

¹²₁₃REPORT



Defending America's
Abused and Neglected Kids

“WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT FOSTER CARE?”

During Children’s Rights’ 2013 *Fostering the Future* campaign, we posed that question to people who spent their childhoods in state care.



Their voices came through loud and clear, and their answers didn’t surprise us.

They want the same reforms that Children’s Rights fights for every day.

They told us children don’t deserve to be shunted between foster homes, ripped from their brothers and sisters, or moved hundreds of miles from their communities just because they had to enter state care. They said kids need regular visits from caseworkers, quality mental health services, and safe, loving families.

“No child should endure what I had to endure – and there are thousands across the country just like me,” declared one young woman who lived in 20 places, was abused, heavily medicated and went hungry during her years in foster care.

It is unconscionable for any child to be forced to live through such horror and pain. But all across the United States kids are suffering. Children’s Rights is not sitting idly by. We are pursuing comprehensive legal campaigns to turn dangerous child welfare systems into safe havens for kids in need.

During the past year, we intensified our fight for children in **Texas** – many of whom languish in state care as their hopes of living with permanent families dwindle. We continued to advocate for kids in **Rhode Island**, who too often are placed in orphanage-like institutions instead of homes with families. And we banded together with local advocates to file a suit on behalf of a **South Carolina** boy who was sexually assaulted at an institution, then denied the mental health services he desperately needed to heal.

In the midst of these battles, Children’s Rights continued to press on in states where we’ve already secured court-ordered reforms. We have monitored progress and held government officials accountable in **Connecticut, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington, D.C.** and **Wisconsin**.

Recent reports show that a number of these systems are making the very changes called for by our former foster youth. In **Metropolitan Atlanta**, for example, frontline caseworkers made more than 98 percent of required visits with children. In **Connecticut**, officials reduced the number of children sent to out-of-state institutions by almost 90 percent, from 324 in January, 2011 to just 38 in August, 2013. And in **Tennessee**, kids are being moved between foster homes less often – 93 percent had two or fewer placements in the last 12 months.

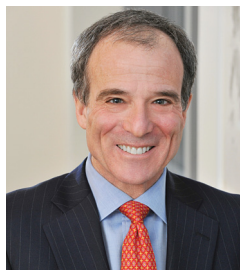
Children’s Rights is improving foster care, but more work remains. More than 640,000 kids spend time in care each year, and your support helps ensure more of them are safe and grow up in loving families.

Recently our sound financial practices earned our organization four stars, the highest rating given by Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. So you can be confident that gifts to Children’s Rights are being used wisely. Together we can continue to build the hopes of foster youth and ensure abused and neglected kids are given the protection and care they deserve.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Robinson Lowry".

