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Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome 651-917-2370 mofas.org



The Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS) was founded in 1998 to create a world in which women do not drink alcohol during pregnancy and individuals living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are identified, recognized and valued. We're not only the leading voice and resource on FASD, we're a hub of hope for individuals and families affected by an FASD. We stand up for the rights of the FASD community, provide education and training so that FASD is better understood, and create awareness so all women know that there is no safe level of alcohol use during pregnancy.

## success story: expansion of CRAFT program

I received the support I needed to get and stay sober.

When Kelly\* came to the Community of Recovery Aiding Families in Transition (CRAFT) She knew that she'd never be able to get and stay sober if she continued to work in CRAFT created an easy-to-follow, step-by-step approach that helped Kelly with None of this would have been possible had MOFAS not led the advocacy effort to

program, she had a two-month-old baby-and an alcohol and heroin problem. her family's restaurant, which served alcohol. And that's where CRAFT really came through for her: the program not only helped her become sober, it helped her find another job. problem solving, planning and support. Eighteen months after beginning the program, Kelly graduated sober, with a new job, and in her own apartment. She continues to attend AA/NA meetings and still attends CRAFT meetings to reach out to other moms. secure funding from the Minnesota Legislature to expand the CRAFT program to two new locations. Thanks to this dedication, more mothers have taken steps to become sober,

maintain their sobriety, and parent in a healthy way.

\* Name has been changed to protect her privacy.

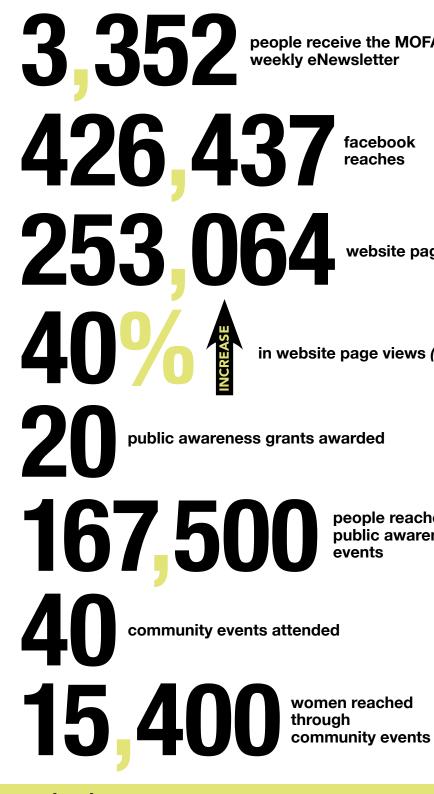
## 2015 annual report



## public awareness

MOFAS distributed 124,000 items, branded with our "049" (zero alcohol for nine months) message, to spread awareness about the importance of not drinking alcohol while pregnant. These included:

26,151 brochures 2 175 MOM posters 12,956 buttons bun in the oven 35 366 lip balms 8 144 onesies 2 202 magnets 14 660 beverage coasters **5**221 fetal development wheels 7.476 LOVE window clings 



## our mission

To eliminate disability caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy and to improve the quality of life for those living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) throughout Minnesota.

people receive the MOFAS weekly eNewsletter

website page views

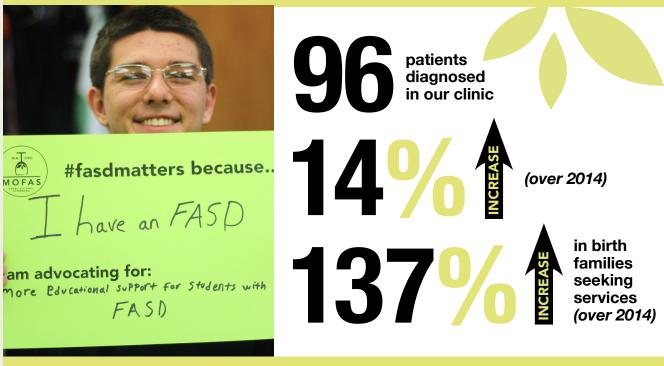
in website page views (over 2014)

people reached through public awareness grant





## screening & diagnosis



## success story: paraprofessional training law

None of my paraprofessionals understood what I had because they just didn't have the training on it.



Alex Miller knows firsthand that paraprofessionals can make or break a student's experience in school.

"I was probably half a percentage off from passing high school," he says, "so just that little extra help with teachers and para-professionals made the difference for me." Despite being kind and caring, however, many of his paraprofessionals had no idea how to address Alex's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - because they'd never received any training in it.

