

30
years

Advancing Equity and Justice for Young People

Inside this Report

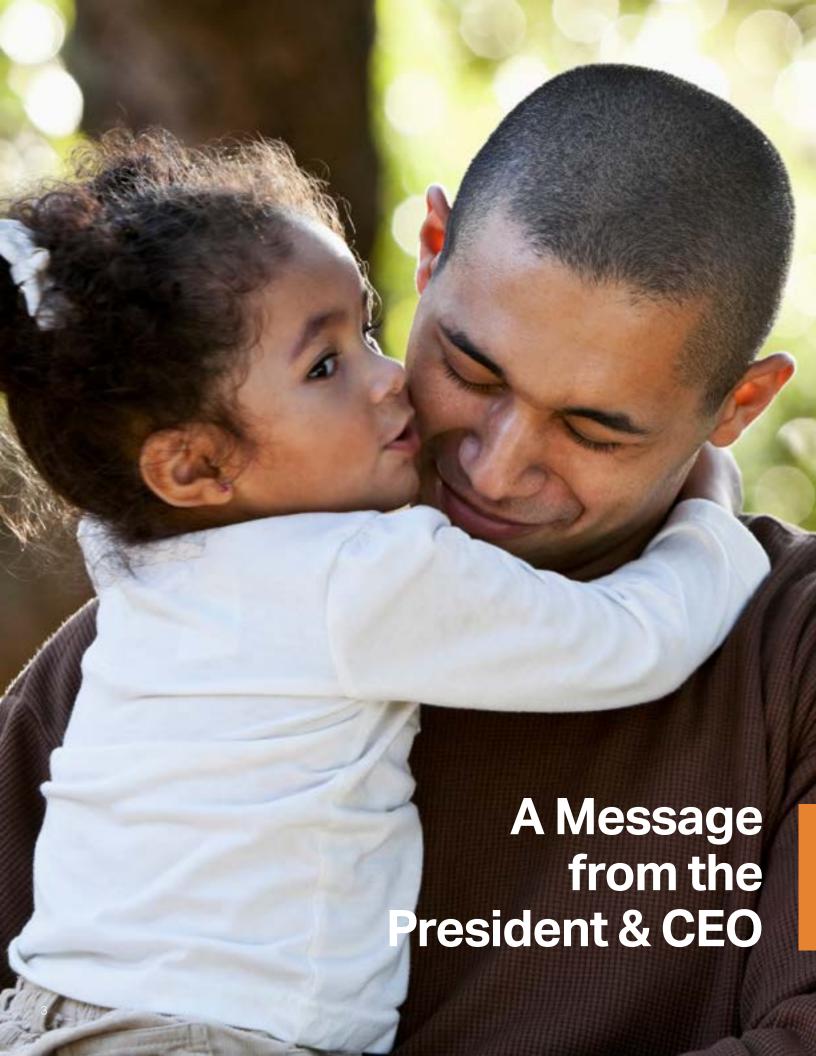
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Mission / Vision

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 young people have safe, stable homes, with the support they need to heal and thrive.



Dear Friends,

For 30 years, the Alliance for Children's Rights has harnessed the power of community, and the profound belief in our capacity to transform the world for young people. As we celebrate this milestone, it is an extraordinary honor to lead such a remarkable team of advocates and to join with you in this work.

In 1992, Pamela Mohr and a small group of inspired advocates saw the pressing need for a wide range of legal services for kids in need. Since that time, the Alliance has grown dramatically, evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of young people and families impacted by our child welfare systems. What began as a vision for serving children and then a focused effort to redress an immense backlog of adoptions out of foster care, became the Alliance we know today. But one thing has not changed — our commitment to bringing stability and healing to the lives of children and young adults.

I am very proud to share with you this year's impact report, which illustrates how this Alliance has responded to the urgent needs of the communities we serve. In response to the past year's painful stresses of continuing crises, loss, and anxiety, we fought for equity and brought hope—securing vital rights for nearly 5,500 clients and advancing meaningful reforms for youth and families throughout our communities. The power and scope of the past year's advocacy shows just how indispensable our work will remain in the years ahead.

