

News From Advokids

September 2009

Advocacy  Accountability  Action

Advokids Telephone Hotline ...one child at a time



A California foster mom was caring for a 10 month old baby girl who was born prematurely, resulting in continued medical special needs. Foster mom was told

that the baby would require a medical procedure and be placed in a new foster home following the procedure. She called Advokids for advice because she felt that a move would be very traumatic for the child who had been with her foster family since she was 2 months old. Advokids taught foster mom how to advocate for the baby to preserve the placement while at the same time assuring the highest level of medical care. The baby remains with her foster family, her potential adoptive family, and continues to thrive.

The Advocacy Mission Stability and Permanency

"The importance of positive early environments and stable relationships for a child's healthy development is incontrovertible. At the same time, a lack of attention to infants in or at risk of foster care placement has long-term implications for those children and our society.

Children who spend their early years in foster care are more likely than other children to leave school, become parents as teenagers, enter the juvenile justice system and become adults who are homeless, incarcerated and addicted to drugs. ***Answering the cry of infants in foster care is an investment in their lives and the future of all children.***"

Ensuring the Healthy Development of Infants in Foster Care: A Guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals, p. 20, Sheryl Dicker, Elysa Gordon, January 2004, New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children.

Advokids Legal Training- Permanency and Accountability

In 2009 Advokids delivered fourteen comprehensive legal seminars to child welfare professionals and caregivers throughout the state. The training message and objective- permanency and accountability. Advokids' trainings provide the legal tools and strategies for promoting stability for our children in California foster care.

" I saw the dependency system through the eyes of the child, getting a better understanding of why permanency is so important to the well being of every child."

Tyler Stanley, Volunteer/Training Coordinator,
Marin County CASA Program

Real Children, Real Futures

Siblings . . . A Critical Connection.

Congratulations to our hotline client who was awarded legal guardianship of her 4 siblings! Shana sends us all her thanks, in an excerpt from her letter she writes...

Advokids understands the importance of family and what it means to have one of your own. My siblings and I express an emotion that goes beyond the word grateful, appreciative, or thankful. It is a word that has yet been put into a language but it is shown everyday through the smiles, laughs, and silly face expressions of my siblings. Now we are assured that through our struggles we have someone to turn to.

Thank you Advokids for standing in the gap so that our family would not fall through and thank you for standing a distance where we could reach you.

A Funding Plea from Our President

Advokids provides its core services--the website, the hotline, and enrichment grants--free to anyone who needs our help. Many of our trainings are free to participants or are provided at or below our cost. These critical services cannot be provided without continued public support. In these tough economic signs, we recognize that it may be difficult for some people to give at the same levels they have in the past. However, every little bit helps.

Please consider making a "stopgap" donation to Advokids today to help us through this critical time. Foster children and their advocates benefit from every dollar we receive. Any help you are able to give us, whether it is \$10, \$25, \$50 or more, can make a huge difference in the life of a foster child. You can donate using the Paypal button, you can call the office and give us your credit card number, or you may mail you gift to us at our office address which is at the bottom of this newsletter. Every donation will be very much appreciated and will enable us to continue to serve California's foster children. Thank you for your support.

Jan Sherwood

Advokids Board President

Advokids in the Community

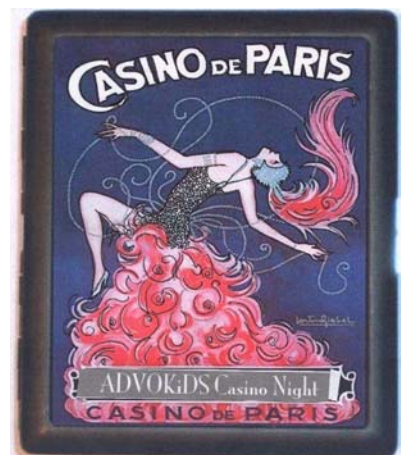
Advokids continues to reach out to the community for help in meeting the individual needs of children in foster care. Over the summer, we received a donation of new football cleats for a foster teen from Jeff Brusati, the owner of T & B Sports in San Rafael, CA. Advokids sent 4 children to summer camp, sent a high school student to her sister's graduation out of state, and sent a lonely teenager struggling in a new foster home to 6 Flags Amusement Park !! Our foster children's needs are great, and generous folks like Mr. Brusati are so often willing to help.

Please Help Advokids with our Holiday Giving Tree



Foster teens are often overlooked at holiday time. Advokids donates a \$50 Mastercard or Visa gift card to every Marin teen in foster care. Can you help? Please send a prepaid gift credit card to the Advokids office or donate \$50 via PayPal!

SAVE THE DATE!! ADVOKIDS 3RD ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT



MARCH 6, 2010

DONATE TO ADVOKIDS


Advokids needs your donations to sustain our services and programs. Our annual fundraiser and sponsorships cover ONLY 25% of our annual expenses. Please give now to Change a Lifetime.

Advokids' Programs

 Telephone Hotline

 Educational Website

 Legal Education & Seminars

 Enrichment Fund ** Provides for the unmet needs of children in foster care.*

http://www.advokids.org/support_advokids.html

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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.

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