

ANNUAL REPORT

**Advocates
for Youth**

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.



**Rights.
Respect.
Responsibility.**

Strategic Goals

Advocates for Youth understands that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and equity. Advocates partners with youth, particularly those disproportionately impacted by sexual health disparities, including youth of color; young parents; LGBTQ and trans and gender expansive youth, and others from marginalized communities, to inform its efforts and mobilize for change.

Advocates strives to achieve the following strategic goals:

GOAL I: Advocates **shifts the cultural paradigm** toward normalization of youth sexual development and young people's rights to live free from oppression and to exercise their agency and bodily autonomy.

GOAL II: Advocates **drives youth sexual health policy** at the local, state and federal levels, including U.S. foreign policy, toward strategies that are grounded in equity and inclusion, and are evidence-informed, youth-centered, and rights-based.

GOAL III: Advocates **engages youth as activists and leaders**, centering those most impacted by sexual health disparities and building power to transform, dismantle, and rebuild policies, programs, and systems in support of bodily autonomy and youth sexual health, rights and equity.

GOAL IV: Advocates **strengthens youth sexual health programs and services** by partnering with youth-serving agencies, community-based organizations, healthcare providers and schools, to build their capacity to provide evidence-informed, rights-based services grounded in the values of equity and inclusion.

GOAL V: Advocates **partners with youth-led and youth-serving organizations, United Nations agencies and governments around the world** to champion community initiatives, systems, policies and programs that advance youth sexual health, rights and justice.

Dear friends,

Young people's commitment to sexual health, rights, and justice is unwavering. And in 2021, we were honored to work alongside them to face the year's many challenges.

This year, we witnessed the democracy-threatening insurrection at the US Capitol; draconian challenges to voting rights; the insurgence of dangerous COVID-19 variants; and coordinated conservative threats to sex education, the teaching of honest American history, and the ability of trans youth to fully participate in school. Most recently, we experienced the unconstitutional decimation of abortion access in Texas and continued challenges to Roe v Wade from Mississippi, Kentucky and more. To put it plainly, it's been a difficult year.

Yet, as we weather these tumultuous times, our powerful and committed youth activists and staff remain undeterred, passionate about justice, and willing to fight for every young person's right to health equity. Over the past year, more times than not, I have found myself marveling at the impact Advocates' staff and youth activists have been able to make in a world that continues to be in crisis.

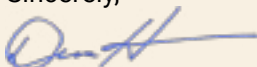
Here are just a few examples:

- Youth activist Audin founded the California student-led campaign and coalition, Free the Period, which organized for bill AB367 to make menstrual products available for free throughout K-12 public schools, public universities, and other public restrooms in the state. Audin collected period testimonials from young people about their need for free menstrual products; organized legislative education days for youth activists; created and distributed a resource guide that explains the impacts of period poverty on students; and hosted a menstrual equity week of action. As a result of Audin's hard work, the legislation passed out of the California Assembly 79-0 and Governor Newsom signed the bill into law on October 10, 2021.
- After successfully mobilizing the administration at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) to create gender-neutral restrooms on all three campus of the HBCU, Shabre, a UDC youth activist, successfully campaigned for the establishment of a UDC LGBTQ+ Advisory Council to consult and advise the school's administration on the needs and priorities of LGBTQ+ students.
- Hanh and Ari, activists at University of Alabama - Birmingham, mobilized their peers, met with administrators and successfully advocated for trans and nonbinary students to be able to have their preferred names on their diploma rather than their legal name.
- Know Your IX, Advocates' survivor- and youth-led initiative that aims to empower students to end sexual and dating violence in their schools, delivered to the Department of Education a petition with more than 55,000 survivor signatures and met with Administration officials to advocate for immediate improvements to Title IX and the rights of sexual abuse survivors.
- Advocates' Texas Youth Activist Alliance, worked tirelessly against SB8, the states' draconian abortion ban, then raised money to support work of the state's abortion funds, and educated thousands of their peers about the meaning of the law and other ways to access abortion care when needed.

Advocates' network spans more than 100,000 youth activists on 1,200 college campuses, reaching all 50 states and more than 100 countries. They are organizing at the federal, state and local levels, mobilizing their peers, and advocating for policies and practices in support of young people's sexual health, rights and equity. They are making a difference in the lives of their peers despite the obstacles that lay before them. The impact they have made is evident. **This is the power of youth activism.**

My pride and admiration for our youth activists, working to dismantle a system designed to police their bodies, silence their voices, and strip them of their autonomy, cannot be overstated. In partnership with these activists, Advocates for Youth will keep the pressure on policy makers in 2022 and ensure that young people have the resources and support they need to live healthy lives and thrive.

Sincerely,



Debra Hauser



A portrait of a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and a gold chain necklace. She is standing in front of a green tree with small orange fruits. The background is slightly out of focus.

Sarah

she/her

"I do this work for my younger self, my future children, and for my ancestors & foremothers. I do this work for those who share my stories, pain, and trauma. Most importantly I do this work because our health and wellbeing is political; it is a radical act of healing and self love to center safety, sovereignty, and joy in our bodies. We will build our liberated world by fully embodying revolution and healing."

Sarah is a member of the Young Women of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council. Her extensive work includes being a lead organizer on a campaign to make Hawaii's adoption law more equitable and just for LGBTQ+ people.

Larada

she/they

"I do this work because I am passionate about dismantling the white pathology within reproductive rights, health, and justice spaces. Everyone deserves access to the care they need. Without shame. Without barriers. Without stigma."



Larada, a youth activist and abortion storyteller, is part of Youth Testify, a partnership of Advocates for Youth and We Testify that trains and supports young people to break through abortion stigma and isolation by sharing their personal experiences with abortion care.



**When social
institutions
fail to
recognize
young
people's rights,
we push them
to do better.**

Young people are challenging the status quo every day. Advocates for Youth works alongside, providing them the mentorship, training and support to change “what has always been” to “what is inclusive, effective, and forward-thinking.”

Recognizing the impact of period poverty on their peers, Audin, a youth activist with Advocates’ Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council (YWOC4RJ) founded Free the Period, a youth group in California that organized for a bill to make menstrual products available for free in public schools and universities in the state.

Audin and their colleagues collected period testimonials from young people; organized legislative education days for youth activists; created and distributed a resource guide explaining the impacts of period poverty on students; and hosted a menstrual equity week of action. **The Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021 passed in the California Assembly 79-0** and Governor Newsom signed the bill into law on October 10, 2021.

When Sarah, a member of YWOC4RJ, realized the partners of LGBTQ parents were penalized by Hawaii’s parentage laws, she set out to change the laws.

