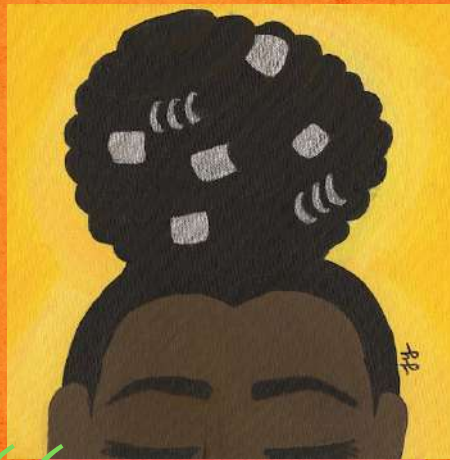




2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



"The whole system took us more seriously, having someone to speak for us."



"I feel like I'm less afraid of failure because there's people there for me."



"I am calmer and my tolerance is higher."



"You gave me that push and stuck around with me even though I gave you attitude."



"Now I am confident in what I do. I learned what I want now."



"You stuck with him until he trusted you and now he is more willing to open up to other people."

LIVES CHANGED

Jessie Roza graduated in June 2019 after 12 different school placements, earning a whopping 16.5 credits between January 2018 and June 2019 with SAC's support and a lot of hard work. This is part of her story. To learn more, go to <https://youtu.be/6DogXxUy4a8>.

My home has always been hectic. I was really close to my mom. I remember dancing to music with her, partying with her and her friends well into the night, and I was only 5 and 6 years old. My mom slept a lot, so I would just curl up next to her. There was a lot of love and a lot of chaos.

When I was in 1st grade, my mom accidentally died of a drug overdose and then I started moving a lot. To my brother's, foster care homes, and on and on.

School had been my safe haven. In fact, at one point, my teachers told me I could possibly graduate high school a year early. But by the time I got to a residential placement called Eagle Village, graduating didn't seem like a realistic goal anymore.

Being in residential was so hard. I didn't go to high school dances or join clubs. I didn't have a lot of friends. I had to grow up quicker. That's when the Student Advocacy Center sent me my inspiration and my hope, Tina. She was my court-appointed education advocate.

Tina would come to Eagle Village and help me with my online classes. She showed me that graduation wasn't far at all. She asked me my goals and continuously reminded me of them.

I then started living with an older boyfriend and his aunt and uncle. I was completely on my own and I had no idea what it would entail. I would miss the bus, and walk home from school. I was trying to work full time, trying to support my boyfriend and I. At that time, I thought work was more important.

All through this, Tina was there. She was always putting a bug in my ear about school. With so much uncertainty about where I was going to live, I decided that online school would be best for me, so Tina found one and got me going. My first class was rough, but my life also changed dramatically.

I decided to break up with my boyfriend and I moved in with my old foster parents. I took a few weeks to get over myself and re-evaluated my goals. Tina started planning more and more days to come and work with me. Tina drove about 4 hours to come to me and help me work on school all day. We normally went to a coffee shop and finished a class. She always set a goal for the day and I accomplished that very thing. I always worked better when I was with Tina. She always pushed me to do the best I can.

There was a hard deadline to finish my classes of May 24, but I lost my housing on May 10. I had nowhere to stay really, so I stayed with a friend and then my brother. Tina came on May 14, paid for a hotel, then helped me get into an apartment (SAC paid for the security deposit). Getting help with housing and food made all the difference so I could finish classes to graduate on time.

For so long, I couldn't imagine being where I am now. I could never have imagined the journey I would take when my mom died. The number of homes. The hurt. Even how I gave up on myself for awhile. But I persisted and Tina persisted with me. I imagined. I dreamed. Now I have graduated and am attending college.



*Special thanks to
photographer Leisa
Thompson for donating a
photo shoot for senior
photos!*

STAFF REFLECTIONS

Friends,

In the past seven years, SAC's staff and students served has tripled. The needs we see have grown in complexity. Change was needed to stay impactful, effective and sustainable. And so we changed.

We hired more people and promoted team members internally to form a leadership team. We added collaborations with like-minded partners to successfully spark changes in state policy. We leaned in to learn more, engaging in careful conversations about living our values, shared power, white fragility, interrupting bias and self-care.

Perhaps the most difficult change was saying good-bye to our longest-serving advocate and resident special education expert, Kathleen Kosobud (who thankfully continues to help with trainings). Kathleen's expertise, depth of knowledge, attention to detail and thoughtfulness set a high bar for all of our advocates. Her support directly helped so many families — but also empowered others to create positive change. What a rich legacy she leaves.