With a deep commitment to helping youth, families, and communities heal, we will continue to walk alongside our young clients, to advocate for and with them, and to center our work in their experiences, their needs, and their hopes as we seek justice and drive change together.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support, which has made all of the accomplishments in this report possible. Thirty years is a remarkable legacy of achievement to celebrate. With purposeful momentum, we look to the future to imagine the next 30 years and what we can collectively accomplish. Thank you for your partnership to champion equity, justice, and love for young people, then, now, and going forward.

In solidarity,

Jennifer L. Braun

President & CEO

30 Years of Impact

Since its founding, the Alliance has been committed to justice for young people—

so that they might access the stability, healing, and opportunity that all children and young adults need and deserve. This steadfast commitment to our mission is what has led us to monumental policy victories, the expansion of programs and services, and has impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of young clients.

Ours is a story of advocates, attorneys, social workers, policy makers, educators, caregivers, and volunteers coming together through the years to change the future for young people. The Alliance's history is not just our clients', it's not just our organization's—it's your story as well.

We look at the past three decades of impact, with fervent optimism and fortitude for the future.



1996

The Adoptions Program is established, and the Alliance co-creates "Adoption Saturday" to address a backlog of over 10,000 adoptions from foster care waiting to finalize.

1998

The Healthcare Program is established to ensure children can access medical care. Since its start, the program has served 5,500+ clients.



2000

The Alliance co-creates National Adoption Day, a collective national effort based on the "Adoption Saturday" model, to raise awareness for children waiting to be adopted. To date, more than 80,000 children across the nation have joined their forever families as part of National Adoption Day.

2001

The Alliance begins working with tribal families and children, advocating for American Indian children in foster care. To date, the Alliance has partnered with tribal leaders to advance policy reforms and has served clients from over 22 Indian Nations.



2009

The Healthy Teen Families
Program is created. The Alliance
advocates for support for
pregnant and parenting teens and
helps to create and implement
Expectant and Parenting Youth
conferences, in an effort to reduce
the intergenerational cycle of
foster care.



2010

The Alliance co-sponsors groundbreaking AB 12 legislation to allow youth to stay in extended foster care until age 21.



2010

The Saltz Family Early
Intervention Advocacy Center is
created to serve children ages
0—5 living in out-of-home care
to secure early intervention
and special education services
through the regional centers
and school districts.

2012

The Alliance expands the Education Program to protect general educational rights and disrupt the schoolto-prison pipeline for students in foster care.



1992

The Alliance for Children's Rights is established to provide free legal services to indigent and underserved children in Los Angeles County. Founding Executive Director Pamela Mohr and first President of the Board of Directors Francis M. Wheat announce the opening of the new nonprofit organization, created with the help of Vice President Barbara Reeves and Treasurer Paul Boland and launched with the help of founding Board Members Leslie Gilbert-Lurie and Susan Friedman.

1994

The Alliance establishes a direct referral system with the Children's Court for Los Angeles County.

1994

The Guardianship Program is created in conjunction with Los Angeles Pediatric AIDS Legal Services, a collaboration between the Alliance and The Los Angeles Pediatric Aids Network to deliver critical legal services to children impacted by HIV or AIDS.



2001

The Education Program is created to advocate for the educational rights of young people in foster care. Since its start, the Education Program has served more than 14,500 students.



2002

The Alliance launches a
Public Benefits Program to
address routine denials of
foster care funding. To date,
our team has recovered
more than \$34M in benefits
for caregivers and families
who were wrongfully denied.



2005

The Transition Age Youth Program is launched to provide young adults with legal advocacy, support, and mentorship as they transition out of the foster care or juvenile justice systems into independence. To date, our program has supported more than 24,000 teens.

2007

The Alliance successfully co-sponsors AB 1331 to ensure youth in foster care with disabilities receive SSI benefits before they age out of the system.



