Our Top Ten Accomplishments

Shattered the Silence Around Women’s Experiences with Abortion

Last year, Advocates launched the ground-breaking 1 in 3 Campaign, employing the power of first-person story telling to destigmatize women’s experiences and strengthen support for abortion care. By encouraging women who have had abortions to end their silence, share their stories, and start a new and more personal conversation about abortion, the 1 in 3 Campaign has begun to create a more enabling cultural environment for the policy and legal work of the field.

This year, Advocates collected nearly 300 stories, trained activists on twenty campuses, reached more than 30 million people with information and stories from the campaign via social and traditional media. Stories posted on the 1 in 3 Campaign website were viewed more than 1,600,000 times.

To mark the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Advocates published the book 1 in 3: These Are Our Stories, featuring 40 first person stories, along with a discussion guide. The book is available through Amazon and iTunes. Advocates distributed/sold more than 2,000 copies, and systematically distributed the publication to women’s studies programs, LGBTQ and Women’s Resource Centers and clinics around the country.

“Every page drew me into their life decisions and reinforced my strong conviction that ‘what's right for you’ in your situation is more important than legislation, politics, religious affiliation, stigma, and the rest of society. I implore all readers from across the spectrum to take the time to read these short accounts in 1 in 3. It is a noteworthy, informative volume.”

- Molly, reader on Goodreads.com
Mobilized Tens of Thousands of Millennials in Support of Youth Sexual Health and Rights

 Millennials are perhaps the most pro-sexual-health generation in history. This diverse and technologically savvy group of young people is committed to comprehensive sex education, contraception, safe abortion care, and equality for LGBTQ individuals. Advocates continues to work in partnership with youth to mobilize Millennials, and to share lessons learned with the reproductive and sexual health and rights movement.

Through Advocates’ website, www.advocatesforyouth.org, and its online activism hub by and for youth activists, www.amplifyyourvoice.org, Advocates reached more than 2.8 million visitors, and mobilized its 75,000 member Youth Activist Network to send nearly 200,000 letters and hundreds of thousands of petition signatures to public officials and other decision makers calling out cultural hypocrisy and injustice in support of youth sexual health and rights.

For example, in Alabama, teachers are forced to lie to their students and say that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is an “unacceptable lifestyle” and a “criminal offense.” In response to this harmful law, youth activists created a petition to encourage the Alabama state legislature to pass the “Hate Doesn’t Belong in the Classroom” bill which would strike this inaccurate and hateful language from law. Within days of the petition going live, youth activists delivered almost 20,000 signatures to the state legislature in Montgomery, Alabama.

Taking on the Texas Legislature

Youth activist James, in partnership with Advocates and the Texas Freedom Network, defeated an attempt to shut down Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Centers at universities across the state. Growing up in Rio Grande Valley, James shared, “I was taught being gay was wrong. It wasn’t until I stepped into my college resource center and found other students like me that I finally found peace with myself. The Center at the University of Houston changed my life.” Texas Representative Zedler introduced an amendment to the budget bill which would take that center away, along with all other centers like it in Texas, by cutting all funding for LGBT Resource Centers. James worked quickly to convince the University of Houston’s student government to pass a resolution.
condemning the “Zedler Amendment.” He wrote media pieces and created an online petition against cutting funding. The petition gathered 1,500 signatures in just a few hours. He and other youth activists presented the signatures to legislators in Austin and shared their stories. The amendment was withdrawn - saving LGBT Resource Centers on campuses across the state.

Increased Access to Contraception in the U.S. and Global South

In the United States, nearly 750,000 teens experience pregnancy each year – the vast majority of these unintended. And around the world, 215 million women face an unmet need for contraception. Advocates believes all young people have the right to decide for themselves when or if they become parents. This year, Advocates intensified its contraceptive access projects in the U.S. and abroad, reaching more than 1 million young people with contraceptive information and services.

Access to Contraception in D.C. In a groundbreaking effort to improve youth contraceptive access in the District of Columbia, Advocates spearheaded successful efforts to pass collaborative practice legislation that will allow pharmacists to provide hormonal contraception without a prior prescription – removing a barrier for tens of thousands of young women.

