



advocates for
informed choice

JUSTICE

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CURRENT BOARD

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Julie Greenberg, JD (Secretary)
Emily Duskow, JD (Treasurer)
Alice Alvarez
Arlene Baratz, MD
Mani Bruce Mitchell
Reid Williams
Karen Walsh



Invisible no more!

A message from our Executive Director

2014 was a tipping point, the year that the word intersex was everywhere. Intersex has become much more visible than many of us expected just a few short year ago. Advocates for Informed Choice is following suit and for the first time in our 8 year history AIC is led by both an intersex Executive Director and an intersex Board President. Our amazing youth and young adult Inter/Act members are making huge strides

towards raising public awareness about intersex and the issues affecting our children. Inter/Act became a media buzzword in early 2014 when they requested, and received, an on-air apology by Fox News for mocking "intersex" and ended the year with the revelation that a main character on MTV's



Faking It is intersex — a television first! Refusing to be silent, reject-

ing the fear and shame central to so many stories of intersex people, the youth in Inter/Act are swiftly broadening minds and helping to lift intersex out of the shadows.

Project Integrity, the heart of AIC's work to protect the human rights of children born with intersex traits, gained the full-time attention of our new Legal Director Anne Tamar-Mattis—AIC's founder and former ED. With a focus on winning #justice4MC while also educating and providing legal information to doctors, parents and global allies, Project Integrity is stronger than ever. The wheels of justice are slow to turn, but we are making steady progress. Our voices on behalf of children who cannot yet speak for themselves are finally being heard.

AIC welcomed three new board members in 2014, each of whom brings unique talents, experiences, shared passion and commitment to AIC's mission. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic and engaged board helping to steer AIC into the future. This past fall, staff and board members spent a weekend together to help mold and envision the future of AIC, and we all emerged with a determined and clear focus. After a community needs assessment and months of constructive dialogue, our leadership is ready to embark on the organization's next exciting phase - riding the changing tide towards a more just tomorrow for intersex children and those who love them. We are invisible no more.

Kimberly Zieselman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Moving toward our future



AIC Board and staff at strategic planning retreat in Tiburon, CA.



photo by Dottie Suggs

Sean Saifa M. Wall
BOARD PRESIDENT

November 14th-16th, the AIC board and staff gathered in Tiburon, CA for our first annual, in-person board and staff retreat. A convening of this nature has not happened since AIC's inception in 2007!

We were long overdue.

Set against the backdrop of the San Francisco Bay, we gathered as a group and planned our future as an organization. Facilitated by Shira Hassan and Kelly McGowan of a nonprofit consulting group, we reflected on our past, our challenges and our strengths as we laughed

and cried together. However, most importantly, we learned about one another. Prior to this gathering, we had been handling business mostly by video conference calls and the telephone. At this retreat, the voices that we all heard came to life. For some, it was a communion of old friends, for others it was an opportunity to build new relationships. For Karen Walsh, Reid Williams and Alice Alvarez, this was an exciting opportunity to get their "feet wet" as new board members.

As we are learning about ourselves as an organization, we had passionate conversations about issues such as racial equity and the use of language with regard to our constituency. We emerged from those conversations with respect and greater confidence in our ability to have conversations with one another.

In moving forward, we are implementing the vision action plans we crafted in Tiburon. We are leaving no one behind.

We are committed to upholding the bodily integrity of all children born with intersex traits. We are laboring with love in order to create a world where people with variations in sexual anatomy are respected and cherished.

#Justice4MC in 2014

Almost two-years ago, AIC, alongside co-counsel from the Southern Poverty Law Center and the law firms of Steptoe & Johnson LLP and Janet, Jenner & Suggs LLC, filed suit in South Carolina on behalf of "M.C.", a young boy with an intersex condition who had been subjected to irreversible genital surgery while in state custody in an effort to make his body appear female.

