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**VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN**

Belmont • Brown • Butler • Carroll • Champaign • Clark • Clermont • Clinton • Columbiana • Coshocton • Cuyahoga • Darke • Defiance • Delaware • Erie • Fairfield • Fayette • Franklin • Fulton • Gallia • Geauga • Greene • Hancock • Hardin • Harrison • Henry • Highland • Hocking • Holmes • Huron • Jackson • Jefferson • Licking • Logan • Lorain • Lucas • Madison • Mahoning • Marion • Medina • Meigs • Mercer • Miami • Morgan • Morrow • Muskingum • Noble • Ottawa • Paulding • Perry • Pickaway • Pike • Portage • Preble • Putnam • Richland • Ross • Sandusky • Scioto • Seneca • Shelby • Stark • Tuscarawas • Union • Van Wert • Vinton • Warren • Washington • Wayne • Williams • Wood • Wyandot



Mission Statement Voices for Ohio's Children is a non-partisan collaboration of private, public and not-for-profit sector organizations and individuals that advocates for public policy that improves the well-being of Ohio's children and their families.



Vision Statement Voices for Ohio's Children will be a leader in children's advocacy efforts in Ohio. Our work results in public policy ensuring our children are well-educated, healthy and safe.

Principles

Partnership - building strategic alliances with other organizations, both within and outside of the health and human services arena

Collaboration - working in concert with and valuing the success of member organizations, interested parties and other related groups

Independence - pursuing issues and strategies that represent and support the best interests of children and their families

Non-partisan - being free from political party affiliation

Integrity - being accountable to stakeholders, reliable in every commitment and authentic in word and deed

Diversity - respecting, understanding and integrating a wide range of perspectives, people and ideas



Sharing a vision for kids

Our vision for Ohio's children is that each of them has everything they need to survive, thrive and succeed.

Ohio's children need to be safe from threats inside and outside of their homes. They need broad educational opportunities, from preschool to college. They need timely access to quality health care, and help so their families know where to locate the people and agencies that will help them find resources. Finally, our children need job skills and support from mentors so they can become productive adults.

In the next few years, there will be significant policy shifts bringing forward opportunities for us to identify better, more efficient ways to serve families and children. Sometimes when resources are scarce it can be a galvanizing force to bring different interests and stakeholders together to a common table to identify solutions. Voices works to put government on the side of kids so their voices don't get lost in the shuffle.

Today, more Ohio children have access to health care, nutrition and early childhood programs than a decade ago.

Policy wins don't happen by accident. They happen because of advocacy – when skilled professionals backed by thoughtful leaders show policymakers that government can and should act to keep kids safe and help them grow. Over the past year, we have added new Public Policy Partners and board members from throughout Ohio, and our presence is growing in every corner of the state.

We look forward to expanding this network, and working with policymakers, advocates and community leaders throughout the state to make sure all of Ohio's children are safe, educated, healthy, connected and employable.

Julie Adler Raskind
BOARD CHAIR

Amy N. Swanson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“Voices for Ohio’s Children’s commitment to a fair and just system for juvenile justice provides the balance of what is right for our children here in Ohio. Since my engagement with Voices for Ohio’s Children, I have felt very fortunate to be around people who really care for our future in our children. Through the dedication of Voices for Ohio’s Children’s Juvenile Justice Initiative we have enjoyed the recent turn of events of the Department of Youth Services commitments and population being downsized and our children being served in local communities instead of being thrown away into the abyss of an institution. Voices provides a loud advocacy venue to do what is right for our children rather than what is popular in being tough on crime.”

Phillip P. Nunes,
Vice President of Community
Correctional Programs

Cuyahoga County, Oriana House Inc.

Increasing organizational capacity and leadership

In 2008-2009, the Board of Directors identified and recruited new board members to represent new areas in Ohio. The Board held its quarterly meetings in Columbus and Cleveland.

Voices for Ohio’s Children embarked on a Leadership Institute for the team. Through a capacity-building grant from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Voices worked with Currere Inc., a Cleveland organizational consulting firm, to complete an organizational assessment and Leadership Institute. The purpose of the Institute is to build the capacity of Voices to consistently sustain a high performing organization, statewide in its scope. This Institute will allow Voices to achieve the following goals:

- Develop individual and collective leadership at all levels;
- Complete project work (grant reporting, newsletter, website);
- Build the infrastructure the organization needs to transition from the “start-up” to the “establishment” phase; and
- Build cohesion of the team.



