**THE MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™** model of foster care offers an extended family approach to help manage all the challenges of being a foster parent. I have fostered kids with and without MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™, and I know that without the physical and emotional support of the model, we would not have kept fostering. Because of this support, we were able to foster and adopt our daughter, Gaby. She is growing up surrounded by a community of people who know and love her.

**Tristan**

**MY MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY CHANGED MY LIFE.** Before, I was confused, hurt and upset. As a foster youth, it’s hard to trust other people because they don’t understand what you’re going through. If I didn’t have this community, I would feel way more disconnected. Because of Mockingbird Family, I have been able to keep my community, my friends and, most importantly, my family. I wish every foster youth could experience this network of care and support.

**Brianna, Tacoma Chapter Leader**

**AS A LEADER AT THE MOCKINGBIRD Society,** I’ve gained the skills and knowledge necessary to become an advocate. I’ve learned that I can make a lasting impact. At times, my experiences as a young person made me feel small and powerless. Finding the Mockingbird Society was a huge step towards feeling empowered, strong, and heard. At Mockingbird, I’ve found a family who understands and supports me. Now, I feel like I have made more of an impact on my community and on myself than I ever have before. After years of struggling, Mockingbird has transformed me into a young adult prepared to take on the world.

“**Mockingbird has transformed me into a young adult prepared to take on the world.**”
1. “No Crime, No Time” finally became a reality. After three years of advocacy, Mockingbird’s youth leaders succeeded in ending the practice of jailing minors for non-criminal behaviors such as skipping school and running away. A youth advocate expressed that being part of the process “restored his faith in America.” For me, this moment exemplified everything that Mockingbird stands for.

2. Witnessing the growth of MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ at home and abroad. 2019 marked the first annual MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ learning conference, held in the United Kingdom. There, our partners are implementing MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ as the next evolution of their child welfare system. At home, state legislators increased their investment in the model. I’m grateful for the shared commitment from Washington’s policymakers.

3. Furthering our commitment to infuse racial equity throughout everything we do. This vital priority is one of continued learning and evolution. As a young colleague explained, “We are an imperfect organization in an imperfect world.” His insight reminds me that continuous improvement is better than awaiting perfection. In 2019, applying our race-equity lens, we’ve updated our policies for hiring, advocacy priorities, Board and youth development, and external partnerships. I am honored to learn and grow alongside my colleagues in this work.

Public Policy & Advocacy Wins

LEAD PRIORITIES

ENDING THE JAILING OF MINORS FOR NON-CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS: Thanks to SB 5290, jail will be phased out as a punishment for non-criminal behaviors over the next three years. Services will replace jail. State and local communities will strengthen existing and identify additional services needed to ensure that young people and families are connected to support. Services will be trauma-informed and will address root causes to promote safety and well-being.

EXPANDING YOUTH VOICE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Youth voice will be a bigger part of decision-making tables thanks to HB 1561 and HB 1657. Three young people with lived experience will be selected to serve on the oversight boards of the Office of Homeless Youth and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Including the voices of young people is critical to ensuring the child welfare system is serving the young people as it’s intended to.

SUPPORTING PRIORITIES

IMPROVE & EXPAND HOMELESS STUDENT STABILITY (HSSP): HSSP ensures that students experiencing homelessness maintain housing stability to improve academic achievement. SB 5324 clarified that public schools must have staff in each school charged with connecting homeless students to school district resources and support, and expanded technical assistance training.

IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH: Youth who have experienced homelessness or foster care face disproportionately negative educational outcomes. A workgroup comprised of five state agencies and five statewide nonprofit organizations was created to address this critical issue.
**Equity Statement**

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

1. Undoing the effects of anti-blackness and indigenous invisibility in systems of care, with the understanding that these mental models are the foundation of all other systems of oppression
2. Acknowledging the role of racism in outcome disparities for young people who are systems involved
3. Addressing structural racism in our community
4. Centering the voices of those most impacted by disparity

**Race Equity Mission:**
The Mockingbird Society is committed to actively creating racial equity and eliminating the negative impact of intersectionality in our work by embodying the changes we want to see.

**Race Equity Vision:**
The Mockingbird Society will define racially equitable partnerships, practices, and processes. Mockingbird has an internal culture dedicated to addressing racial inequity and intersectionality for ourselves and those we serve.

**2019 FINANCIALS**

*STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES — 2019*

**INCOME**

- Grants & Contributions: $1,584,951
- Fundraising Events (net): $137,386
- Program Service Revenue: $187,766
- Other Income: $38,727
- **Total Income:** $1,948,830

**EXPENSE**

- Programs: $1,748,885
- General & Administrative: $249,956
- Fundraising: $251,820
- **Total Expense:** $2,250,661
- **NET OF INCOME AND EXPENSE:** ($301,831)

*STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION — 12/31/19*

**ASSETS**

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $1,794,344
- Accounts Receivable: $484,308
- Other Current Assets: $24,315
- Fixed Assets: $14,743
- **Total Assets:** $2,317,710

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

- Liabilities: $146,273
- Net Assets Without Donor Restriction: $1,297,497
- Net Assets with Donor Restriction: $873,940
- **Total Liabilities & Net Assets:** $2,317,710

*UNAUDITED AS OF PUBLICATION DATE*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

- Kelly Warner-King, President
- Beth Van Fossan, Vice President
- Kate Reddy, Secretary
- Jennifer Doerr, Treasurer
- Annie Blackledge, Executive Director (non-voting)

**MEMBERS**

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- Annie Blackledge, Executive Director
- Hickory Gateless, Deputy Director
- Paula Carvalho, Director of Youth Programs
- Sept. 2016 - Aug 2019
- Phyllis Sutton, Director of Youth Programs
- Nov. 2019 - Present
- Beth Harvey, Director of Finance and Administration
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