



ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

A note from the Executive Director

It's been a year of growth! SAC supporters, board, staff and interns should feel proud of all we've done together in the 2013-2014 school year. We have doubled the size of staff, expanded our services to Wayne County and served 50% more students than we did last year.

We helped students like "Adam," who faced an expulsion from a local charter school for fighting with a friend who had been taunting him for weeks. The family was rightfully worried their son would be without an education for a year. Thanks to our advocacy, the student was suspended instead of expelled, allowing him to seek enrollment elsewhere. We successfully secured a due process meeting at a local district that decided to enroll him and later reported how well he was doing. "SAC not only fought for my son's right to an education, they gave my son his sense of worth back!" the mother said.

This report highlights our many accomplishments. But we are particularly excited about the following:

◆ SAC started a Youth Voice Chapter in Ypsilanti and they accomplished so much, including participating in a historic civil rights march. Learn more inside the report!

◆ SAC partnered with committed students from the University of Michigan Law School and School of Social Work to launch the Student Representation Project, which provides training and support so inter-disciplinary teams of graduate students can represent K-12 students at disciplinary hearings.

◆ SAC expanded into Wayne County with funding from the Carls Foundation.

◆ SAC expanded Check and Connect, an evidence-based education mentoring program, by hiring two more mentors focused on out-of-school youth.

◆ SAC approved a new mission, vision, and strategic plan for 2014-2017.

◆ SAC became fiscal sponsor for Youth Power Movement (YPM). YPM is an organization that believes in the power of young people and its current campaign focuses on the School to Prison Pipeline.



**Executive Director
Peri Stone-Palmquist,
LMSW, MPP, CTS**



**We served
559
children and
youths in the
year 2013-2014!**

Education Advocacy & Support

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SAC provides non-legal education advocacy and support for low-income families in Washtenaw, Jackson and Wayne counties. Advocates are available to help students in both general and special education with issues such as school discipline, special education needs, and behavior interventions and support.

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- In the 2013-2014 school year, nearly 90% of students served in Washtenaw county and 80% of students served in Jackson county showed improved levels of engagement in school across domains including attendance, grades, attitude about school and school support.

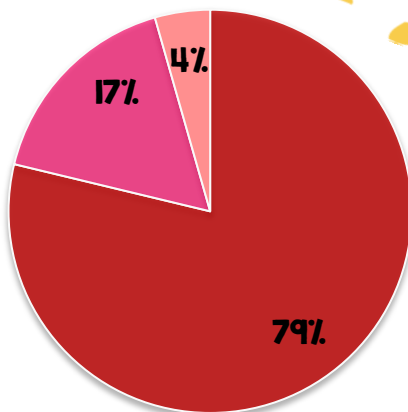
- About 33% of our cases in 2013-2014 involved school discipline, such as expulsions and long-term suspensions. 50% of expulsions were averted. 88% of students expelled or suspended long-term ended up in an educational environment.

- 44% of our cases involved special education advocacy. Special education services were improved in 74% of the cases, including securing Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students.

- SAC worked with 49 children and youth in Washtenaw County foster care and Child Protective Services systems.

- SAC worked with 14 students involved in Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services, which provides specialty services to individuals with mental health needs.

Number of students served



■ Washtenaw County

■ Jackson County

■ Wayne County

* Started in February 2014

Student Representation Project (SRP)

SAC partners with University of Michigan Law and Social Work schools to provide non-legal school discipline advocacy to low-income students facing expulsion or long-term suspension.

- In the 2013-2014 school year, 12 advocates were trained.
- In the 2013-2014 school year, 6 students were served through SRP.

MISSION
The Student Advocacy Center works to assist our most vulnerable students stay in school, realize their rights to a quality public education and experience success.

Technical Assistance

We served 234 students and families by phone, providing advice and referrals.

Reasons why they call (Top 5)

- School Discipline
- Special Education Request (IEP and 504 Plan)
- Transportation to School
- Bullying
- School Enrollment

County	Number served
Washtenaw	127
Wayne	26
Oakland	11
Kalamazoo	8
Macomb	7
Kent	6
Livingston	5
Midland	5
Ingham	3
Berrien	2
Genesee	2
Lake City	2
Monroe	2
Muskegon	2
Sanilac	2
Van Buren	2
Others	22

Others include: Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Delta, Gladwin, Gogebic, Lenawee, Manistee, Menominee, Oceana, Ogemaw, Okemos, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa, Roscommon, St. Clair, Traverse City, Tuscola, and Wexford counties.

Other PROGRAMS

Check and Connect

Check & Connect is an intensive, long-term, evidence-based intervention program for students who are disconnected from school and learning. The Check and Connect advocate / mentor / coach connects with youth weekly, checks school engagement data weekly, designs personalized interventions based on that data, encourages goal-setting and problem-solving, and serves as a bridge between the student, school, parent(s)/ guardian(s) and community.

