



The Alliance for Children's Rights is the leading free legal services organization in Los Angeles dedicated solely to protecting impoverished and abused children. Since its inception in 1992, The Alliance has served nearly 60,000 children: children living in foster care or transitioning out of it, children in need of medical treatment, children with educational challenges, and children who are waiting for legal guardianship or adoption.

While the majority of volunteer opportunities at The Alliance are for attorneys who provide *pro bono* legal services to our clients, there are several ways for non-lawyers to get involved, particularly in our NEXT STEP Program. Nearly 1500 youth age out of the foster care system every year in Los Angeles, most without the safety net of a stable parent or permanent adult connection. NEXT STEP provides practical education, access to resources and mentoring to young adults aged 18-24 as they transition from foster care to independence.

#### HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

**Be a Pro Bono Attorney:** You can make a difference in a youth's life by representing him or her in a legal matter. Some of these matters include identity theft cases resulting in bad credit or mistaken financial charges, clearing or sealing a juvenile record, representing a youth during a trial or court case ranging from traffic tickets to criminal matters. The legal issues youth face as they are transitioning into adulthood often impede their ability to find work and housing, but with your help they have the opportunity for a successful start. Additionally, we have pro bono opportunities available in our other program areas; Adoption, Public Benefits & Children's Court Advocacy, Special Education and Guardianship.

**Be a Mentor:** Are you a good listener? Able to accept ideas and points of view that differ your own? Understanding and non-judgmental? A good problem solver? Respectful of a young person's right to make his or her own choices? If you said "YES" to any of the above, you may be an excellent mentor. You will have access to trained staff and support through every step of the process. If you decide mentoring is right for you, we ask for a year's commitment to two phone calls and two face-to-face meetings a month. Consistency and a desire to assist a young adult are the most important qualifications needed.

**Teach Life-Skills Clinics:** The Alliance offers clinics at transitional housing sites and other locations to help young adults deal with legal issues, learn skills for everyday living, and become more effective self-advocates. Your life experience is all the expertise you need! We have developed curriculum to help you teach these youth topics like 'Buying or Leasing Your First Car', 'Funding Your Education', 'Understanding Your Credit Report', 'Interviewing for a Job', 'How to Prepare your Income Taxes' and others.

**Develop New Life-Skills Clinics:** Help create new clinics that would be useful for our youth as they transition to adulthood. We are looking for help in creating curriculum for topics like Communication Skills/Public Speaking, Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy (Budgeting/Banking/Investing) and Healthy Lifestyles/Nutrition. If you have other areas of expertise, let us know!

**Be a Case Liaison:** It is an unfortunate fact, but there is a cause and an effect of being a product of the system. Many of our transitioning youth have developed a distrust of authority and fear of bureaucracy due to their previous experience in foster care. As a result, these youth sometimes neglect their responsibilities regarding court appearances for minor offenses. We get them a *pro bono* attorney; you act as an assistant to help the youth with the necessary follow through to complete their case. Help our youth keep records of current and future court dates, transport the youth to court or to meetings with their attorney, assist with paperwork, and provide much needed moral support for youth prior to or for court appearances.

**Be on our Events Committee:** Help raise funds for The Alliance through exciting events like Dinner With Friends and help out at events like our Transitioning Youth Thanksgiving and National Adoption Day. Also help seek out additional opportunities for The Alliance to be involved in benefits around Los Angeles.

*To become a volunteer, please fill out the form on the reverse side. If you have questions please contact Derric Johnson, Transitioning Youth Program Director at [d.johnson@kids-alliance.org](mailto:d.johnson@kids-alliance.org) or (213) 368-6010.*

## VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Name	
Home Address, City, St, Zip	
E-mail	
Business Name	
Business Address, City, St, Zip	
Business E-mail	
Phones	Home:            Business:            Cell:            Fax:
When are you available to volunteer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Evenings <input type="checkbox"/> Mornings <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends <input type="checkbox"/> Other

PLEASE CHECK THE *BOXES WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THAT MOST INTEREST YOU.*  
(Descriptions on reverse side)

BE A *PRO BONO* ATTORNEY

For the NEXT STEP Program:

- Juvenile Law
- Criminal / Traffic
- Credit and/or Housing
- Other

For Other Alliance Programs:

- Adoption
- Public Benefits / Children's Court Advocacy
- Special Education
- Guardianship

BE A MENTOR

TEACH LIFE-SKILLS CLINICS (*Others are currently in development*)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Buying or Leasing a Car</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interviewing for a Job</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How to prepare your Income Taxes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understanding your Credit Report</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Funding Your Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul> |
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HELP DEVELOP NEW LIFE-SKILLS CLINICS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communication Skills / Public Speaking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Lifestyles / Nutrition</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Literacy (Budgeting/Banking/Investing)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul> |
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BE A CASE LIAISON

BE ON OUR EVENTS COMMITTEE

NONE AT THIS TIME, BUT PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES.

*To return this form via fax, please fax to Derric Johnson at (213) 368-6016. To return by email, please send to [djohnson@kids-alliance.org](mailto:djohnson@kids-alliance.org)*