

A DECADE OF ADVOCACY || **10** || A LIFETIME OF CHANGE  
2001 • 2011



## THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



# DEAR FRIENDS,

2011 WAS AN INCREDIBLE YEAR FOR THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY. I WAS VERY HUMBLLED, TO CELEBRATE OUR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY SURROUNDED BY SUCH A CARING GROUP OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND A WONDERFUL BOARD AND STAFF.

With inspiration and the direct involvement of those who have been impacted by the system — youth in care, foster parents, and people on the front lines of child welfare — we celebrated another significant year of progress in 2011.

Our Mockingbird Youth Network program continued to flourish; more than 350 youth helped to develop a strong reform agenda while learning new skills, gaining confidence, and becoming effective advocates.

Our Public Policy program led powerful coalitions and achieved tremendous legislative success, moving us another step closer to our legacy goal: ensuring that all youth aging out of care have access to safe housing.

And, finally, the Mockingbird Family Model continued to demonstrate clear benefits: increasing caregiver retention, ensuring safety, and slowing down the number of placements a young person must endure.

Thank you for guiding our work over the last decade and allowing us to remain an independent voice for reform. Your unwavering support of children, youth and families has made all the difference.

With tremendous gratitude,



Jim Theofelis, Executive Director



*Youth and community supporters are given unique opportunities to connect with policymakers at Youth Advocacy Day.*

## RESULTS OF THE MOCKINGBIRD YOUTH NETWORK THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

**47**

youth and community trainings were facilitated throughout the state.

**226**

community members attended a Culture of Foster Care training.

**53**

youth participated in more than 26 speaking events where they either testified, participated on panels, or shared insight about their experience in foster care or with homelessness.

**92%**

of Youth Network participants reported feeling empowered after attending Youth Advocacy Day.

"To all the foster youth still in the system, don't be ashamed to be a foster youth because this is preparing you to be the leader you will one day become." **Darriell Beaumonte, Alumnus of Foster Care**

## OUR INNOVATIVE STATEWIDE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM...

# empowers strong young leaders

The Mockingbird Youth Network engaged 358 youth and alumni of foster care through chapter meetings, trainings, the *Mockingbird Times*, public speaking events, the Foster Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit and Youth Advocacy Day. These activities provided youth with multiple forums to offer youth-inspired solutions to advance child welfare reforms.

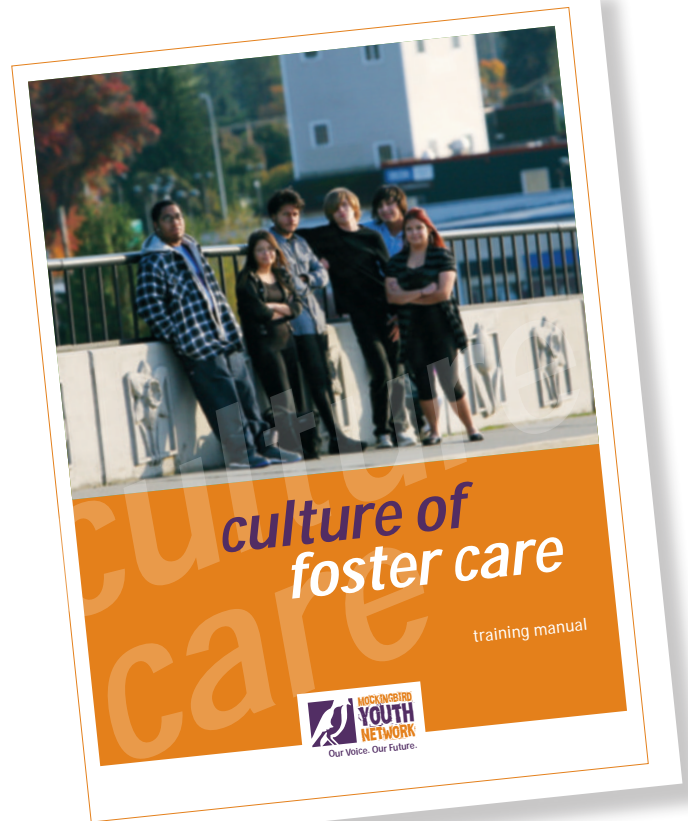


**Our Voice. Our Future.**

The Mockingbird Youth Network hosted a total of 26 youth trainings in six regional chapters. More than 145 youth benefitted from learning skills and knowledge to help them develop as powerful advocates.

The *Mockingbird Times* featured 135 youth-generated articles and was distributed to more than 22,000 subscribers every month.

2011 also was a banner year for our events. Youth Advocacy Day attracted more than 240 participants in Olympia, while the Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit saw 64 youth from across the state participate in a three-day leadership development conference. The last day of the Summit featured Mockingbird youth presenting reform ideas to the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care.