That's why Alex did something he's never done before: he testified at the Minnesota State Legislature on behalf of MOFAS, urging lawmakers to pass a bill that would require paraprofessionals to receive disability-specific training before working with children who have a particular disability. With strong and concerted advocacy from Alex and others at MOFAS, that bill became law in 2015.

"What this law does is states that every paraprofessional needs to have updated training on the kids they are helping - if [the child has] autism, then they have to have training in autism; if it's FASD, then they have to have training in FASD," Alex says. "They have to get training so that they know what to expect and how to handle it and get the most out of the kid instead of using the same tactics with all kids."Alex is proud that MOFAS led the effort to pass the paraprofessional training bill. He says the new law will be a "major breakthrough" for kids like him.

"Nobody wants to go to school when nobody understands what you have or what to do with you," he says. "[This law] helps kids behind me who are struggling-not just kids with FASD, but all kids who need help."

128 trainings and presentations 6,230 people received training **50** in training participants (over 2014) 383 statewide conference attendees



seperate rounds of community grants

projects representing: medical community

• employment agencies

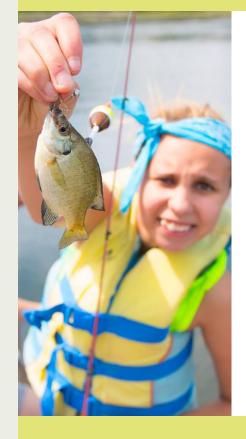
## professional education





 community-based agencies American Indian-focused organizations and tribes

## family engagement & support



**2**011 virtual contacts with **Minnesota families** in-person support meetings 2 family retreats 160 people attended retreats people attended support groups

## success story: YouthACT

I've never really felt problems that aren't directly related to me aren't my problem—they're problems for everyone that need to be looked at. So this is just me following through on that.



Paul Tripeny doesn't have an FASD — but he has three little brothers who do. So when he heard about YouthACT, he knew he wanted to be involved.

"I spend the majority of my time doing stuff so that in the future I can help my brothers; this is one of those things," he says. "I get to help people understand FASD better."

MOFAS was selected, through a highly competitive process, to be one just a few organizations in the country to host YouthACT. The national peer-support group encourages young people with and without disabilities to become leaders. Youth meet once a month at MOFAS to discuss everything from the serious to the silly, all the while focused on learning to position themselves as spokespeople for FASD.

"It's really just a group of nice people who hang out and talk and that's worth going for," Paul says. "We get to talk about stuff that's important to all of us and how we are going to work together to make the future better."

Susan Shepard Carlson, JD, Founder and President, Retired, Hennepin County Juvenile Court, Former First Lady of Minnesota Michelle Bayer, Parent, Optum Laura Bloch, Parent, Bloch & Bloch, PA Erica Bowen, Individual with FASD, LADC, M Health Cathy Bruer-Thompson, MSW, Retired, Hennepin County Adoption Services and Trainer Sliv Carlson, Retired Ted Chien, CEO and President, Sullivan, Cotter and Associates, Inc Marilyn Gebauer, Retired, Children's Home Society and Family Services Paul Kaspszak, Executive Director, Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association **Ilo Leppik, MD, MINCEP Epilepsy Care** Mary Meland, MD, Retired, Pediatrician Sara Messelt, Staff Member, MOFAS Executive Director Jennifer Moore, JD, Parent, Moore Family Law, PA Jordan Narvey, Caregiver, Bell Mortgage Larry Schluter, Retired Maya Tester, JD, Assistant County Attorney, Hennepin County Attorney's Office Wheelock Whitney, Retired, President, Whitney Foundation Andrea Winghart, Parent, RBC Wealth Management

## statement of financial position - 2015

Revenue	
Contributions	\$159,503
In Kind	\$2,314
Diagnostic Billing	\$57,457
Government Grants & Contracts	\$1,990,133
Other Grants	\$43,673
Training	\$39,472
Special Events (net)	\$40,323
Other Income	\$4,684
TOTAL	\$2,337,560
Expenses	
Personnel	\$937,586
Program	\$1,123,692
General/Admin	\$209,432?
Depreciation	\$1,666
TOTAL	\$2,270,710
Net Revenue	\$66,850
Total Net Assets	\$533,690
For a conv of the full financial audit	

For a copy of the full financial audit, contact MOFAS at 651-917-2370.

# 2015 board of directors

