

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Number of Foster Children in Our Own Back Yards

San Francisco: 1,656

Alameda County: 2,397

Contra Costa County: 1,498

San Mateo County: 441



Advocacy  **Accountability**  **Action**

Advokids' Telephone Hotline ...walking children all the way home.



With our educational website up and running for 24 months, and our numerous trainings around the state, we have seen a marked increase in telephone hotline calls. Our hotline service is the only legal telephone hotline in

California serving foster children and their advocates. Over 90% of our hotline callers are seeking legal information about ensuring stability and permanency for the child in their care.

Securing Bonds, Securing Lives ... a multidisciplinary training

Advokids is partnering with Toni Heineman, founder of A Home Within, and Dr. David Brodzinsky, developmental psychologist, to teach attorneys, mental health providers, and social workers about the permanency imperative. "Permanency in Foster Care - Legal Mandate and Emotional Necessity" will bring all the professionals together to study the psychology, the neuroscience and the law.

Real Children, Real Futures...

A committed maternal aunt in Texas had 3 small nieces lingering in foster care in California, even though she was willing to provide them with a home. She needed to know how to access the



California juvenile court system and understand the complex issues surrounding placing California foster children out of state. Advokids provided her with the applicable law and empowered her to bring the long-delayed process to the attention of the California judge who was ultimately responsible for the girls and their future.

"Without Advokids' help and support, I'm positive we would not have had a chance to get our nieces. Advokids took us seriously and educated us on the details of the situation."

Hotline caller quotes...

"Advokids gave me the confidence and the help to file papers with the court."

"Advokids was beneficial in helping me keep my foster child in a safe and thriving placement."

"Advokids has been the best resource consistently for me and my foster child. They are responsive, thorough, accurate and very helpful. The best!"

"Advokids has given us hope and direction in communicating vital information to our court that has literally saved children from devastating changes. Without the guidance from Advokids, we honestly feel that our foster children would have become a mere statistic within our system."

Our Casino Night was a tremendous success. We thank all of our supporters and our hard working committee.

***PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 8, 2009***

If you would like to join our Casino Night 2009 committee, please call us!

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Advokids in the Community

***Blog** Advokids provides Learn2Foster Learn2 Adopt, a program created and maintained by the Community Task Force on Homes For Kids, with a monthly column for current and prospective foster and adoptive parents. Advokids' Blog addresses legal issues that arise for foster children under the jurisdiction of the California juvenile courts. www.Learn2Foster.org

***San Francisco Birth to Six**

Initiative Advokids is participating in a collaboration with the San Francisco Human Services Agency, the Youth Law Center and the Stuart and Annie E. Casey Foundations to ensure that child welfare serves young children in a manner and with services appropriate to meet their special developmental needs.

Advokids is a non-profit organization dedicated to defending the rights and meeting the needs of children who are in the California foster care system.