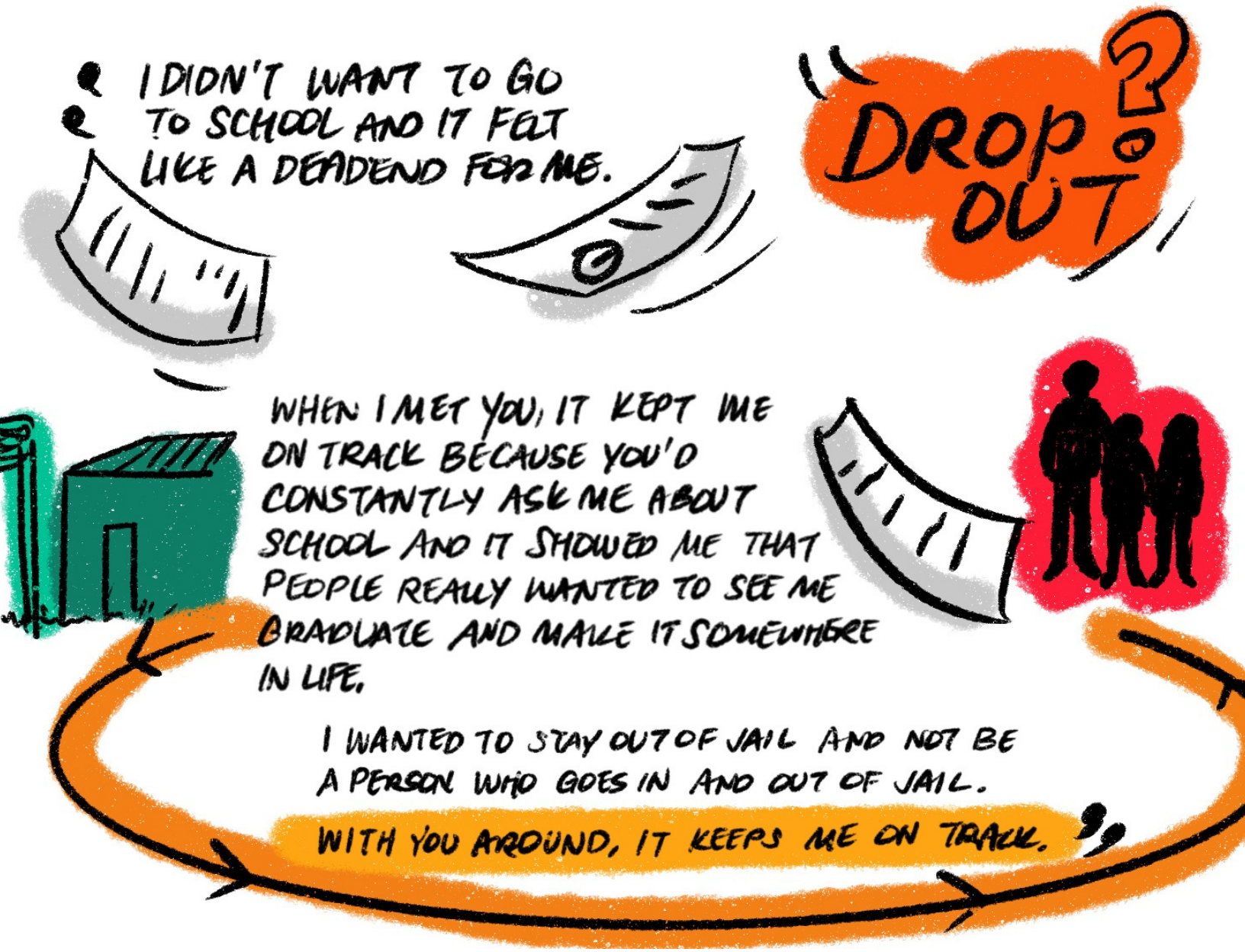
student advocacy center of MICHIGAN

2020-2021 gratitude report

Your Impact

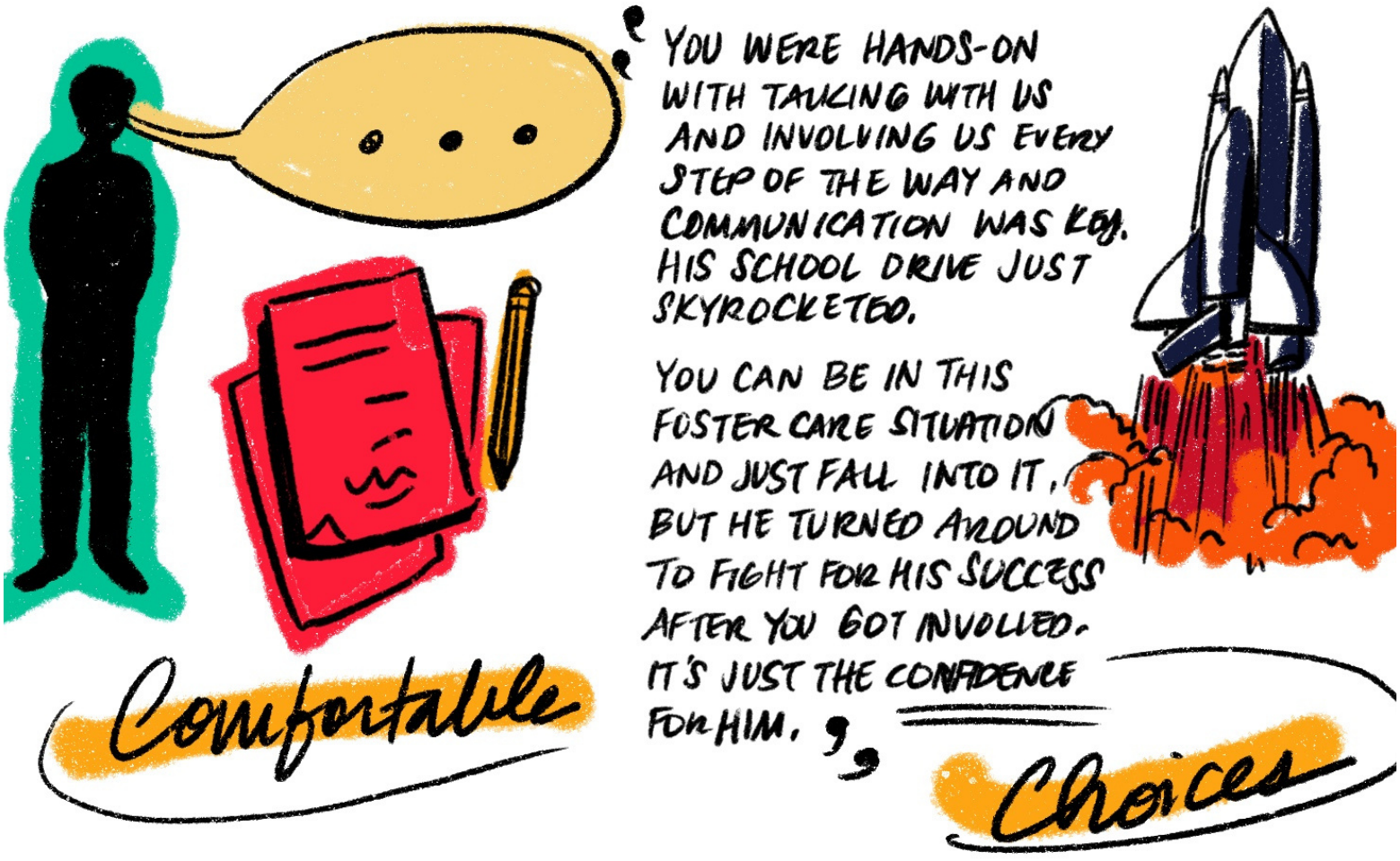
Thanks to the support of donors like you, students got back into school, stayed in school and found success, despite the pandemic. Hear about your impact directly from a student, who shares the most significant change they experienced working with Student Advocacy Center. Last year was tough, but they felt supported and had hope. We couldn't offer that support without you.



Your Impact

We know how important it is to hear directly from our families about the impact Student Advocacy Center has on their lives. On this page, hear from a caregiver about what she observed in the life of this young person experiencing foster care. The support SAC was able to provide — thanks to supporters like you — made all the difference.

