



**ALLIANCE**  
*for* **CHILDREN'S**  
**RIGHTS**

SERVING LA COUNTY SINCE 1992

# Impact Report

## 2019 2020

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ADVANCING JUSTICE AND  
ADVOCATING FOR THE  
RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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## Our mission

is to protect the rights of children in poverty and those overcoming abuse and neglect by delivering free legal services, supportive programs, and systemic solutions.

We envision a world in which all children have safe, permanent families, with the support they need to thrive.





## A Message from the President & CEO

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### Dear Friends,

When this year began, none of us could have anticipated a global pandemic suddenly threatening our lives, devastating our economy, and imperiling the most vulnerable members of our community.

Children, young adults, and families in the foster care system work hard every day to heal from trauma and create healthy futures. Now, they are struggling even more to access stability, housing, physical and mental healthcare, supportive services, employment, and education. And, like many moments of crisis, the pandemic has only emphasized the inequities that burden marginalized kids and families, especially in communities of color.

Together with our partners and supporters, we have risen to meet the challenges faced by the young people we serve — as we always have.

I am so proud of our expert team who, in March, shifted quickly to advocate for our clients in this new landscape and provide immediate legal advocacy, emergency systemic reforms, vital services, and support.

As you read this 2019-2020 report, I hope that you are moved and inspired by our efforts and the remarkable resilience of young people to persist and heal—even in the face of tremendous hardship, injustice, and trauma. And I hope that inspiration moves you to action.

Energized by your steadfast commitment, we hold steady, ready to take on the years ahead. The effects of the current crisis, the inequities it has exposed, and the disparities that continue to impact our most vulnerable young people all make our direct and systemic advocacy needed now more than ever before. **There is no better time than now to unite as an alliance for our youth.**

Thank you for continuing to stand with us and for being part of this life-changing work.

In solidarity and gratitude,  
**Jennifer L. Braun**



# Answering the Call Amidst a Crisis

The impacts of this pandemic and economic downturn have hit children, youth, and families in the child welfare system hard—leaving their lives filled with alarming instability.

In March, we swiftly mobilized to answer our clients' urgent calls for help. Our team has been hard at work, helping children and families access critical essentials—from diapers to housing—as their most pressing needs have become overwhelmingly heightened by the real time impacts of this pandemic.

**Here for them at the frontlines, we continue to provide specialized support, direct services, and expert advocacy so that our clients can weather and recover from this crisis.**



**Thanks to the Alliance, I have a new mindset, a new experience, and can take care of Alyza in a new environment. The Alliance has helped us with so much, especially during COVID—supplies, healthcare, childcare, housing, school, therapy, and helping me break the cycle.”**

— AALIYAH, 19



## Advocating for children, young adults, and families during the COVID-19 pandemic



### Ensuring clients have access

to essentials, emergency benefits, mental and medical healthcare, food assistance, housing, utilities, benefits, employment opportunities, equitable education plans, and more.



### Leading the way for remote adoptions

In partnership with the court and **Public Counsel**, the Alliance led the work to cut through red tape so that hundreds of delayed, uncontested adoptions could finalize safely — allowing prospective adoptive parents and children to appear through remote technology.



### Leading coalitions to advocate for legislative protections

for children, young adults, and families in the child welfare system during COVID.

**A POLICY VICTORY:** The Alliance proudly co-sponsored **AB1979**, improving housing stability for youth in extended foster care during this tumultuous time.



### Training and up-to-date resources

In addition to maintaining a central online hub with current information for clients, we've hosted monthly webinars for **5,500+** participants to keep our partners and families informed with real time updates on emergency policies, best practices, and available resources.



### Advancing employment opportunities for young adults in foster care

Spearheaded by the Alliance, **the LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LAOYC)** amplified the voices of young leaders who shared testimony with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in July. Thanks to their successful advocacy and our partnership with UNITE-LA, a motion was passed for \$20M to fund the **Youth@Work Program**, which supports job opportunities for transition age youth.



