



# 2017 Youth Leadership Summit Report

*One United Voice for Change*

**THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY'S** 12th Annual Youth Leadership Summit brought together youth leaders from each of Mockingbird's seven chapters around Washington state to present their proposals for state-wide reform to improve foster care and end youth homelessness. The first day included a Systems Reform Workshop, where chapter members practiced presenting their proposals in front of panels of policy advisors including experts in child welfare and/or youth homelessness, Mockingbird staff and alumni, and other community partners. On day two, youth advocates took center stage to present their proposals to the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care and the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs Advisory Committee, plus an audience of invited community partners and policy makers.

# Youth-Inspired Solutions



**Olympia Chapter**  
Improve social worker support and retention by exploring Children's Corps' methods of recruitment, training, and peer supports for new caseworkers.



**Spokane Chapter**

Increase housing options for young adults in Extended Foster Care by creating a supportive housing program with more case management and independent living services for young adults.



**Yakima Chapter**

Broaden Passport to College Promise Scholarship eligibility to include youth in Tribal Foster Care, Federal Foster Care, and the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC).



**Everett Chapter**

Meaningfully engage youth in the creation and oversight of the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families by including youth from DSHS regions on both the oversight and stakeholder committees.



**Seattle Chapter**

Improve access to information about legal rights for youth in foster care through a mobile app and website.



**Tacoma Chapter**

Develop more long-term housing options for youth ages 16 and 17 to prevent exiting shelters to homelessness or unstable housing.



**Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness Chapter:** Expand affordable housing for young adults exiting Transitional Housing by fully funding the Housing Trust Fund and providing guidance for youth providers in using Master Leasing to service youth.



# 2017 Jim Theofelis Advocate of the Year

**THE JIM THEOFELIS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR** award recognizes Mockingbird Youth Network and Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness participants who demonstrate exemplary leadership and dedication to advocacy and to The Mockingbird Society. The winner of this year's award, Brianna Winslow of the Olympia chapter, will have the opportunity to shadow a legislator in Olympia during the 2018 legislative session. The award is named in honor of our founding Executive Director.

## Impact on Community Leaders



"It's a gift for us to hear from you. Keep the ideas coming! We love working with you."

**Jim Bamberger**  
*Office of Civil Legal Aid*



"It's always remarkable how Mockingbird youth educate policymakers on implementation of our laws."

**State Representative Ruth Kagi**



"The proposals you shared with us are so valuable. Your voice matters to us legislators far more than any adult. Your voice is powerful."

**State Representative Michelle Caldier**

# Special Thanks

**THANK YOU** to the members of the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care and the members of the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs Advisory Committee for attending our 2017 Summit and for supporting our youth!



*Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care*



*Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs Advisory Committee*

Photo credit pages 2,3,4: Jerry Davis Photography

*Our sincerest thanks to our generous Youth Leadership Summit sponsors.*



The Mockingbird Society works to improve foster care and end youth homelessness. It is our vision that all young people will reach adulthood healthy, supported, and with full opportunity to thrive in life.

2100 24th Avenue S, Suite 240, Seattle, WA 98144 • (206) 323-5437 • [mockingbirdsociety.org](http://mockingbirdsociety.org)