

Mary Ignatius, *Statewide Organizer, Parent Voices*

Mary Ignatius is the Statewide Organizer of Parent Voices, a parent-led grassroots organizing effort fighting to make quality child care accessible and affordable for all families. As the Statewide Organizer since August 2005, she coordinates the work of its 15 chapters and implements the leadership development model Parent Voices has crafted for 20 years. Under her tenure, Parent Voices has won campaigns to update income eligibility guidelines to qualify for subsidized child care, restore a child care program that was eliminated, and protected child care subsidies for thousands of families.

Born and raised in the Bay Area by Indian immigrants and as a mother of two budding feminist sons, Mary's commitment to social and economic justice is both personal and political. She holds a Master of Social Work in Administration and Social Planning from Temple University and a Bachelor of Social Work from Rutgers University. She is a recent fellow of the Ms. Foundation for Women's OpEd Project-Public Voices program and received the Foundation's prestigious Woman of Vision Award in April 2016. Her previous experience includes work with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, Instructor-City College of San Francisco, and Project SURVIVE. Mary loves to travel and is inspired by the curiosity and wonder that her sons bring to this world.