

InterACT

Advocates for Intersex Youth



2016 Annual Report

A year of accomplishment

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Message from the Executive Director

2016 was another big year for interACT. In January we launched our new name and website in honor of the young intersex voices at the core of our mission. We redirected the narrative of the medical community and raised awareness worldwide through media efforts and collaborative campaigns. We worked tirelessly behind the scenes to move medical treatment in line with human rights standards. Our youth leaders reached out to more young people than ever and we're bringing intersex voices to those in power in ways the medical community cannot ignore.



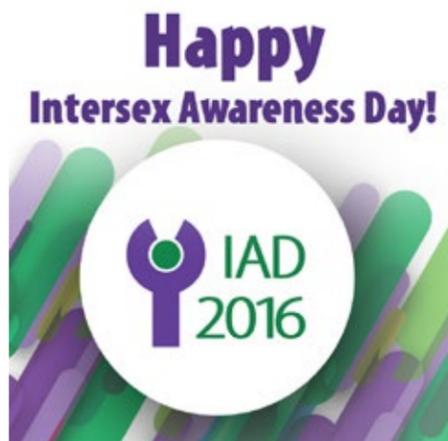
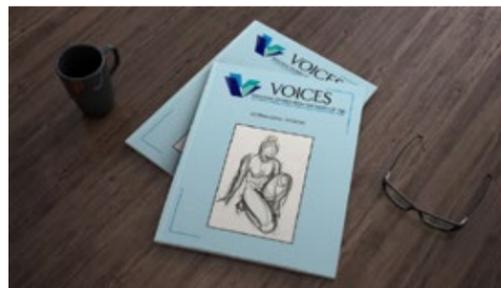
We're fighting for the human rights of children one by one, but also impactful broad-ranging policies. We worked with GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality for the first-ever resolution from a major American medical association calling for a delay in all unnecessary surgeries on intersex infants until the child is old enough to participate in the decision. We released a resolution on Intersex Awareness Day, pulling together support from over 20 international intersex organizations and most of the major LGBTQ organizations in the U.S. to call for an end to nonconsensual surgery and for the recognition of intersex human rights.

ing out to us for guidance, the number of individuals we've been able to assist, and the media coverage we've helped to develop—it's all staggering. At the end of 2016 we had the attention of the United Nations and many other human rights bodies, several agencies of the federal government, and several state and local authorities that can enforce laws and make policies to protect intersex children. And there is so much more to come!

Warmly,
Kimberly Zieselman

Kimberly Zieselman

The intersex community has the attention of the world in a big way, and we can tell this is an important moment. The sheer amount of input we've been asked to provide by medical and legal professional associations, the number of physicians reach-



interACT’s Law & Policy program aims to protect children born with intersex traits by promoting policy changes in medical practice, legislation, regulation, and the courts both in the U.S. and beyond. Here is a sampling of what we’ve helped bring about in 2016:

Together with the **Arcus Foundation**, we co-hosted a policy forum entitled: “Invisible No More: The Global Intersex Rights Movement,” an **international convening of intersex activists at Creating Change**, the largest leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBTQ social justice movement in the United States.



Our work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services led them to recognize that discrimination against intersex people in healthcare is prohibited as sex discrimination under the Affordable Care Act. **This is the first major recognition of intersex rights in any federal regulation.**



We began conversations three years ago with Human Rights Watch and Physicians for Human Rights in an effort to bring a human rights investigation to fruition in the U.S. We are now guiding the effort to create a report documenting the experiences of intersex people, their families, and their care providers, which will be **the first long-form report of its kind.**



We spearheaded efforts with GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality to bring about a **resolution calling for the delay of medically unnecessary genital surgeries on intersex infants until the child can participate in the decision.**



We worked with the **U.S. Department of State** to build awareness of issues facing our community. As a result, this Intersex Awareness Day they issued a statement clarifying that “the United States stands in solidarity with intersex persons around the world... [I]ntersex persons routinely face forced medical surgeries that are conducted at a young age without free or informed consent. These interventions jeopardize their physical integrity and ability to live free.”



We submitted testimony to the **United Nations Committee Against Torture**, pressing the Committee to consider intersex human rights as it prepares for meetings with the U.S. Government later this year.



We participated in the **launch of the Equal Rights Coalition** in Montevideo, Uruguay, a partnership of 31 governments (including the United States) to “strengthen cooperation to advance the human rights of, and support inclusive development for all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics.”