This year, the Alliance served

**6,400+**  
children and  
young adults

and trained **5,700+** partners  
to help them better serve and provide  
for young people in foster care.

OUR SERVICES:

- Adoptions from Foster Care
- Legal Guardianship
- Benefits
- Education
- Healthcare
- Transition Age Youth Services

OUR  
IMPACT



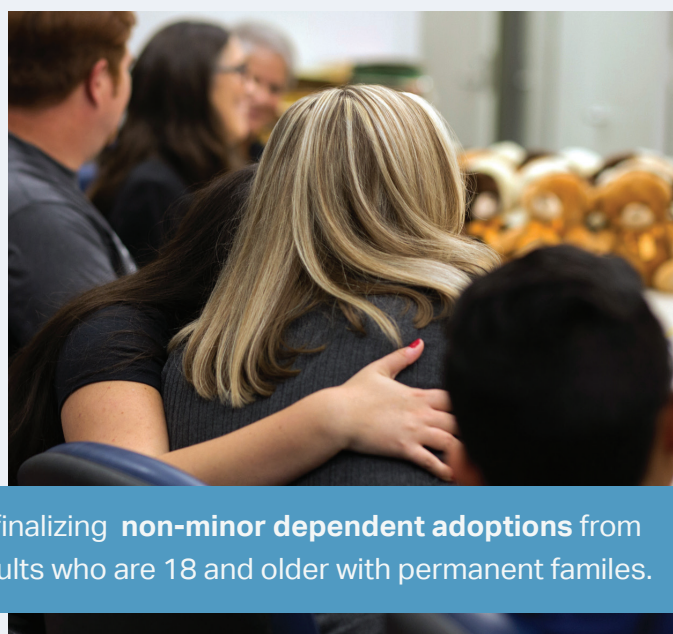
# WHAT WE DO

## ADOPTIONS FROM FOSTER CARE

This year—in collaboration with our pro bono partners—the Alliance provided legal representation, and finalized nearly

**600** Adoptions from Foster Care

We are the only agency in LA finalizing **non-minor dependent adoptions** from foster care—uniting young adults who are 18 and older with permanent families.



## LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

More than **300,000 children** in Los Angeles live with relatives or friends, when their parents cannot care for them. Without a legal relationship, caregivers are limited in their ability to protect and provide for these children. By obtaining legal guardianship for these caregivers, the Alliance guides families to a more stable future.

“Before coming to the Alliance, I was desperate, lost, and I didn’t know where to start. Working with their team, I felt supported and protected, and got the help I needed so that I could focus on caring for the children.” — DINA G.

## BENEFITS

By helping caregivers secure public funding, we ensure that families are better equipped to open their homes and hearts to children in need of stability and safety. This year, our team proudly supported more than

**900** families with benefits cases,

so that they can access essential services—including medical and developmental therapies.

“We are so thankful for the Alliance because they expedited our adoption of these two precious children and made it possible for two siblings to be reunited.”

— THE JORDAN FAMILY



“It felt great to finally have someone in our corner, fighting for Dereon’s rights. They have opened so many doors for my child.”

— ELIZABETH F.