Don't we all need that person who believes in us and shows up for us?



You Helped

You helped students graduate! We are grateful for you and the way you believe in our young people. We are grateful for how hard they worked and love celebrating these milestones. Don't you?

Yusuf Cyrus

Yusuf says in high school, it didn't feel like many people actually cared. He struggled to focus.

But his SAC mentor was a really good listener and "really present."

"I had someone in my corner," he says.

Yusuf says his mentor helped him to get his mind where he needed it to be to focus and graduate.

Today, Yusuf is working, dreaming about starting his own clothing line and working towards starting trade school.

Congrats to Yusuf!

Kristyle McGaughy-Johnson

Kristyle says high school was pretty difficult for her, especially at first. She has experienced foster care for several years and was referred to Student Advocacy Center for support her senior year. Her advocate checked in frequently, assisted with scholarship applications and set up meetings at the community college.

Kristyle has graduated and is currently attending college. She is interested in a career in art or environmental science.

She says it's important for students to know there is support for them in school.

Congrats to Kristyle!

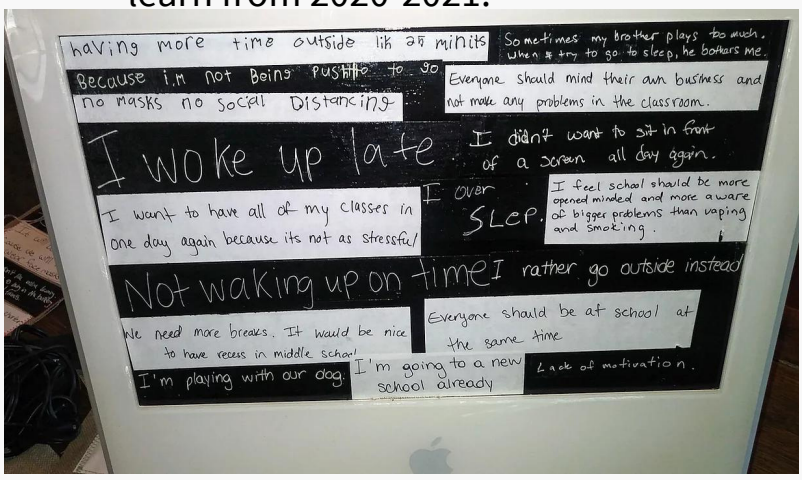
You Showed Up

In the midst of one of the strangest school years, you showed up to bear witness to our students' pandemic experiences. You showed up to to listen to their dreams about what could be. Students felt so isolated and alone, but SAC and our supporters were there. You supported us generously, while we were in family homes, out on the doorstep, delivering computers, food, desks and more.

Our "Empty Screens" social justice art project asked students to reflect on why they missed virtual school and also what they hoped school would be like when they returned. An artist family — Anna Oginsky (Heart Connected), Sarah Richards (Ananda Wellness) and their mom, Kathleen Hodges — turned these answers into art. They re-purposed "found" computers and parts and covered them with the messages of reflection and hope from SAC students.

To explore the theme further, SAC Mentor Myron Michael offered a complex and deep visual poem and FUN Girl Dance Company created a unique performance. All of these pieces can be found in the multi-media exhibit here: https://youtu.be/1Kr-OpbItuY.

While most are back in physical school, we know many children continue to be forced into virtual school for behaviors often related to trauma or their disability. We must continue to show up for them and learn from 2020-2021.