2014

Championing equity in funding to support relatives, the Alliance successfully leads efforts to pass SB 855, creating Approved Relative Caregiver funding, followed four years later by AB 110, establishing the Emergency Caregiver Funding Program.



The Alliance spearheads the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LA OYC), a multi-sector collaborative driving systems change with and for youth in foster care.



2018

Caregiver Day at the Capitol is created, uniting hundreds of caregivers, advocates, and community-based partners from across the state in Sacramento each year to educate policymakers to support young people and families in foster care and in "hidden foster care."

2021

Successful passage of Alliance co-sponsored SB 354 which removes common barriers that prevent many relative caregivers, who are predominantly Black and Brown, from being approved for children's placements.

Our Impact

This year, the Alliance advocated for nearly

5,500

children and young adults impacted by foster care.

We provided trainings for

7,600+

community partners
to help them better serve
young people and families
in the child welfare system.

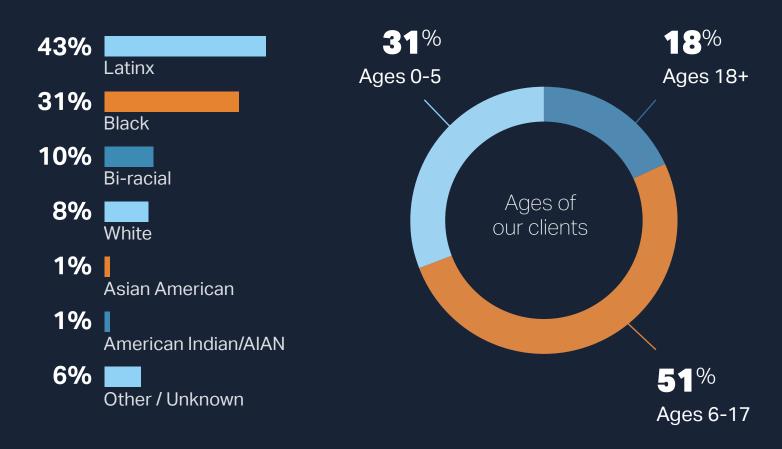


Who We Serve

Los Angeles County has the largest population of young people in foster care in the country,

with 30,000+ children and young adults in its system. Each of the young clients we serve has their own story, but they all are healing from significant trauma and hardship.

These youth are among our county's most resilient and diverse populations.



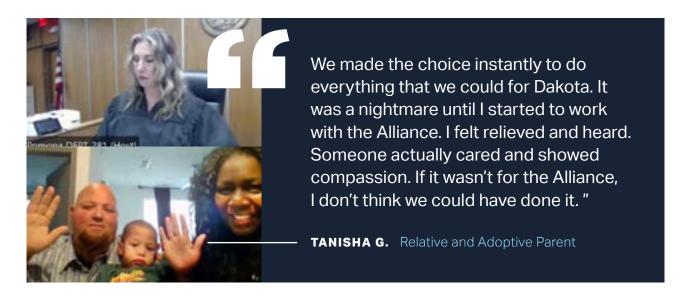




Adoptions from Foster Care

Through all of the formidable changes brought on by the pandemic and court closures, the Alliance has remained constant in our advocacy on behalf of young people and persisted in helping children and youth unite with their permanent families.

This year, the Alliance finalized more than **560 adoptions** from foster care through remote and in-person hearings with our pro bono partners.





Legal Guardianship

This year, the Alliance helped more than 300 caregivers establish legal guardianship, so that they can address medical consent, educational rights and services, access critical benefits, and protect the young people in their care.

Their biological mother was my friend and I decided to do what was right for these kids so they can be in a safe environment. Kameron had to have emergency surgery, and I couldn't legally consent. So, I called the Alliance to get emergency guardianship. The Alliance has also helped me access different resources to get through all this. He is doing so well today. I hope he continues to heal and thrive, and even have a good relationship with his mother one day."

— TAYLOR G. Legal Guardian and Caregiver

Benefits

By securing vital public funding for caregivers, the Alliance is able to support stability for our young clients.

