



ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013

SAC
served 373
children
and youth.



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

A note from Executive Director Peri Stone-Palmquist, LMSW, MPP, CTS

SAC staff, interns, board and supporters should feel proud at our accomplishments in 2012-2013, proud about who we helped — like the teen who faced expulsion and figured he had no choice but to drop out of school.

“We’d been told our situation was hopeless and our son would ‘automatically’ be expelled,” said the father. “Our situation (and his future) changed when we called the Student Advocacy Center.” The student is on track to graduate like so many other students we worked with this year.

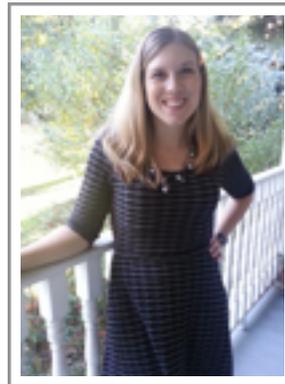
This reports gives you highlights, program by program. And here are a few agency-wide points of pride:

❖ SAC provided free services to 373 students in our various programs.

❖ SAC piloted three new programs — a dropout prevention program (Check and Connect),

education advocacy in Jackson County, and a fee-based advocacy program.

❖ Over the summer, SAC provided intensive credit recovery classes to help 16 students in foster care or those at risk of dropping out gain credits to graduate on time.



❖ SAC reconvened the statewide All Kids in School Coalition, which launched a “Solutions Not Suspensions” campaign, calling for an end to non-mandatory expulsions and school exclusions. For more information about the campaign visit: [https://](https://tinyurl.com/solpledge)

tinyurl.com/solpledge

❖ Close to \$8,000 was raised at our “Telling Tales Out of School” storytelling event. Join us for the next one on April 25, 2014.

❖ SAC developed and launched our new website. Check it out at:

www.studentadvocacycenter.org.

OUR PROGRAMS

BOARD

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Family Worker

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Ruth Salles
Check and Connect Advocate

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.

Education Advocacy & Support

SAC provides non-legal education advocacy and support for low-income families in Washtenaw and Jackson 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.

- In the 2012-2013 school year, nearly 90% of students served showed improved levels of engagement in school across domains including attendance, grades, attitude about school and school support.
- About 33% of our cases in 2012-2013 involved school discipline. 67% of expulsions were averted. 68% of students expelled or suspended long-term ended up in an educational environment.
- 40% of our cases involved special education advocacy. An IEP was secured in 79% of the cases seeking the acquisition of an IEP for a student. Additionally, special education services were improved in 86% of the special education cases—whether that was securing an IEP or 504 plan for the first time or improving existing services.

Education Advocacy for Youth in Foster Care

This program seeks to promote school success and stability by providing an advocate who creates and monitors educational plans, improves educational services, empowers and supports the youth, builds a supportive network in the school and increases the role of school as an anchor.

- SAC worked with 68 children and youth in Washtenaw County foster care or Child Protective Services systems.

- More than 90 percent of students progressed to the next grade level or graduated (including one student who secured a GED).
- Eight students who had dropped out were re-enrolled in school.
- We prevented suspension or expulsion for 14 youth.
- We secured an IEP for 25 students and improved special education services for 32.

Check and Connect

Check & Connect is an intervention program for students who are disconnected from school and learning. The heart of this program, which started in February 2013, is the relationship between the student and a caring, trained individual who will advocate for and challenge each student academically, while partnering with families, schools, and communities to encourage positive communication and problem solving.

- 100% of students remained enrolled in school for the upcoming year.
- Student engagement in school throughout the most recent program year (which was about 4 months) increased by a total 7% for the entire group (n=17), as measured by SAC's student engagement matrix.
- 80% of participants (n=5) showed an average decrease of 37% in out-of-school suspensions.