Sarah mobilized her feminist organization on campus in support of a bill that would bring LGBT parents justice by no longer requiring them to pay thousands of dollars to adopt their partner’s child. **The bill passed both chambers of the Hawaii legislature and established a task force to recommend changes to the laws relating to queer parentage.**

Know Your IX, Advocates’ initiative by and for student sexual violence survivors, worked collaboratively to launch EdActNow, a campaign to push the Biden Administration to immediately undo the harmful Title IX guidance put in place by the Trump Administration.

In October, Know Your IX youth activists and colleagues delivered a petition with more than 55,000 survivor signatures to the Department of Education, met with the Deputy Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Education’s Chief of Staff, and held a press conference and speakout to advocate for immediate change. When the administration failed to respond adequately, Know Your IX and its colleagues doubled down, expanding the EDActNow student coalition nationwide and proliferating the pressure.

Young people's medical confidentiality often goes unaddressed in CDC recommendations.

But after staff and Cameron, a member of YouthResource, shared information about the importance of confidentiality with CDC, they changed their guidelines around PReP (pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV) to include our new, suggested language urging clinicians to discuss confidentiality laws and policies with their youth patients.

Armed with the knowledge that birth control pills are available over-the-counter in many other countries, Advocates' #FreeThePill Youth Activist Council led the youth arm of the Free the Pill Campaign. Young people mobilized tens of thousands of their peers to advocate for birth control to be available on pharmacy shelves.

As part of their work, the #Free the Pill youth activists debuted the #FreeThePill virtual store, reaching more than 4.73 million people with information about the campaign and opportunities to take action to urge the FDA and Biden Administration to support over-the-counter birth control access.

In 2021, Advocates launched new, state-based Youth Activist Alliances (YAA) in Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Texas. Each worked to build its base and launch campaigns to improve youth sexual health and rights in its state.

Advocates worked intensively with youth organizers in each state to conduct virtual trainings to improve activists' advocacy skills, train across progressive issues, and tailor strategies to advocate for policy and program changes at the local and state level. As a result, **the Alabama YAA worked to successfully remove homophobic language from the state's sex education law**, and the Texas YAA raised money for the state's abortion funds and fought against SB8, Texas' draconian six week abortion ban.

Young people's needs are often overlooked in international agreements. After training with Advocates for Youth and participating in lobbying opportunities, International Youth Leadership Council members took their well-honed skills in advocacy at the UN to the Commission on Population and Development (CPD54).

Here, they worked towards a set of sexual and reproductive health and rights priorities that emphasized **access for adolescent girls and gender-inclusive language** for CPD54.



When social

institutions

fail to

recognize

young

people's rights,

we push them

to do better.



Jasmin

she/her

Jasmin is an AMAZE Youth Ambassador. She works alongside 29 other young activists, ages 10 to 16 to ensure AMAZE's sex education video content is relevant and engaging to their peers.

"As a young person in today's society, it's sometimes challenging to talk to adults, especially parents, about sex education. During my childhood, I never received sex education in my household. I joined AMAZE because I want to help educate those who don't have the privilege of getting to understand their bodies the way they should."

Kat
they/them

"I believe that all people, especially our youth, deserve a supportive and non-judgemental approach to reproductive and sexual health education and promotion.

I want to show the world that being abortion-positive is something beautiful, and with more love and acceptance, we can move to a liberated world."



Kat is an activist with Advocates' Youth Abortion Support Collective (YouthASC) and Abortion Out Loud, and helps lead Buckle Bunnies, an abortion fund in Texas founded by queer youth.

**When social
systems renege
on their
responsibilities
to youth,
we work
around
them.**

Across the U.S. and around the world, social institutions often fail to provide young people with the information, opportunities and services they need. Motivated by fear and misguided by social conservatives' spin, many fail to support young people's sexual health, rights and equity. Advocates works to fill the gaps, providing young people directly with honest sex education, and helping them organize to provide each other information, funding, and even transportation to access the reproductive and sexual health services they need.

As more and more social institutions evade their responsibilities to youth, young people have turned to mutual aid (financial and practical support shared between members of communities or peer groups) as a strategy to help one another.

In 2021 Advocates and its youth activists conducted training for more than 400 young people on the role of mutual aid in supporting LGBTQ+ youth, abortion access, and reproductive justice. In addition, a number of Advocates' activists successfully launched mutual aid projects — sharing funds and providing transportation for those in need of abortion care, pooling resources to make menstrual products available and purchasing and distributing emergency contraception on their campuses and in their communities.

Young parents often face stigma and discrimination when trying to support themselves and their children. Few reproductive health and rights or social service agencies offer leadership or organizing training designed for young parents.

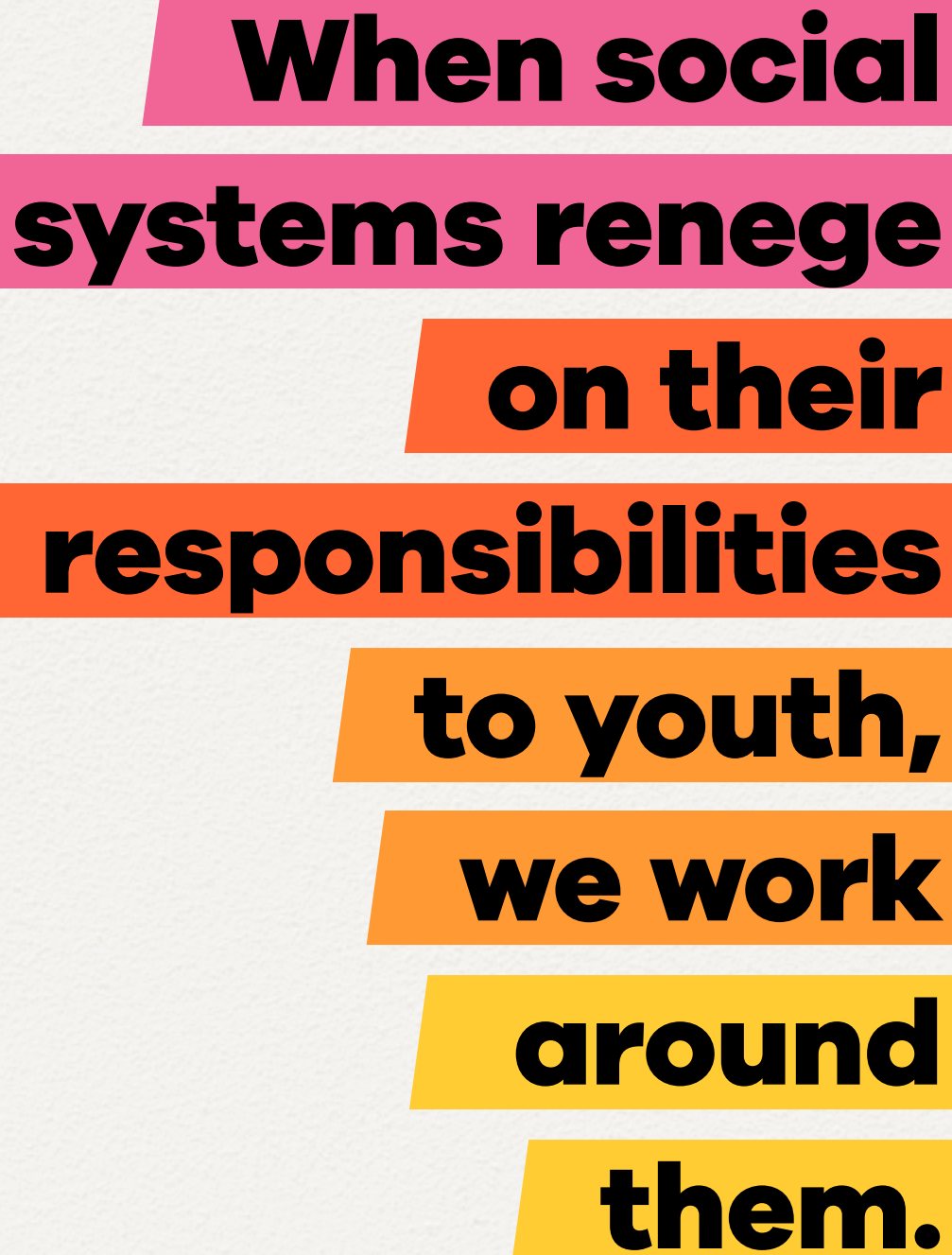
In 2021 Advocates worked with a cohort of young parents from across the country to create the Young Parents' Advocacy Toolkit, a guide to helping young parents organize and advocate for their rights and the rights and needs of their children. Young people piloted the Toolkit in Charlotte NC and Miami FL and the resource is now ready for wide dissemination. To help community-based organizations better serve young families, Advocates and its young parents published Engaging Young Parents: A Toolkit for Youth-Serving Organizations and Agencies. The guide provides tools, tips and templates for working with young parents as partners and engaging them to help shape agency services to meet the needs of the community.

