

"The Mockingbird Society and the Foster Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit encourages you to let your inner leader out and make a change in not only yourself, but the world." **Samantha Evans, 2010 Summit Leadership Essay Winner**

The Mockingbird Youth Network provides youth development, leadership and employment readiness training to youth and alumni of foster care, kinship care and homeless youth. What began in Seattle in 2001, with the leadership of Jim Theofelis and three young people producing *The Mockingbird Times* newspaper, has grown to more than 350 young leaders in six regional chapters, who are dedicated to advocating for themselves, their communities and statewide reform.

In 2010, the Network also held two major annual events including Youth Advocacy Day and The Foster Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit, which presents to the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Foster Care. These events are part of a host of ongoing activities that teach young

people how to speak up for what they believe, and ultimately, make the system better for that "five-year-old child who doesn't even know she will be entering the system."

The Network conducted 36 peer-to-peer youth trainings serving more than 222 youth. Our award-winning newspaper, *The Mockingbird Times*, also has grown to a national distribution of more than 25,000 subscribers.



## THE MOCKINGBIRD YOUTH NETWORK — PREPARING "GENERATION NEXT"

### RESULTS OF NETWORK YOUTH TRAININGS

MORE THAN

**60%**

SAID THEY BETTER UNDERSTOOD THEIR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO FAMILY VISITS, EDUCATION, SAFETY AND WELLBEING, AS WELL AS COURTROOM INTERACTIONS.

**75%**

SAID THEY BETTER UNDERSTOOD HOW TO TALK WITH LEGISLATORS AND HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW.

**50%**

SAID THEY GAINED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO BETTER ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

# LEAD

## PUBLIC POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS — "GOING UPSTREAM"

In 2010, we formalized our **Public Policy & Communications program** to expand our ability to advance critical child welfare issues, advocate for key reforms, increase public awareness for new initiatives, and build partnerships with other child welfare advocates and caregivers. We did so by adding a director of Public Policy & Communications, who will lead a team and work in tandem with The Mockingbird Youth Network to ensure strategic youth involvement in grassroots mobilization and system improvement.

Since 2001, our public policy and engagement work has resulted in long overdue policy change and innovation. By strengthening our internal capacity, we have garnered broader support for key policies in the area of safety in care and safe housing for youth transitioning out of care.



"The Mockingbird Society is an incredibly effective organization that's getting results. Their programs are watched and replicated nationally and inspired me to make change in the Congress including The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act." **Congressman Jim McDermott (7th WA)**

### 2010 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**SB 6444**  
SAFE HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH IN CARE HOPE BEDS AND RESPONSIBLE LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

**HB 2680**  
SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIPS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO KINSHIP FAMILIES

**HB 2735**  
NOTIFICATION OF THE RIGHT TO REQUEST COUNSEL IN DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS

**SB 6561**  
EXPANDING SEALING JUVENILE RECORDS

**SB 6832**  
VESTING YOUTH OR ALUMNI OF FOSTER CARE WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS ON THE TRANSFORMATION DESIGN COMMITTEE A SYSTEM-WIDE REFORM INITIATIVE

**HB 2752**  
8-HOUR NOTIFICATION EXPANDED IN CERTAIN CASES

"We at Ryther are great fans of and believers in the Mockingbird Family Model. We have adopted it for the structure of our Treatment Foster Care program because of the outcomes it produces for children and families." **Lee Grogg, Executive Director/CEO, Ryther Child Center**

The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) — a new way of structuring foster care pioneered at The Mockingbird Society — continues to offer an extended family model of support that improves safety, stability and outcomes for children, youth and families. In 2010, our work focused on advocating for the model at the community, state and federal levels so that it can be adopted more widely. We also worked with child welfare leaders to demonstrate how the "hub home" model improves outcomes and changes lives.

The MFM is an innovative and promising practice that essentially creates "Grandma's house" by extending assistance and peer support to foster families, kinship families, foster-to-adopt families and birth parents. In 2010, the MFM served approximately 200 children, youth and families in Washington state, Kentucky and the District of Columbia. Both public and private providers are also replicating the model.

"We believe so strongly in The Mockingbird Family Model because it works! Children are safer, happier and stronger because of it."

*Gerald Donaldson, Redmond WA*



## THE MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY MODEL — "GRANDMA'S HOUSE"

# PARTNER

# DEAR FRIENDS,

AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY, MY JOB IS TO ENSURE THAT WE REMAIN LASER-FOCUSED ON BUILDING A WORLD-CLASS FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. WE WILL KNOW WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL WHEN CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN THE SYSTEM HAVE WHAT THEY NEED, NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE BUT TO THRIVE.

The 2010 annual report demonstrates that we have made significant strides toward empowering young people and improving the system. We have built powerful coalitions with other advocacy and child welfare organizations; we generated public support for every child's right to a safe and secure home; and we developed leadership and employment readiness skills for hundreds of young people impacted by the foster care system.

The Mockingbird Youth Network, working in concert with our newly established Public Policy & Communications program, successfully advocated for safe housing for foster youth and alumni of care, kinship care and homeless youth. Our work also resulted in policies that strengthen sibling relationships and kinship care. The Mockingbird Family Model — a new way of structuring foster care — continued to demonstrate that an extended family model of support improves safety, stability and outcomes.

These programs — described in the 2010 report — truly are a testament to the power of strong philanthropic and community support, borne of a shared vision that these are OUR children, and that we must renew our resolve to build promising futures for young people who reflect our brightest hopes.

With tremendous gratitude,



Jim Theofelis, M.C.  
Executive Director



**The Mockingbird Society**

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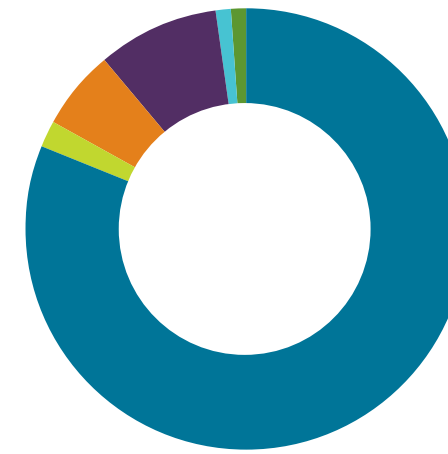
Eric Sano

Seattle Police Department



www.mockingbirdsociety.org

## 2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



- Private grants 82%
- Program/Service 9%
- Special events 6%
- Contributions 2%
- In-kind income 1%
- Interest income 1%

**Revenue by Funding Source**

Private grants	\$1,949,000
Contributions	36,939
Special Events	150,237
Program/Service	205,563
Interest Income	24,848
In-kind Income	7,459
Other income/Gain	(11,788)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,362,258</b>



- Mockingbird Youth Network 41%
- Public Policy & Communications 17%
- Mockingbird Family Model 16%
- Fundraising 14%
- Management & General 12%

**Expenses**

Public Policy & Communications	\$329,458
Mockingbird Youth Network	768,643
Mockingbird Family Model	305,203
Management and General	232,838
Fundraising	254,179
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,890,321</b>
Net change in Assets	417,937

Photos: Jerry Davis Photography; Nancy Levine; Laura Tollen

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.



# LEAD PARTNER EDUCATE