Educating Policymakers

In September, Voices for Ohio's Children began hosting a monthly Statehouse Kids Talk briefing, designed to inform and educate policy makers and staff on the issues that impact the safety and well-being of Ohio's children. Each month's discussion focuses on one of Voices' policy areas. The briefings feature policy content, family/provider perspective and a panel of Public Policy Partners. Legislators, staff, administration and state department leaders have been consistently attending with an average of 40 participants monthly. Prior to each meeting advocates and policymakers meet via conference call (the State Field Kids Talk sessions) to discuss the content for the upcoming briefing. The calls encourage shared knowledge of issues among Voices' partners. An additional monthly conference call, the State Field Director Chat, keeps the field informed of policy updates at the local, state and federal levels.

Voices for Ohio's Children convenes a monthly state and federal advocacy working group, partners with national organizations like First Focus and Voices for America's Children and holds legislative briefings with local and Washington policy staff. Voices' staff and Public Policy Partners travel to Washington to meet with key policy advocates and legislative staff. In 2008-09, they concentrated on national health care reform, tax issues for working families, early childhood, home visiting legislation and child welfare legislation.

Voices hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill for the Ohio delegation in October. Ohio advocates and families shared their stories to illustrate the impact of federal policies on a personal level around the comprehensive agenda for children. In addition, Voices organized an informational session with Voices for Illinois Children and Voices for America's Children for the 111th Congressional Children's Caucus to learn about the impact of childhood trauma and how some states are working on effective practices to help these children and their families.

PUBLIC POLICY PARTNERS

Achievement
Centers for Children

Action for Children

Adoption
Network Cleveland

Akron Children's Hospital

Alcohol & Drug
Addiction Services
Board of Cuyahoga
County

Alliance of Child Caring
Service Providers

American School Health
Association

American Sickle Cell
Anemia Association

The Arc of
Greater Cleveland

Beech Acres
Parenting Center

Beech Brook

Bellflower Center
for Prevention of
Child Abuse

Berea Children's Home
and Family Services

Nancy Bernotaitis

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Greater Cleveland

CareSource

Catholic Charities Health
and Human Services

Gabriella Celeste

Center for
Adolescent Health

Center for Families
and Children

Child Guidance &
Family Solutions

Child Policy Research
Center, Cincinnati
Children's Hospital

Children's
Hunger Alliance

Children's Museum
of Cleveland

Christian Children's
Home of Ohio, Inc.

Cleveland Association
for the Education of
Young Children

Cleveland Clinic
Children's Hospital for
Rehabilitation

The Cleveland
Foundation

Cleveland Public Theatre

Cleveland Rape
Crisis Center

Cleveland Regional
Perinatal Network

Cleveland Sight Center

Cleveland State
University, School
of Social Work

Community United Head
Start & Day Care, Inc.

Conflict Resolution
Center, Inc.

CONNECTIONS

Mary Beth Cooper

Corporation for
Ohio Appalachian
Development (COAD)

Council for Economic
Opportunities in Greater
Cleveland

Council of
Agency Directors

Cuyahoga County
Bar Association

Cuyahoga County
Board of Health

Cuyahoga County
Community Mental
Health Board

Cuyahoga County
Department of Children
and Family Services

Cuyahoga County
Department of
Justice Affairs

Cuyahoga County
Family and Children First
Council

Cuyahoga County
Public Library

Domestic
Violence Center

John C. Duby, M.D.

Early Care and Learning
Inc. (ECAL Inc.)

Easter Seals

Education Alternatives

Empowerment Center of
Greater Cleveland

Diane Euchenhofer

Family Service
Council of Ohio

Family Support
Consortium of
Greater Cleveland

Family Voices of Ohio

Foster Care Alumni of
America Ohio Chapter

Lorraine T. Furtado

Garfield Heights
Community Center

The George Gund
Foundation

Girl Scouts of
Lake Erie Council

Great Lakes
Science Center

Carolyn Green

Kirsten Hagesfeld

Kelli Halter

Hanna Perkins Center

Bridget Hawes

Heights Parent Center

Pat Heilbron

Help Me Grow of
Cuyahoga County

Karl W. Hess

Hitchcock Center
for Women, Inc.