Marcia Robinson Lowry
Executive Director and Founder

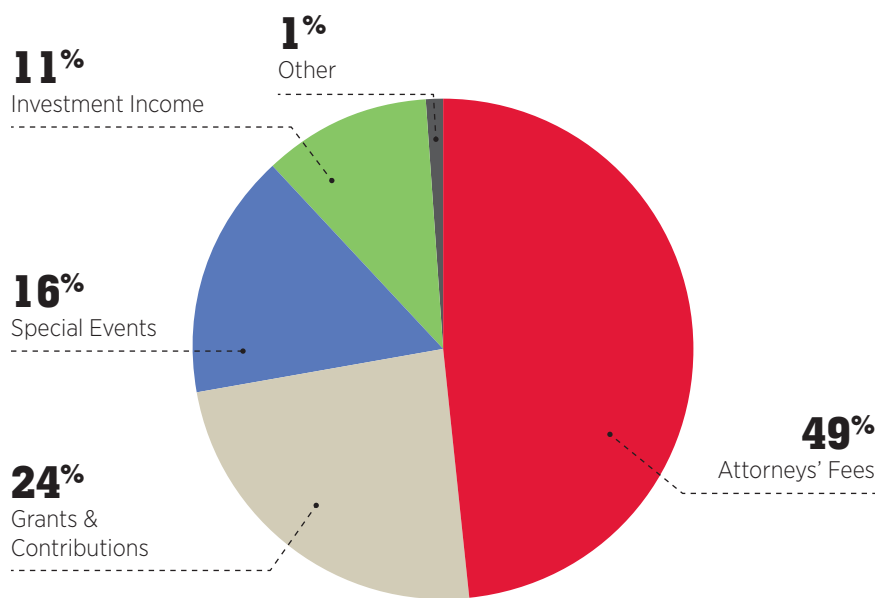


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan C. Myers".

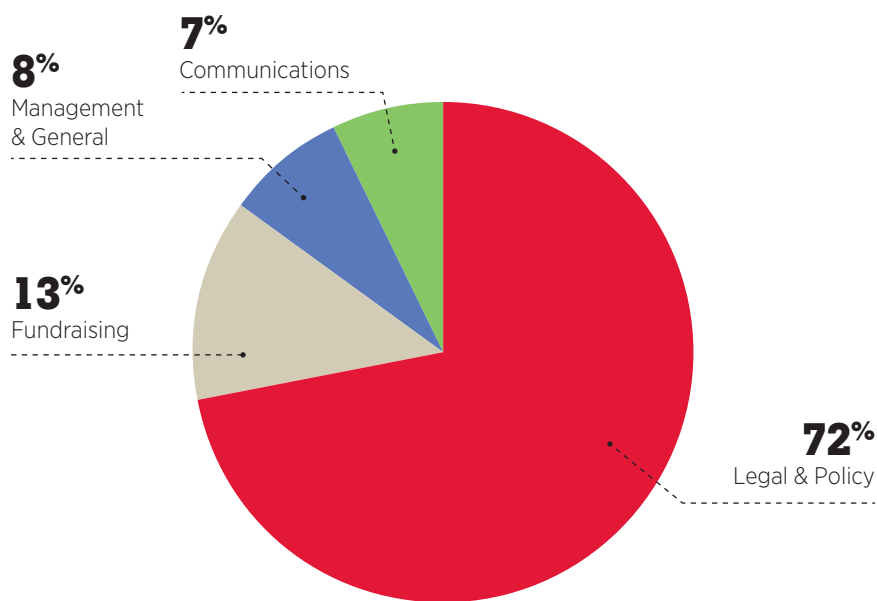
Alan C. Myers
Chair, Board of Directors

2012 FINANCES

INCOME



EXPENSES



2012 FINANCES

Statement of Activities Year ended December 31, 2012

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Attorneys' Fees	1,519,374		1,519,374
Contributions	499,295	229,975	729,270
Special Events	483,712		483,712
Investment Income	329,171		329,171
In-Kind Donations	28,500		28,500
Program Income	12,397		12,397
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	447,197	(447,197)	—
Total Public Support and Revenue:	3,319,646	(217,222)	3,102,424
EXPENSES:			
Legal	5,300,874		5,300,874
Policy	442,851		442,851
Communications	581,827		581,827
Management and General	679,028		679,028
Fundraising	1,015,478		1,015,478
Total Expenses	8,020,058		8,020,058
Change in Net Assets	(4,700,412)	(217,222)	(4,917,634)
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	10,394,402	547,197	10,941,599
Net Assets – End of Year	5,693,990	329,975	6,023,965

Much of Children's Rights' funding is derived from attorneys' fees, which are not guaranteed and may take years to recover. Despite our impressive track record, it is critical that we diversify our funding through grants and contributions to ensure that we continue to improve the lives of thousands of kids.

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Actor Rosie Perez, recipient of the 2013 Children's Rights Champion Award, with the Winner sisters. Deanna and Alyssa Winner joined their forever family thanks to CR's campaign to reform New Jersey foster care.

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