, Youth Resource and senior at Spelman College

A letter from Deb Hauser

President, Advocates for Youth

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.
--Martin Luther King, Jr

Today, our nation faces a new political landscape and an almost incomprehensible threat to so many of the issues and communities we care so deeply about. How we respond will be a measure of our character and our commitment.

2016 was a year of great gains made amidst a tumultuous political and cultural environment. The teen birth rate continued to decline; rates of HIV infection finally leveled off among Black YMSM; SCOTUS took a stand in support of abortion access; the Department of Education issued guidance interpreting Title IX to include discrimination based on gender identity; and President Obama declared Stonewall a national monument.

For our part, Advocates, among other accomplishments, published a groundbreaking, sex education curriculum; spearheaded on-line puberty education; successfully pilot tested the first-ever evidence-based HIV prevention intervention for Black YMSM 16 to 19; assisted 100+ LGBT youth of color to advocate for LGBT-supportive college environments; brought *Know Your IX* into Advocates’ family; and shared more than 1,000 first-person abortion stories.

And, amidst increasingly disturbing rhetoric surrounding the presidential campaign and in the wake of the tragedy at Pulse in Orlando, Advocates and our activists stood firmly in support of immigrant rights, LGBT rights, and racial justice, and firmly against increasing Islamophobia.

But of all of Advocates accomplishments, it is our work to recruit, nurture, train and support young activists that brings us the most pride. Our network of more than 75,000 youth activists, on 1,000 college campuses, extends to all 50 states and 103 countries. **These emerging young leaders represent a progressive future for our nation and our world.**

Caitlyn, who last year won comprehensive sex education for Clark County schools is now fighting to get University of Nevada to declare itself a Sanctuary for undocumented immigrants.

Juan, a 1 in 3 Campaign activist, spent the summer and fall registering his community to vote in the November elections.

Stephen, a young Nigerian activist, spent the year advocating for his right and that of his peers to take leadership roles in the growing LGBT rights movement across the African Continent.

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.



“Advocates for Youth does what most nonprofits struggle with: engage youth in meaningful, developmental, and long-lasting ways. I have never met a group of people who care so deeply about young people and the issues we face like Advocates does. Advocates provides young people with care, leadership skills, knowledge, and endless opportunity. Everything I know I learned from Advocates. I learned how to treat people with compassion. I learned how to speak to media and politicians. I learned how to craft workshops, how to build toolkits. I learned how to network, and I learned how to influence and affect change. I learned how to find and build community and solidarity. I learned who I am. Everything I am is thanks to Advocates for Youth.”

Caitlyn, Campus Organizer and sophomore at University of Nevada Las Vegas





“My mother and father had a specific gender role for me, and that was to prepare me to be ‘the man’ for my future wife. They, and society, imposed a very heteronormative perspective; ‘you are a man therefore you are not allowed to clean, wash dishes, or cook.’ With Advocates for Youth I began the process of unlearning this kind of sexist conditioning while also being aware of my privilege. I learned to use my presence as an aid, not a perpetuator, of sexism. Advocates has even helped me expand my knowledge on queer identity. I began my reproductive justice work with a focus on HIV/AIDS, but I have now been able to help fight against abortion stigma and sexism prevalent in my community. I merge queer and abortion work to increase awareness around the importance of intersectionality in reproductive justice. Thanks to Advocates, as a gay Hispanic young man, I am happy to share with my community what I’ve gained in knowledge over the years.”

Juan, 1 in 3 Campaign Organizer and senior at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

TOP TEN ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2016

- 1

SPEARHEADED A CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND MOBILIZATION MOVEMENT AROUND ABORTION STORYTELLING THAT CONTRIBUTED TO A POSITIVE SUPREME COURT RULING.

In 2011, Advocates launched the 1 in 3 Campaign and spent the next five years working to make first-person abortion storytelling a core movement strategy. This year marked a turning point in the fight for abortion access. Staff worked with activists on 100 campuses, produced a second play, and partnered with 14 communities to create cultural advocacy protest art and theater events. First person abortion storytelling played a central role in the field’s strategy for winning *Whole Women’s Health vs Hellerstedt* and factored large in coalition events to shift culture. As a result, the media has increasingly centered real people’s abortion experiences in their coverage, and young people’s support for abortion access has increased.
- 2

DISRUPTED BARRIERS TO QUALITY SEXUALITY EDUCATION WITH THE 3RS CURRICULUM.