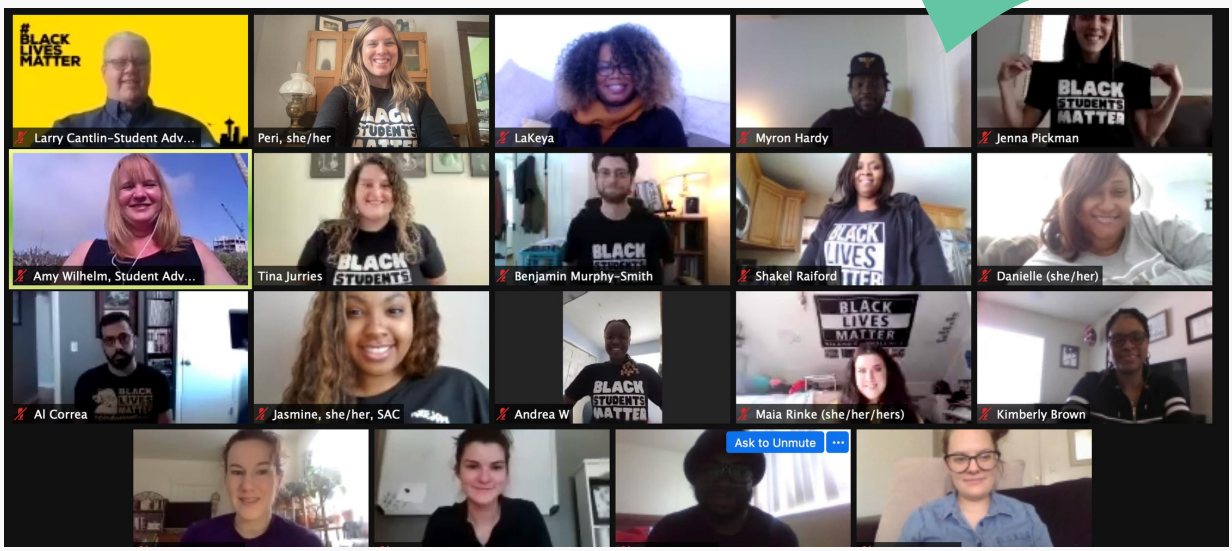
You worked for change

You joined us to work for change and we are so grateful! Lots of community building happened this year:

- We supported one of our students when she organized a Black Students Matter rally at her school.
- We held virtual school board forums in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Lincoln, Jackson and Belleville, and secured commitments to stop harsh discipline.
- We worked on legislation to reduce expulsions.
- And much more!

Yes, that's Rep. Debbie Dingell talking to a SAC family.

The SAC team on Zoom sporting our Black Students / Lives Matter shirts. We had many deep conversations this year about our anti-racism journey.



Your Reach

Helpline	Education Advocacy	Check and Connect
368 students	147 students	102 students
Short-term support	4 months - 1 year generally	Long-term Mentoring - 2 years
State-Wide	Washtenaw, Wayne & Jackson	Ypsilanti, Detroit