Our team helped more than **700 clients** this year recover over **\$500,000** in public benefits so that they can access critical services—including medical and developmental therapies.

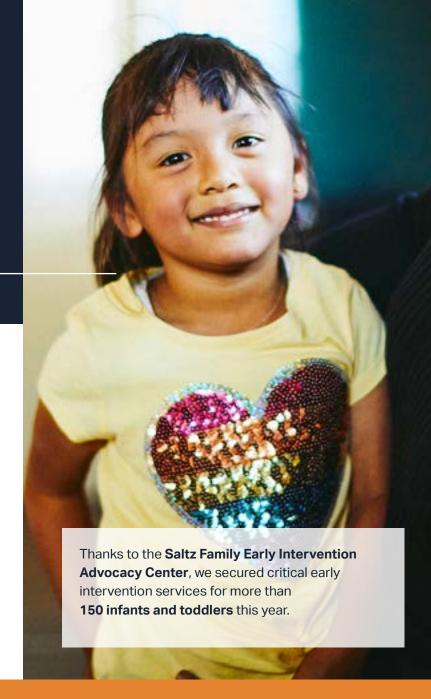


"We tried to get help but were denied, even after she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and autism. The Alliance stepped in and got physical and speech therapies started and helped me advocate for her educational rights. She can now walk. She's so independent and nothing stops her.

SAYDI K. Relative Caregiver and Parent

Education

To combat the poor outcomes that instability often creates for students in foster care, this year, our attorneys advocated for the educational rights of more than **700 students**, securing vital early intervention, therapies, and educational services.





these were my grandkids. There was no support. The Alliance has been a godsend. They took my case when DCFS denied Gabriel's reassessment for a documented disability he has had since he was in elementary school and he finally got the benefits and support he was entitled to."

"It takes a village to raise your children.
I don't think a mom and dad without
support can raise three autistic children
on their own. The Alliance was on top of
it. They guided me, because I didn't
know all the resources that are out there.

MARTHA S. Caregiver





Transition Age Youth

For youth who are transitioning out of foster care, our advocates help address the barriers that keep them from self-sufficiency—connecting them to housing, healthcare, education, employment, and other essential supports. This year, our team served 1,500+ transition age youth through direct legal advocacy and social services to empower them as they transition into adulthood.

"The OYC is propelling us and putting us in a position to advocate. The systems have failed us, and resources that should be provided we rarely receive. As a foster youth, we already have so many hindrances and adversities that we need to overcome in our lives constantly."



Healthcare

Far too often, children and young adults in foster care encounter obstacles in obtaining healthcare coverage and vital mental and medical services.

This year, our team advocated for over **250** young clients, eliminating barriers to mental and medical services.



I faced a lot of challenges as a teen mom, but put those aside to focus on my goal, which was, and still is, to keep my family together and break the cycle that I came from, to show my children a different life. Barbara and the Alliance have been amazing, supporting me with resources and legal help."

JENNIFER H. Parenting Client

Expectant and Parenting Youth

This year, our **Healthy Teen Families** program supported more than **200 young parents**, providing access to prenatal care, parenting and wellness education, childcare, baby essentials, employment, housing, and healthcare—aiding them with the resources they need to break the inter-generational cycle of children being removed from young parents in foster care.



Special thanks to **Alliance** of Moms, a community raising awareness and funds to support vital programs that help build brighter futures for young moms and their families.



Married for more than 40 years, Irasema and Felipe Villaseñor raised their three children in the home where they still reside—and now lovingly raise their six grandchildren.

"I have a 38-year-old, and I have a five-year-old," Irasema says with a laugh.

In the summer of 2016, she received the call that would transform their lives and would later be followed by others like it. Their oldest grandaughter, Mia, had been removed from her mother and would come to live with them. Just a year later, another call. Four of Mia's siblings—Cindy, Kaylee, Johnny, and King—came to join her. And by fall of 2017, their youngest grandchild, Future, was born. The couple rapidly found themselves caring for six children with special needs, all under the age of 10.