*The Culture of Foster Care training was one of five youth-led workshops offered by The Mockingbird Society in 2011. Youth Network participants help develop trainings from start-to-finish, ensuring that youth perspective is shared throughout each training.*

**90%**

of Leadership Summit participants reported feeling comfortable sharing their story to positively impact the foster care system.

**34**

child welfare agencies and program groups were represented at Youth Advocacy Day.

**19**

community service events were conducted by Mockingbird Youth Network Chapters throughout Washington.

**92%**

of youth/alumni reported an increased sense of connection with the foster youth community as a result of their participation in the 2011 Youth Leadership Summit.

## OUR PUBLIC POLICY EFFORTS BUILD SUPPORT FOR...

# upstream solutions

### LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

2011 was another landmark year in advocating for upstream reforms that will benefit thousands of children, youth and families impacted by the foster care system. In one of the toughest budget environments ever experienced in Washington state, we successfully advocated for the passage of our two most prominent legislative priorities and helped prevent cuts to key services.



#### Extended Foster Care (HB 1128):

To provide safe housing and advance educational attainment, all youth pursuing their high school diploma or GED may remain in care until age 21.



#### Unannounced Visits (HB 1697):

To ensure safety for children and youth in care, a random sample of caregiver homes may receive an unannounced visit from a social worker.



#### IYHP:

To provide safe, independent housing for alumni of care, \$1.8 million was secured for the Independent Youth Housing Program.



#### Street Youth Programs:

To protect outreach services for homeless and runaway youth, \$1.7 million was secured in the final budget for Street Youth Programs.

## WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR BEST PRACTICES INCLUDING...

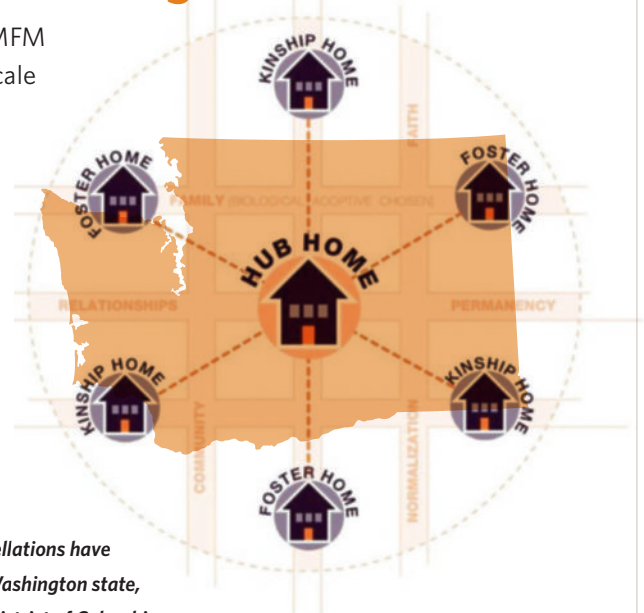
# the Mockingbird Family Model

The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) is an innovative new structure for providing safe and stable foster care. The MFM creates a supportive community of foster families connected to a Hub Home, creating a resource akin to "Grandma's house."

Over the past seven years, 17 MFM constellations have been established in Washington state, Kentucky and the District of Columbia.

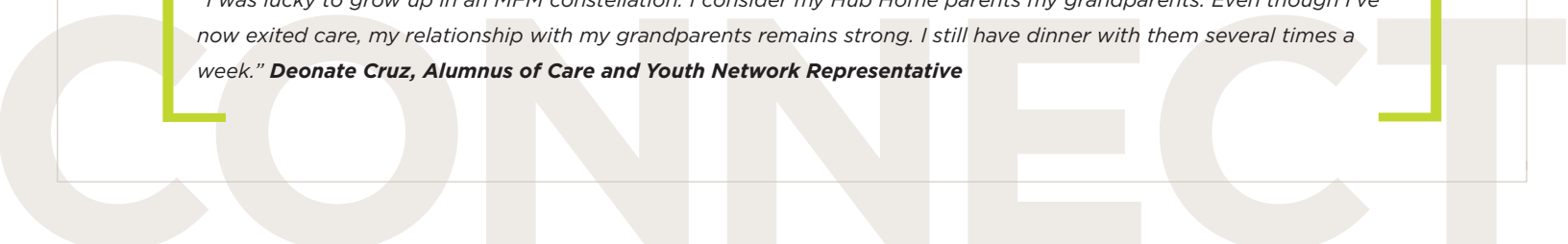
The MFM continues to demonstrate improved outcomes for children, youth and families year after year. We are

continuing to advocate for the MFM to be implemented on a large-scale systems level so that even more children and youth can benefit from the MFM's improved outcomes. We remain steadfast in our commitment to building a world-class foster care system and believe the MFM is a key strategy to help us achieve this goal.