Cases Served

620 cases
504 individual students

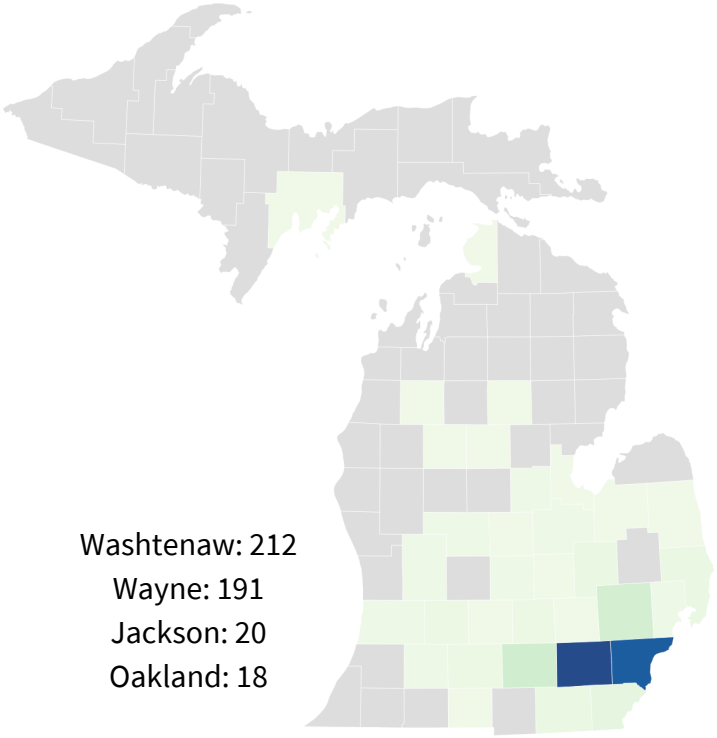
Goals Met

84% of advocacy cases accomplished their goal at the time of closing

Attendance

59% of advocacy cases improved or maintained attendance even during the pandemic

By County

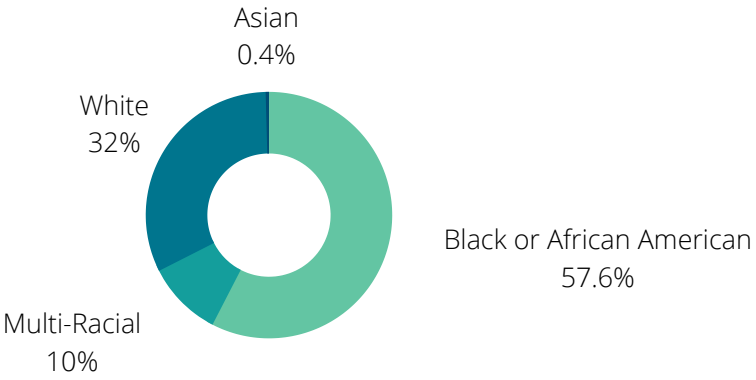


Washtenaw: 212
Wayne: 191
Jackson: 20
Oakland: 18

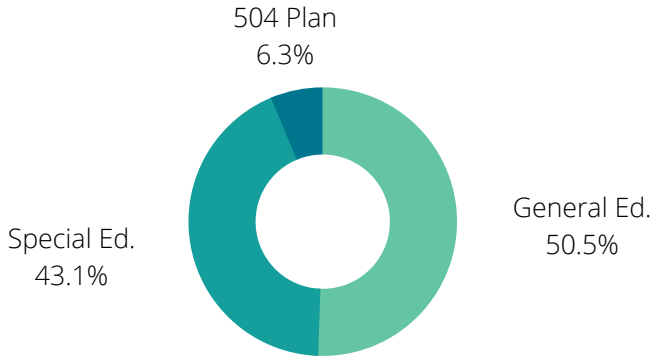
Learn more about the number of students served in each county here.

Your Reach

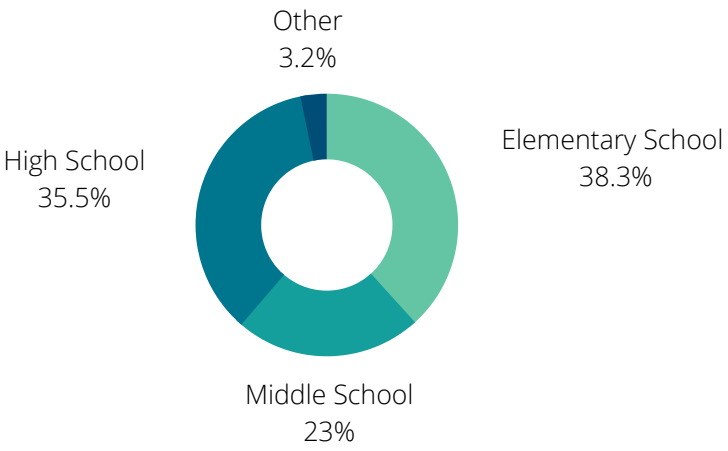
By Race



By Education Status

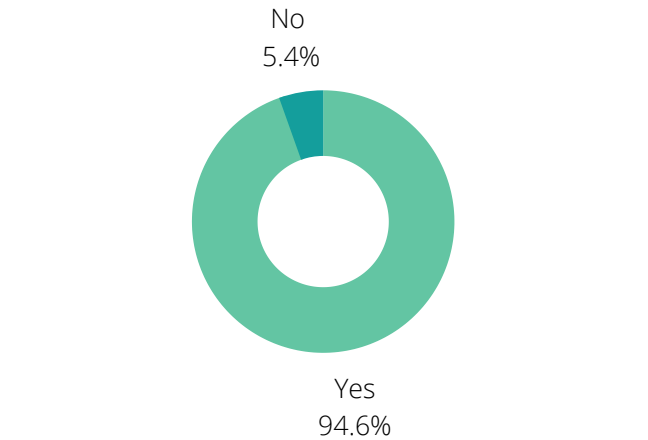


By Grade



By Income

SAC Students who Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch



Court-Involved

24% of SAC students were court-involved youth

Household

58% of SAC students were from female-headed households

The Team

2020-2021 STAFF

Peri Stone-Palmquist |Executive Director
Danielle Flint | Assistant Director
Tina Jurries | Programs Manager
Amy Wilhelm | Programs Manager
Shakel Raiford | Lead Advocate