Mississippi Youth Declare: “Keep doing everything. My visit was great!” Advocates partnered with the Mississippi Department of Health and the Women’s Fund of Mississippi to establish a teen clinic in Jackson. The teen clinic, built into an existing health facility, the UNACARE Health Center, was previously not open in the evenings and weekends or staffed by practitioners trained to serve youth. Advocates trained staff on youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services; worked to develop protocols to guarantee youth confidentiality, and helped recruit and train a Youth Advisory Board. As a result, the Midtown Teen Wellness Center is now open and offers youth-specific hours from 4 to 7 p.m. three days a week. In a recent survey, 100 percent of the first 65 youth served by the clinic responded that all clinic staff members were friendly to them, they were comfortable asking questions, they received enough information about any questions they had, and they received the health care they had come in for. Comments were enthusiastic, including “It was great!”, “I would come back!”, and “I had a great experience.”

“Condoms in every dorm on campus” To normalize condom use among sexually active college students, Advocates supported 2,000 youth to serve as “SafeSites” at 948 colleges throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These youth distributed 1,200,000 Trojan-donated condoms along with safer sex information and advocated for increased access to sexual health resources and information. At the University of Michigan, for example, after months of advocacy, student activists convinced the university administration to offer condoms in vending machines in every dorm on campus.

Meeting Youth Needs and Doubling Users in Rural Burkina Faso

Advocates assisted its partners in a rural town (Léo) to train 29 health providers on youth-friendly services and 20 peer educators to educate young people about what to expect during a clinic visit, their rights as clients, and referrals to local services. Reports from clinic staff indicate a doubling in the number of young people who have sought reproductive health services since the project began.

“As a Millennial of Color, research shows that although my peers would like to decrease the rate of teen pregnancies, they also feel that society has a responsibility to provide young parents with the necessary resources and opportunities to lead healthy lives.”

- YWOCLC member Brittany, writing in response to a New York City campaign which shamed teen mothers

FIVE YEARS OF PREVENTION IN S.C.

In South Carolina, Advocates continued to partner with the New Morning Foundation to increase youth demand for and access to effective methods of contraception. These efforts have contributed to a 25 percent reduction in teen birth rates in the state since 2000.

Prevention by the numbers:

- 65,000 young people reached with contraceptive information
- 15 colleges providing better contraceptive education and services
- 80,000 condoms distributed
- 100 women connected to aid for long-acting reversible contraception
Championed Young People’s Rights to Honest Sex Education

Advocates remains one of the premier organizations on the forefront of the sex education debate. Whether helping to train advocates and educators to use the National Sexuality Education Standards, acting as government and opposition watchdog, advocating for improved policies at the federal and state level, or empowering young people to advocate on their own behalf, Advocates continues working toward the realization of young people’s right to honest sex education.

Creating National Standards
In 2012, through the Future of Sex Education (FoSE), Advocates, Answer and SIECUS published the National Sexuality Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12, which provides the first-ever evidence-based guidance for schools on the minimum essential core content students need to learn per grade level, K-12. These Standards are now included in the latest edition of Sexuality Education Theory and Practice, the premier text used to teach the pedagogy of sexuality education. The standards have spurred action to improve sex education in communities around the nation, from Dougherty County, Georgia, to Lawrence, Kansas, to Des Moines, Iowa.

Assisting in State and Local Efforts
Advocates worked with partners in Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas through its Cultural Advocacy and Mobilization Initiative, an effort to assist organizations in the states to build a youth activist network of at least 3,000 youth (led by a 10-member youth leadership council) and mobilize them in support of comprehensive sex education policies and practices at the state and local levels. This work led to the introduction of legislation to improve sex education in Alabama and South Carolina as well as contributing to the passage of comprehensive sex education legislation in Colorado.

Building Capacity in the Global South
In collaboration with UNFPA and UNESCO, Advocates began a new project to provide training to curriculum developers in Southern and East Africa on the development, integration, and review of sexuality education curricula. Thus far Advocates has trained approximately 80 curriculum developers and other stakeholders from 15 countries. As a result, participants will be implementing action plans to build support for and improve sex education in their countries.
Fought for the Health and Rights of Marginalized Youth: Young Parents; Muslim Youth; LGBTQ Youth

Advocates is committed to securing sexual health and rights for all young people – with a focus on those whose needs are overlooked, or who face health disparities born of discrimination.