She leaves behind a strong and growing team, passionate about our students and the fundamental right to an education. Thanks to our supporters like you, SAC continues to change lives. Thanks for another powerful year.

Warmly,
Peri Stone-Palmquist, Executive Director

Reflections from Kathleen Kosobud

One of the challenges of retiring from SAC is that it is really hard to let go. Advocacy is stimulating work. The successes can be life-altering, and when advocacy doesn't go well our passion for the work carries us through.

I spent most of my adult life working in education as a teacher, supporter of education reform, policy spokesperson, and advocate for students with disabilities. When I joined SAC, I was working on a doctorate focusing on parent-school relationships. The offer to join SAC was too tantalizing. I set aside my research and accepted my dream job of helping families to work with schools on behalf of their children with disabilities.

I have learned so much on my 7-year journey. I've learned the fundamentals of being an advocate in a variety of situations. I've added to my knowledge. I've learned about the difference between what is written and how it looks in practice. I've learned to have disagreements without being disagreeable. And I've become more aware of the biases and beliefs that I may hold unconsciously and how to address them so they don't hinder the work and relationships.



SAC has been one of the best environments in which I've had the pleasure to work. They are all passionately invested in this work. We pitch in for each other, we have each others' backs, we take the time to share of ourselves.

In retirement, I plan to continue some ties to SAC: volunteering for policy work, and offering training in areas where I am knowledgeable. I'm so grateful for the years I spent at SAC. It was truly a place where I knew I could make a difference for the families, the schools, and especially for the students.

Impact

Program Numbers

Education Advocacy

152

Check & Connect

90

Bridges to School

41

Helpline

533

Cases Served

876 students
704 unduplicated

STUDENTS ATTEND MORE SCHOOL

93% of advocacy cases improve or maintain attendance

STUDENTS IMPROVE DISCIPLINE RECORDS

95% of advocacy cases improve or maintain discipline

STUDENTS PASS CLASSES

92% of advocacy cases improve or maintain passing grades

Client Satisfaction Survey

Do you feel you are making progress on your goal?

Did you feel like your opinion counted during your work with us?

Do you feel more positive about yourself since starting work with SAC?

Education Advocacy and Check & Connect Responses

97% said Yes or Partially

100% said Yes

89% said Yes or Partially

THE TEAM

2018-2019 STAFF

Peri Stone-Palmquist, Executive Director
Danielle Flint, Assistant Director
Anell Eccleston, Programs Manager
Amy Wilhelm, Programs Manager

Dee Blair, Advocate
Kimberly Brown, Family Advocate
Jacorey Brown, Mentor
Al Correa, Mentor
Kristina Cosgrove, Mentor
Julia Gilbert, Accountant
Jordan Jones, Office Coordinator
Tina Jurries, Advocate
Kathleen Kosobud, Advocate
Kat Layton, Mentor
LaKeya Martin, Advocate
Ben Murphy-Smith, Advocate
Jill Perticone, Family Advocate
Jenna Pickman, Advocate
Shakel Raiford, Advocate

2018-2019 BOARD

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Rossi Ray-Taylor
Dwight Wilson

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James Hawkins, Calvin Williams, Ruth Zweifler

VOLUNTEER HOURS + VALUE

INTERN

4,461 HRS

\$110,885

**VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATE**

1,457 HRS

\$36,206

PRO BONO

173 HRS

\$55,376

OTHER

158 HRS

\$3,938

TOTAL

6,249 HRS

\$206,307

SUPPORTER PROFILES



GEOFF LARCUM

Executive Director, Media Relations,
Eastern Michigan University



How and why did you get involved with SAC?

I appreciate the attention SAC gives to each individual student's life as it seeks to help the student flourish, whatever circumstances he or she faces.

Why do you stay involved?

I have great faith in Peri Stone-Palmquist's sense of mission, her commitment and her ability to execute the SAC's goals.

Why does the work at SAC matter?

I appreciate the work of school teachers and administrators, but believe the SAC adds a valuable perspective and level of resources to maximize individual outcomes. Such a focus is very much needed in our area's schools systems, given various budgeting challenges and funding priorities.



How and why did you get involved with SAC?

I value education. As a young person I enjoyed learning and I generally had great experiences in school. When I encountered difficulties or challenges I had parents who could help me navigate these challenges. I realize that all young people are not blessed in this way, so I want to help others access quality education and reach their dreams.