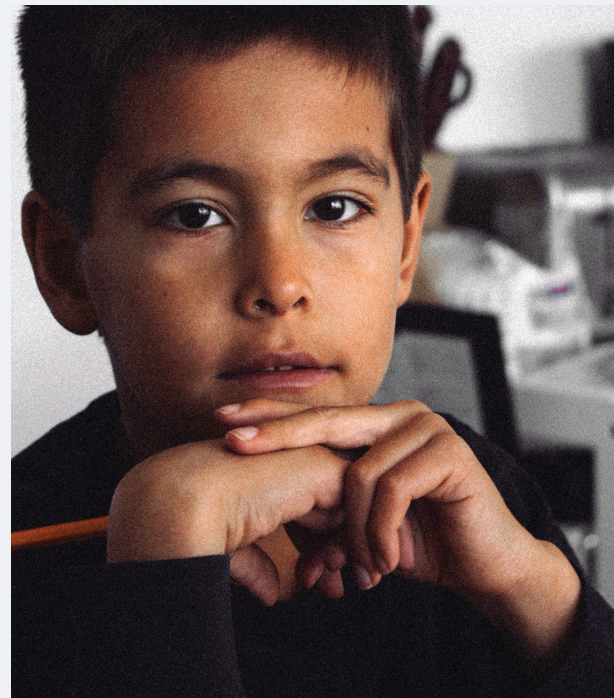
## EDUCATION

Our team helps children and teens in foster care—who experience the poorest education outcomes of any at-risk population—access critical early intervention services and direct advocacy to ensure they receive an equitable education through high school and are on track to graduate with their peers.

This year, our attorneys successfully helped

**9000+** students

access therapies and educational services.



Thanks to the **Saltz Family Early Intervention Advocacy Center** we helped **250+** infants and toddlers obtain critical early intervention services.



## HEALTHCARE

Far too often, children and young adults in foster care encounter obstacles in obtaining healthcare coverage. This year, we helped **300 young clients** access the vital mental and medical services they need to stay healthy.

“**Jake has a very rare genetic disorder. I was so used to trying to break through red tape on my own, I couldn't believe that there was someone to help! The Alliance helped us attain a court order for a critical surgery and saved his life.**”

— ANDREA M.

## EXPECTANT AND PARENTING YOUTH

In LA County, nearly **50% of young women** in foster care experience at least one pregnancy by age 19. Our team helps young parenting clients attain housing, healthcare, jobs, education, and access to parenting and wellness resources so they can raise healthy babies, achieve their goals, and build strong, resilient families. This year, our Healthy Teen Families program served nearly

**3000** young moms in foster care

Our gratitude to the **Alliance of Moms**—a community of **#momsformoms** who make this focused work possible.



Spearheaded by the Alliance, the **Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative** joined with partners to support **750+** youth in accessing employment training and opportunities.

## TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

Young people exiting the foster care system often face challenges in education, housing, employment, and overall well-being. This year, the Alliance served

**1,500+** transition age youth

through legal advocacy to clear barriers and social services to empower clients as they transition into independence.

“**The OYC gave me a clear perspective on how I can contribute. I started feeling like it was possible for me to do some real change.**”

— DIMITRI DUNN, 21 OYC YOUNG LEADER



# WHO WE SERVE

60%

of our clients  
have identified  
special needs

## AGES OF OUR CLIENTS:

0-5 34%

6-17 46%

18+ 30%

35% Latinx  
24% Black  
13% Bi-racial  
7% White  
1% Asian American  
1% American Indian/AIAN  
19% Unknown / Declined to state

17%

of our clients are  
monolingual  
Spanish speakers



“I don’t want people to put me in a category or box and judge me just because I was in foster care.”

— TANEIL FRANKLIN, 19 OYC YOUNG LEADER

## PHILANTHROPIC SPOTLIGHT

### *Paving Pathways to Adulthood Project*

We are grateful for the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation’s generous partnership to support critical services and advocacy for youth in foster care with the goals of increasing stability, graduation rates, college readiness, and employment.





## JAY'S STORY — GIVING BACK LOVE

**People think that if you're in foster care, you're an outcast. But really, we're special. We've been through a lot, and we come out the other side somehow—we are strong. We know what it means to survive."**

Jay was six years old when she entered foster care. Removed from her family at a young age, and moving between placements and group homes more times than she can count, Jay endured a childhood that lacked stability, safety, and a sense of home, which only exacerbated the challenges she later encountered as a young adult.

Earlier this year, when the pandemic broke out and her housing program attempted to discharge her late one evening, Jay's stability was again at risk. It was crucial for our team to step in at that time, advocate for Jay, and ensure she remained safely housed.

Thanks to your support, the Alliance is able to be there in these critical moments, when it matters most. In addition to direct advocacy for transition age youth, our team provides resources, pathways to education and employment, and community — all key to a healthy independence.