Recognizing that many schools fail to provide young people with quality sex education, Advocates and its partners, Answer and Youth Tech Health, launched AMAZE in 2016.

Since its inception, AMAZE aspires to meet the sex education needs of young people across the world — regardless of where they live or what school they attend. In the United States AMAZE has published 160 sex education videos, viewed more than 55 million times on YouTube and meeting young people directly where they are — online. In addition, in 2021, **AMAZE expanded its reach internationally, partnering with more than 30 non-governmental organizations, multilateral agencies including UNESCO, UNFPA, and IPPF, and Ministries of Education, Health and Youth around the world.** Through these partnerships, 490 dubbed or adapted videos have been published in 35 languages across 55 countries in South and East Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa.

As abortion restrictions grow, youth access to abortion becomes more and more difficult. Advocates' Youth Abortion Support Collective (YouthASC) is the first-ever national network of young people — more than 250 young leaders — poised with the information, training, and resources to help each other and their peers in need of abortion care.

Over the past year, YouthASC members received intensive training to learn more about medication and procedural abortion, state and federal laws, judicial bypass procedures, and the provision of practical and emotional support. In addition, Advocates provided the group with technical support and training to help activists become abortion doulas, understand the laws and medical facts around self-managed abortion, and provide logistical and emotional support for others needing abortion care. Over the past year, **YouthASC hosted eleven webinars and trainings for nearly 600 activists. Each YouthASC member is working within their community or on their campus to create new, or when possible, to expand existing practical and emotional abortion support networks.**



**When social
systems renege
on their
responsibilities
to youth,
we work
around
them.**

Deana
they/them

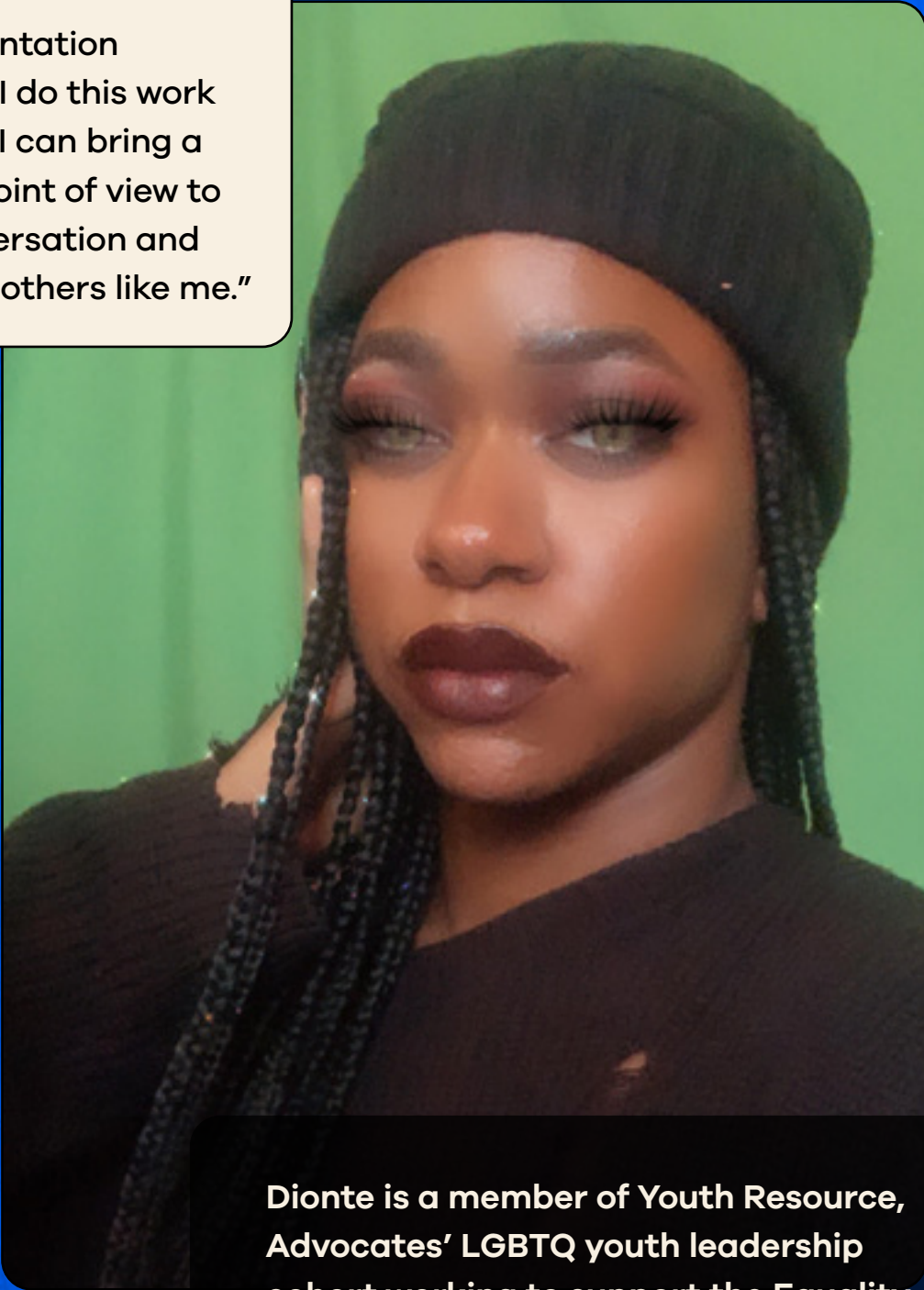
"I'm a reproductive justice organizer because I believe in liberation, freedom, and autonomy for all people. I grew up in Texas, and quickly learned that access to comprehensive sex education, birth control, and abortion isn't guaranteed for young people. It's important for me to not only fight for access, but to support other young people in finding their passions, strength, and political homes within this incredible movement."

