



UNITED FRIENDS of the **CHILDREN**
Preparing Foster Youth for a Future That Works

Annual Report 2015/16



Quality. Consistency. Impact. Growth.

We Welcomed

Kara Allen Soldati, MSW, Ed.D to UFC in February of 2016 as our new President and CEO. Kara has dedicated her academic and professional life to supporting and developing organizations and people that help meet the needs of children, families, and communities in historically under-resourced areas.

Kara's experience, knowledge, and integrity are a great match for the work, staff, and foster youth of United Friends of the Children. Together this year we continued to advance our mission and change the lives of foster youth living in Los Angeles.

This year in numbers ...

- **1,400 current and former foster youth served**
- **240 new donors added to UFC family**
- **11 grants from new funders**
- **4 new board members**
- **1 new website launched**

Visit us today at
unitedfriends.org



Pathways

Pathways offers a full spectrum of support and opportunities for former foster youth, ages 18 to 24, in Los Angeles County, including housing, educational mentoring and assistance, career/vocational counseling and development, life skills training, health education and mental health services, and ongoing alumni services, all aimed at increasing youth's self-sufficiency.



“Interning at Warner Bros was an amazing life-changing opportunity for me. I was able to break barriers, obtain special skills, grow individually, and learn about business entertainment. Before beginning the internship, I completed a 36-hour work readiness training with Pathways, which better prepared me for the job. I had the pleasure of working in the World Wide TV Marketing Department in Social Media Marketing. My duties included creating content for our on and off-air shows, giving ideas for marketing strategies via Facebook, Snapchat, and Twitter, and creating a look book for San Diego’s annual ComicCon. Entering the internship, I was scared to network and ask

questions. However, I took the advice the HR department offered and threw myself out there. My confidence level in my networking skills grew, which allowed me to communicate more effectively. I had the best supervisors who made me feel comfortable to always ask questions, which made it easier for me to do my job. My advice to future Pathways applicants is to not be afraid. Always believe in yourself, and allow yourself to be open-minded to learn and take advantage of all the networking opportunities your employer has to offer. Thank you Pathways career team for making this possible, I am forever grateful.” – *Dalexis, Pathways Program resident, currently employed at Costco*

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Christian C., graduated from Pathways and moved into his own apartment

Gilbert G., was selected to participate in a 12-week Android Developer Nanodegree program

Ashley W-D., graduated from Cal State Los Angeles with plans to attend graduate school

RESIDENTS AND ALUMNI IN OUR PATHWAYS PROGRAM

507

Residents and alumni received services and support through Pathways Housing and Alumni Programs

87%

of youth in the program obtained employment

73%

of youth exited to permanent or stable housing

700

hours of career and educational services were provided to Pathways residents and alumni

326

hours of mental health services were provided to Pathways residents and alumni

128

weekly life skills classes were provided for youth to expand their knowledge of real life issues

68% of alumni remained in contact with UFC

75% of alumni are employed

84% of alumni are in stable housing

Education

Our 11-year education support continuum follows foster youth from the seventh grade through the completion of a Bachelor's Degree. UFC's College Readiness and College Sponsorship Programs work harmoniously to create this pipeline for success.

Shari Walker, a Brass Ring youth speaker in 2013 and a highlight story in our 12-13 annual report, spoke at the Foster Youth Education Summit in Sacramento. **In a room with 500 attendees, Shari was asked the question, "If I were to give you five million dollars to create your own program for foster youth what would you create?"** Shari answered, "If I had five million dollars I would create a program like United Friends of the Children. At UFC there is no age cut off, they are in your life forever. While in college they would do things that other people wouldn't really think of. They would send us cookies every semester, care packages when we first

moved into our dorm room, and would help us set up our first apartment. People forget that if you don't have family you're not getting care packages, you may not even get wished happy birthday, you might not get anything. UFC still sends me birthday cards and I'm 24 years old! A lot of foster youth don't have that support system. When you have a real organization like UFC who is like family and genuinely cares about you, and when you accomplish something and call them and they are just as excited as you, that hits your heart."