"Rachel, Brisia, and the Alliance were like a blessing to me," she recalls. "There aren't many people who would go out of their way to be there for you in the middle of the night, and be in your corner when you don't know what to do. I had never experienced that kind of care before."

Now 21 years old, Jay's a member of the OYC Young Leaders, a group spearheaded by the

Alliance to elevate the voices of foster youth and empower them to be advocates for change.

"I love the community. We experience life, share with each other, and help each other where we can," she says. **"Together, we're going to make a better place for foster youth who come after us."**

And she has big plans to make an impact in her community. Jay hopes to eventually pursue law, so that she can be of service to children and young adults in foster care or on probation. "I can relate to them because I've been through what they've been through," she says. "When you meet someone who knows what it's like, you don't feel so alone in the world."

Jay exemplifies the tremendous strength, potential, and resilience of the remarkable young people we are honored to serve. They inspire us every day with their capacity to survive and transform the future.

"I want to share with the world that no kids should be left behind or forgotten. I was left behind ... until good people came along to help," she expresses. "There is no such thing as a bad kid. We're all just healing from past trauma and hurt."

**"Every day, we learn how to heal and do our best to just give back love."**



# Year in Review

2019-2020



NOVEMBER 2019 + FEBRUARY 2020 —

## Policy Summit: Hidden Foster Care

In partnership with Lincoln, the Alliance convened kin caregivers and child welfare experts to activate dialogue around **Hidden Foster Care**. Due to a well-intentioned effort to “keep kids out of the system,” relatives are frequently advised to bypass juvenile court and care for at-risk children outside of formal foster care — without receiving information about how that decision will impact the child and family’s access to funding, reunification supports, and other critical services.

The conversation, which took place across two policy summits in Northern and Southern California, brought stakeholders together to



“My life changed with a phone call. They said ‘you either pick her up or your granddaughter’s going to a shelter care facility.’”

evaluate a set of recommendations that will be advanced in the coming years.

The Alliance also shared with judges, attorneys, and social workers guidance and strategies for how to preserve and protect the ICWA rights of Indian children, who are commonly impacted by Hidden Foster Care.

Special thanks to The Eisner Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, The Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their support which enables us to focus on uplifting solutions to better support these children and their families.



DECEMBER 2019 —

## Recovering \$1.2 M in Wrongly Assessed Foster Care Benefits

In collaboration with Public Counsel, the Alliance worked with Los Angeles County’s Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that more than 1,300 caregivers were reimbursed for over \$1.2 million in foster care benefits that were improperly collected from families through inaccurate notices.

The Department also agreed to inform all families who were entitled to reimbursements, and to halt the unlawful practice.

## OUR POLICY VICTORIES

### Changing Policy to Change the World for Children

#### ✓ AB 1068 (Cooley)

Successfully co-sponsored legislation to strengthen the child and family team process, promoting positive outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

#### ✓ AB 2337 (Gipson)

Successfully co-sponsored legislation to ensure youth who turn 18 while waiting for hearings can enter foster care, giving them access to the support and services of extended foster care.

#### ✓ AB 686 (Waldron)

Successfully co-sponsored legislation to support ICWA compliance and the preservation of social and cultural standards for Indian children in the child welfare system.

#### ✓ AB 80 (Committee on Budget)

Aligned with partners to establish a 24/7 statewide hotline and county mobile response system—Family Urgent Response System (FURS).

#### ✓ AB 80 (Committee on Budget)

Supported caregivers at time of placement by overcoming a proposal to limit emergency caregiver funding.

#### ✓ AB 74 (Committee on Budget)

Expanded the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program with an additional \$10 million annually, helping more foster families and parenting foster youth access child care.





NOVEMBER 2019 —

## 20th Anniversary of National Adoption Day

For over two decades, the Alliance has finalized more than **16,000 adoptions** out of foster care—helping adopting families navigate the legal system, so that they can focus their time and love on the children in their care.

**As a co-founder of National Adoption Day**, we have led a collective effort resulting in **80,000+ adoptions across the country**.