Deana is an activist with YouthASC and an organizer in Minneapolis with a focus on reproductive justice and the abolition movement, who has taken a leadership role in sharing information and education about abortion access with hundreds of youth activists.

Dionte

he/she

"Representation matters. I do this work because I can bring a unique point of view to the conversation and speak to others like me."



Dionte is a member of Youth Resource, Advocates' LGBTQ youth leadership cohort working to support the Equality Act nationally and raising awareness of LGBTQ health and rights in Philadelphia.

**When
institutions
don't work
equally well
for all
youth — we
push them
to become
more just
and equitable.**

Advocates understands that systemic oppression fuels sexual health disparities. Advocates' staff and youth activists work within social institutions and systems, advocating for changes to policies and practices to make these systems more just and equitable for all youth.

Advocates understands that school policing disproportionately impacts youth of color and fuels the school-to-prison pipeline. In 2021, Advocates and its youth activists launched an intensive training institute to assist youth to mount campaigns to urge their schools to divest of campus police and invest instead in sex education, GSAs and school-based health care.

In August, Advocates released its campaign toolkit, Divesting from School Policing and Investing in Sex Education, the culmination of a partnership with Miami-based PowerU and a cadre of young leaders that organized to push Miami/Dade Public Schools to divest from school policing and invest in culturally responsive sex education.

Recognizing the success and impact of initiatives to promote LGBTQ-inclusive sex education, Advocates leveraged lessons learned and launched a new initiative to improve the cultural responsiveness of sex education for Black, Indigenous and other youth of color.

Staff, along with partners Answer and SIECUS, revised the National Sex Education Standards to include learning objectives on health equity and racial and reproductive justice. In turn, Advocates published and widely disseminated new lesson plans to meet these learning objectives for its Rights, Respect, Responsibility Sex Education Curriculum, Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Staff also **began a partnership with SisterReach to create a robust racial justice training series for teachers.** This dynamic series will help educators better understand racial and reproductive justice and build their skills to address their own implicit bias, intervene in micro-aggressions and racism in their classrooms, and implement culturally responsive and affirming sex education that centers the lived experiences of students of color.

Abortion restrictions disproportionately impact young people, particularly youth of color and those living in rural or poor communities. Mandatory parental involvement laws also inhibit many youth from accessing abortion services. To begin addressing these issues, Advocates co-convened the Youth Abortion Access Table (YAAT) with partners URGE and If/When/How.


YAAT is a coalition of organizations committed to removing mandatory parental involvement laws that restrict youth access to abortion care. In 2021, YAAT shared new messaging research tested in collaboration with Bold Futures, NAPAWF, ICAH and CLRJ, and launched a landscape analysis. In addition, Advocates organized to have two of its youth activists and abortion storytellers speak at the rally during oral arguments for Dobbs V Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Regardless of controversy stoked up by social conservatives, many schools and community-based organizations are working hard to support LGBTQ students. Yet, many youth-serving providers still feel unprepared to adequately support and affirm transgender and gender expansive youth. In 2021, Advocates began a multi-year project to assist schools in becoming trans-affirming in their policies and practices and throughout the school environment.

Staff will draft case studies and collect schools' strategies and policies that address the needs of trans students, ultimately offering guidance, training and model policies and programs to build educators' confidence and ability to support trans and gender expansive students. In addition, **through the Queer and Gender Equity Program, Advocates continues to provide intensive and on-going technical assistance, training and support for community-based organizations to help them better serve LGBTQ youth of color.** For example this year, among many others, staff supported South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), a transnational South Asian youth feminist collective to help strengthen its capacity to support LGBTQ youth of color in the Houston area.

Recognizing that schools are not the only institution in need of assistance, Advocates leveraged its virtual classroom, renamed Virtual PD, to build the skills of clinicians to provide inclusive, culturally responsive sexual health services for youth from marginalized communities.

Staff continued to work with thousands of sex educators from around the country, providing them with opportunities to use Virtual PD — a simulated classroom where educators practice teaching inclusive and culturally responsive sex education to student avatars. To date, school districts, including the Maryland Department of Education, Los Angeles Unified, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York City have contracted for their educators to use VPD. In addition, Planned Parenthood Federation of America has made the platform available for its educators and trainers nationwide; and the CDC/Division of Adolescent School Health has made the technology available to the 28 school districts it supports across the country. **In addition, staff pilot-tested the Virtual PD with school nurses and other clinical providers, helping them to become more adept at meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth, youth of color, and young parents.**



**When
institutions
don't work
equally well
for all
youth — we
push them
to become
more just
and equitable.**



Know Your IX campaign activists held an event outside the Department of Education to demand that the Biden Administration do more to support survivors of sexual assault at colleges and universities.



Maxine

she/they

"I do this work because I want to see a future where folks like me have the opportunity to live in a world that is centered on how we are thriving and not scrounging around for the basics we need to survive."

Maxine is a member of YouthResource working in Nashville, TN. In 2021 Maxine successfully campaigned for the Nashville City Council to issue a proclamation declaring April 10 National Youth HIV and AIDS Day.



Sriha

she/her

"I engage in sexual & reproductive health education with the intent of empowering the youth of today to embrace their bodies and each other without stigma."

Sriha is a member of the Free the Pill leadership council. Sriha runs @sexedu on TikTok to a platform of over 200k, educating on all things sexual health.

When

cultural

attitudes

impede

progress,

we work

to change

them.

Cultural attitudes about young people themselves, and about youth and sexuality impede youth sexual health, rights, and justice. Racism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamaphobia, misogyny and ageism fuel sexual health disparities. Advocates staff and young people actively seek to shift these cultural attitudes to improve youth sexual health and equity.

Young people are leading social change. Yet, the media often demonizes youth. Subsequently, cultural attitudes fail to recognize youth as change agents and leaders. To help young people demonstrate and build their power in 2021, Advocates worked intensively with over 180 emerging young leaders from around the world, ages 10 to 24, and helped them to raise their voices, perspectives, and priorities via traditional and social media.