Advocates published *Rights, Respect, Responsibility: A K-12 Sexuality Education Curriculum* comprised of 81 new, LGBT-inclusive lesson plans that are fully mapped to the *National Sexuality Education Standards* and available free of charge on Advocates’ website. The curriculum has been downloaded more than 4,000 times and has been implemented in some of the nation’s largest school districts with a reach of over three million youth to date. Advocates has trained nearly 1000 educators, helping them to build their skills to teach quality sex education.
- 3

BUILT THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF HUNDREDS OF YOUTH FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES.

Each year Advocates for Youth recruits youth of color, LGBT youth, youth from the United States South, and young women as part of a cohort of youth leaders who receive intensive training at a five-day retreat in Washington, D.C., culminating in a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. This year Advocates launched the Young Women of Color for Reproductive Justice Collective, a network of young women of color from around the country. They will work at the local and national level to decrease sexual health disparities in communities of color, advocate for the inclusion of young women of color in creating solutions to address the impact of reproductive oppression, and empower a new generation of reproductive justice activists within the progressive movement.
- 4

CONTRIBUTED TO THE LEVELING OFF OF NEW CASES OF HIV AMONG BLACK YMSM.

For the last decade, Advocates for Youth has worked in communities to ensure that young Black men have access to testing, prevention, and treatment of HIV. This year, Advocates created *Get Your Life*, the first adaptation of an evidence-based intervention for young Black men who have sex with men, and implemented it in six locations in three states. Through its Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project, Advocates trained more than 300 clinicians, teachers, activists, and advocates to increase cultural responsiveness and promote integration of youth-adult partnerships into their service provision.
- 5

SPEARHEADED A GROUNDBREAKING INITIATIVE TO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE AMAZE, A PUBERTY EDUCATION VIDEO SERIES, FOR 10 TO 14 YEAR OLDS.

AMAZE, a collaboration between Advocates, Answer and Youth Tech Health, fills an educational void, providing a website and YouTube channel for 10 to 14 year olds, their parents and educators that hosts an ever-growing series of animated, humorous and age-appropriate sex education videos. Topics to date include puberty, healthy relationships, consent, masturbation, sexual orientation, gender identity and more. The series was an instant sensation, with hundreds of thousands of views in its first month, and is now being adapted for use in Mexico, Colombia, Vietnam, Israel, and South Africa.

- 6

LAUNCHED THE PAN AFRICAN LGBTIQ YOUTH INITIATIVE TO RAISE VISIBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S NEEDS AND PRIORITIES, AND DEMAND SPACE FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE LGBTIQ RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

Staff worked with youth activists from the continent to document the youth-specific challenges they face, highlight restrictions that affect their meaningful participation in the global LGBTIQ movement, and prioritize their needs to inform a Pan-African LGBTIQ youth-led movement. The group then used the findings to secure youth participation at LGBTIQ meetings on the continent and to shape the Pan-African LGBTIQ Agenda to include the needs and rights of LGBTIQ youth.
- 7

INCREASED YOUTH KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONTRACEPTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Advocates completed a 10-year initiative in collaboration with the New Morning Foundation to improve contraceptive use in four communities in South Carolina, contributing to greater than state average declines in teenage birth rates in three of the four communities. According to South Carolina Vital Statistics, over the last decade, the state teen birth rate fell 39 percent, but in Richland County it fell 42.8 percent, in Spartanburg it fell 44 percent, and in Greenville, 43.9 percent.
- 8

STARTED A MOVEMENT TO IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCES OF LGBTQ YOUTH OF COLOR ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN THE U.S. THROUGH MY STORY OUT LOUD.