On February 25, 2014, a South Carolina judge held that an endocrinologist (and not just the surgeon) may have responsibility for ensuring that caregivers are fully informed when they agree to a treatment plan for a child with an intersex condition stating, "As alleged by Plaintiffs, Dr. Amrhein deviated from the standard of care of a reasonable practitioner by not informing those responsible for making medical decisions

for M.C. of the risks of and alternatives to the treatment plan, including the risks of sex assignment surgery, the risk that gender of rearing might be incorrect, and the alternative to delay surgery until M.C.'s gender was known. If these allegations prove true, Dr. Amrhein would be liable for failure to obtain informed consent."

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#Justice4MC

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South Carolina's 5th Judicial Circuit Court's rejection of the state Department of Social Services and two hospitals' motions to delay meant the defendants have to answer for their decision to castrate the child known as M.C. without any medical necessity. "The court's decision moves M.C. a step closer to justice," said Kristi Graunke, Southern Poverty Law Center senior supervising attorney. "This ruling holds doctors accountable when they recommend such drastic and irreversible procedures for infants but fail to ensure caregivers are fully informed about the risks and options."

The defendants' decision was made without the ability to know at such an early age whether M.C. would grow up to be a male or female. M.C. has since grown into a healthy 10-year-old boy, although he will never get back his genitals. M.C.'s mother stated "We hope that by speaking out and taking legal action, we will help other children born with intersex conditions and their families avoid suffering the pain that our son will be forced to deal with for the rest of his life." AIC remains in awe of M.C.'s family's courage and strength in defending the rights of their son at a time when he is too young to have a voice. As stated by our Legal Director, Anne Tamar Mattis, "We pledge to continue the fight on M.C.'s behalf and to ensuring that no child ever has to undergo this kind of life-altering surgeries without informed consent in the future."

Discovery and pre-trial motions are ongoing in the case, with trial expected in the fall of 2015.

TV's groundbreaking intersex character



In September, MTV introduced what BuzzFeed called "Television's Groundbreaking Intersex Character" on *Faking It*. AIC worked with writers, producers and the cast to ensure an authentic portrayal of Lauren a character born with Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome. Inter/Act member Emily Quinn, orchestrated a team of intersex youth to consult on the life story of Bailey DeYoung's character Lauren, helping MTV create a character who spoke to their shared experiences as intersex teens. Emily worked hard to create and co-star in an MTV video titled "Nine Things to Know about Being Intersex," with De Young. Quinn even helped create an animated version of her intersex story which has also been promoted widely on MTV. *Faking It*

Executive Producer Carter Covington said, "Creating a main character who is intersex, helping to raise awareness and providing a positive connection for intersex youth will always be what I am most proud of about this show. AIC's work is vitally important and I feel privileged to be working with the amazing Inter/Act youth".

Something transformative is happening. With your support, we have been able to work towards fulfilling our mission to create the new normal—one in which intersex bodies are accepted and intersex youth are fully integrated into society and granted the same rights and protections that everyone deserves.

“Creating a *main character* who is INTERSEX ... and providing a POSITIVE CONNECTION for **intersex youth** will always be what I am *most proud of* about this show.”

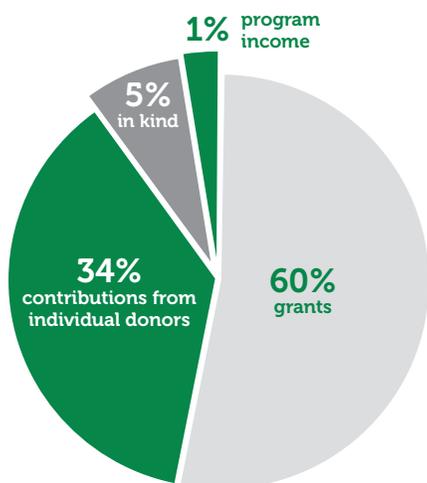
— Executive Producer Carter Covington
on MTV's *Faking It*

In its report, AIC addressed **GENITAL NORMALIZING SURGERY** on children **TOO YOUNG TO CONSENT**, **INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION**, *medical display*, **human experimentation**, and denial of needed medical care as **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**.