Together with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Children's Action Network, Public Counsel, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of this special day, as the Alliance and our pro bono partners completed more than **230 local adoptions**.



MARCH 2020 —

## Caregiver Day at the Capitol

In partnership with California Alliance of Caregivers, we hosted another incredible day of advocacy with representation from a vibrant community of 80+ caregivers and advocates from across the state.

Energized by an address from California's first Surgeon General **Dr. Nadine Burke Harris**, their voices carried the importance of our policy priorities throughout the Capitol to our leaders. It was an honor to have so many individuals who understand the true impact of reforming our systems to promote the wellbeing of children and families.

**"I'm grateful to be standing here today and to have the opportunity to give my kids something I never had—a childhood in a loving home."**

— JENNIFER AGUILAR



MARCH 2020 —

## 2020 Annual Dinner

Earlier this year, we proudly hosted our 28th Annual Dinner to celebrate our honorees — **Karey Burke** and **Susan Saltz** — who inspire us with their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of our community's most vulnerable young people.

Together, with special guests **John Legend**, **Anthony Anderson**, and a room of nearly 1,000 friends, clients, and supporters at the Beverly Hilton, we raised more than **\$1.6M** to help us sustain this critical and life-transforming work.



# The work

There is still much work left to do, as we deepen our commitment to championing equity, fighting injustices, and righting wrongs for young people.

Your contributions help us create **hope**, restore **justice**, and generate **opportunity** for children and young adults – now, when they need us the most, and for generations to come.



# ahead

***Together, as a true Alliance,  
we can do more.***

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

DONATE TODAY.  
[KIDS-ALLIANCE.ORG/DONATE](https://kids-alliance.org/donate)