Youth activists launched the My Story Out Loud campaign and collected more than 100 stories to raise awareness of the challenges LGBT youth of color face when attending institutes of higher education, and to hold academic institutions accountable for creating open and affirming spaces for marginalized students.
- 9

TRAINED AND PROVIDED RESOURCES TO YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND END RAPE CULTURE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

Know Your IX became a project of Advocates for Youth and staff worked with students on over 100 college campuses to challenge their institutions to address violence and discrimination. In Delaware, staff assisted students to defeat a state bill mandating the reporting of sexual assault to police, and worked with students who fought open carry gun legislation in Florida and Georgia. And, through the Trojan “Consent: Ask For It” campaign, Advocates for Youth provided resources to activists on an additional 100 campuses, reaching 50,000 students with information about consent.
- 10

BUILT A MULTI-COUNTRY INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE SCHOOL- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SEXUALITY EDUCATION.

Advocates supported implementation of school and community-based comprehensive sexuality education in multiple countries by providing training, curriculum review, resources and consultation. In addition, staff supported regional efforts in East and Southern Africa in collaboration with UNESCO, including training 96 teachers and reaching nearly 7,000 young people.

“The thing that Advocates does best is listen to the young people that they work with. It is obvious that Advocates for Youth truly has young people’s best interest at heart and respects the young people that they work with. With Advocates, youth voices form the basis of the organization’s culture as opposed to the organization directing youth to complete the organization’s mission.”

Andi, Alabama State Activist and senior at the University of Alabama



“As a young South Asian woman on the Young Women of Color Leadership Council, I am grateful to have the opportunity to network with other young women of color within the Council, within Advocates’ other youth programs, and via networking opportunities brought to us through Advocates. We are rarely represented in mainstream discussions about reproductive and sexual health, and having an opportunity for my voice to be heard and amplified is life-changing.”

Sadia, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and ORISE Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“Advocates for Youth by far is the best at making sure young people are a part of the government’s agenda. Advocates make sure that we know what rights we have as young people, and how we can be involved.

I have learned that I have a voice to change things. I have learned that no matter how far I go, I am connected with a network of people who genuinely care about making life better in our communities. They just helped me see that I am surrounded with a great group of people.”

Triuna, Mississippi State Activist and freshman at Mississippi Valley State University



“I believe Advocates for Youth does an amazing job of bringing together youth of all cultures and backgrounds to the table. Advocates not only provides a support system to young people through their staff members, but also teaches us to be reliant on each other, as peers.

Something I have seen at Advocates for Youth that is completely different from other organizations, is the fact that we as young people are not only comprehensively trained on issues, we are consistently kept in the know throughout the year as part of the team.”

Andii, YouthResource activist in Charlotte, North Carolina



“Advocates for Youth staff is the best at making young people feel appreciated, supported, and accomplished. The staff are excellent at their jobs and teaching skills and knowledge to younger activists without talking down to or at us. This organization knows the importance of community and they certainly make us all feel like family.

I’ve learned so much from Advocates! First and foremost, as a 1 in 3 youth organizer, they have shared complete knowledge of birth control, abortion, how it intersects with other social issues, and the true reality of people’s experiences with abortion. Not only that, but the sessions at Urban Retreat really opened my eyes to queer, Black, and mental health issues that would have typically gone over my head as a privileged person. Joining Advocates for Youth has helped shape my perspective and work.”

Sadie, 1 in 3 Campaign Organizer and junior at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley



“Advocates for Youth has taught me how to be a more confident and intersectional organizer. With help and training from Advocates, I’ve been able to successfully campaign for gender neutral housing and a more robust anti-racism commitment on my campuses, and I’ve also been able to put together a number of reproductive justice events in my community.

Advocates gives youth a community of fellow activists, teaching us how to work with and learn from each other as we fight for self-determination, reproductive and sexual agency, and health rights together.”

Brianna, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and Master’s student at Smith College for Social Work



“I think the thing that Advocates does best is really invest in the futures of their youth activists. Advocates does everything to support us in becoming better activists and leaders in our communities, but more than that I think that they really make the effort to build us up holistically; among the Advocates staff I have found friends, mentors, career advisors, and cheerleaders who support me in all facets of my life, not just my organizing.

Advocates for Youth has been instrumental in my learning because it’s where my politics were really able to develop. I came into the Young Women of Color Leadership Council right at the beginning of my freshman year of college and while I had some idea that I was a feminist and that I cared deeply about all of the inequities in this world, I didn’t yet have the language or the understanding to really articulate that. Over the past four years, I’ve had some incredible, life-altering conversations with the folks at Advocates that shaped the way that I think about and move through the world. I began to understand my place in the movement for racial justice, how things like climate change are reproductive justice issues, and how to best ally myself with marginalized communities that I myself am not a part of.”