But it was never a difficult decision to make.

"They wanted to give them to different people," she explains. "So, we fought for them. Those are my grandkids! They belong with us, with their family."

But much like the thousands of other caregivers in the state who step up for the relative children in their lives, the Villaseñors found little to no support or resources from the system. Despite already caring for the children, the couple were not approved through the Resource Family Approval Program, which would provide urgently needed funding. For nearly a year, critical support was delayed without cause, leaving the family to persist on a single income.

"It was a time of stress," she recalls. "We were in and out of court non-stop. Always taking the six kids to the doctors, to therapy. I was so tired to see social workers coming in and out of our house constantly and going to court every month. But I had to do it. I had to fight for them. They're my kids. And I love them."

With support from their adult children and cousins, Irasema and Felipe worked hard to ensure that the children had a safe and stable home and could stay together with their siblings, despite the many challenges that come with raising six young children and the endless hurdles they had to clear to advocate for them.

"We had never been part of this system, and suddenly we had to deal with it nonstop," Irasema expresses as she recalls an emotional visit to an agency office to request food stamps at the suggestion of a social worker, only to be humiliated and turned away. When the family connected with the Alliance, our team quickly partnered with pro bono attorneys from Akin Gump

Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP to represent the six children. Thanks to our partnership and fierce advocacy, a favorable decision awarded the grandparents overdue retroactive benefits essential to helping the family provide for the kids.

Relative caregivers like the Villaseñors are true champions. Stories like theirs compel us to continue in our direct and systemic advocacy for family support—so that children like Mia and her siblings have the best opportunity to heal and grow in a nurturing and familiar home and community.

Today, the children are thriving together. Irasema and Felipe can now look to the future.

"I want to help them grow to be good men and women," she says. "I want for them to be something—whatever they want to be—in this life.

Mia says she's going to be a doctor. Cindy, a vet. Kaylee wants to be a singer. And, I tell her, 'You can be a singer—Mama, you can be whatever you want to be in this life. Believe in yourself.' What they've been through? They are so strong. They can do anything."





Advocating for Policy Changes to Support Relative Caregivers

We know that children who are placed with relatives when they can no longer stay with their parents typically do far better, and suffer fewer challenges, than children in nonfamilial foster homes. However, many compassionate and capable relatives who step up to care for the children in their lives face significant obstacles when seeking approval. To address this preventable barrier, the Alliance joined with advocacy partners to co-sponsor SB 354 (Skinner) which removed common obstacles—such as past criminal convictions—that prevent many relative caregivers, who are disproportionately Black and Brown, from being approved for placements.

The successful passage of this legislation gives hope to caregivers unfairly characterized by past criminal convictions like our client Marlon Zepeda, and impacts the lives of countless children.



I felt despair. I felt like the system was making a very big mistake and I felt helpless. I jumped all the hoops and hurdles, and one little thing that happened 30 years ago was holding everything up. But, if you believe in what you're doing, you keep fighting for the one you're protecting and you don't ever give up."



Advancing Equity in Education for Youth in Foster Care

Studies show that, without adequate support, youth in foster care continue to perform poorly in school compared to the general student population. In Fall of 2021, the Alliance partnered with a network of six school districts to consider and problem solve for common barriers to a quality education that students in foster care frequently face. The participating districts showed remarkable improvements, and the Alliance's Golden Bell award-winning published guide shares best practices and implementation for districts to better address and uphold the educational rights of youth in care.

Leading coalitions to successfully advocate to decision makers

for protections for historically marginalized communities impacted by the child welfare system. In Summer 2021, the Alliance launched the Whole Families/Whole Communities initiative focused on addressing the racial inequities in child welfare. The coalition aims to create opportunities for those most affected by the system to drive policy reform and ensure mutual accountability among system stakeholders and partners.