More than 17 constellations have been operating in Washington state, Kentucky, and the District of Columbia.

"I was lucky to grow up in an MFM constellation. I consider my Hub Home parents my grandparents. Even though I've now exited care, my relationship with my grandparents remains strong. I still have dinner with them several times a week." **Deonate Cruz, Alumnus of Care and Youth Network Representative**





# REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE, AND EXPENSES

## 2011 financial statement\*

### The Mockingbird Society 2011 Board of Directors

*President*  
**Larry Crim**  
Windermere Real Estate

*Vice President*  
**Jana Heyd**  
Society of Counsel

*Treasurer*  
**Erin Welch**  
Jacobson Jarvis, LLC

*Secretary*  
**Jillian Gross**  
University of Michigan

**Linda Lillevik**  
Carey and Lillevik, PLLC

**Alan Rothblatt, MD**  
Virginia Mason Medical Center

**Eric Sano**  
Seattle Police Department

### The Mockingbird Society Executive Leadership Team

**Jim Theofelis**  
Executive Director and Founder  
jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

**Ros Ghan**  
Deputy Director  
ros@mockingbirdsociety.org

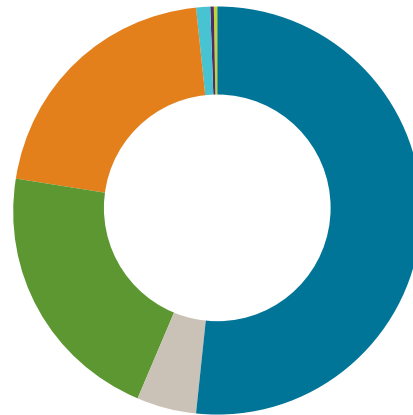
**Brian Lawrence**  
Director of Development  
brian@mockingbirdsociety.org

**Beth Vance**  
Director of Finance  
beth@mockingbirdsociety.org

**Our mission** is to advocate for systems reform based on the personal experiences of children, youth and families impacted by the foster care system.

**Our vision** is to build a world-class foster care system that ensures the care, support and resources necessary for children, youth and families to thrive.

**The Mockingbird Society**  
2100 24th Ave S, Suite 240  
Seattle, WA 98144  
206.323.5437 (KIDS)  
www.mockingbirdsociety.org



### Revenue by Funding Source

Private grant revenue	\$475,945
Contributions	44,641
Special Events	193,954
Program/Service revenue	191,948
Interest income	9,790
In-kind Income	2,917
Other income	729
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$.919,624</b>



### Expenses

Public Policy & Communications	\$452,133
Mockingbird Youth Network	876,186
Mockingbird Family Model	122,668
Management and General	217,764
Fundraising	248,780
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,917,531</b>
Net change in Assets	(997,907)

\* This statement matches The Mockingbird Society's IRS filings using the accrual method of accounting. Time-restricted income that was committed in a prior year (e.g., from multi-year grants) is not reflected. On a cash basis, Net Change in Cash and Equivalents for 2011 was (\$375,561). In 2010, the Board of Directors approved a budget deficit for 2011 as we continued program investment. The organization remains financially strong with more than six months cash on hand to support full operations.

The Mockingbird Society is a leading advocate for foster care reform built on youth-inspired solutions, powerful coalitions and public support for every child's right to a safe home and a bright future.



The Mockingbird Society  
Building a world-class foster care system

6th Annual  
Benefit Luncheon

Thursday, October 11, 2012  
Sheraton Seattle Hotel

Save the Date

Learn about our progress by joining us for our 6th Annual Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Visit [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org) to register online.

## A Special Note of Thanks

The Mockingbird Society relies on private contributions to support our advocacy mission. We are grateful to the thousands of individuals, dozens of corporate partners, and many forward-thinking foundations that provided financial support in 2011.

We also are grateful to the many individuals who increased their level of giving to honor our past and lead us into the future. Because of these individuals and others, The Mockingbird Society achieved its strongest holiday giving campaign to date.

We also attracted nine new foundation donors in 2011. Our foundation partners hold us to high standards for evaluation, reporting, and follow-through on our objectives.

**To all, we are tremendously grateful for your investment in our mission!**

Please help us stop duplicate mailings. If your household receives more than one copy, please contact Amber Carrigan at [amber@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:amber@mockingbirdsociety.org). Thank you.

2100 24th Ave S, Suite 240  
Seattle, WA 98144

The Mockingbird Society  
Building a world-class foster care system

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1050