

## You Can Make the Difference

The Alliance has a small, extremely dedicated staff and is funded solely by private donations. It would be impossible to achieve all that we do without the help of community volunteers and financial support. There are many ways you can help The Alliance protect the future of L.A.'s most vulnerable children and youth.

### Volunteer Your Time

- Be part of our network of *pro bono* attorneys, paralegals and law firms
- Be a college, law school or social work intern
- Be a mentor to a youth transitioning out of foster care
- Learn to teach transitioning youth at our legal clinics or skill building workshops
- Assist clients directly by answering intake lines in our office
- Help in the office with administrative tasks and events

### Give Generously

- Make a tax-deductible donation of cash or stocks
- Arrange a monthly or multi-year contribution
- Sponsor a table at our Annual Dinner Gala
- Host fundraising events
- Donate a car
- Underwrite one of The Alliance's programs
- Include The Alliance in your estate planning
- Become a Corporate or Foundation Partner
- Become an Alliance Ambassador

**Call today to find out how you can change the life of a child or youth.**

### The Alliance for Children's Rights

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[www.kids-alliance.org](http://www.kids-alliance.org)

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protecting the future of all children



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## Free Legal Services

### Foster Care Adoption

Adoption gives foster children a chance to be a member of a loving family. With the help of an army of dedicated *pro bono* attorneys, The Alliance completes nearly 1/3 of all foster care adoptions in L.A. The Alliance connects with the adoptive families as early as possible to identify any psychological, health, or educational needs of the child to avoid unnecessary delays in the adoption. The Adoption Day program, introduced by The Alliance and its partners in 1997, is the model for National Adoption Day, now celebrated in all 50 states.

### Public Benefits

Children who have been abused or neglected by their parents have a tremendous need for a stable home. Caregivers who step up to provide for these children can become overwhelmed, putting that essential stability at risk. The Alliance obtains appropriate funding and services for these children so that caregivers can access critical supports like physical therapy, counseling, specialized medical equipment, and respite care. Securing these resources can often mean the difference between permanent, secure homes and struggling, unstable ones.

### Health Care

Children in foster care or living in poverty face tremendous challenges and barriers accessing health care. The instability of their home lives and frequent placement changes make accessing consistent, quality medical care nearly impossible. The Alliance assists children facing Medi-CAL eligibility problems, treatment denials, and those unable to find medical or mental health providers. Alliance staff also conduct trainings about the health care needs and rights of impoverished children for medical and social service providers as well as caregivers and group homes.

### Special Education

Nowhere are the injustices and challenges for impoverished and foster children more evident than in their ability to receive an education. It is estimated that nearly one half of foster children have learning disabilities or developmental delays. This program is aimed at leveling the playing field for children who are learning impaired but seldom receive the benefit of an Individual Education Program tailored to meet their special needs. The Alliance takes a comprehensive approach to addressing this reality by providing direct advocacy as well as training to empower caregivers.

### NextSTEP: Transitioning Youth and Mentoring

Every year approximately 1,500 youth “age out” of the foster care system in Los Angeles without adequate support or preparation, resulting in alarming rates of homelessness and incarceration. The Alliance’s NextSTEP Program is a lifeline that helps guide youth through the difficult transition from foster care to independence by educating them about their legal rights and empowering them with skill-building workshops and access to resources. NextSTEP’s Mentoring Program further supports these youth by providing them with caring, consistent adult role models who help them make good decisions and set attainable life goals.

### SSI for Disabled Youth

The population of physically and mentally disabled youth aging out of foster care is one of the most dangerously vulnerable groups in our society. The Alliance works to improve their outcomes and stabilize their lives after foster care by ensuring that eligible disabled youth are connected with SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits. The monthly income and Medi-CAL provided by SSI help disabled youth find and maintain housing, mental health treatment and other critical services to access much-needed stability. The Alliance provides direct advocacy to individual youth and works to improve the delivery of SSI through legislative and policy reform efforts.

### Guardianship

Throughout Los Angeles, more than 300,000 children live with a relative or friend because their parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Without a legal relationship, caregivers who are willing to be there for these kids are limited in their ability to protect and provide for them. The Alliance helps caregivers become legal guardians of the children in their care so that they can take them to the doctor, enroll them in school and obtain financial assistance to better provide for them a secure, stable life.

## Community Training and Education

The Alliance for Children’s Rights provides training and education on current laws and regulations affecting low income children and families throughout the community. The Alliance has trained thousands of attorneys, judges, medical providers, foster families, group homes, parents, social workers, caregivers and youth on issues involving:

- Foster care adoption
- Legal guardianship
- Overview of foster care
- Health care and medical consents
- Sealing juvenile records
- Special education
- Public benefits
- SSI benefits

If you are interested in attending one of our in-office trainings or would like to speak with someone about scheduling trainings for your group, please contact us.

## System-Wide Reform and Advocacy

The Alliance for Children’s Rights provides children with a voice for system-wide change.



Working with a high volume of individual clients enables The Alliance to recognize trends and identify large-scale issues. Through litigation, legislative reform, and support of sound policy, The Alliance promotes practices that are in the best interests of children and challenges those that aren’t.

## Did you know that in Los Angeles...

- More than a quarter of children live in poverty and half a million do not have a medical provider?
- There are more children in foster care than anywhere else in the country?
- Each year 1,500 youth age out of foster care without a support system?

**The Alliance for Children’s Rights** was founded in 1992 and has helped over 70,000 of L.A.’s most vulnerable children and youth. **The Alliance** provides free legal services to impoverished and abused children and youth so that they have stable homes, access to health care and the education they need to thrive. Our efforts are focused in three areas:

- Free legal services
- Community training and education
- System-wide reform and advocacy

**The Alliance** staff of lawyers, social workers, and advocates works together with hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys, paralegals, and other volunteers who donate their time and talent to help disadvantaged children and youth achieve a brighter future.