



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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## **Advocates for Children of New York**

Since 1971, Advocates for Children has continued to play an important and unique role in New York's public education system. It focuses on youth most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of poverty, race, disability, language barriers, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other citywide organization provides these vulnerable students and their families with necessary one-on-one guidance and advocacy while simultaneously pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students. AFC's individual and policy efforts inform and strengthen each other, increasing its effectiveness in the communities it serves.

AFC serves children and youth, from birth through age 21, in all five boroughs of New York City. In an average year, 16,000 individuals receive one-on-one advice, case representation, and preparation to advocate for themselves. Thousands more benefit from policies changed by AFC's advocacy for the often forgotten students.

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows that a school system of 1.1 million students can be difficult to navigate. AFC operates the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline, a citywide resource for parents who need information to help their children succeed in school. Our helpline responds to more than 2,600 calls a year from New York parents having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more.

Over the years, AFC has also succeeded in reaching the most isolated students through collaborations with other organizations. For example, the Robin Hood Foundation funds 21 different partners in areas such as child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. AFC staff trains the partner's staff on education-related issues and provides intensive case advocacy and legal representation on education matters to the families they serve.

In addition, AFC has a number of projects focusing on particular populations:

- Children with Disabilities
- Immigrant Students and English Language Learners
- Children in the Child Welfare System
- Court-Involved Youth
- Children who are Homeless

## **Junior Board**

Founded in 2005, Advocates for Children of New York's Junior Board supports and promotes the organization's mission, helps expand awareness of AFC's programs, and draws attention to issues affecting the communities it serves.

Membership on the Junior Board gives young professionals the opportunity to develop leadership skills in a philanthropic environment and to advance their talents through challenging volunteer assignments. Members also acquire new business and personal contacts as they reach out on behalf of the organization.

### ***Mission***

The Junior Board's mission is to strengthen AFC's work by promoting its positions and accomplishments in the public arena, securing organizational and individual financial resources through fundraising activities, facilitating pro bono support and participation of lawyers and law firms in AFC's advocacy work, and contributing the professional talents and skills of its members.

Junior Board Members:

- Advocate for quality and equitable public education for every New York City child and young adult
- Raise the organization's visibility
- Connect the organization to resources – both financial and in-kind
- Participate in fundraising projects and programs
- Educate the general public as well as elected and appointed officials about the organization, its projects, and its staff

### ***Goals and Expectations***

The Junior Board expects its members to use their individual creativity and skills to help develop AFC and contribute toward its continued strength. Membership requirements include:

- Attending quarterly meetings
- Participating in at least one Junior Board committee (Programs, Development, Membership)
- Giving or obtaining an annual contribution of at least \$260 per fiscal year (July 1—June 30)
- Bringing a passion and interest in education and a dedication to AFC's mission

# Application

## **Contact Information**

Name:

Date of Birth:

Street Address:

Email:

City, State:

Daytime Telephone:

Zip Code:

Evening Telephone:

Occupational Title:

Employer:

## **Personal Information/Questionnaire**

Please attach a recent copy of your resume along with a one-page statement of interest addressing the following questions.

1. What is your interest in Advocates for Children and its Junior Board?
2. What professional skills or expertise could you bring to the Junior Board?
3. Do you have experience with any other volunteer or civic organizations?

*The AFC Junior Board actively seeks a diverse membership and especially encourages applications from a broad spectrum of people, including people of color, with disabilities, and of diverse gender identities, sexual orientations and socioeconomic backgrounds.*

**Thank you for your interest in joining the AFC Junior Board. If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact us at [afcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:afcmembership@gmail.com).**