We published in multiple academic journals this year, including the *Journal of Pediatric Urology* and the *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, outlining why doctors must respect the autonomy and bodily integrity of intersex young people.



We also presented at multiple medical conferences, including those held by the Society for Pediatric Urology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. **The response from physicians who promote surgery on intersex infants has shifted from strident to defensive—they’re starting to see that the end of nonconsensual surgeries is near.**



interACT Youth is our intersex youth advocacy project providing young intersex people with connection, leadership skills, and a platform to raise their voices, which are at the heart and soul of our mission to honor bodily integrity and autonomy in decision-making.

We know how much individual voices matter – like Emily Quinn, interACT’s Youth Coordinator. Emily had the courage to share her story with a room full of surgeons at the Society for Pediatric Urology’s annual meeting, in a panel she co-facilitated with an interACT board member. Soon afterwards one of those doctors contacted us to share that his conscience was bothering him. He ended up **canceling genital surgery** scheduled just days away on a 4-year-old.

Youth advocates can make a tremendous difference, like Emily did in the life of that small child. It is because of you and your support that we were able to send Emily to speak to those doctors, and that that child was spared surgery. Last year we had enough stories to fill many more pages...like the one of a child whose parents contacted interACT after their doctor, prompted by another one of our presentations, expressed previously undisclosed risks of gonad removal, leading the parents to **decline surgery on their child.**

interACT Youth members also continue to raise awareness and speak out publicly in support of intersex rights. Here are just a few highlights from last year:

interACT Youth **collaborated with the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Youth Organization (IGLYO) on the creation of a video** filled with young intersex voices for Intersex Awareness Day.

interACT Youth members **created and disseminated videos**, featuring entirely interACT Youth members, addressing intersex discrimination in Olympic sports as well as the intersex perspective on the so-called “Bathroom Bills” aimed at the transgender community and their impact on our two communities.

Several interACT Youth members provided intersex education in their local communities telling their stories and advocating for intersex rights in front of their classmates, medical students, teachers, clinicians, and parents.



interACT Media was formally named our newest program in 2016 in recognition of the the increasing amount of public intersex visibility-raising and media consulting we are doing on a national and global scale. These projects often incorporate interACT Youth voices and are always in alignment with our law and policy goals. Some highlights from interACT Media in 2016:



We facilitated a **media training for twelve intersex young people** to learn important advocacy and communication skills, empowering them to speak to journalists and share their important stories in the media.

One of our youth members, Amanda Saenz, was featured on the MTV show *Faking It* as **the first out intersex person ever to play an intersex role on television.**