Breaking Barriers with the Muslim Youth Project Though public health programs have attempted to address the needs of many marginalized youth communities, the Muslim youth community continues to remain nearly invisible. Advocates continued to be the only national organization with a project dedicated to supporting organizations working on sexual health issues related to Muslim youth. Staff provided networking opportunities and resources via a listserv and technical assistance to 50 youth-serving providers working with Muslim youth, assisting them to integrate culturally relevant sexual health information and services into their youth programming. This year, staff also provided a seed grant and intensive training to two organizations. As a result, HEART Women and Girls, located in Chicago, held a community-wide event to raise awareness on sexual violence in the Muslim community, created a toolkit on the importance of sex education in the Muslim community, and launched a blog, Sisters Breaking Barriers. The Jahajee Sisters, located in New York City, hosted a week-long Muslim Sisters’ Leadership Institute in August 2012 which incorporated reproductive justice, Islamophobia, STI and teen pregnancy prevention, LGBTQ rights, and the intersectionality of these identities and experiences.

More Services, Less Stigma Advocates expanded its work with pregnant and parenting teens – young people who face barriers to education and health, as well as stigma and shame as a result of some teen pregnancy prevention efforts. Advocates assisted Young Women United (YWU) in New Mexico to build its policy and programming work around pregnant and parenting teens, including providing support on new media mobilization to successfully advocate for a state bill allowing young parents to take excused absence from school. In spring 2013, Advocates also provided messaging advice to the New York Coalition for Reproductive Justice (NYC4RJ) as it fought back against billboards which used fear-based messages to stigmatize and shame teen parents.

Many (Young) Men, Many Voices Young men who have sex with men (YMSM) face the highest HIV rates of any group, with rates rising, rather than falling. Yet few sex education and HIV prevention programs address their needs. Advocates worked in three municipal school districts (Philadelphia, New York City, San Francisco) to build the capacity of school/community personnel to implement school-centered HIV prevention and care for African American YMSM ages 13 to 18. Staff adapted the Many Men, Many Voices program, an intervention that had proven successful with adult African American men who have sex with men, for use with youth African American MSM—the first such adaptation for this population—and added a social marketing campaign for use with African American YMSM ages 13 to 19.

All Students Count LGBT youth face many health disparities, including disproportionate rates of bullying, homelessness, and abuse. But the full impact of these is rarely understood, because there is little information on LGBT students. In 2005, just 11 states asked questions about sexual orientation on their Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, statewide surveys of high school students which provides information about student demographics, behaviors, and risk factors. Through the efforts of the All Students Count Coalition, spearheaded by Advocates, in 2012, 41 states and municipal districts included these questions, ensuring that LGBT youth will be counted and their needs addressed.

“An estimated 40 percent of homeless Americans identify as either lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. To me, that’s not just a statistic, it’s personal: I was a homeless LGBT youth.”
- Amplify blogger Hannah, writing for The Advocate

NOT JUST ANOTHER TEEN SOAP East Los High is a Hulu-exclusive drama—which ranks number one on Hulu Latino—focusing on Latin@ young people growing up in East Los Angeles and taking a look at their interests, problems with school and family, and trying to fit in with peers. Advocates’ staff assisted the show’s producers in creating sexual health themes and as a result, the series combines a teen drama with positive messages on sexual health. The East Los High website has highlighted the work of Advocates’ young people in The Siren, the show’s virtual school newspaper.
Nurtured a Pipeline of Diverse and Committed Young Leaders

Central to Advocates for Youth’s mission is the promotion of youth-adult partnership and youth leadership. Advocates prides itself on recruiting, training, and supporting a cadre of diverse and passionate young leaders for the sexual health, rights and justice fields, who not only create change in their communities today but go on to be leaders in the reproductive health and rights movement.

A key strategy in developing youth leaders is Advocates’ annual Urban Retreat—a four-day, intensive youth activist training institute. The 13th Annual Urban Retreat brought together 130 committed and passionate young people from 33 states in the U.S. and from Nigeria, Jamaica, Uganda, Nepal, China, and Lebanon. These young people received a full scholarship to attend the retreat where they participated in training sessions on, among many other topics, sexual health, rights and justice; advocacy and mobilization; media outreach; public speaking; and leadership development and action planning. Each then worked with a staff person to create an action plan and identify goals, benchmarks, strategies and tactics to make change on their campuses and in their communities.

The Urban Retreat also includes a policy maker education day. Young people receive extensive training on how to contact and convince legislators to support reproductive health and rights, then visit their Representatives and Senators to ask for support for positive reproductive and sexual health policies.

Activists took these skills back to their communities where they continue to work closely with Advocates staff to execute their action plans and realize their vision for change.