Marilyn Hofford Morino

Horizon
Activities Centers

Hospice of the
Western Reserve

HumanArc

Hunger Network of
Greater Cleveland

PUBLIC POLICY PARTNERS continued

Initiatives in Urban
Education Foundation

Interact Cleveland

Jewish Community
Federation of Cleveland

Mittie Davis Jones

KidsHealth 2020

Stanley R. Levy

Lutheran
Metropolitan Ministry

March of Dimes -
Northeast Ohio Division

Mental Health
Advocacy Coalition

Mental Health
Services for Homeless
Persons, Inc.

MetroHealth Medical
Center, Department of
Pediatrics

Ministerial DayCare/
HeadStart Assoc.

Molina Healthcare
of Ohio, Inc.

Mt. Pleasant
Community Zone, Inc.

Murtis Taylor Human
Services System

NAMI of
Greater Cleveland

National Association
of Social Workers -
Ohio Chapter

National Council of
Jewish Women,
Cleveland Section

National Youth
Advocate Program, Inc.

Neighborhood
Leadership Institute

John Nosek

Barbara Oehlberg

The Ohio Association
of Child Caring
Agencies, Inc

Ohio Association of
Community Health
Centers (OACHC)

Ohio Association
of Second Harvest
Foodbanks

Ohio Boys Town

Ohio Chapter American
Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Children's
Hospital Association

The Ohio Council
of Behavioral
Healthcare Providers

Ohio Fair
Schools Campaign

Ohio Mental Health
Network for School
Success, North East
Action Network (NEAN)

Ohio Physical Therapy
Association

Ohio State
University Extension,
Cuyahoga County

Terri Oldham

Options for Families
and Youth

Oriana House, Inc.

The Phillis
Wheatley Association

Planned Parenthood of
Northeast Ohio

Policy Matters Ohio

Positive
Education Program

Providence House, Inc.

Rainbow Babies and
Children's Hospital

Julie A. Raskind

Carol Rogers Hilliard

Saint Luke's Foundation
of Cleveland

Thomas Scheid

Sharon Schmidt

Shaker Family Center

Douglas A. Smith

St. Vincent Mercy
Children's Hospital

Starr Commonwealth

Starting Point

Vuka Stricevic

Summit County
Family and Children
First Council

Amy N. Swanson

Gayle Channing
Tenenbaum

Tapestry System of Care

Julius J. Toth

Trinity
Episcopal Cathedral

Twelve of Ohio, Inc.

U.S. Bank

United Cerebral
Palsy Association

United Labor Agency

United Way of
Greater Cincinnati

United Way of
Greater Cleveland

United Way of
Greater Toledo

Theresa Warner

Sharon Weitzenhof

Westside
Ecumenical Ministry

Thea Wilson

Wingspan CG
(Applewood Centers
and Bellefaire JCB)

Womankind

YMCA of Greater
Cleveland

Young Audiences of
Northeast Ohio

YWCA of
Greater Cleveland

Building a network of advocates

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

Voices for Ohio's Children helped identify, recruit and engage business advocates from networks to participate in a statewide business leader network being convened by the Ohio Business Roundtable. In addition to working with the Ohio Business Roundtable, Voices identified, recruited and engaged more than 60 business and community leaders through the Champions for Children Advisory Group. This group, in partnership with PNC Bank, did a seven-city, video-conference launch in January 2010. During this launch Voices educated leaders on a range of children's issues, including child health.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Voices for Ohio's Children facilitates the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI), which brings together more than 30 individuals and organizations from across Ohio to grow an informed, collective, community voice to advocate for transformation of Ohio's juvenile justice system. In addition to facilitating this initiative, Voices' team members represent these interests with the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC), the National Youth Advocate Program, Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Delaware County Juvenile Court. Voices worked with State Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard to develop HB 235 – turning the framework elements into action. The content of the bill focuses on restoring judicial discretion to juvenile court judges allowing them to individualize services and decisions for youth.

The bill was introduced in June 2009 and sponsor testimony given in October 2009. Voices successfully advocated and worked with interested stakeholders, Kent State University and advocates on behalf of the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) initiative. BH/JJ is in its fifth year of evaluation of success and utilizes a research-based approach to effectively changing offender behavior through effective disapprovals and reinforcing positive behavior in a correctional environment.