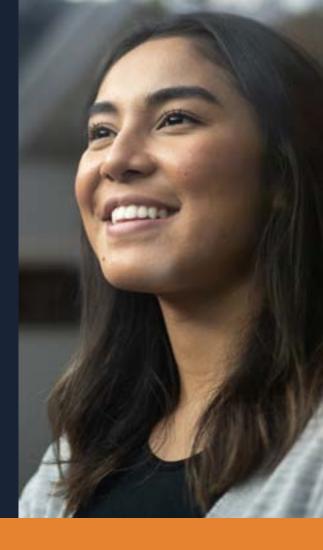
Together, we envision a future where all families have equitable access to services and supports regardless of their socioeconomic background, race, or ethnicity. As a result, no child will be at greater risk of entering or aging out of foster care based on these characteristics.





Creating Work Opportunities for Transition Age Youth

Spearheaded by the Alliance, the **Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LAOYC)** helped implement a countywide Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) waiver
that allows young adults in foster care enrolled in school to
gain priority access to workforce services. The federal waiver
was then approved to be used across the state and will help
improve employment outcomes for many young adults. Last
year, the LAOYC also launched a new pilot program with
the CA Department of Rehabilitation to connect youth with
disabilities to a work experience program.



30th Anniversary Champions for Children

Thank you to our wonderful community of supporters who joined us—both in-person under the stars at our garden party and virtually from home—for a magical celebration of 30 years of impact at the Alliance. Together, we shared inspiring stories of our mission at work, celebrated our honorees, **Richard and Demi Weitz** and **Elizabeth Calvin**, and raised a **record-breaking \$1.7M** to fund our critical work.

We look forward to what we can accomplish together, to create hope, justice, and opportunity for young people over the next 30 years!



This year, we successfully secured more than \$866 million in funding to support children and youth in foster care and their caregivers, which included:

- \$80 million to support caregiver pandemic assistance for resource parents
- \$550 million to support families and schools in resolving Individualized Education
 Program (IEP) disputes to enable students to expeditiously receive education assessments, aids, resources and services and to address learning loss caused by the pandemic
- An augmentation of vouchers for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children to connect caregivers and parenting youth in foster care to child care
- \$200 million to spur the development of housing for current and former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness
- \$1.8 million to provide an expectant parent payment three months prior to the expected birth of a child

The Alliance also effectively advanced an ambitious policy agenda focused on addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system and addressing systemic barriers to housing stability for transition age youth:

- AB 260 (Stone) strengthens the probate court's ability to collaborate with the dependency court, establishes judicial oversight of child welfare investigations, and requires Judicial Council to update information resources for parents and proposed guardians
- AB 366 (Rubio) strengthens the protections that keep siblings together
- AB 592 (Friedman) restructures the host family transitional housing model to create more supportive housing for youth in Extended Foster Care
- SB 354 (Skinner) ensures that courts may order placement with a relative, regardless of the status of any criminal exemption or resource family approval, if the court finds that placement does not pose a risk to the health and safety of the child, waives income requirements when appropriate and supports prospective relative and non-relative extended family member caregivers in accessing necessary supplies, such as cribs, car seats and booster seats

Financials At a Glance

We are dedicated to ensuring your contributions serve our mission and our clients as efficiently as possible. As a recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Alliance for Children's Rights seeks to be transparent in our operations by making our financials 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 12 consecutive years.