Legacy of Leadership Past Urban Retreat participants have gone on to contribute and work within the field at organizations such as: the NY Reproductive Justice Coalition; Cascade AIDS in Portland Oregon; Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts; the Texas Freedom Network; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; USAID; and Center for American Progress, among many other important organizations in the sexual and reproductive health and rights field. Other former activists are completing residencies in Family Medicine and OB/GYN as well as working in public school systems and state public health agencies.
Drove Holistic and Comprehensive Approaches to HIV Prevention

Thirty years into the HIV epidemic, it has become clear that segmented or incomplete approaches to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic are insufficient. Advocates’ approach to HIV work continues to be both broad and deep, including national awareness education campaigns, working intensively with youth activists in their communities to increase testing and treatment, and lobbying for policies which would help reduce HIV among young people.

Testing and Prevention at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) In Georgia and Mississippi, Advocates assisted the health centers at five HBCUs to support youth leadership councils to improve students’ access to sexual health information and services on campus, including condoms and HIV testing and treatment. Since Advocates began working with these five HBCUs in September 2010, the young activists have reached 28,541 students with information and materials; distributed 234,325 condoms and safer sex information to peers; established 54 additional condom distribution sites across the five campuses; tested 4,636 students for HIV; and linked all but two of the 43 students who tested positive to care.

The First National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day On April 10, 2013, Advocates led a team of organizational partners to observe the first-ever National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD). Advocates spearheaded the creation of NYHAAD to address the urgent needs of young people in the HIV and AIDS response. The first NYHAAD consisted of over 30 local and online events and broad media coverage, as well as a Congressional briefing on young people and HIV/AIDS, during which several of Advocates’ activists talked about the importance of comprehensive sexual health information and services in preventing HIV and AIDS.

Intensified Efforts to Strengthen the Youth LGBTQ Movement in the Global South

Advocates deepened its efforts to leverage its domestic expertise in addressing homophobia and transphobia to reach youth-serving organizations and advocates in the global south. In Uganda, Advocates worked with youth activists to assess the cultural competency of US government HIV/AIDS service providers on the provision of LGBTQ-friendly services; and is training service providers on the needs and rights of LGBTQ youth – even in the face of The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which would have affected nearly 500,000 LGBTQ citizens in Uganda by making it a criminal offense punishable by death or prison to be LGBTQ or to assist LGBTQ individuals.

Advocates’ partnership with the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN) has resulted in a project to support LGBTQ youth in Jamaica. Advocates provided youth activists with two intensive trainings on counseling techniques, HIV and AIDS, advocacy, blogging, and social media. With this training, the youth have created a peer education website, www.iliveoutloud.org, to provide LGBTQ youth with support, information, and referrals to local LGBTQ-friendly services.

“I was not prepared to speak, but after listening to the opposition’s arguments that were no more than racist and discriminatory, I wanted my voice heard. I was ‘the gay’ that they rejected, and the ‘immigrant’ that disgusted them, and the ‘culture’ that they were opposed to. I had never publicly said that I was gay before, but I knew that this was the time to express myself. Comprehensive sexual health education encourages respect for others and respect for yourself, which is why I was able to testify, and confront the opposition. Learning about my body, my actions and reactions, and my rights as a young person has allowed me to gain self assurance and confidence.”

- Colorado activist Adrian, on testifying for legislation that would ensure Colorado students receive comprehensive sex education
Advocates continued to partner with youth-led organizations in Nigeria, Jamaica, and Nepal to support youth activist councils that advocate for programs and policies to improve youth sexual health in their countries and internationally. As a result, in Nepal, the government has agreed to amend the national sexuality education curriculum by integrating the council’s key recommendations. In Nigeria, after three years of advocacy efforts, the government will now include a line item specific to adolescent sexual and reproductive health within the national budget, to take effect in 2013. Finally, in Jamaica, one of Advocates’ activists was appointed to the Developing Country NGO Delegation of the Global Fund Board.

Advocates understands that the success of the movement depends on building strong state and local organizations to sustain the work. As such, Advocates partners with more than 25 state and local organizations each year, providing them with training, strategic assistance, seed funding and networking opportunities. For example, as part of a multi-year CDC initiative, Advocates provided intensive assistance in nine communities to address teen pregnancy through community-wide mobilization that promotes access to evidence-based programs and clinical services for youth. Assistance included training on managing controversy and youth-adult partnerships, consultation on effective strategies for engaging community leaders to create community support, and helping develop community mobilization and sustainability work plans. Advocates provided networking opportunities for leaders of teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent sexual health organizations through a national gathering in December 2012.