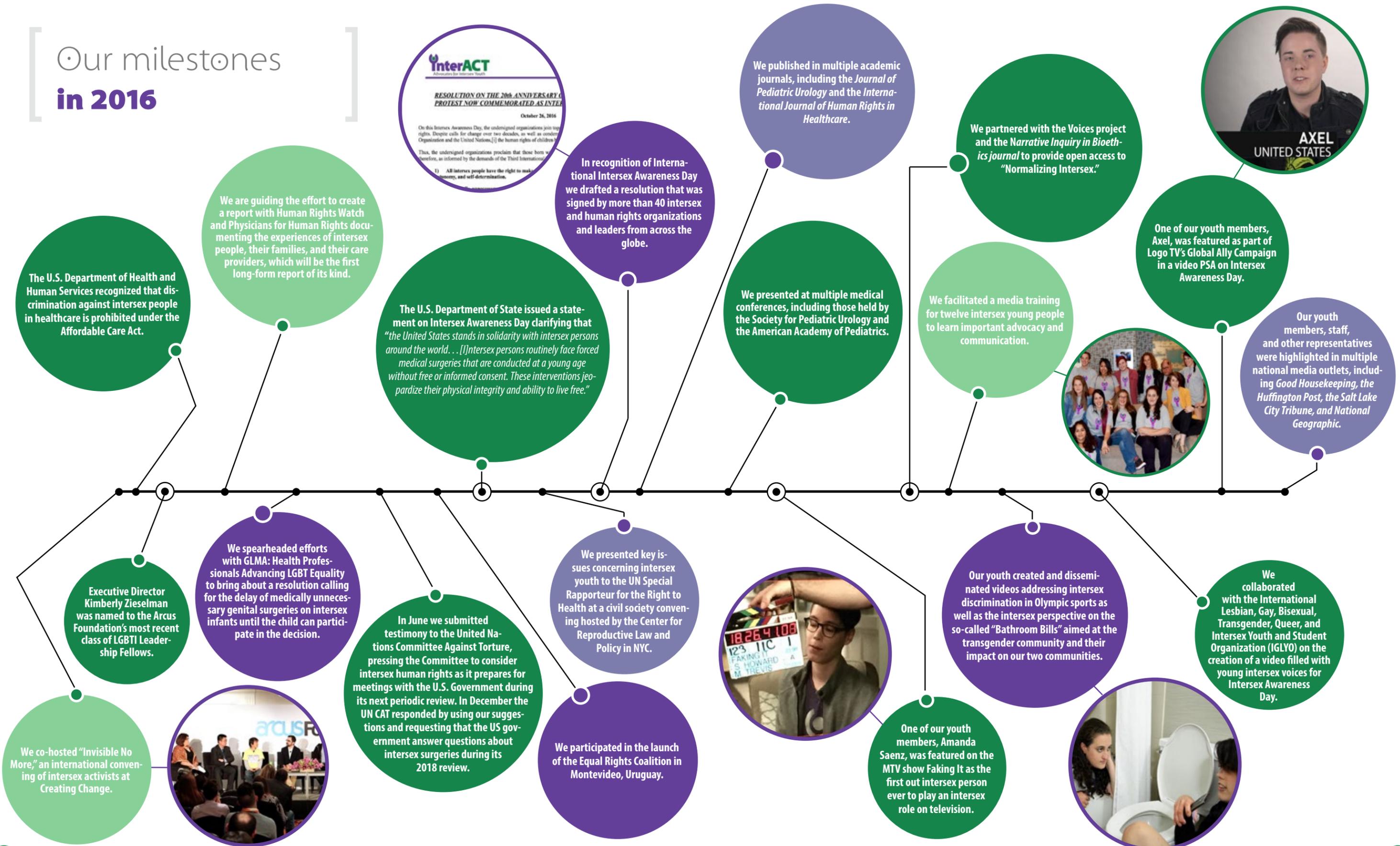
One of our youth members, Axel Keating, was **featured as part of Logo TV’s Global Ally Campaign** in a video PSA on Intersex Awareness Day.

We partnered with the Voices project and the *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* journal to provide open access to **“Normalizing Intersex” – a publication of diverse intersex narratives reporting their experiences with medical treatment.**

Our youth members and other interACT representatives were highlighted in multiple national media outlets, including *Good Housekeeping*, *the Huffington Post*, *the Salt Lake City Tribune*, *National Geographic*, and *Seventeen Magazine*.



