Executive Director’s Message

Since Lawyers For Children’s founding in 1984, we have grown from a team of 3 into an organization with 65 staff members and close to 6,000 supporters. Together, we have protected the rights and changed the lives of over 30,000 children in foster care in New York City. From our supporters to our staff, every branch of the LFC family plays a key part in bringing our mission to life.

As I look to the future, I anticipate a variety of challenges, including possible restrictions on access to Medicaid and other public benefits that could disproportionately impact undocumented and low-income families and drive an increased number of children into foster care. We have already ramped up our advocacy on behalf of our transgender clients and our clients with immigration issues, who are facing tremendous pressure and anxiety.

Now more than ever, our clients are counting on us. And we are counting on you.

In this newsletter, you can learn more about the ways that your generosity has enabled us to continue to innovate and evolve to meet our clients’ needs. Your continued support of our work means that regardless of the political climate, LFC will be here to offer free legal and social work advocacy to abused and neglected children, children in foster care, and children in high conflict custody cases—ensuring that every young person we represent finds the love, safety and true sense of family they need.

Thank you again for standing with us and for being a part of our LFC family.

With gratitude,
Karen J. Freedman, Esq.

LFC Raises $60,000 on Giving Tuesday

On November 29th, LFC participated in Giving Tuesday for the first time. We set the ambitious goal of raising $50,000 on this global day of giving back, but with an outpouring of generosity from our supporters, we surpassed this goal, ultimately raising $60,000!

Special thanks to all of you who made donations, followed us on social media, and shared our posts and emails with friends and family—your efforts made our first Giving Tuesday a success!
Leadership Council Hosts SoulCycle Charity Ride

On May 18th, Lawyers For Children’s Leadership Council hosted a SoulCycle Charity Ride to raise funds and spread the word about LFC’s work. With SoulCycle instructor and LFC supporter Emma Zaks leading the ride, bikes filled up quickly. We had a full house the night of the event, and between bike sales and donations, we raised over $14,000 for children in foster care.

Special thanks to SoulCycle, Emma Zaks, and LFC’s Leadership Council and board for making this ride a success!

Pocket Guides Provide Key Information to LFC Clients

In an effort to ensure that our clients are able to access the information they need when they need it, we are creating a series of pocket guides designed to fit easily inside a wallet or phone case. The first, an apartment checklist, provides information about what to look for when apartment hunting, including mold and pests. In addition, it contains basic information about tenants’ rights.

We are in the process of developing our next three pocket guides, which will focus on immigration, pregnancy and parenting, and school suspensions.

Fuller Circle Offers LFC Clients Yoga Retreat and Mentorship

We are excited to announce our partnership with the new nonprofit Fuller Circle: Yoga + Mentorship! This summer, six of our older clients will participate in a four-session yoga training program, a week-long retreat on Martha’s Vineyard, and a follow-up mentorship program created especially for youth transitioning out of foster care in New York City.

Through yoga practice, meditation, storytelling, and outdoor excursions, Fuller Circle empowers youth transitioning out of foster care and helps them cultivate tools for coping with stress and trauma. We’re so grateful to founder and Executive Director Danielle Walsh for offering LFC’s clients this incredible opportunity.

LFC Ramps up Outreach with Young Leaders Program

At Lawyers For Children, we are always seeking new and innovative ways to provide our clients with the resources and support they need to make the most of their time in foster care and to achieve independence after leaving care.

This fall, we conducted a survey to assess our clients’ informational needs and to determine the best channels for reaching them with educational resources. Based on key insights from this research, we developed the Young Leaders Program, a monthly workshop for clients and former clients ages 18 to 25 that provides them with social support as well as the expert, in-depth information they need to achieve independence.

During the first year of this program, the curriculum will cover topics including trauma support as well as the expert, in-depth information they need to achieve independence.

What’s Next at LFC: Lunches for Clients

Part of showing our clients that they can count on us is ensuring that they never leave our office hungry. In a typical month, we give out almost 600 meal coupons to children who need them, costing LFC $3,750/month and $45,000/year. We have recently launched a campaign to fund lunches for our clients for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Follow us on social media to track our progress and support this cause on our website!
Each summer, LFC offers an intensive internship opportunity to highly qualified law and college students. These students develop an understanding of the child welfare system in New York City and the vital role that our interdisciplinary teams play in effectively advocating for children in foster care. We are proud of the broad range of experiences that our extraordinary interns bring to their work at LFC, and we thank them for sharing their many talents with us and with the children we represent.

**Legal Interns**
- Caroline Davis  
  Georgetown University Law Center
- Candice Ellis  
  Columbia Law School
- Juyeon Han  
  Harvard Law School
- Meredith S. Hoover  
  The University of Michigan Law School
- Sophie Kramer  
  New York University School of Law & Stern School of Business
- Hannah Schoen  
  Yale Law School
- Caroline Voldstad  
  Columbia Law School
- Malik Williams  
  New York University School of Law

**Social Work Interns**
- Vera Benkoil  
  Wesleyan University
- Ariel Cohen  
  Binghamton University
- Nerissa deRoché  
  Medgar Evers College
- Serena S. Doubleday  
  Blumenthal Intern
- Rebecca Jackson  
  Blumenthal Intern
- Kauribel Javier  
  Princeton University
- Suah Kim  
  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Anjali Menon  
  New York University
- Kathleen A. Mitchum  
  University of Virginia
- Lanna S. Sanchez  
  Pomona College

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