HEALTH CARE

The Ohio Covering Kids and Families Coalition was successful during the past year in hosting its first statewide outreach event. In conjunction with Cover the Uninsured Week 2009, local coalitions hosted phone-a-thons in Southwest Ohio, Lucas County, Franklin County, Montgomery County and the Mahoning Valley. The phone-a-thons were in partnership with local TV stations for families to call in to learn more about Medicaid and SCHIP. The Franklin County event operators took 160 calls over two hours – some calls featured on-air. The Dayton-area event was the hot spot of the state. There were more than 300 callers and four on-air events during their three-hour broadcast. The Toledo event featured 200-plus callers and live breakaway interviews. A consistent theme among these phone-a-thons was that at least 25 percent of the callers were people who had recently lost their employment. The phone-a-thon events helped to solidify Voices' need to continue to support the work of statewide and local coalitions.

Building a network of advocates

LEGISLATORS

The Mahoning Valley Covering Kids and Families Coalition hosted the first SCHIP “Thank-you” event, designed to thank our state legislators and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan. The coalition was afforded an opportunity to speak about the successes of the past year of the coalition, update on the CHIPRA implementation plans and thank the local partners for their continued support. Ohio Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro and Sen. Joe Schivoni attended the event, and Sen. Cafaro was presented with thank-you cards from the child-care center at the Youngstown Jewish Community Center. The program was featured in two live segments on local television news.

The Franklin County Covering Kids and Families Coalition hosted a number of outreach events. The first event was held at the Columbus Jewish Community Center (JCC), where the Ohio Benefits Bank Mobile unit was on hand to enroll community members. The coalition partnered with the JCC youth group, who completed Ohio Benefits Bank training. Columbus City Councilwoman Charleta Tavares presented a proclamation at the event. Franklin County CKF hosted two media events during the week, featuring a local health center, Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown and Ohio Department of Insurance.

“The Ohio Association of Health Underwriters is pleased to be a partner with Voices for Ohio’s Children in assuring that all children in our state have access to health insurance coverage. As private insurance brokers, we are well aware that the downturn in the economy has affected employers’ and individuals’ ability to offer and maintain insurance coverage for their employees and families. We recognize that Voices’ knowledge and advocacy are important in helping us connect children and families with the resources necessary to get medical care and to live healthy, productive lives.



“Specifically, Sandy Erb presented a Continuing Education Program for our Columbus Chapter on the elements and implementation of the Healthy Start Program. Her presentation was well received and we are planning similar programs in our chapters throughout the State in the year ahead. Our members in Columbus also participated in the Voices phone-a-thon, which provided vital program information to the general public.

“We are committed to continuing our outreach activities with Voices and look forward to supporting its objectives of getting all Ohio kids the health care coverage they deserve.”

Stephen C. Brubaker, President

Ohio Association of Health Underwriters

Building a network of advocates

VOLUNTEERS

About four months ago, Voices Board Chair Julie Raskind and Executive Director Amy N. Swanson began meeting with Dr. Jeffrey Brudney, a professor at Cleveland State University who specializes in volunteer-management issues. He was very helpful in giving Voices ideas for the Board and connected Voices with Elizabeth Hamister, a graduate student, who helped develop a volunteer program for Voices. Voices selected a “note card” model to describe advocacy activities. These advocacy volunteer activities are short assignments that lend themselves to sporadic volunteering and virtual or off-site volunteering. Because of the hectic travel schedule of some team members and limited office space in Columbus, virtual and off-site volunteering are great opportunities, requiring only e-mail or phone contact between the supervisor and advocate, but they still require a clear understanding of staff and volunteer of the expectations and outcomes for each activity.

Voices has developed “note cards” and volunteer sign up for:

- Meeting with government officials,
- Providing public testimony,
- Making phone calls,
- Writing letters/e-mails and
- Writing letters to the editor.

All materials will be available on the Voices website: www.vfc-oh.org.

“Over the past few years, Ohio and many states across the country have faced unprecedented job losses and budget deficits. A growing number of children are living in poverty, don’t have access to health or treatment services, are dealing with violence at home or in school, or are dropping out of school.

“In the next few years, there will be significant policy shifts and opportunities for us to identify better, more efficient ways to serve families and children. Sometimes when resources are scarce it can be a galvanizing force to bring different interests and stakeholders together to a common table to identify solutions.”