Eshani, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and student at Rutgers University

"I think that Advocates for Youth makes sure that every voice is at the table, and that our voices make an impact. They organize space for growing, learning, and creating sustainable change. I have learned that I am able to make a difference and that my identities are not a limitation but a gift. I have learned that no matter where I am going I have a circle of youth advocates who truly care about their issues and that we can all learn from each other."

Liliana, International Youth Leadership Council and junior at the American University



"I think Advocates for Youth does a great job giving young people the tools that they need to mobilize other youth and help them advocate for their rights. Advocates for Youth empowers!"

I learned that nothing is impossible. I have a right to civil liberties and education just as much as my more privileged counterparts."

Kimi, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and senior at Howard University

"For me, Advocates for Youth has really taught me how to 'make space and take space.' It is so important for young people to be given spaces where they feel empowered, safe, and can speak up and Advocates gives this to me in ways that exceed my expectations. But they also teach me that if my own community can't provide me with this space, make my own! Advocates also shows me the importance of my own self love and worth. I am taught to never doubt myself and my capabilities because I am incredible and worthy of my achievements. I have never felt more empowered and valid than I have with my Advocates family!"

Thea, Young Women of Color Leadership Council and high school sophomore



"Advocates for Youth is the best resource for young organizers. Advocates offers us the best mentors - people who truly care about us as people and want to see us achieve our goals. Advocates offers awesome opportunities to develop professionally and personally."

A lot of what I've learned from Advocates for Youth can't be quantified: confidence, patience, and more. The most important concrete thing I've learned would have to be media skills. I am now well versed in how to approach media, and I've been given opportunities to try out my new skills by being interviewed for outlets like BBC and Yahoo. "

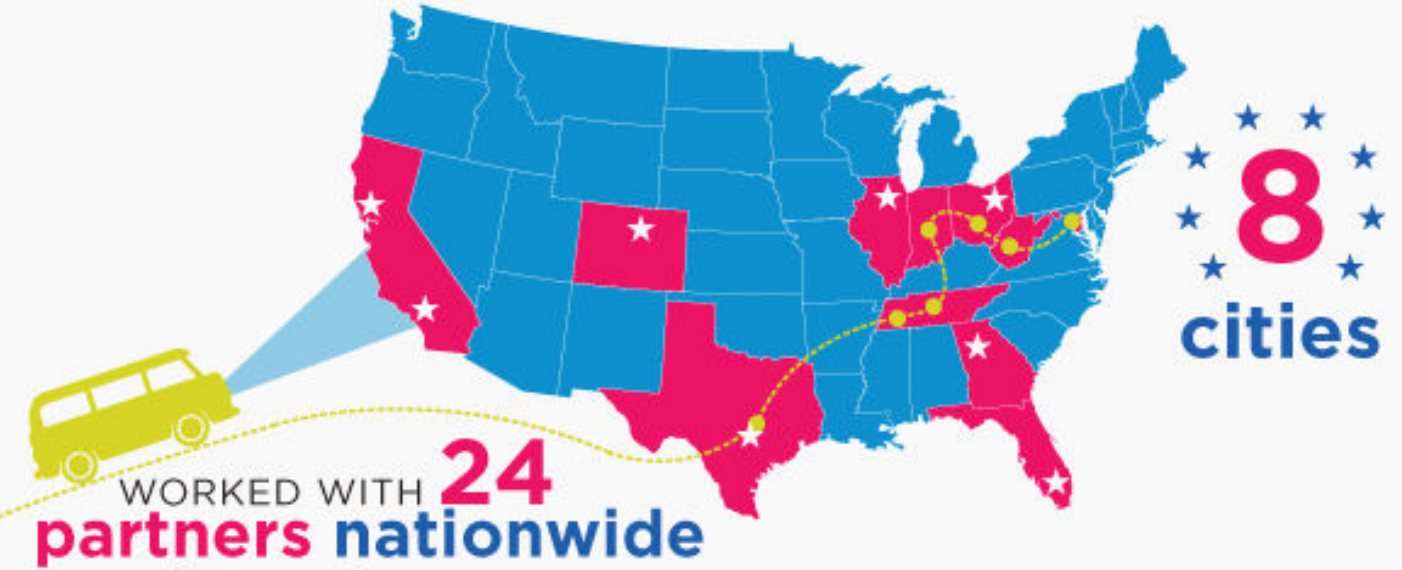
Lauren, 1 in 3 Campaign and junior at Middle Tennessee State University