- * In early 2014, Clayton Morris, a Fox News host apologized on air in response to Inter/Act's advocacy after making a comment about intersex. Inter/Act youth quickly crafted a response in the form of an open letter to Fox and an op-ed piece featured on mic.com.: "I made an ignorant statement a few weeks ago," Mr. Morris stated. "We were talking about the Facebook story where they added a bunch of different gender-identifying things. And I made sort of an offhanded comment and I regretted it later because now 'Wait a second. There are people who are actually dealing with this and I'm an idiot for saying something stupid like that.' So before you open your mouth, just think about it a little bit." In choosing to make their lives a little more visible, our Inter/Act youth program is not only developing tomorrow's leaders, but is also directly affecting the way intersex is discussed today!
- * Inter/Act member Emily B. teamed up with former Coordinator Pidgeon Pagonis in August to lead a workshop & presentation on Advocacy, Collaboration & Improving Care with the clinical team at Lurie Gender & Sex Development program in Chicago.
- * Members of AIC staff and board; Anne Tamar-Mattis, Arlene Baratz, M.D., Pidgeon Pagonis, and Sean Saifa Wall spoke out on Huff Post Live in April about raising children with intersex traits. Their interview was heralded on the front page of the Huffington Post!
- * AIC submitted a report to the United Nations on the human rights violations committed against intersex people in medical settings as part of the United States' Universal Periodic Review, a process whereby the UN regularly reviews the human rights records of member states. This review is a powerful opportunity to create momentum for change. In its report, AIC addressed genital normalizing surgery on children too young to consent, involuntary sterilization, medical display, human experimentation, and denial of needed medical care as human rights violations.
- * For Intersex Awareness Day in October, we launched a social media campaign via Twibbon, asking supporters to update not only their statuses but their profile pics and cover photos on facebook and twitter. We had over 150 people directly participate and countless others "like" and "share" our message #IntersexIsAwesome.
- * Our first ever #GivingTuesday campaign launched in December resulted in a giant outpouring of support from and for the intersex community! "Perk" donations included autographed items from popular musicians Tegan and Sara and the cast of *Faking It*. AIC raised \$7,494 dollars in crucial funds to help support our work fighting for the rights of intersex children and their families, beating our original goal of \$5,000. We couldn't have done it without the amazing generosity of our donors, and want to tell you from the bottom of our hearts, thank you!
- * In November, Legal Director Anne Tamar-Mattis presented grand rounds on legal and human rights developments in caring for intersex children at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

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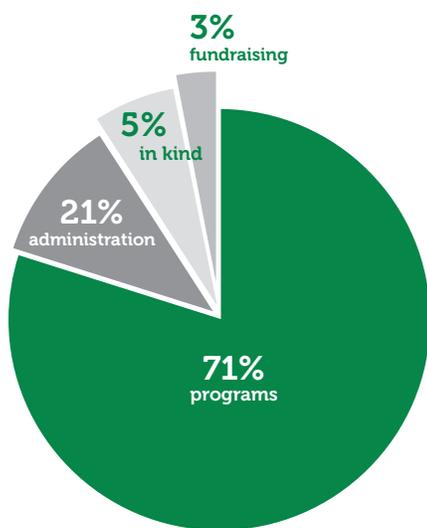




2014 income by revenue type

Because of your belief in us, we effectively:

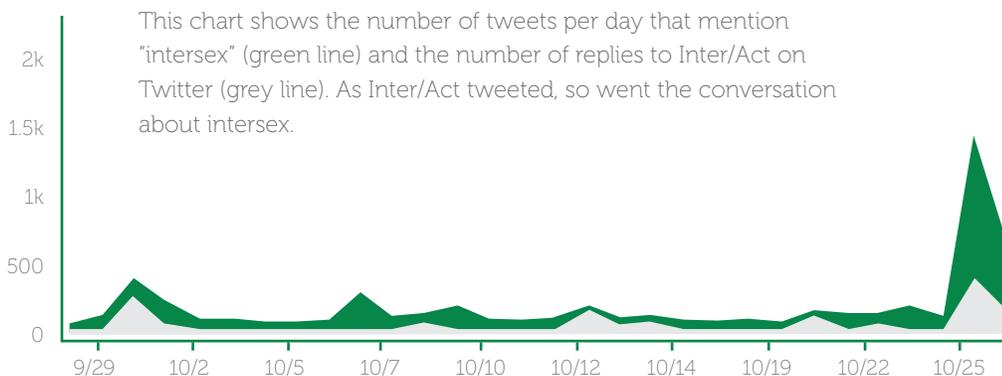
- Generated nearly \$80,000 in individual donations (our highest total ever - thank you!)
- Met our goal of 100% Board Fundraising Participation.
- Partnered with new foundations who share our vision, bringing AIC's foundation support to 60% of our annual income. Nearly a 20% increase over two years.
- Increased our web presence with more than 2,450 facebook page followers (combined), over 1,500 twitter followers (combined), thousands of views and reblogs on Inter/Act's tumblr, and millions of twitter impressions.
- Generated over 36,000 impressions from one of our tweets that combined an intersex-positive message and image from MTV's *Faking It* tweeted in support of GLAAD's annual anti-LGBTQ bullying #SpiritDay campaign.
- Quadrupled the number of tweets about intersex on social media thanks to Inter/Act's work with MTV!



2014 expenses by area

CLOSE TO \$80,000 IN INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
~
OUR HIGHEST TOTAL EVER!

Tweets per day: intersex and @inter_actyouth



Thanks to YOU!

You, our AIC supporters are essential in our fight for the human rights of children born with intersex traits. We are extremely grateful to each of our individual supporters and foundation partners and need your continued help to maintain and grow our impact both in the U.S. and abroad.

Thank you to everyone who said “yes” to taking action on behalf of our children by making a gift to AIC. The investment and diversity of our donors, who have come together to support our mission, helps to create a crucial foundation for AIC and the future of the intersex community, our

allies and especially our kids. We are incredibly proud of the committed support we receive from our donors. As a small organization those critical donations continue to be a central resource that sustains our work.

“Champions”

Donors who made 2014 gifts of \$900 or more

Arlene Baratz, M.D.
Jeff Chartrand
Pam and Mark Crawford
Milton Diamond, Ph.D.
Emily Doskow, J.D.
Jim Dykes
Julie Greenberg, J.D.
Craig Harwood
Bo Laurent
Mano Marks and Tracy Schmidt
Rebecca Mascott
Meg Robertson and Sheila Jaswal
Karen Walsh
Reid Williams

“Guardians”

Donors who made 2014 gifts of \$250-\$899

Ashley Anderson
Irene Beck
Wendy Blair
Frank Brown
Carter Covington
Katie Baratz Dalke, M.D.
Tiger Devore
Linda Gebroe
Judith Geizhals, Ph.D.
Jane Goto, In Honor of
Kimberly Zieselman
Janet Green
Charles Mascott
Terrance Meck
Mani Bruce Mitchell
Anne-Marie Amies Oelschläger, M.D.
Shirley Perreira, In Honor of
Renee Witon
Tracey Prazer
Terry Reed, On behalf of GIREs
Elizabeth Reis
Leslie Richards
Jacob Richards, J.D.
Virginia Ryan, J.D.
Jeannie Smith
Susan Stred, M.D.
Barbara B. Taylor
George von Klan
Laurene von Klan
Nina Williams
Philip Yenawine

The funders that help catalyze our work:



Previous foundation support

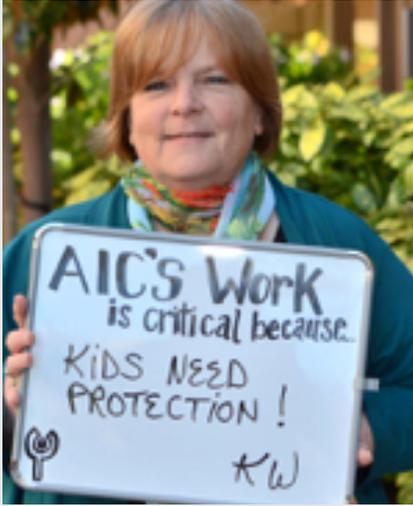
Ashoka Changemakers
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Equal Justice Works
Gill Foundation
Ms Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Small Change Foundation

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers:

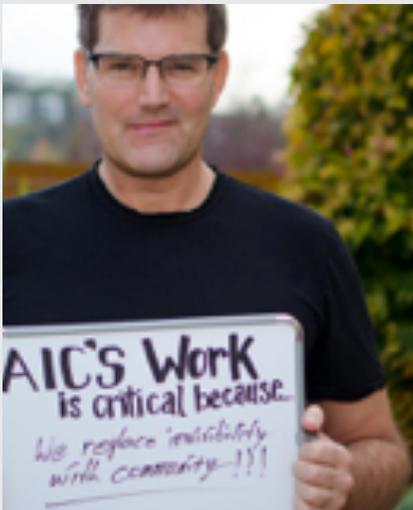
- * **Legal Interns:** Courtney Fraser, Maayan Sudai
- * **Generous Pro Bono Legal Service Providers:** John Lovi, William Ellerbe, and Raisa Michalek of Steptoe and Johnson LLP; Kenneth Suggs and Jacob Raehn of Janet, Jenner & Suggs, LLC; and Alesdair Ittelson, Chinyere Ezie, Kristi Graunke, David Dinielli, and Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Also, thank you to our anonymous donors at these levels. Your quiet giving has been pivotal to our success!

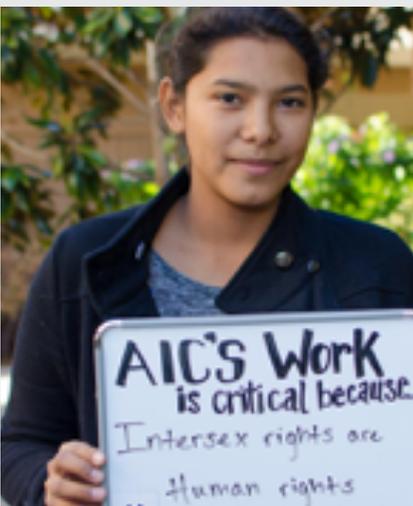
Meet AIC's newest board members



Karen Walsh



Reid Williams



Alice Alvarez

2014 Highlights

CONTINUED FROM P.5

- ★ The Society of Pediatric Urologists invited Legal Director, Anne Tamar-Mattis, to speak at their 62nd Annual Meeting on the potential liability urologists could face when cosmetic genital surgery is performed on a minor.
- ★ Alice Alvarez became the first Inter/Act youth member to join AIC's Board of Directors. Alice's unique insight and voice is a welcome addition to the board!
- ★ In July Inter/Act held the first ever in-person, intersex youth retreat in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thanks to generous funding from Liberty Hill Foundation, Horizons Foundation and anonymous donors, twelve Inter/Act youth spent four days sharing experiences and receiving hands-on leadership development training. They returned home better advocates, much more prepared to build together towards the future of the intersex youth movement.
- ★ The World Health Organization (WHO) published an interagency statement report titled "Eliminating forced, coercive and otherwise involuntary sterilization" including, for the first time, language condemning medically unnecessary surgery on children with intersex traits. AIC was one of many advocacy groups to contribute to this final report.

Advocates for Informed Choice uses innovative strategies to advocate for the legal and human rights of children born with intersex traits.

Advocates for Informed Choice

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