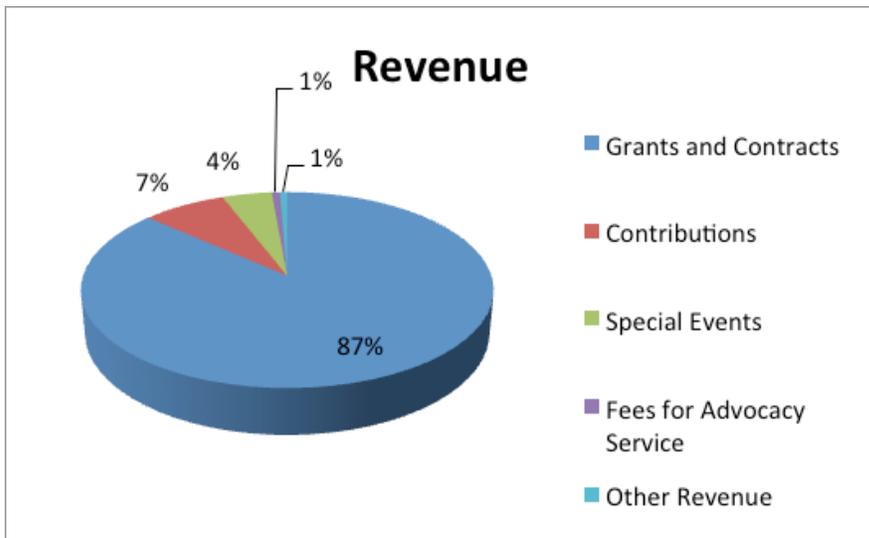
Families Together Building Solutions

Families Together Building Solutions (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 51 families.
- At the 3-month follow-up, 91% of families still had their children in the home.
- 94% of clients accomplished 75% or more of their goals (compared to 92% last year).

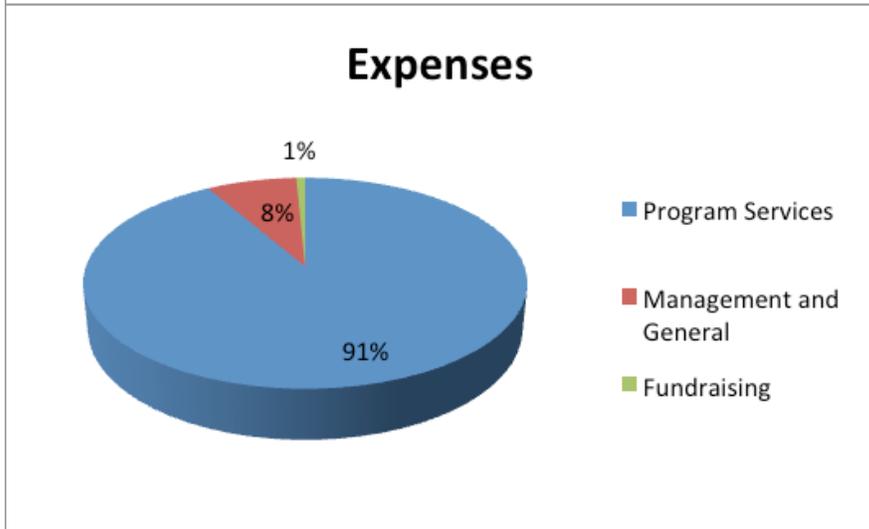
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013



Revenue

Grants and Contracts	\$285,388	87%
Contributions	\$24,933	7%
Special Events	\$14,752	4%
Fees for Advocacy Service	\$2,414	1%
Other Revenue	\$2,174	1%
Total Revenue	\$329,661	100%



Expenses

Program Services	\$257,812	91%
Management and General Costs	\$21,483	8%
Fundraising	\$2,129	1%
Total Expenses	\$281,424	100%

Based on the principles of fiscal efficiency and responsibility, **only 8%** of expenditures went towards Management and General costs and **91%** directly supported programming costs.

Thanks to Our 2012-2013 Funders

We are incredibly grateful to our funders, including Washtenaw Coordinated Funders; United Way of Washtenaw County; Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation; Department of Human Services in Washtenaw and Jackson counties; Gerald Beckwith Constitutional Liberties Fund; Speckhard-Knight

Charitable Foundation; Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor; Jackson Social Welfare Fund of the First Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor; Schott Foundation for Public Education; and Dignity In Schools Moratorium Support Fund.

We would also like to thank our dedicated Board of Directors who had 100% giving in 2012-2013. Finally, we are thankful for donors like you. Private support from individuals is enormously important in keeping Student Advocacy Center vibrant. Thank you so much.