Our milestones in 2016



2016 by the numbers

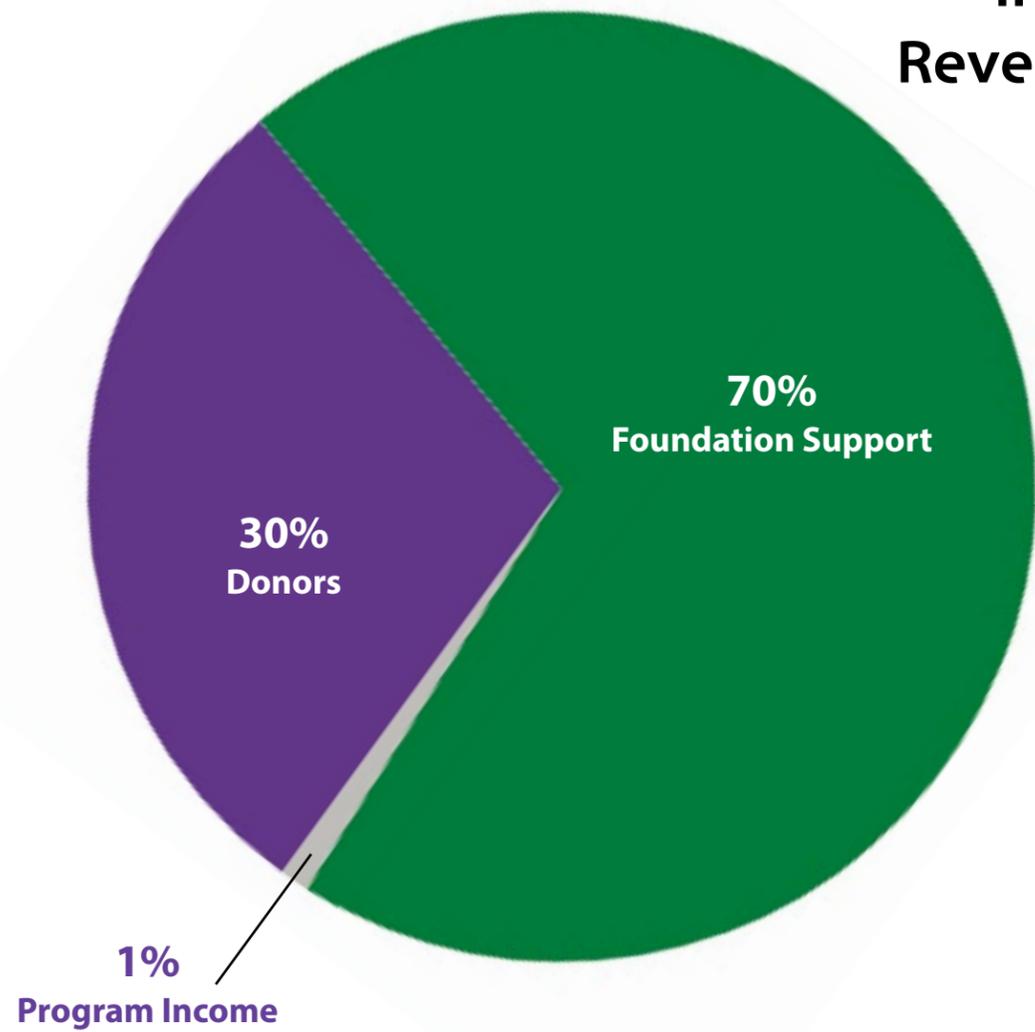
+1,623

Increase in Facebook followers

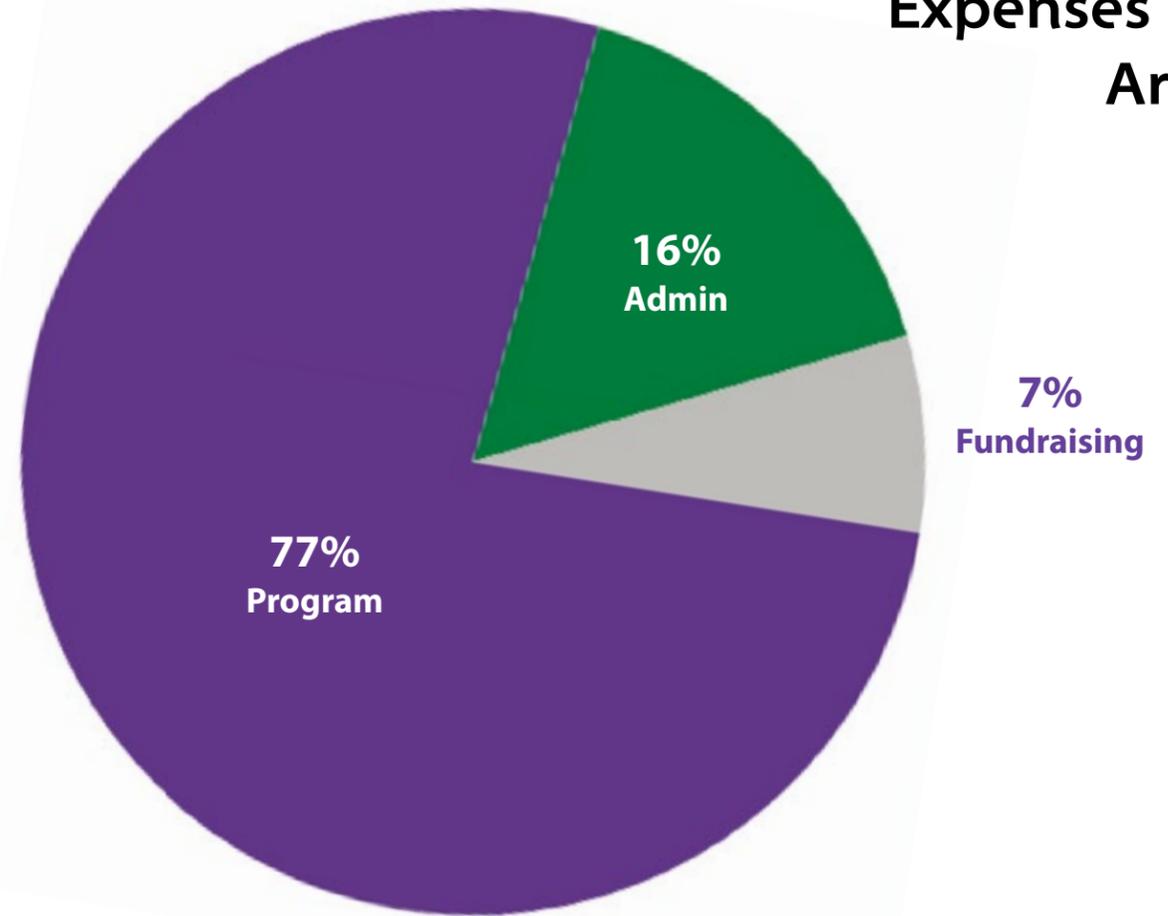
22,000+

Number of times our website was viewed by new visitors.

Income by Revenue Type



Expenses by Area



Our Donors

Champion Donors (\$1,000 +)

Our Champion Donors make a fantastic commitment to interACT. Their gifts are \$1,000 or more each year and the difference that they make is immeasurable. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our 2016 donors at this level.

Ralph Albert
 Arlene Baratz, M.D.
 Carter Covington
 Milton Diamond, M.D.
 Julie Greenberg
 Bo Laurent
 Elizabeth Reis
 Meg Robertson
 Tracy Schmidt
 Eleanor Sol
 Susan Stred, M.D.
 Doris Vlendorf
 Reid Williams

Also, thanks to all of our donors who have given anonymously at all levels. Your quiet, consistent giving has made a great deal of difference in the work we do.

Guardian Donors (\$250-\$999)

Our Guardian Donors give at a level which keeps our work going. We are thankful every day for those who put their trust, and their gifts, in our hands so that interACT can work toward making the changes we want to see for intersex children.

Karen Barad
 Rebecca Baughman Kerns
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 M. Cammisa
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 Nina Williams

Sustaining Donors

Sustaining donors give on a consistent basis, understanding that interACT can achieve more if we know what funding we can depend upon. Most give monthly, some quarterly or even annually, but knowing that this funding is around the corner helps to keep our programs active and on track. A special thank you goes out to these 2016 donors and their planned, recurring gifts.

Alice Alvarez
 Arlene Baratz, M.D.
 Rebecca Baughman Kerns
 Tamara Beck
 Johnny Boys
 Georgiann Davis
 Tiger Devore
 Liz Dietsch
 Emily Duskow
 Carolyn Edwards
 Christine Fraser
 Arin Hilton
 Kyle Johnson