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

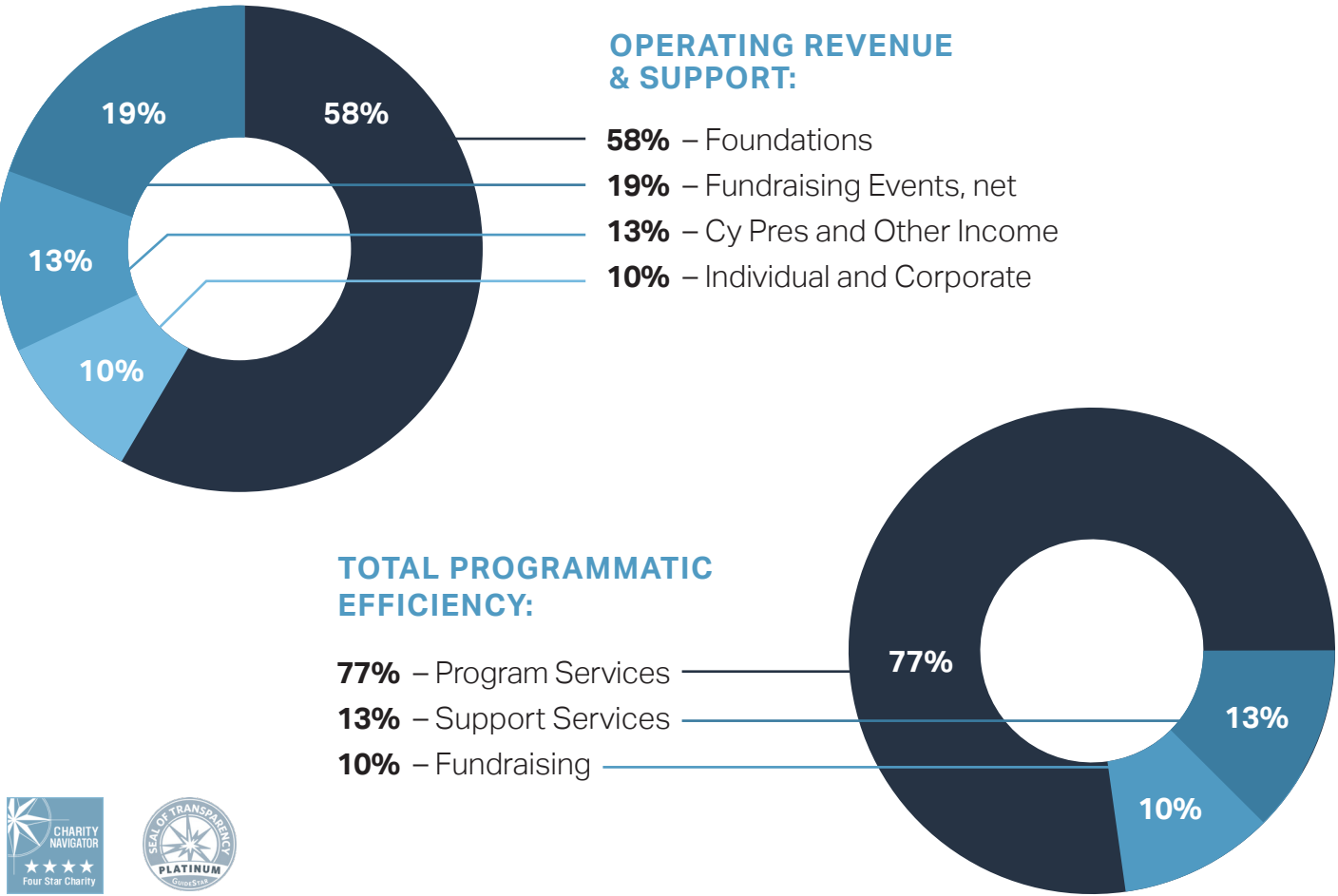


# Financials at a Glance

**We know it is important that your donation is used effectively.** As a recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Alliance for Children’s Rights seeks to be transparent and accountable in our operations by making our financial information publicly available.

We are proud of our Charity Navigator 4-star rating and GuideStar-awarded Platinum Seal of Transparency for demonstrating strong financial health, accountability, and transparency for 10 consecutive years.

## Financial Overview



Financial Summary for FY2020 with FY2019 comparison		2020	2019
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	Contributed legal services and in-kind contributions*	\$11,692,358	\$11,520,479
	Contributions and grants	6,693,865	2,876,534
	Fundraising events, net	1,532,622	1,614,327
	Investment return, net	(71,736)	361,554
	Total Revenue and Support	\$19,847,109	\$16,372,894
EXPENSES	Program services	\$16,151,749	\$16,018,323
	Support services	772,402	642,380
	Fundraising	583,930	491,514
	Total Expenses	17,508,081	17,152,217
Change in Net Assets		\$2,339,028	(\$779,323)
FUNDRAISING SUMMARY	Fundraising expenses as a percentage of total operating expenses**	10%	9%
ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS SUMMARY	Cash and cash equivalents ***	\$2,144,101	\$1,936,916
	Grants and pledges receivable	2,847,290	1,597,773
	Investments	8,792,839	8,105,334
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	149,795	149,453
	Furniture / equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	133,833	141,228
Total Assets		\$14,067,858	\$11,930,704
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		461,439	663,313
Total liabilities		461,439	663,313
Without donor restrictions			
Undesignated		1,705,728	2,060,590
Board-designated		5,000,000	4,000,000
Board-designated endowment		3,250,000	3,250,000
With donor restrictions		3,650,691	1,956,801
Total net assets		13,606,419	11,267,391
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$14,067,858	\$11,930,704

\* The Alliance recorded more than 26,500 hrs. of contributed legal services donated by law firms, attorneys, summer associates and paralegals for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020. The estimated fair value of these services was \$11,672,280.

\*\* Total operating expenses excludes legal contributed services and in-kind expenses.

\*\*\* Cash and cash equivalents include cash held in money market accounts and highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less.



# Board of Directors

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*Founder (1921-2000)*

*\* Retired from Board in 2019*



I am deeply honored to serve this organization as board co-chair, and to be part of an alliance that transforms young lives, families, and futures. This life-changing work is possible thanks to the many generous supporters, advocates, attorneys, partners, and volunteers who stand in solidarity with us and dedicate their resources, time, and energy to advocating for the rights of young people."