In 2021 alone, media articles covering Advocates, our work and our youth activists, garnered over 800 million media impressions. Articles appeared in venues including the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, Teen Vogue, and Education Week, among others. Young people shared their abortion stories, spoke to the needs of youth living with HIV, took their universities to task for failing to protect their rights as sexual assault survivors, shared the impact of inclusive sex education on their lives, and offered glimpses into issues such as intersectionality, racial justice and the need for better contraceptive access.

Young people, particularly youth of color and young men who have sex with men, are disproportionately affected by HIV. HIV stigma impedes young people's ability to seek testing and care. In addition, outdated and medically inaccurate state laws criminalize HIV, disproportionately affecting youth and trans young women of color living with HIV.

To redress some of these issues, Advocates' activists continued to spearhead **National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD)**, observed on April 10th each year. For NYHAAD 2021, 50 youth activists from across the U.S. worked to highlight the challenges faced by young people living with and impacted by HIV, offered insight on how they combat stigma and discrimination at local, state, and federal levels, and enhanced awareness about existing disparities. Young people also called for the modernization of state HIV laws. In addition, Youth activist Kayla, a member of ECHO (Educating Communities about HIV Organizing) was sworn in as the youngest member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS (PACHA).

Post 9-11, and after the so-called “Muslim ban” imposed by the Trump Administration, Muslim youth continue to be surveilled and “othered” in a country in which they are a minority. Youth who identify both as Muslim and as LGBTQ have been impacted even more and find few safe spaces to be open about the intersection of their identities.

To combat these issues, Advocates launched its Muslim Youth Leadership Council (MyLC) in 2017. In 2021, MyLC held its second annual virtual conference, #MuslimAnd Exploring Our Intersections, which **engaged young Muslims in organizing, preparing panels, and speaking** alongside adult allies on topics such as the connections between birth justice and anti-Blackness, LGBTQ Muslim Health through Intergenerational Healing, overcoming challenges to supporting LGBTQ Muslims internationally, and policy actions for Muslim communities. Speakers included subject area experts, social media stars, academics, activists, allied organizations, MyLC alums, and current MyLC activists.

Advocates believes strongly in youth-adult partnerships and advocates for young people to be at the table when decisions are being made that impact their health and well-being. In 2017, Advocates’ launched a research project titled, 3Rs Reproductive Health Access Project (3Rs RHAP), in collaboration with El Rio Health Center in Tucson, AZ.

The goal of the project was to increase contraceptive use by highly vulnerable youth — youth who are system-involved, including homeless youth, youth in foster care, and young people in drug and alcohol treatment programs. To meet this goal, Advocates and El Rio recruited, trained, and employed a cohort of young people from these communities who then worked in close partnership with El Rio staff and administration. Together they identified structural barriers to care and ultimately reformed El Rio’s systems to better meet young people’s needs. Among other changes, El Rio added walkin hours, transportation, peer education and created meaningful partnerships with social service agencies, providing them staff to enroll youth in Medicaid and supporting teleportals to help young people make appointments and complete health center intake forms while at these locales. As a result of these efforts, El Rio increased the number of young people it was able to serve pre- to post-intervention by 50%, adding more than 4,000 new adolescent patients to its clientele. **In 2021, Advocates worked intensively with El Rio to codify the model and to create templates to help other health systems replicate the initiative.**



**When
cultural
attitudes
impede
progress,
we work
to change
them.**

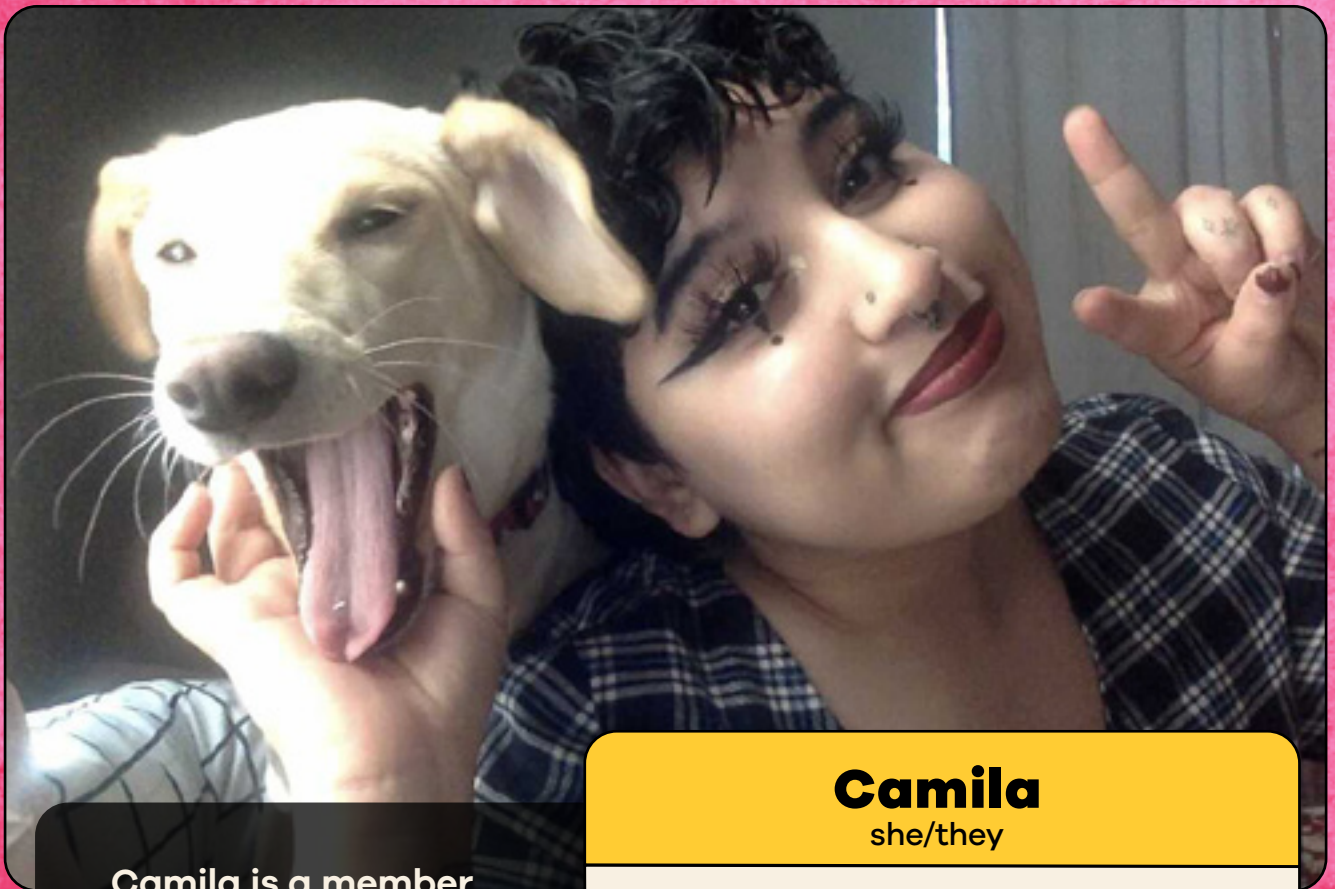


Adonis

he/they

"I do this work because I've grown to understand the impact an authentic story has on people's lives. I am not defined by my status or my story but I am who I am because of it and I'm proud of how far I've come."