Financial Overview

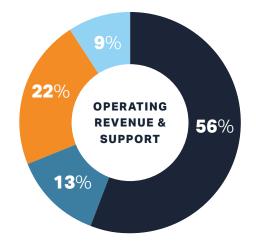
Operating Revenue & Support

56% Foundations

13% Individual and corporate

22% Fundraising events, net

9% Cy pres and other

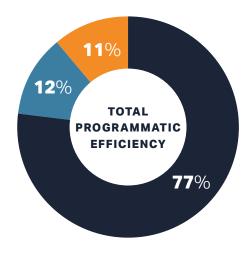


Total Programmatic Efficiency

77% Program services

12% Support services

11% Fundraising







Financial Summary

for FY2022 with FY2021 comparison

		2022	2021
Revenue and	Contributed legal services and in-kind contributions*	\$13,879,844	\$12,007,785
Support	Contributions and grants	\$5,812,384	\$6,696,922
	Fundraising events, net	\$1,616,083	\$1,421,113
	Total Revenue and Support	\$21,308,311	\$20,125,820
Expenses	Program services	\$19,349,389	\$16,980,880
	Support services	\$872,932	\$801,247
	Fundraising	\$796,428	\$692,121
	Total Expenses	\$21,018,749	\$18,474,248
	Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$289,562	\$1,651,572
	Forgiveness on PPP loan advance	\$758,400	-
	Net unrealized and realized investment income	\$641,991	\$1,878.786
	Change in Net Assets	\$1,689,953	\$3,530,358
Fundraising Summary	Fundraising expenses as a percentage of total operating expenses**	11%	11%
Assets, Liabilities,	Cash and cash equivalents ***	\$2,777,950	\$2,372,931
and Net Assets Summary	Grants and pledges receivable	\$2,604,466	\$2,903,221
	Investments	\$13,755,176	\$12,612,285
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$190,584	\$178,309
	Furniture / equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	\$241,091	\$247,918
	Total Assets	\$19,569,267	\$18,314,664
	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$742,537	\$419,487
	PPP loan advance	-	\$758,400
	Total liabilities	\$742,537	\$1,177,887
	Without donor restrictions		
	Undesignated	\$3,921,126	\$3,103,951
	Board-designated	\$7,100,000	\$6,500,000
	Board-designated endowment	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
	With donor restrictions	\$3,805,604	\$3,532,826
	Total net assets	\$18,826,730	\$17,136,777
		\$19,569,267	\$18,314,664

^{*} The Alliance recorded more than 28,863 hours of contributed legal services donated by law firms, attorneys, summer associates and paralegals for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022. The estimated fair value of these services was \$13,874,404.

 $^{^{\}star\star}$ 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.

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(1921-2000)

^{*} Former Board Chairs



For 30 years, the Alliance has had an incredible impact on our community,

righting injustices that prevent young people from accessing safety, stability, and opportunity. I am proud to serve as board co-chair of such a dedicated group of social justice and child advocates committed to building a better future for children today, and for generations to come."

— **DENA COOK** Board Co-Chair

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Our gratitude to the many supporters, partners, and volunteers

who join us in our efforts to advance a just and equitable society—one gift, one case, one policy, one child at a time. The Alliance's work is vital, and transformative, for our clients, their families, and our community."

— ALAN J. EPSTEIN Board Co-Chair



Our Pro Bono Partners

The Alliance coordinated more than 28,000 hours of pro bono legal work this year, totaling over \$13.8M in expert legal services for our clients.*

Together with some of our city's best attorneys, the Alliance provided expert legal representation to advance justice for young people. Our gratitude to the partners and firms who are directly impacting the lives of thousands of children, teens, and families.

* Calculated hours reflect the 2021 calendar year, and not the fiscal year.

Accenture

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"Greenberg Glusker is an avid supporter of the Alliance and its incredible work. Our attorneys have assisted numerous families with accessing special education, finalizing adoptions, and securing guardianships and government benefits. This partnership gives our attorneys the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of these children and their families and, for that, our firm is extremely grateful."

- MEGAN NOGLE Counsel, Greenberg Glusker LLP



Cy Pres Partners

GBG LLP Kading Briggs Lawyers for Justice, P.C. Ogletree Deakins Rastegar Law Group

Rubin Law

Funds from cy pres awards help us improve outcomes for children, teens, and families in need of justice. Thank you to the law firms and attorneys who nominated the Alliance for Children's Rights as a cy pres recipient.

Setareh Law Group Keith D. Silverstein & Associates, PC Tostrud Law Group, P.C. U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz LLP

Our Supporters

We appreciate our generous 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, 2021 and March 31, 2022. This list recognizes gifts, new pledges, and gift installments made towards commitments from prior fiscal years.

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