Vicki Conley

Sisters of Charity Health System
and Voices Board member



Building a network of advocates

In 2009 the Voices Board decided to take it to the people and joined with the Ohio Academy of Pediatrics and the Ohio Children's Hospitals to host nine regional meetings, where 400 Ohioans came together to help formulate a vision for what we want our children to achieve. Even after news of devastating state budget cuts and increased unemployment, people signed up, attended and participated actively to share their ideas.

While we can't agree on everything, many people agree we need to do better for Ohio's kids. The results of these regional meetings are located in the document "Making Futures Bright for Ohio's Children." The document outlines a vision – that by 2020 we can help all of Ohio's children become

- Safe,
- Educated,
- Healthy,
- Connected and
- Employable.

By working together, Ohioans can ensure a positive future for our families and our state.



Our Vision

By 2020, we can help all of Ohio's children become safe, educated, healthy, connected, and employable. By working together, Ohioans can ensure a positive future for our families and our state.

MAKING FUTURES BRIGHT FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN

OHIO IS AT A CROSSROADS

Our state's economy is struggling, our unemployment rate is high, and too many of our children and families are dealing with social problems like child poverty, violence, infant mortality and school dropout rates.

CREATING CONSENSUS

In the summer of 2009, the vision for Ohio's Children Board of Directors embarked on an effort to create a ten-year vision and policy agenda for Ohio's children. The Board named a working group to help facilitate the process of engaging people throughout Ohio to develop this vision and policy agenda.

After nearly 400 people statewide provided written feedback and participated in community meetings and conference calls, vision for Ohio's Children is pleased to share this vision and policy agenda for Ohio's children. We will use this vision and policy agenda to help inform, educate and activate Ohio policy makers so they can improve the lives of our children and their families. Together, we can make things better for Ohio's children.

Issue: Childhood trauma

Childhood trauma is a major public health problem in the United States affecting the brain architecture of children.

“Dramatic new discoveries at the intersection of neuroscience, molecular biology, geonomics and the behavioral social sciences can now explain how healthy development happens, how it is derailed and what we as a society can do to keep it on track.” *Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., Director, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University*

Traumatic experiences may include

- Sudden loss of a loved one;
- Exposure to life threatening accidents, fire, natural disasters;
- Maltreatment by caregivers; and
- Other forms of violence and victimizations including witnessing violence.

Additionally, research is beginning to highlight the role of poverty in trauma and child development.

The cost estimate of treating child maltreatment and trauma in the United States in 2007 was \$104 billion according to an Economic Impact Study by Child Abuse America. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are an estimated 8,755,000 juvenile victims of child maltreatment in the United States, meaning that one out of seven children between ages 2 and 17 have experienced maltreatment. In the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, research revealed that untreated children affected by trauma, in addition to having mental health problems as young children, are more likely to develop chronic physical and mental health problems as adults. They are more likely to suffer from diabetes, heart disease, cancer and compromised immune systems, as well as struggle with smoking, alcohol and other drug use issues, and are 19 times more likely to attempt suicide.

“I think having (the Ohio Covering Kids and Families Conferences) with the types of examples, the types of conversations, it’s clear we don’t have to reinvent the wheel. These things are already happening. Somebody is already doing it and we need to figure out what best fits into Ohio’s system and just get moving on it. We’re beyond the ‘let’s talk about it in theory.’”

“We’re not going to get back the kind of funding we had in the past. So we need to find a way to better provide services. We’ve got to reduce the amount of time it takes for people to come through our system. And we have to reduce the number of folks who physically have to come through our doors.”

Joel Potts, Executive Director

Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association

Cutting the red tape

Thanks to bipartisan cooperation in the General Assembly, Ohio has been very successful in covering uninsured children through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). From 2004 until 2008, the share of Ohio children without insurance dropped by 25 percent, from 5.4 percent to 4 percent. Once the state releases funds to cover children living in families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, we will reach 26,000 more uninsured Ohio children. The goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children in Ohio by 47 percent to approximately 83,000, or 2.9 percent of the state's total child population.

Ohio has implemented significant new changes to cut the red tape for children and families, making it easier and more efficient to renew Medicaid/CHIP coverage. Voices joined Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio, Ohio School Based Health Care Association, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), Ohio Children's Hospital Association, Ohio American Academy of Pediatrics and Ohio Job and Family Service Directors Association in advocating for these changes.