Adonis is a member of Engaging Communities around HIV Organizing (ECHO) and a storyteller who shares his story to break through cultural barriers and stigma associated with HIV.



Camila

she/they

Camila is a member of Abortion Out Loud, a group of 30 young people from across the U.S. fighting for abortion rights. Camila is passionate about educating others about self-managed abortion, mutual aid, and sex worker's rights.

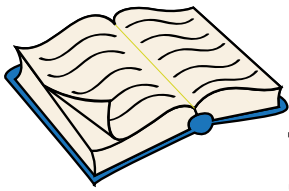
"The Youth Activist Institute filled with so much new information and opened my eyes to how to effectively build community & the power we can harness from that."

2021 AT A GLANCE

490 AMAZE videos
dubbed or adapted into
35+ languages and reaching youth in **55 countries**



56 million views of AMAZE
videos in the U.S.



55,000 survivors'
signatures delivered to
the **Department of Education** demanding
fair treatment of sexual assault survivors

50 National Youth HIV & AIDS Day
Ambassadors supported to lead
HIV prevention, treatment, and care
campaigns in their communities



1,000 youth-serving professionals trained to
support and affirm LGBTQ youth of color



28 school districts supported to
provide **quality sex education**
and formalize linkages to
school or community-based
youth sexual health services



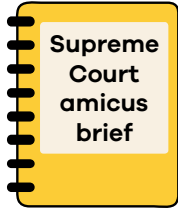
2,000
students on
1,200
campuses
distributed
more than

1 MILLION



CONDOMS

2021 AT A GLANCE



6,641 people who had abortions signed onto a **Supreme Court amicus brief** calling for an end to abortion bans

2.5 million



youth in California

now have access to **free menstrual health products** in schools and universities

FIRST EVER

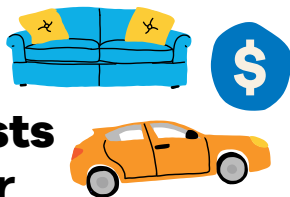
policy platform created and published by and for **young womxn of color** working for reproductive justice



450
hours

of **Virtual Professional Development** in sex education provided to educators

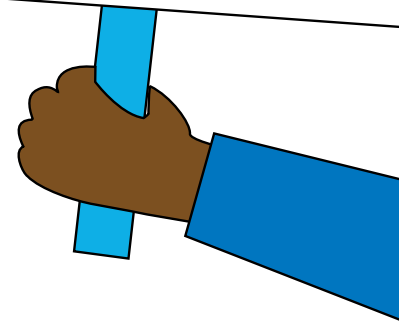
400 youth activists working on their campuses and in their communities to **improve abortion access**



3,000 youth activists trained to organize for youth sexual health, rights, and justice

800 million

media impressions with articles in **NYTimes, WashPo, CNN, NPR, USA Today**



Why I Support Advocates for Youth



Cathy
she/her

"Advocates for Youth provided me with the tools to fight for change in my community both unapologetically and as my true, authentic self."

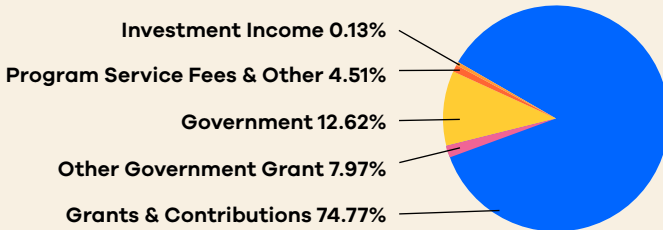
Cathy is a Young Women of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council alumna and a member of Advocates for Youth's Board of Directors.

OUR FINANCIALS

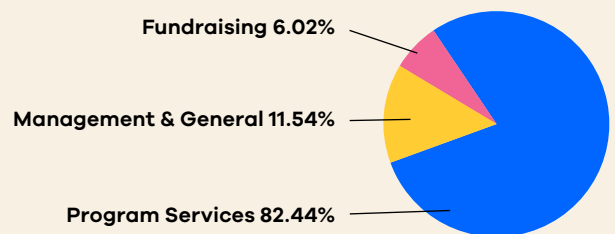
FISCAL YEAR 2021 | APRIL 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

In FY2021, Advocates' expenses totaled \$6,759,917. Revenue included multi-year grants awarded in FY2021 for use in FY2021 and future fiscal years and a Paycheck Protection Program loan which has subsequently been forgiven.

REVENUE: \$6,918,227



EXPENSES: \$6,759,917



NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR: \$6,086,795 NET ASSETS END OF FISCAL YEAR: \$6,245,105

NOTE: The financial data have been summarized from the financial records of Advocates for Youth. A complete copy of the audit and/or Form 990 for the year ended March 31, 2021, prepared by Advocates' independent public accountant, is available upon request.

OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

ABORTION OUT LOUD

Abortion Out Loud, formerly the 1 in 3 Campaign, harnesses the power of storytelling, grassroots organizing, leadership development, and policy advocacy to end abortion stigma and strengthen support for young people's access to abortion. Young people refuse to be silenced as politicians aim to take away their access to care. Activists leading the Abortion Out Loud project in their community host abortion speakouts, lead public education campaigns, and work with campus and local officials to strengthen young people's access to abortion services as well as build practical support networks for young people's abortion access. Abortion Out Loud leaders are building a groundswell of youth activism for abortion access.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AROUND HIV ORGANIZING (ECHO)

Through ECHO, Advocates recruits, trains and supports a cohort of young people living with HIV to serve as leaders in the fight to end HIV stigma and criminalization. ECHO leaders recognize HIV's disparate impact on young people of color, including Black and Latino young men who have sex with men, and trans youth of color. Members use social media campaigns, peer education, storytelling, and media outreach to raise awareness of the interconnection between HIV disparity, racism, homophobia, and transphobia and advocate for the inclusion of youth most impacted by HIV in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of

programs and policies that affect their health and well being. ECHO activists contribute to My Story Out Loud, a digital storytelling campaign dedicated to uplifting the narratives of young people living with HIV and LGBTQ+ youth of color across the nation.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (IYLC)

The International Youth Leadership Council (IYLC) at Advocates for Youth is a group of DC-based college students that work to advance youth sexual and reproductive health and rights in the global south. IYLC believes in using our unique opportunity as DC students to influence US foreign policy that directly harms people in other countries. We work to center the voices and needs of women, girls, and non-binary people in the global south, and work to #DecolonizeSRHR.

