THE OLD SAYING GOES, “it takes a village to raise a child,” but when a child is removed from their community and placed into foster care, too often the results are heartbreaking. But it doesn’t have to be this way. That is why we love being part of the village for the foster kids who are placed with our fantastic partners in this work – the satellite families that make up our constellation. Our monthly meetings, community activities, and impromptu hangouts are each chances for us to be the fun aunt and uncle — a role we relish! Then, when a longer respite is needed, time at our house feels like a treat instead of a disruption. And it’s not only the kids in care who benefit. Every family gets to learn from and lean on each other. There is nothing like being a part of an extended family with a shared vision: to see kids in care reach adulthood with full opportunity to thrive.

Mockingbird Youth Programs

YOUTH PROGRAMS STATS:

330 young people engaged as youth advocates

3,800 audience members educated by youth advocates on issues affecting youth experiencing foster care of homelessness

68 policy maker meetings

“Mockingbird is helping us find our voice. We have a chance to be heard where before we didn’t.”

AS A LEADER AT MOCKINGBIRD and in my community, I’m focused on creating more safe places for youth, increasing access to education, and building a network of peers with shared experiences. I’m passionate about Mockingbird’s work because as a foster youth, I know exactly what it feels like to be placed in care, outside of your home and community. My experience had such an impact on me that I’m dedicating my career to supporting youth in foster care. Working at Mockingbird is helping me achieve that goal. I get to use my skills and my experience to transform the system that most impacted me. By training us to be our own best advocates, Mockingbird is helping us find our voice. We have a chance to be heard where before we didn’t. A chance to advocate for ourselves, speak up for our families and to better our society.

Jolie, Tacoma Chapter Leader

Mockingbird Family Programs

FAMILY PROGRAMS STATS:

94% foster parent retention in MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ (63% WA state average)

MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ has a 4% placement disruption rate compared to state averages of 10–15% across the country

164 families and 363 kids supported in Washington state, and many more globally with MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™

Artwork by a 6-year-old in a Mockingbird Family
Public Policy & Advocacy Wins

LEAD PRIORITIES

STRENGTHEN EXTENDED FOSTER CARE: foster youth can now enroll in the Extended Foster Care (EFC) program until they turn 21 and are able to unenroll and reenroll in the program as many times as they need while establishing their independence.

EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION: SB 6274 ensures foster youth in Washington from: (1) the tribal welfare system, (2) the federal foster care system, and (3) in the state under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, have access to the Passport to College Promise Scholarship program. Additionally, this bill expanded Passport to eligible youth experiencing homelessness and to foster youth who spent time in care after age 13. Lastly, it created a similar scholarship and wrap around support program for youth pursuing apprenticeship opportunities.

SUPPORTING PRIORITIES

IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION: After three years of work, HB 1630 finally passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. This bill allows unaccompanied homeless minors to choose to share their information with the state’s Homeless Management Information System — allowing Washington state to have more accurate data about the scope and prevalence of under-18 homelessness, as well as assess the effectiveness of programs designed to serve this population.

INVEST IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The legislature passed a biennial capital budget with more than $106m for the Housing Trust Fund. These funds are the largest source of state investment in developing and preserving affordable housing, a top issue identified by youth advocates.

MY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018:

1. Beginning in 2017, Mockingbird’s leadership took part in the Leading for Impact program. During the process of looking intentionally at Mockingbird’s work and the communities we serve, we developed the current theory of change, which guides the decisions we make across the agency.

2. Mockingbird partnered with Pearl Jam and more than 170 other businesses, agencies, and individuals to raise nearly $11 Million dollars to fight homelessness in King County.

3. Mockingbird Times released its first ever Equity Edition in November, highlighting the agencies long term commitment to addressing structural racism in our community and our work. Moving forward, there will be an annual edition.

4. Being appointed to the Oversight Board of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) for Washington state. This role provides an opportunity to continue to elevate the voice of lived experience to shape the way in which children, youth, and families find resources to stay in and strengthen their communities.

5. 2018 saw the launch of a new collaborative effort with Best Starts for Kids in King County. Mockingbird’s Network Representatives began development of what will be 5 new curricula covering a range of topics including cultural mindfulness, facilitation, and supporting non-binary youth.
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:
By 2020, The Mockingbird Society has defined racially equitable partnerships, practices, and processes. Mockingbird has an internal culture dedicated to addressing racial inequity and intersectionality for ourselves and those we serve.

We are committed to:
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.

- Acknowledging the role of racism in outcome disparities for young people who are systems involved
- Addressing structural racism in our community
- Centering the voices of those most impacted by disparity

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Equity Statement

In 2017, The Mockingbird Society embarked on an ambitious 3-year strategic plan which includes a priority area for the development of an intentional, agency-wide equity and inclusion plan that focuses on internal operations, program services, and governance. Moving forward, Mockingbird is putting race equity at the forefront of all the work we do.

We have created a Race Equity Committee, comprised of board members, youth and adult staff, to guarantee this priority remains critical to our work.

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**2018 AUDITED FINANCIALS**

*STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES — 2018*

**INCOME**

Grants & Contributions .................................. $1,659,710
Special Events (net) ...................................... $135,125
Program Service Revenue ................................. $431,554
Other Income ............................................ $11,156
Total Income ............................................. $2,237,545

**EXPENSE**

Program Expense ........................................ $1,618,188
Management & General Expense ....................... $245,089
Fundraising Expense .................................... $306,494
Total Expense .......................................... $2,169,771

**NET OF INCOME AND EXPENSE ................ $67,774**

*STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION — 12/31/18*

**ASSETS**

Cash & Cash Equivalents ................................. $1,900,719
Accounts Receivable .................................... $659,537
Prepaids & Deposits ..................................... $21,799
Property & Equipment ................................... $15,976
Total Assets ............................................ $2,598,031

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Liabilities .................................................. $124,762
Net Assets without Donor Restriction ................. $1,290,145
Net Assets with Donor Restriction ..................... $1,183,124
Total Liabilities & Net Assets .......................... $2,598,031

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

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

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Jeff Bell
Christina Bernard
Kate M. Burke
Courtney Canova
Lisa A. Chang
Nawiishtunmi Conner
Makeba Greene
Jim Hawn
Shari Hill
Steve Huard
Mele M. Hunter
Jeff Lindstrom
Anne M. Martens
Natasha West-Baker

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Hickory Gateless, Deputy Director
Beth Harvey, Director of Finance & Administration
Liz Trautman, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy
Paula Carvalho, Director of Youth Programs
Fernando Clara, Director of Practice Innovation

**BOARD FELLOW**

Omari Miller

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The Mockingbird Society

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