Kimberly Brown | Advocate
Jacorey Brown | Mentor
Jasmine Buckley | Mentor
Angelina Camilleri | Advocate
Larry Cantlin | Advocate
Dom Cooper | Mentor
Al Correa | Mentor
Julia Gilbert | Accountant
Myron Hardy | Mentor
LaKeya Martin | Advocate
Ben Murphy-Smith | Advocate
Melanie Odom | Fund Development Director
Jenna Pickman | Advocate
Kristen Satchel | Advocate
Brianna Slavens | Administrative Coordinator
Andrea Watts | Mentor

2020-2021 BOARD

Peri Stone-Palmquist | Executive Director	*Student Advocacy Center*
Francisco Sánchez | Board Chair	*Ford Motor Company, WCC, LCC*
Rossi Ray-Taylor | Vice-Chair	*Ray Taylor & Associates*
Kaitlin Drago | Treasurer	*PWC*
Keisha Blevins | Secretary	*U-M-Dearborn*
Faye Askew-King	*EMU*
Brittney Barros	*U of M Graduate Student*
Claudette Braxton	*EMU Retired*
Robyn Cook	*MSU Student*
Alicia Davis	*Lear Corporation*
Max McNally-Hodgson	*U of M Student*
Amy Frontier	*Ann Arbor Public Schools*
Craig Hernandez	*Independent*
Katie Hoener	*Washtenaw CMH*
Maria Montoya	*TCB Community Life*
Michael Steinberg	*U of M Law School*
Domonique Weston	*U of M Wolverine Pathways*
Dwight Wilson	*Washtenaw County Interfaith Roundtable*

Board Member Emeritus
James Hawkins, Calvin Williams and Ruth Zweifler

VOLUNTEER HOURS + VALUE

INTERN	5,100 HRS	$127,500
VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES	140 HRS	$3,500
LEGAL PRO BONO	135 HRS	$27,000

Volunteer Tutors

Students struggled during the pandemic and YOU responded to our calls for help.
22 tutors volunteered more than 130 hours.
One tutor helped a middle school student go from an E to an A in math.
Another helped a senior work over the summer and
they completed all credits needed to graduate.

Our SAC Family

LEAR

Why does your business keep supporting SAC? Why do you think our work matters?

Lear is a global automotive technology leader in Seating and E-Systems with more than 175,000 employees in 38 countries around the world. And we are committed to volunteering and supporting causes in the communities where we live and work. Lear has a long, proud history of supporting causes in a number of areas, with a focus on economic well-being, education, and environmental preservation. We began our relationship with SAC in early 2020, shortly after I joined the SAC board. We believe strongly in educational equity and are honored to support SAC in working in partnership with students, families, and schools toward achieving that goal. We, at Lear, have been deeply impressed by the passionate and committed team at SAC, led by Peri and her leadership staff.

Why do you think our work matters?

Educational equity is a lofty goal, but not one that many are willing to pursue in earnest. SAC is fully committed to providing a space for students who are often forgotten, overlooked, or mislabeled to thrive and grow. The work is hard, especially in times like these. Covid-19 has challenged all of us in ways that were previously unimaginable. We are incredibly impressed by the way SAC has shown an unwavering commitment to this very important work. Our future as a society depends on educating and supporting all our children. Lear is grateful for the opportunity to support SAC in its efforts.

- Alicia J. Davis
Chief Strategy Officer
Lear Corporation
SAC Board Member

Our SAC Family

ZINGERMAN'S

Why does your business keep supporting SAC?

Zingerman's is thrilled to be a supporter of the work at Student Advocacy Center because we understand how crucial ones developing years are and how painfully easy it can be for young people to slip through the cracks in the educational system. SAC does an impeccable job ensuring that all students have a fighting chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances. No one deserves to be without fair opportunities so early in life and it's remarkable how dedicated the SAC team is towards their mission to create better equity and break down barriers so that all students can have the education that they deserve.