IYLC members work on a wide-range of issues, including such as sexuality education, international family planning and contraceptive access, abortion, global HIV and AIDS, gender equality, harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital cutting/mutilation, gender-based violence, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights. IYLC is made up of students who have ties to or strong interests in the global south and who serve as activists, advocates, and spokespeople on sexual and reproductive health and rights policies that affect young people in low and middle-income countries.

KNOW YOUR IX CAMPAIGN

Know Your IX is a survivor- and-youth-led project that aims to end sexual and dating violence in their schools. Know Your IX leaders educate college and high school students about their rights to an education free from gender violence and discrimination. Know Your IX leaders create lasting change through training, organizing, and supporting student survivor activists in challenging their educational institutions to address violence and discrimination, and advocate for policy change at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure meaningful systemic action to end gender violence.

www.knowyourix.org

MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Muslim Youth Leadership Council (MyLC) is a group of Muslim-identifying people ages 17-24 from across the country, working locally and nationally as activists, organizers, writers, leaders and more to promote LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights for Muslims. MyLC focuses on four main areas of work: countering Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate, strengthening sexual health and reproductive rights for young Muslims, promoting LGBTQ rights and supporting queer Muslims, and working towards racial justice and countering anti-Blackness in our communities. MyLC advocates for the inclusion of young Muslim identifying people in Reproductive Justice programming and promotion of health and rights, creates resources for queer Muslim youth, and hosts the #MuslimAnd campaign.

STUDENT ORGANIZERS

The Student Organizing Team is a cohort of high school and college students who serve as youth activists leading the reproductive justice movement at the local, state, and national level. With the support of Advocates For Youth, they run strategic issue-based campaigns to bring material improvements to young people's sexual health and rights at their schools. Some of their campaigns for change in their communities include organizing for free menstrual products, free condoms, gender-neutral restrooms, and other issues in the fight for comprehensive sex education, contraceptive access, abortion access, LGBTQ health and rights, and HIV prevention.

YOUTHRESOURCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (YOUTHRESOURCE)

YouthResource Leadership Program is designed by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people of color. YouthResource members advocate around LGBTQ health and rights issues on college campuses, in their communities, and at the state and federal level. A few LGBTQ health and rights issues include expanding access to PrEP, training healthcare staff on LGBTQ inclusion, adopting gender-neutral restrooms, ensuring access to HIV treatment

and care. YouthResource members contribute to My Story Out Loud, a digital storytelling campaign dedicated to uplifting the narratives of LGBTQ+ youth of color across the nation.

YOUNG WOMXN OF COLOR 4 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL (YWOC4RJ)

The Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council (YWOC), a project of Advocates For Youth, is a council of 14-24 year old young women and nonbinary organizers of color who are working to educate, empower, and fight back against issues impacting their community through a reproductive justice lens. We seek to aid young people of color in harnessing their power and mobilize them in solidarity with each other to create a society free from all forms of oppression, specifically those that directly impact young womxn and nonbinary folks of color. YWOC serves as the leadership council for the YWOC4RJ Collective and regularly engages the larger collective through online and offline activism opportunities. YWOC is currently made up of 16 activists from across the country organizing to decrease sexual health disparities in communities of color, advocating for the inclusion of young people of color in creating solutions to address the impacts of oppression, and building power with a new generation of organizers for reproductive justice.

YOUTH ACTIVIST ALLIANCE LEADERS

Youth Activist Alliance Leaders are youth organizers who run local or state-level grassroots campaigns for change in youth sexual health and rights and reproductive justice. By joining our Youth Activist Network (YAN), youth serve as local lead organizers for a city, county or state alliance. By co-creating bold visions in the fight for a world free from oppression, each alliance will launch their own campaign for change targeting their county and city councils, school boards, and state legislatures, and build up a powerful base of young activists committed to the movement for reproductive justice.

FREE THE PILL

The Free the Pill youth council is a cohort of youth organizers working to build public support for the #FreeThePill campaign, a national effort to bring a birth control pill over the counter, covered by insurance, and without age restrictions. The youth council highlights the specific barriers that young people face to getting the care they need, especially young people of color and LGBTQ young people. In addition to this national work, Free the Pill council members work to expand access to contraception at the state and local level.

Mission Statement

Advocates for Youth partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth.

The Three R's

Advocates for Youth envisions a society in which all young people are valued, respected and treated with dignity; sexuality is accepted as a healthy part of being human; and youth sexual development is normalized and embraced. In such a world, all youth and young adults are celebrated for who they are and afforded honest, affirming, inclusive sex education; access to confidential, universal sexual health services; and the economic, educational, and social power to exercise their bodily autonomy and make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