“First of all, our sincere thanks to Barbara for such a terrific Program Sustainability training! We are proud to be the Oklahoma chapter of the ‘Advocates for Youth’ fan club! Thanks for providing this training... and thanks for all you do on behalf of young people and those of us working on the front-line to improve the quantity and quality of teen pregnancy prevention/sexuality education programs in communities across our state.

- Sharon Rodine, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Shifting the Societal Paradigm

Educating, Empowering, & Mobilizing Youth

Driving Adolescent Reproductive & Sexual Health Policy & Practice

Redressing Adolescent Sexual Health Disparities

Improving the Health & Well-being of Young People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
A NEW GENERATION OF ACTIVISTS
WHY THEY FUEL MY PASSION

A Letter from the President, Deb Hauser

For this new generation of youth activists, being an activist is not just what they do. It is who they are.

When I started at Advocates 22 years ago this July, young people’s sexual health and rights were being trampled upon in many communities across the globe. Challenges seemed to overwhelm opportunities. Abstinence-only was our national sex education policy, and we were exporting it to others abroad. LGBT youth were afforded little affirmation. HIV was still devastating a generation. And young people were barely visible in our field.

Today the stage is set for a new day, a new time.

This generation of young people represents one of the most influential, diverse and socially progressive generations in our history and there is a movement afoot to meaningfully engage them as advocates and leaders in the fight for sexual health, rights and justice. The implications of “youth power” for our field are enormous. We must meaningfully tap the passion, vision, and leadership young people are bringing to the table. These young people, this new generation of activists, empowered as leaders, trained in our issues and knowledgeable about their own communities can help to revitalize the field and keep it relevant in a world that is increasingly diverse and that requires a more integrated, holistic and rights-based approach to sexual health. By engaging this generation as leaders rather than passive end users of adult programs, we not only shape the present, but also the future as this generation propels change in the decades ahead as advocates, policy makers, parents, and community leaders.

Robert F. Kennedy once said:

This world demands the qualities of youth—not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the life of ease.

As I reflect on this past year, my heart soars because I have seen before me in each and every activist with whom we work, the will, imagination, courage, and spirit that will transform our world—if we are smart enough, collaborative enough and courageous enough to work alongside them.
In FY2013, Advocates’ expenses totaled $5,923,371. Income included new revenue of $4,321,886 from grants and contributions received in FY2013, as well as $1,601,485 in grants and contributions received in previous years for use in FY2013.

Program Service Expenses Include:
- Adolescent Sexual Health Services: $1,125,163
- Education and Outreach: $89,954
- HIV/AIDS Education: $717,923
- International Programs: $522,433
- Public Affairs: $1,518,010
- Public Information Services: $178,994
- Youth Empowerment: $283,191
- Youth of Color: $269,484

Revenue: $5,923,371
- Grants and Contributions: $2,757,131
- Investment Income: $4,300
- Carry-Over from FY12: $1,601,485
- Program Service Fees: $44,953

Expenses: $5,923,371
- Program Services: $4,705,152 (80%)
- Management and General: $778,529 (13%)
- Fundraising: $439,690 (7%)

Net Assets Beginning of Year: $5,636,666
Net Assets End of Year: $4,035,181

“We are firmly in support and call for the realization of all young people’s human rights which include sexual and reproductive rights, that must be respected regardless of our age. That’s why we are here to share with you our collective voice and message: Youth Demand Change.”

- IYLC alumna Meredith, speaking at the ICPD Global Youth Forum

For more information on ways to give, contact Jennifer Stark at jennifers@advocatesforyouth.org

Advocates for Youth participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, #12087.
OUR MISSION AND VISION

Advocates for Youth champions programs and advocates for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health.

Through its vision of Rights.Respect.Responsibility.® (“3Rs”), Advocates believes that

• youth have an inalienable RIGHT to accurate and complete sexual and reproductive health information, confidential services, and a secure stake in the future;

• youth deserve RESPECT—valuing them means involving them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that affect their health and well-being;

• and society has the RESPONSIBILITY to provide young people with the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health, while young people have the RESPONSIBILITY to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

www.advocatesforyouth.org