over
1200
abortion
stories
shared with the
1 in 3
Campaign



100 campuses
participated in Trojan's
**Sexual Assault
Prevention
Campaign**
reaching
50,000 students with
info and resources on consent

Remarkably Normal performances in



1.2 MILLION
CONDOMS

DISTRIBUTED AT

 **1,088** colleges and universities
by **3,000** youth activists

**#1in3Illumination
Tour** events

4,000+
DOWNLOADS OF THE
**Rights. Respect.
Responsibility.**
Sex Education
Curriculum



125

**NATIONAL
YOUTH
HIV+AIDS
AWARENESS
DAY**
EVENTS



208,000
views of
**AMAZE
VIDEOS**
within **3** months

100
STORIES
contributed to
**MY STORY
OUT LOUD**



THE **1ST** EVER **NATIONWIDE ANALYSIS**
of **GENDER
EXPRESSION**
and **RISK-TAKING** among high school students



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



“I donate to Advocates for Youth because they helped mold me into the woman I am today. I first joined Advocates’ family when I became a member of Youth Resource and then joined the Young Women of Color Leadership Council at age 16. I acquired leadership and action organizing skills. I was provided with a strong network of peer activists to form alliances with and create change. I truly can say that my 10+ years as a YWOCLC activist gave me the confidence and finesse that has shaped me into the strong and capable businesswoman and philanthropist that I am now. They say the best way to reach

young people is to teach them early, and I am so grateful that they reached me at such a pivotal moment in my life. Now as a member of the Board of Directors, I am able to continue to be hands on and involved with such a great organization.”

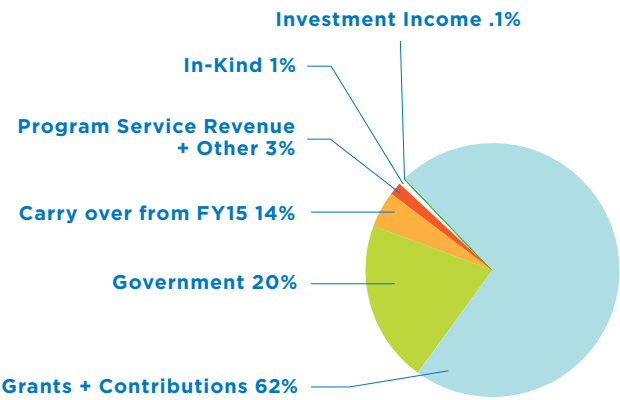
Kathleen Adams, Advocates for Youth Board Member and alumna

OUR FINANCIALS

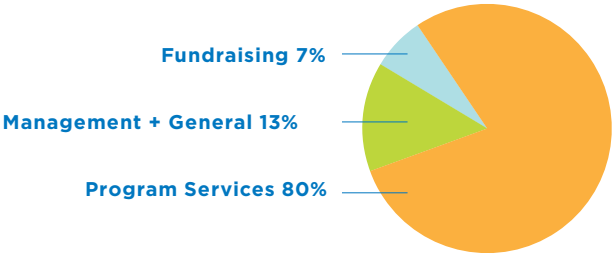
FISCAL YEAR 2016 | APRIL 1, 2015 - MARCH 31, 2016

In FY2016, Advocates’ expenses totaled \$7,371,378. Income included new revenue of \$6,312,482 from grants, contributions and other sources received in FY2016, as well as \$1,058,896 in grants and contributions received in previous years for use in FY2016.

REVENUE: \$7,371,378



EXPENSES: \$6,866,088



NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR: \$5,608,300 NET ASSETS END OF FISCAL YEAR: \$4,400,067

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, 2016, prepared by Advocates’ independent public accountant, is available upon request