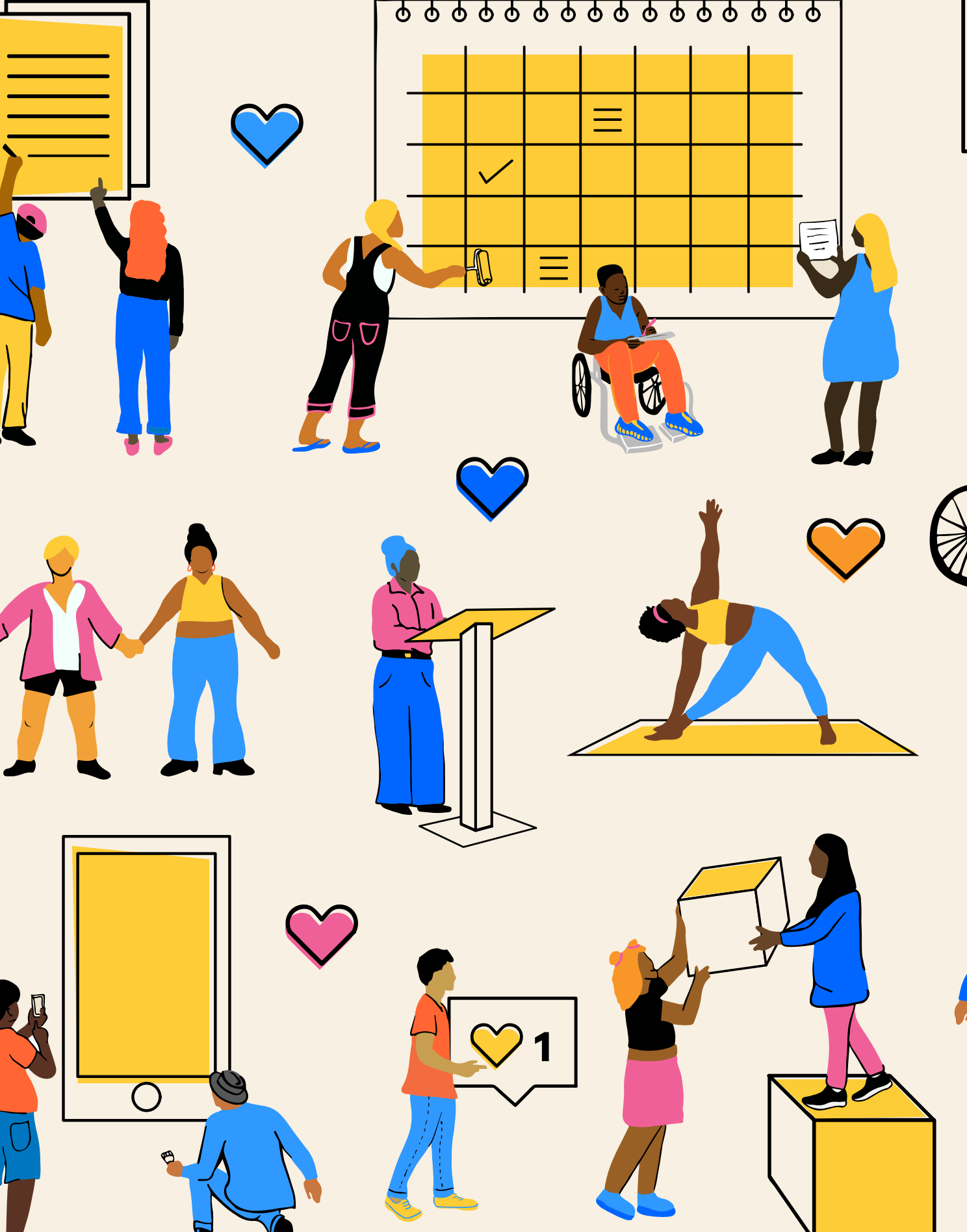
Values: Rights, Respect, Responsibility

Advocates' Rights, Respect, Responsibility philosophy underpins all of the organization's work:

Rights: Youth have the inalienable right to honest, inclusive sex education; confidential, universal sexual health services; and the economic, political and social power that supports their agency, bodily autonomy, and self-determination.

Respect: Youth are due respect. They are leading the fight for equity and justice. Young people must be meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of systems, policies and programs that affect their health and well-being.

Responsibility: Society has the responsibility to examine and dismantle systems of oppression that drive sexual health disparities and other inequities and to instead champion community initiatives, programs, policies, and systems that ensure equity and justice for all young people, their families and communities.





ANOTHER WORLD
IS POSSIBLE

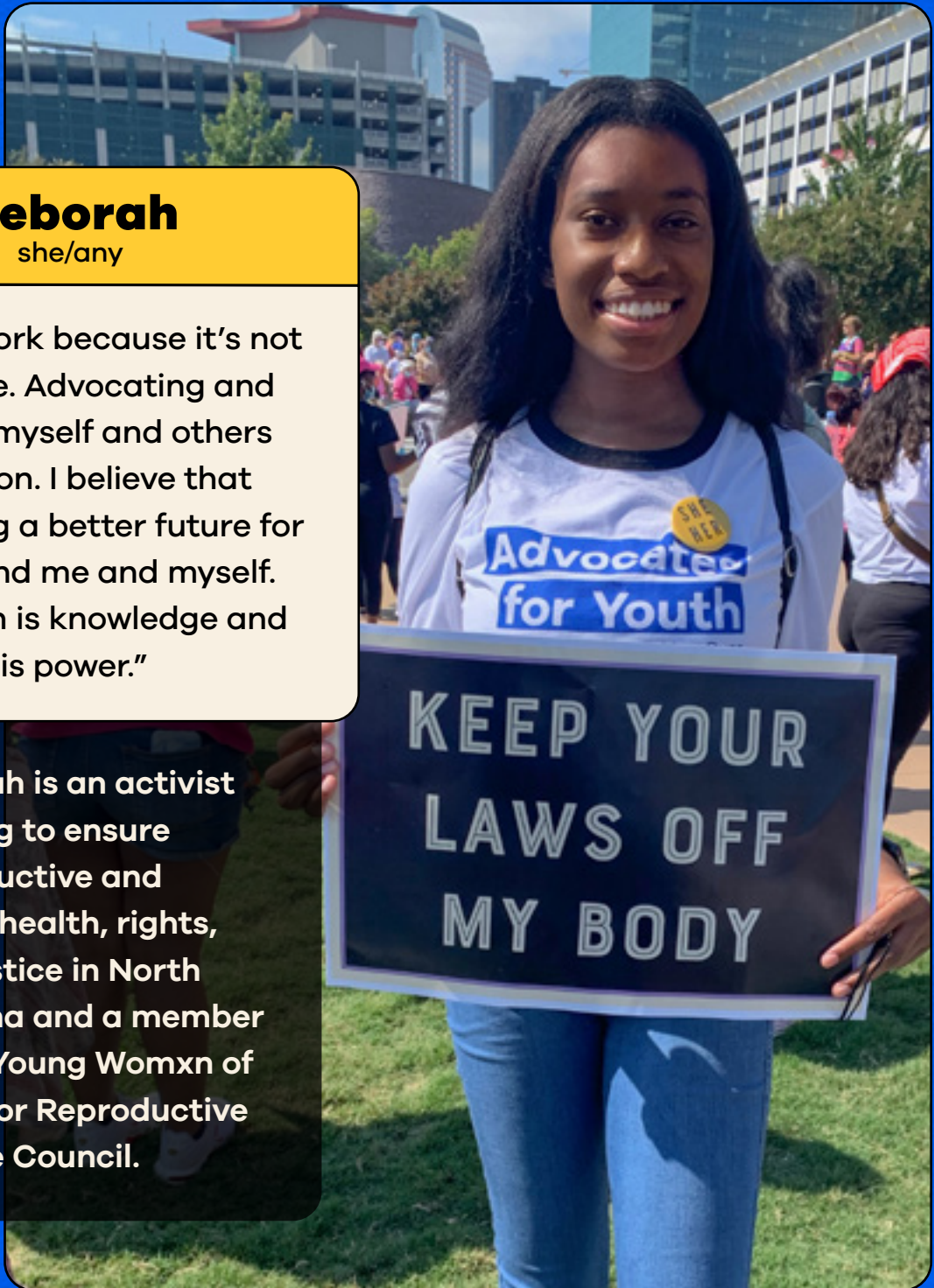


Deborah

she/any

"I do this work because it's not work for me. Advocating and educating myself and others is my passion. I believe that I'm creating a better future for those around me and myself. Information is knowledge and knowledge is power."

Deborah is an activist working to ensure reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice in North Carolina and a member of the Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Council.



**Young.
Powerful.
Taking Over.**



AdvocatesTweets



advocatesforyouth

www.advocatesforyouth.org

**Advocates
for Youth**

Young. Powerful. Taking Over.