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Jermaine S.-W., accepted a Fulbright Fellowship position in Senegal after graduating from Grinnell College in the spring

Daisy G., graduated with a PhD in Sociology from UCSB and accepted a job as the Associate Director of PACE (Policy Analysis for California Education) at Stanford

Miani G. was selected to represent her department for outstanding academic achievement at Syracuse's graduation ceremony in May and began UCLA Medical School in the fall



"If I had five million dollars I would create a program like United Friends of the Children."
- Shari Walker

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

700

students participated in our Education Programs

7,200

hours of educational case management were provided to (CRP) College Readiness Program scholars

1,670

hours of mentoring, career planning, and support were provided to (CSP) College Sponsorship Program students

400

participants attended the 16th annual College Within Reach event at USC



100% of 2016 CRP students graduated from high school and 83% are attending 2 or 4-year colleges

73% of our 2011 CSP students have graduated

70 CRP scholars attended Career Day at USC in March

37 new students joined CSP

49% of incoming CSP scholars completed CRP



Connecting the Community

Spotlight *Walgreens*

Beginning the summer of 2015, UFC's Pathways Career and Education team has worked in conjunction with Walgreens on The Grocery Industry Initiative to prepare the transition aged youth in the Pathways Program for positions in the grocery industry. Many of these jobs, both part and full-time, come with benefits, scholarships and tuition reimbursement for post-secondary education, and career advancement. Walgreens partnership with our Pathways Program guided eight youth in completing our 3-week Work Readiness Training,

obtaining the LA Chamber Work Readiness Certification (WRC) and attending the orientation conducted by iFoster.

Additionally, thanks to Walgreens, the College Sponsorship Program was able to send care packages to 40 college freshmen during their first round of final exams. Through the notebooks, cough drops, tissues, and other personal care items, our scholars received the message that someone believes in their ability to succeed. This would not have been possible without the generous support of our partner!

THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS participated in annual career day, provided students with Amazon Kindle Fires, donated hours of film and edit time, provided airfare to college students and so much more.





Spotlight

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

461

volunteers helped with
events & activities

3,330

hours of volunteer services
were provided valued at
\$78,455

Yadi

Yadi joined our team of volunteers in 2005, at an event where she was able to speak with incoming UCLA students about her experience as a Bruin and share vital knowledge about on-campus resources. Throughout the years, Yadi has served as a volunteer in various capacities and is happy to help out wherever and whenever she can. She is a steady Saturday supporter with our 7th-12th grade scholars during our monthly workshops. She has served as a facilitator during our annual College Within Reach event, and regularly

joins us as a college tour chaperone. Her volunteering does not stop with just our education program. She has also supported other organizational efforts by working as an auction assistant during our annual Brass Ring fundraising event and assisting with registration during our annual Cultivate LA event. When considering her decade of service as a volunteer Yadi says, "After every activity I participate in, I go home and think about what was my favorite memory of that day. This collection of memories and positive impact, keep me coming back year after year."



\$1.7

million raised
from events -

Thank you!

Annual Events

- **7th Annual Cultivate LA Raises Funds, Friends and Awareness.** Chef Ambassadors Joachim Splichal of the The Patina Group, Matthew Poley of Heirloom LA and Hugo Bolanos of Wolfgang Puck at Hotel Bel Air came together to help raise over \$300,000 for the foster youth in UFC's Programs.
- **16th Annual College Within Reach for 400 foster youth** held at USC helped students learn how to start and stay on the path to graduating from high school and going on to earn their degree.
- **27th Annual Celebration Graduation honored 174 students** at Walt Disney Concert Hall with KTLA's Chris Schauble and actor Danny Trejo.
- **13th Annual Brass Ring honored Senator Chris Dodd and Polly Williams.** Hosted by Dee Hankins, UFC College Sponsorship Graduate and Motivational Speaker, the dinner raised over \$1.2 million to help support foster youth in UFC's programs. Ramiro, CSP graduate, was even hired on by HBO!
- **3rd Annual Stone Canyon Crawl, hosted by Nadine Schiff-Rosen + Fred Rosen and Lilly Tartikoff + Bruce Karatz,** raised \$118,000 to support UFC. Guests were treated to a progressive dinner including delights from Colgin Cellars, Susie Cakes, Chinois on Main, Kistler Vineyards, Sprinkles Cupcakes, and Wally's Wine & Spirits.
- **12th Annual Pathways Alumni Christmas Celebration** at the Omni Hotel brought together over 470 Pathways alumni and their families, current residents, staff, board members and volunteers.
- **11th Annual College Readiness** holiday party hosted for 300 scholars, family members, staff and volunteers.