DELTA DENTAL

Why is SAC's work important to Delta Dental?

SAC's work is important to Delta Dental because inclusion is one of our core values and SAC strives to ensure that every child has the benefit of a quality classroom learning experience. Expulsion and suspension exclude children from a rich and engaging education. Such approaches are usually not the only or the best solution to school discipline. We support SAC's efforts to keep children in school and develop restorative approaches to challenging behavior.

- Margaret Trimer
VP Strategic Partnerships

Our SAC Family

Funders 2020-2021

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation, The Arc Michigan, Bend The ARC: Jewish Partnership For Justice, Ballmer, Bethel AME, MI-CEMI, Co.Act, Domino's, Edward F. Redies Foundation, Inc., Enterprise Holdings Foundation, First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Galens Medical Society, Henry Ford Health System, Jackson Community Foundation, John George Fund, Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, Inc, Klopfer-Schlesinger Charitable Fund, Generator Z, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Lear Corporation, Louise Tuller Miller Trust, Michigan Medicine, Michigan Education Justice Coalition, the Skillman Foundation, Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation, Tides Foundation, Trinity Health, United Way of Washtenaw County, United Way of Jackson County, Washtenaw Community Mental Health, Washtenaw County Coordinated Funders, Washtenaw County Department of Health & Human Services, Washtenaw County Trial Court, Wayne County.

Telling Tales 2021 Sponsors

Valedictorian

LEAR

Salutatorian

Kris and Dave Denzin

Academic All-Star

Nancy Wheeler

Honor Roll

Anonymous, Bank of Ann Arbor, Barr Engineering Co., Joan Binkow, Brighton Light House Chuck Warpehoski and Nancy Shore | Change Works Consulting, Angelos and Katherine Constantinides, Alicia Davis, Austin Memorial Foundation, Jonathan Dean and Denise Tanguay, Sean Duval and Alina Verdiyan, Jen and Dave Haines, Maggie Gibbons, Level One Bank, Old National Bank, True Community Credit Union, Erick Williams and Margaret Nielsen, Zingerman's, Ruth & Andy Zweifler

Graduate

Jessica "Decky" Alexander and Bruce Kutinsky (Empty Screens Sponsor), Anonymous, African American Cultural and Historical Museum* (Empty Screens Sponsor), Arbor Teas, Dr. Percy Bates, B&B Payee Services, Bredernitz, Wagner & Co., P.C., Walter Brown and Linda Edwards-Brown, Barbara and Doug Cecil, Tonya Kneff-Chang and Rich Chang, Annette and, Kerwin Charles, Marwan Cherri, Dykema Gossett, PLLC, State Representative Donna Lasinski, Ethel Lee, Michigan Virtual, Nacht & Roumel, PC, NewFoundry, Noetic Search, NSF International, Layton and Daicia Price, Francisco J. Sanchez, Maria Sheler-Edwards, Real Estate One, Harvey and Janya Somers, Rossi Ray-Taylor, PhD, Peri & Matt Stone-Palmquist, Peter Tchoryk (Springmatter | Michigan Aerospace), Marianne Udow-Phillips and Bill Phillips, Wessinger Properties

Other Empty Screen Sponsors

Kira Berman, Sen. Jeff Irwin and Kathryn Loomis, Andy LaBarre, MAIZ Mexican Cantina, Michigan Center for Youth Justice, Eli Savit, Rep. Ronnie Peterson

Our SAC Family

Wayne County Story Drive 2020

Lead Donors

DELTA DENTAL®

Patti Aaron, Amber Arellano and Paul Fontaine, Jillian Gross Fortgang and Joel Fortgang, Terri and Richard Gilbert, Annie and Ned Staebler, Schvitz Detroit and Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Dana Thompson, Mark Wallace, Ruth and Andy Zweifler

Happy Harvest Hour 2020 (Jackson)

CP Federal Credit Union
One North Kitchen & Bar (inkind)