CHRIS B. WALTHER, BOARD CO-CHAIR



Together, we make great impact in the lives of thousands of children and young adults —

building an alliance behind them to advance stability, welfare, and justice. In a year when young, vulnerable children and their families struggle to weather the harsh impacts of a pandemic, our work and your support are more important than ever."

RICK ROSEN, BOARD CO-CHAIR







# Pro Bono Partners



The Alliance coordinated more than **26,000 hours** of pro bono legal work, totaling over **\$11M** in expert legal services for our clients.

Our pro bono partners are among Los Angeles’ best and brightest attorneys. Together, we provide legal advocacy and representation to advance the rights of children. Special thanks to the partners and firms who help make positive and lasting change.

- |                                    |                                       |                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP | Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb         | DYKEMA                            |
| AIG                                | Clyde & Co US LLP                     | Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP |
| Arent Fox LLP                      | Colantuano, Highsmith & Whatley, P.C. | Fish & Richardson P.C.            |
| Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP   | Cole Pedroza LLP                      | Foley & Lardner LLP               |
| Best Best & Krieger LLP            | Covington & Burling LLP               | Fox Rothschild LLP                |
| Boies Schiller Flexner LLP         | Creative Artists Agency               | Gibson Dunn                       |
| Karen Breslow                      | Crowell & Moring LLP                  | Carole Glovsky                    |
| Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP    | DC Entertainment                      | Greenberg Glusker LLP             |
| Buchalter                          | Dechert LLP                           | Greenberg Gross LLP               |
| Buckley LLP                        | Dentons                               | Harris • Ginsberg LLP             |
| Cedars-Sinai Medical Center        | DLA Piper LLP                         | Nelson Hardiman                   |

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Hogan Lovells                       | Allyson Saunders                                      |
| Holland & Knight LLP                | Scheper Kim & Harris LLP                              |
| Hooper Lundy & Bookman, P.C.        | Selogie & Brett LLP                                   |
| Hunton Andrews Kurth                | Seyfarth Shaw LLP                                     |
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| Reed Smith LLP                      |   |
| Robins Kaplan LLP                   |   |
| Roll Law Group P.C.                 |   |



We are so grateful for the opportunity to make an impact through partnership with the Alliance. I appreciate how the adoption and special education cases allow our junior associates to get to know the clients on a personal level. It truly is a rewarding experience.”

— KEVIN BENDIX, KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

## Cy Pres Partners

Funds from cy pres awards help us improve outcomes for children and families in need of justice.

Thank you to the law firms and partners who nominated the Alliance for Children’s Rights as a cy pres recipient.

- Ahdoot & Wolfson, PC
- Benink & Slavens LLP
- Lawyers for Justice, PC
- Law Offices of Paul G. Kerkorian
- Law Offices of Zev B. Zysman
- Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
- NBCUniversal
- Paul Hastings LLP
- Reed Smith LLP
- Teukolsky Law, APC
- Zimmerman Reed LLP



# Our Supporters

We appreciate our generous and compassionate partners who make it possible for the Alliance to serve youth and families impacted by our child welfare systems. Our deepest gratitude to this dedicated community of donors who contributed \$500 or more between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. This list recognizes gifts, new pledges, and gift installments made towards commitments from prior fiscal years.

## ANGELS

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

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The Eisner Foundation

Hire Opportunity Coalition

Legal Services Trust Fund

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Pritzker Foster Care Initiative

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San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Dave Thomas Foundation for  
Adoption

Tom Werner

Robert J. Woolway

Zellerbach Family Foundation

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Studios, and Disney+

Anonymous

Jessica and Matt Babrick

Ty and Holly Burrell

Partners for Children South L.A.

CBS

Denise and David Chase

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The Walter S. Johnson Foundation

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Los Angeles Homeless Services  
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ICM Community Partners Foundation

In-N-Out Burger Foundation

Inclusive Education and Community  
Partnership, Inc.

Irell & Manella LLP

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