"To me, helping young people get a good start on their lives and careers means so much, because that is not only a significant impact in a youth's life, but also positively impacts society. I believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to be successful in life, and I wholeheartedly believe that every young person I meet through UFC has the potential to contribute something meaningful and be amazing." -Yadi



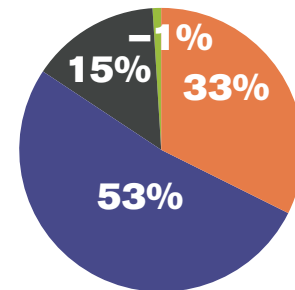
Evaluation

The overarching aim of evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of our programs in improving outcomes for both current and former foster youth as well as to study the impact of UFC's relationship-based approach to serving youth on program outcomes. From June 2015 through February 2016 we completed preliminary work with a consulting firm, ICF International, to assess evaluation readiness for an impact evaluation. Their work included database assessment, review of historical data, and appraisal of organizational readiness for evaluation and mapping of outcomes and indicators which resulted in the UFC Indicator framework. We also continued working towards finalizing logic models for each program by engaging all program staff. We contracted with Child Trends to summarize ICF International's evaluation work that included Executive Summary, Indicator refinement, and recommendations for the next phase.

2015/2016 FINANCIALS

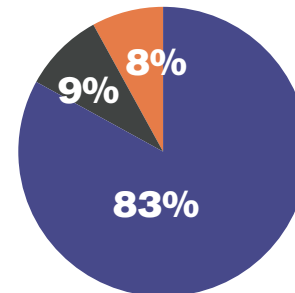
REVENUE

Individual + Corporate	\$2,273,741 (33%)
Foundation Grants	\$3,670,750 (53%)
Government Grants	\$1,048,650 (15%)
Interest + Misc.	-\$105,770 (-1%)
TOTAL	\$6,887,371



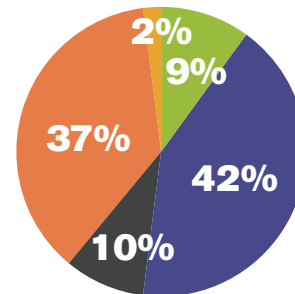
EXPENSES

Programs	\$6,031,367 (83%)
Management	\$635,033 (9%)
Fundraising	\$561,960 (8%)
TOTAL	\$7,228,360



ASSETS

Cash	\$822,293 (10%)
Investments	\$3,442,412 (42%)
Endowment	\$778,308 (9%)
Pledges + Grants Receivable	\$3,003,103 (37%)
Other Assets	\$170,704 (2%)
TOTAL	\$8,216,820





2015-2016 Grants and Donations

The following individuals, companies and foundations made a donation to United Friends of the Children between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Thank you for your generous and continued support.

\$500,000+

Anonymous
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

\$250,000 - \$499,000

California Wellness Foundation
County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
W. M. Keck Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

California Community Foundation
Krishna and Robert A. Daly
The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Wendy and Barry Meyer
The Rose Hills Foundation
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous
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“UFC’s mission to help foster youth find a successful life path is very meaningful to me. Support of UFC provides educational and housing resources for over 1400 young people, and in the process, empowers them through life-changing relationships with our staff.”