The revised administrative rules went into effect Oct. 1 and authorize

- Efficient telephone renewals – Families can now renew Medicaid/CHIP coverage by telephone, without a paper form. Mailing a renewal form to families and waiting for a response can lead to a lapse in eligible children and families' coverage. Telephone renewals eliminate the need for multiple, time-consuming mailings and redundant requests for information. Instead, caseworkers now can confirm information via telephone and renew eligible families quickly and efficiently.
- Twelve-month coverage for children and parents – Prior to this change, eligible Ohio parents had to renew their coverage every six months, while children had an annual renewal. This change saves administrative dollars and reduces the likelihood that eligible parents will lose coverage. In addition, children are more likely to retain their own Medicaid coverage if their parents do so. Ohio joins 40 other states that offer yearly renewals for parents.

Community program provides job skills and life lessons where few exist

Martez Ragland is an 18-year-old senior at South High School in Cleveland's Slavic Village. As he looks at life after high school, the future looks brighter because of an opportunity he had last summer, courtesy of the Travick & Williams Community Group, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), Slavic Village Development, MyCom and A Partnership for a Safer Cleveland.

Ragland was one of 20 African-American teenage males in an apprenticeship program started by Kevin Travick Sr. and Robin Williams. The couple wanted to provide opportunities for young people to become connected and employable despite the lack of opportunities in their communities. They successfully sought and received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase supplies and fund five youth for the summer to rehab homes in the city. After receiving the funding and seeking participants, Travick & Williams Community Group received 20 applications. They were very challenged about what to do with so much interest and very little funding to offer the chance to all of the applicants.

After learning about potential community funding, they applied through the Youth

Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) program and Slavic Village Development in partnership with MyCom and A Partnership for a Safer Cleveland and secured enough funding for all 20 applicants.

The young men were tasked with refurbishing a rental property in the Buckeye-Shaker Heights area, equipped with the education, training and tools needed to complete the job. During a community open house in September, Ragland and the other youth workers offered a guided tour of the home while highlighting the remodeling projects.

As one of the more vocal and proud tour guides, Ragland beamed about his first work experience and said, "This was the first time I actually received a paycheck."

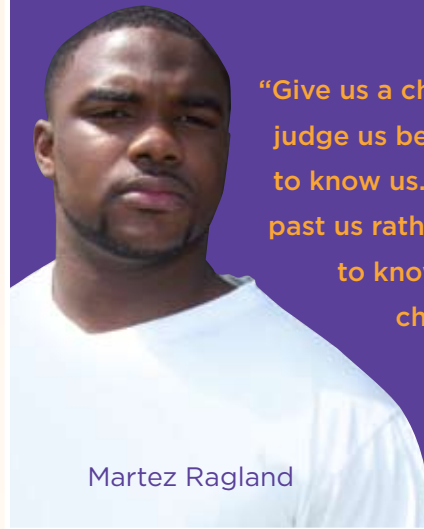
Ragland was very inspired by all of the new skills he learned on the job and has determined that this new trade will be his lifelong career. He hopes to pursue formal training and attend college to study real estate and housing.

In addition to the new skills and areas of growth, Ragland was very appreciative of being able to earn his own money. This allowed him the opportunity to pay his own cellular

phone bill and purchase clothing for the summer. He pointed out how he learned the balance of saving and spending his earnings because after having worked very hard for his paycheck it made him respect his money all the more.

Presently, Ragland continues to participate in the Travick & Williams Community Group program. He and the other participants attend monthly classes and workshops in which they're given life skills, resume writing, interviewing tips and strategies all while receiving a stipend for their commitment. Additionally, they have attended Cavs basketball games and other events to further expose them to the city. Ragland stated very assuredly that he believes that this level of engagement helps keep him out of trouble and prepares him for the future. He is looking forward to working with the Travick & Williams Community Group again this summer. In the meantime, he has applied for the Youth Summer Program through Y.O.U. and hopes to be selected as a candidate for employment.

When asked how he wants adults, community representatives and lawmakers to react to workforce opportunities for youth, Martez said, "Give us a chance. Most people judge us before they even get to know us. Basically, they look past us rather than trying to get to know us and give us a chance. There are a lot of bad young people out here but everybody isn't like that."