Monthly Givers

A special thank you to our monthly donors who have committed to regular and ongoing support:
Faye Askew-King & Richard King, Sofia Dietrich, David & Jennifer Haines, Carrie and Gregg Hammerman, Katie L Hoener, Majorie Kauth-Karjala, Amy Frontier, Jerry Lowe, Anna Monkmeyer, James & Sally Roach, Francisco Sánchez & Beth Rini, Michael Steinberg, Megan Stembridge, Peri Stone-Palmquist, Anna Weaver, Brian Wheeler, Gail Wolkoff, Wendy Reinhardt

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:

Keisha A.G. Blevins, Annette and Kerwin Charles, Erica Christianson, Community Resource Limited, Mary and James Danforth, Praveen Dayalu and Cathy Bettcher, Liz Zweifler and Steve Downes, Kaitlin Drago, DTE Foundation, First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Esther Floyd, Daniel and Jill Francis, Neil and Annmarie Hawkins, Candye Hinton, Joyce Hunter, Lidia and Aaron Kraft, Laborers Local 499, Gail Lanphear, Gary & Lori LeVar, Martin Family Foundation, Olivia Maynard, Jim and Heather Monkmeyer, Cynthia Maritato Shick, John O'Shea, The Oginsky Family, Paul Pratt and Denise Chrysler, Heidi and David Ruud, Richard and Carol Sheridan, Harvey Somers, Helen Starman, Peri and Matt Stone-Palmquist, Dr. Richard Tolman and Naomi Woloshin, Margaret Trimer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Rebekah Warren, Dwight Wilson, Liz Zweifler & Steve Downes, Rhyan Zweifler, Sean Zweifler.

You Invested

You invested in SAC and we are so grateful. We never take that investment for granted and work carefully to be thoughtful stewards of resources. We strive to provide quality, responsive support to families in crisis, while also taking care of our team.

We are thrilled to share that support for SAC continues to increase, allowing us to deepen our work in the community. But demand also continues to rise, and at times we have to tell a desperate parent or under-resourced school partner that we have no case openings. Your support always matters.

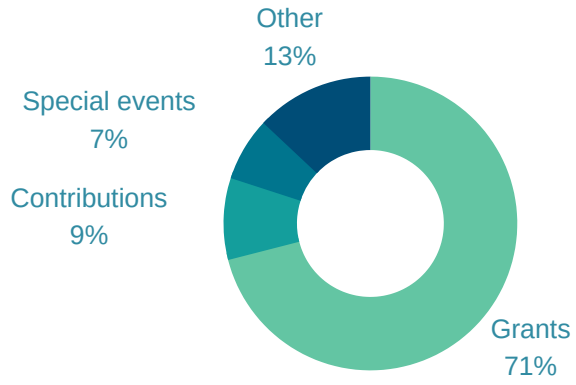
Please let us know if you have questions about anything in this report. If you'd like to contextualize the numbers on this page, check out Charity Navigator. GuideStar provides a deep dive into nonprofit data as well.

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE 100 OUT OF 100

REVENUE

GRANTS	$859,773
CONTRIBUTIONS	$107,513
SPECIAL EVENTS	$88,741
OTHER REVENUE*	$161,963
TOTAL	**$1,217,990**

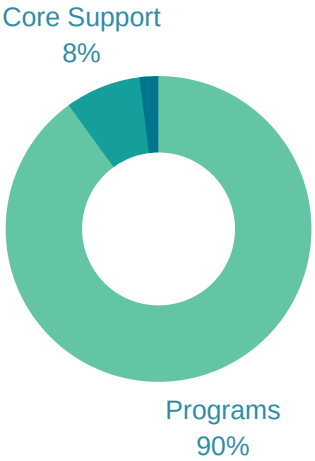
* INCLUDES PPP LOAN



EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	$1,065,687
CORE SUPPORT*	$94,332
FUNDRAISING	$22,949
TOTAL	**$1,182,968**

*includes accounting, staff work with board, insurance and other functions that support all programs



Note: The difference between revenue and expenses is due to the timing of grants (fiscal year than SAC fiscal year) and PPP loan proceeds).

Cover art by the amazing Ypsilanti-based artist Yen Azzaro