**– Denny Luria,
Board Chair**

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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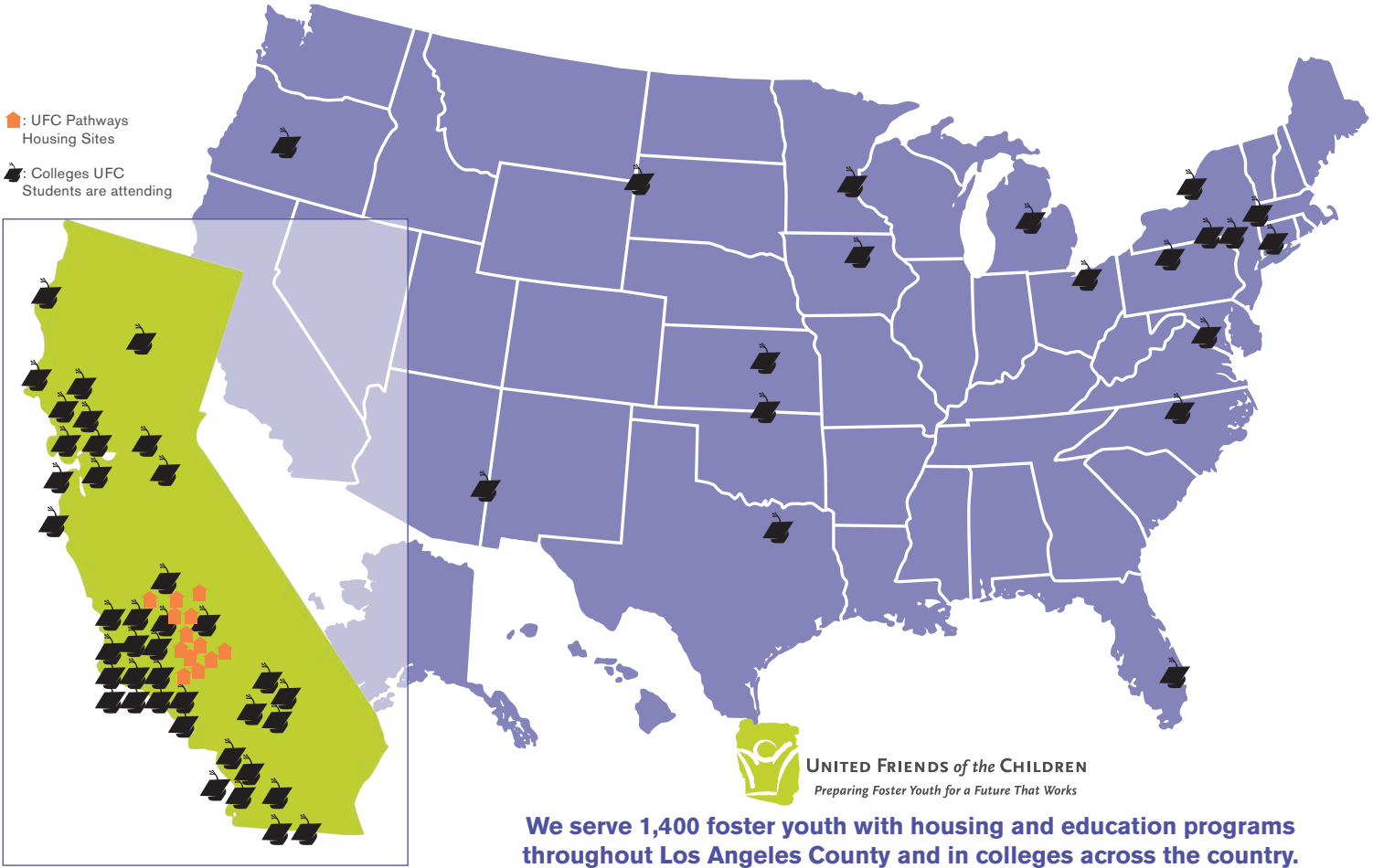
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Victoria Goddard	Alex Jackson	Gregory Lee	Charlie and Lawry Meister				



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Preparing Foster Youth for a Future That Works

We serve 1,400 foster youth with housing and education programs throughout Los Angeles County and in colleges across the country.