Why do you stay involved?

I enjoy it. The work SAC does is important. I believe that we should invest in our youth and their education or we will pay for it later.

Why does the work at SAC matter?

I believe everyone has a right to quality education. Education and learning have the power to open up a world of possibilities for learners and is one of the few pathways to socio-economic mobility.



KEISHA A.G. BLEVINS, JD

Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor,
Office of the Chancellor
University of Michigan - Dearborn
SAC Board Member

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Funders 2018-2019

482 Forward, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Ann Arbor Jaycees, Ann Arbor Rotary, The Arc of Michigan, Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice (The National Youth Alliance on Boys and Men of Color), Asha-Jyothi, Austin Foundation, Gerald Beckwith Constitutional Liberties Fund, Carls Foundation, Charles Mott Foundation, Children's Trust Fund, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan (DADA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Dignity In Schools, First Unitarian Universalist, Freudenberg Group, Karen Colina Wilson Foundation, Kiwanis, McGregor Foundation, Michigan Medicine, Oakland County Bar Association, Edward F. Redies Foundation, Inc., Ruth Mott Foundation, The Skillman Foundation, Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation, Towsley Foundation, Trinity Health, United Way of Washtenaw County, United Way of Jackson County, Washtenaw Coordinated Funders, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, Washtenaw County Trial Court, Wayne County

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Rising Scholar

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A special thank you to our monthly donors who have committed to regular and ongoing support: Jessica "Decky" Alexander and Bruce Kutinsky, Faye Askew-King & Richard King, Amy Frontier, Carrie and Greg Hammerman, Katie Hoener, Marjorie Kauth-Karjala, Jeralyn Lowe, Francisco Sanchez, Cynthia Maritato Shick, Peri & Matt Stone-Palmquist, Brian Wheeler, Gail Wolkoff, Ruth & Andy Zweifler

Legacy Society

We are thankful for our Legacy Society who include SAC in their Will or Charitable Trust!
Peri and Matt Stone-Palmquist

Special thanks to these other supporters:

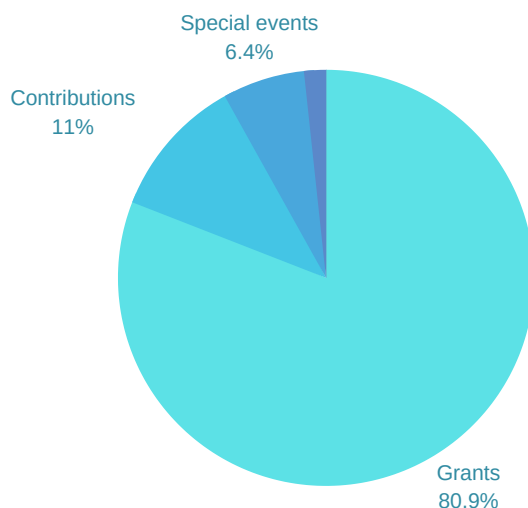
Olivia Maynard and Olaf Karlstrom, Ambassador Ronald & Ms. Eileen Weiser, Carol Scheerbaum, James Monkmeyer, Community Resources, LTD

And many thanks to everyone who supports our work!

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

REVENUE

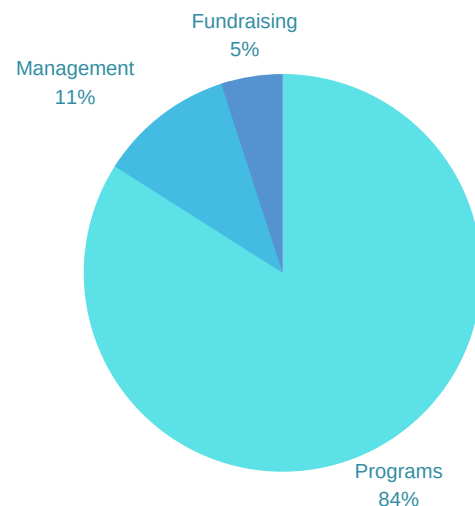
GRANTS	\$718,631
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$97,281
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$56,865
OTHER REVENUE	\$11,310
FEES FOR ADVOCACY	\$3,336
TOTAL	\$887,423



EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	\$821,059
MANAGEMENT	\$107,858
FUNDRAISING	\$50,423
TOTAL	\$979,340

Note: The difference between revenue and expenses is due to the timing of grants.



YEAR IN PHOTOS



SAC Staff



Story Soiree



Youth Action Michigan



Telling Tales Out of School



SAC Board