Martez Ragland

"Give us a chance. Most people judge us before they even get to know us. Basically, they look past us rather than trying to get to know us and give us a chance. There are a lot of bad young people out here but everybody isn't like that."

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)

cited that by 2010, teens and young adults will make up the largest segment of America's labor force, as 41 million new workers enter the workforce, and a staggering 76 million workers enter retirement. Currently, there is no funding for the Summer Jobs program in the FY '10 budget. During the course of the 2007-2009 recessions, the employment rate for the nation's teens fell steeply to 26.2 percent by October-November 2009, setting new record lows each year. No other age group has experienced employment declines of this magnitude in the current recession.

These statistics demonstrate the need to capitalize on opportunities in which young people can and should have access to programs that will promote their likelihood and chance to become gainfully employed.

DONORS

Businesses and Organizations:

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Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers
America's Promise Alliance
AMERIGROUP Community Care
Beech Brook
Berea Children's Home & Family Services
Catholic Charities Health & Human Services
Centene Management Company
The Center for Community Solutions
The Center for Families and Children
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Charter One
Children's Hunger Alliance
Cleveland Browns
Cleveland Track Material, Inc.
Communications Consortium Media Center
Community Hospitalists
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland

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Oriana House, Inc.
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Positive Education Program
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
The Dancing Sheep
U.S. Bank
Unison Health Plan
Voices for Americas Children
West Side Ecumenical Ministry

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First Focus
The George Gund Foundation
Ohio Children's Foundation
Saint Luke's Foundation
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Barbara Laughenry
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Leo Zimmerman

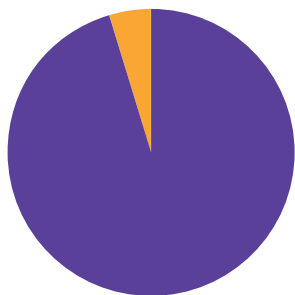
Voices for Ohio's Children (Voices) is governed by an 21-member Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of expertise to their service. In 2008-2009, Voices operated on a budget of \$1.2 million. Approximately 85 percent of the income was provided by foundation supports and grants; the other 15 percent was provided through the generosity of individuals, corporations and organizations.

Voices is a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Funds raised by Voices are used to improve the public policies that impact the well-being of Ohio's children and youth.

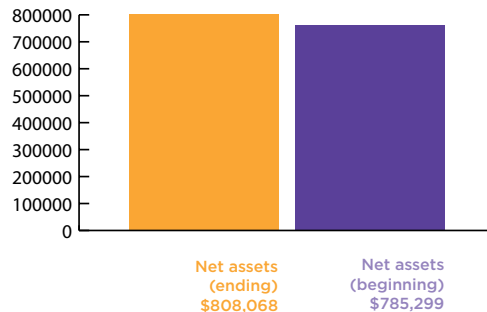
In 2008-2009, 87 percent of Voices' budget was devoted to program support and advocacy; 23 percent was used for management and fund development. At the end of 2009, the staff included eight full-time employees and numerous consultants and volunteers. Voices partners with local universities and service providers, who continually send us excellent students and interns. We are especially pleased with this opportunity to train young people in the practical aspects of child advocacy and build new relationships within our community.

July 2008 - June 2009 Audit approved

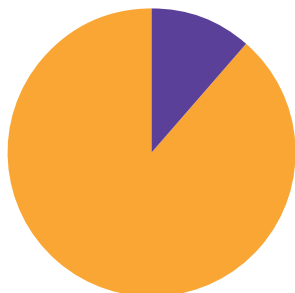
Statement of financial position



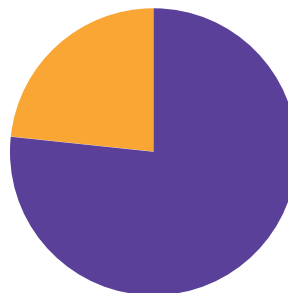
Total assets	\$854,805
Total liabilities	\$40,737
Total net assets	\$808,068



Statement of activities



Revenues	
Contributions and grants	\$1,122,078
Other revenues	\$144,906
Total revenues and support	\$1,266,984



Expenses	
Program expenses	\$956,515
Support expenses	\$287,700
Total expenses	\$1,244,215



Voices for Ohio's Children Board of Directors 2010

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