 Eric Lohman
 Lynnell Long

Rebecca Mascott
 Jacob Richards
 Meg Robertson
 Karen Walsh
 Ali Webster
 Nina Williams

Thank You



We are humbled every year when we get the chance to look back at all of the amazing people and foundation partners who have supported our work and have entrusted us with the chance to be the voice for intersex kids. It is only with you that we will succeed, in the long run, in our fight to protect the legal and human rights of intersex children and youth.

This year we have seen our youth become bolder, a lot more willing to tell their stories, and your support has been integral in bringing their voices to the forefront. This year our legal battle has continued, and as it comes to a close, you are the driving force which allows us to continue to fight.

We are a small organization. We squeeze every possible benefit out of every donation we receive. We are incredibly proud of the trust you have placed in us, and of the amazing support we have received from you, our donors and trusted friends. You are what makes our work possible.

2016 Foundation Grantors

Arcus Foundation
Astraea Foundation Intersex Human Rights Fund
Horizons Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Small Change Foundation
Society for Community Work
Tides Foundation Kicking Assets Fund

Former Foundation Supporters

Ashoka Changemakers
Echoing Green
Equal Justice Works
Gill Foundation
Liberty Hill Queer Youth Fund
Ms. Foundation

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers!

Volunteers and Legal Interns:

Bo Laurent, Maayan Sudai

Nonprofit partners in the M.C. litigation:

David Dinielli, Kristi Graunke, Chinyere Ezie, and Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center

Pro bono legal partners in the M.C. litigation:

Raisa Daigneault, John Lovi, and William Ellevrbe of Steptoe and Johnson, LLP; Jacob Raehn and Kenneth Suggs of Janet, Jenner & Suggs, LLC.



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