- 21 students participated in the Check & Connect program.
- Overall attendance rate of students improved from 50% in the 2012-2013 school year to 66% in the 2013-2014 school year.
- 55% of students' overall grade averages improved.
- 77% of students improved overall school engagement.
- 66% of students experienced a decrease in out-of-school suspensions.
- 100% of students showed an increase in credit accrual.

Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS)

FTBS is a solution focused, in-home, short-term intervention for families to improve family functioning, increase family stability, and prevent removal from the home. It is based in Jackson.

- The FTBS program served 141 children and youth in 59 families.
- 97% of families accomplished 75% or more of their goals.
- 98% of families did not require an out-of-home placement during FTBS program participation.

- 100% of families completing FTBS services avoided removal of the child(ren) to foster care within six months of case closure.

Youth Voice Ypsilanti



Youth Voice is a student-led, social justice initiative that builds self and collective power to create positive change in schools and communities with the support of caring adults.

- 4 – 10 students participated in weekly meetings at Ypsilanti High School.
- Youth Voice participated in the two-day civil rights march from Detroit to Lansing. One of the students spoke on the capitol steps and several SAC families spoke to the media about their experience.
- Youth Voice participated in a KidSpeak event, where about 17 youth shared their experiences with 5 key stakeholders, including one legislator now interested in supporting legislation to revise the state discipline code.
- Youth Voice Ypsilanti developed and distributed a survey to students in the alternative school. The survey revealed a lack of knowledge about restorative practices, so an education assembly was held in the spring at YHS.
- Ypsilanti Youth Voice met privately with Sen. Rebekah Warren and followed up with a letter documenting their survey findings, concerns and ideas for change.

BOARD

Faye Askew-King
Claudette Braxton
James Bunton
Joan Chesler
Leslie Desmond
James Hawkins
Katie Hoener
Cynthia Maritato
Twila McKinney
Theresa Schenk
Peri Stone-Palmquist
DiAnna Solomon
Ted Sturdivant
Ruth Zweifler

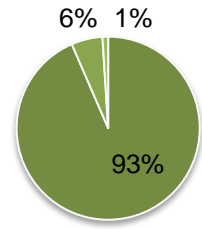
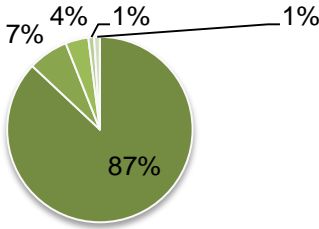
STAFF

Peri Stone-Palmquist
Executive Director
Elizabeth Bowker
Education Advocate
Hakim Crampton
Youth Voice Facilitator
Julia Gilbert
Accountant
Natalia Harris
Family Worker
Cathy Clark-Heins
Education Advocate
Mary Jackson
Supervisor and Family Worker
Danielle Flint
Education Advocate
Kathleen Kosobud
Education Advocate
Annis Lewis
Family Worker
Erin Schaffer
Check and Connect Advocate
Samantha Struppa
Family Worker and Outreach and Administrative Associate
Gordon Wykes
Check and Connect Advocate

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

Based on the principles of fiscal efficiency and responsibility, only **5.5%** of expenditures went towards Management and General costs and **1%** went to Fundraising costs, and **93.5%** directly supported programming costs.



Revenue

Grants and Contracts	\$392,192	87%
Contributions	31,951	7%
Special Events	17,367	4%
Fees for Advocacy Services	4,949	1%
Other Revenue	3,741	1%
Total Revenue	\$450,200	100%

Expenses

Program Services	\$366,435	93.5%
Management and General Costs	22,097	5.5%
Fundraising	3,317	1%
Total Expenses	\$391,489	100%

2014 is SAC's
40 anniversary!



Ruth Zweifler
SAC founder



Senator Rebekah Warren presents a legislative tribute to SAC

Looking Ahead

- We are moving our Washtenaw County office. Stay tuned for details.
- We are expanding the Student Representation Project at U-M so they can serve students in more counties, including Livingston, Lenawee, Monroe, Oakland and southern Macomb.
- We are replicating the Student Representation Project with volunteers in Ingham County.
- We have launched a Youth Voice Chapter in Jackson, Michigan.

Thanks to Our 2013-2014 Funders

We are incredibly grateful to our funders, including Washtenaw Coordinated Funders; United Way of Washtenaw County; Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation; Carls Foundation; Department of Human Services in Washtenaw and Jackson counties; Dignity In Schools Campaign; Gerald Beckwith Constitutional Liberties Fund; Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation; Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor; Schott Foundation for Public Education; and The Workforce Investment Act.

We are thankful for donors like you. The financial support, encouragement and commitment you provided to SAC in the past year has been enormously important in keeping us vibrant. Thank you so much!