



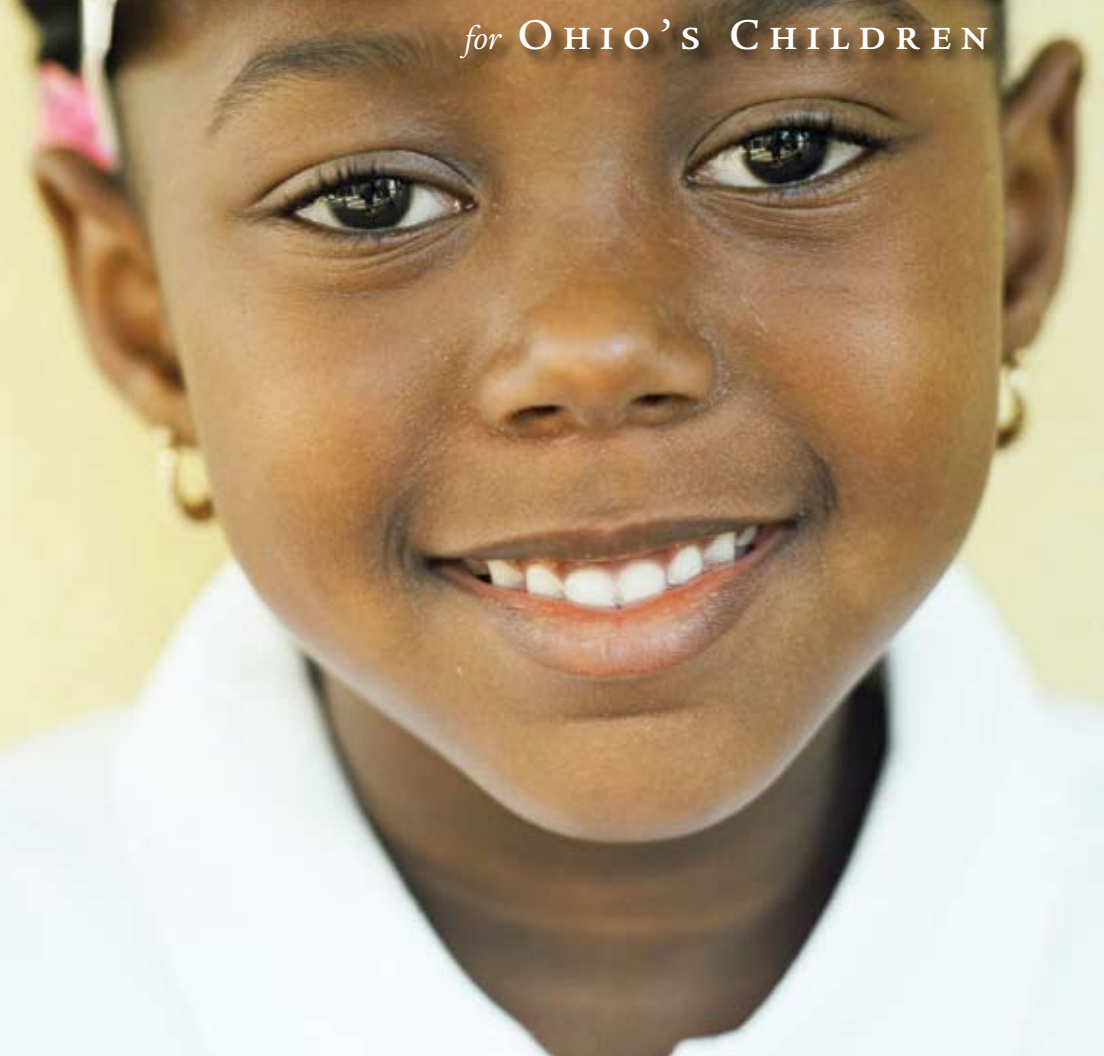
VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN

www.vfc-oh.org

2006-2007 Annual Report

voices

for OHIO'S CHILDREN





Mission Statement

Voices for Ohio's Children is a non-partisan collaborative of private, public, and not-for-profit sector organizations and individuals who advocate 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

Voices for Ohio's Children is guided by the principles of:

- **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 those issues and strategies that represent and support the best interests of the community's children and their families
- **Non-Partisan** – being free from political party affiliation
- **Integrity** – being accountable to stakeholders, reliable in every commitment made and authentic in word and deed
- **Diversity** – respecting, understanding and integrating a wide range of perspectives, people and ideas

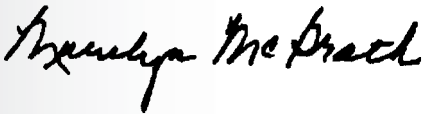
In 2007, Ohio listened when we raised our voice for children.

Working closely with Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio process, we helped set the stage for bipartisan progress for Ohio's children.

Among our proudest accomplishments in 2007:

- Nearly all of Ohio's children are now eligible for the health care coverage they need to grow up healthy and strong.
- Our third television special, *Making the Grade: Helping Our Kids Achieve*, supported by Forest City Enterprises and WKYC TV 3, was seen by more than 200,000 households and won an Emmy.
- \$20 million over two years is now available for quality, affordable afterschool and summer programs that help keep kids and communities safe.
- Cuyahoga County initiated a project to help youth who are aging out of the foster care system with no families begin productive and independent adult lives. This program is expected to serve as a model for the entire state.
- More children are now eligible for the Early Learning Initiative and school districts have more options to fund preschool programs. More funding was also secured for Help Me Grow, youth mental health, and juvenile justice programs.

We could not have reached these and many other important milestones without the help of our many dedicated volunteers, donors, and other supporters. You are the reason for our success, and we look forward to continuing to raise our voices together in 2008.



Marilyn McGrath
Board Chair



Amy N. Swanson
Executive Director

Marilyn McGrath



Amy N. Swanson





Health Care

Voices educated lawmakers about the urgent need to make health care available to all of Ohio's children. Ohio's budget bill, signed by Gov. Ted Strickland in June extends access in many essential areas, including raising the Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, raising the Medicaid/SCHIP eligibility, allowing Ohio children aging out of the foster care system to keep Medicaid coverage until age 21, and creating a program that allows more uninsured families to buy public health coverage for their children on a sliding fee scale. When fully implemented these measures are expected to collectively benefit nearly 40,000 young people, giving nearly all Ohio children access to the coverage they need to grow up healthy and strong.

Afterschool Programs

Voices supported the work of Ohio Sen. John Carey and the Ohio Afterschool Network to secure \$20 million for much-needed quality summer and afterschool programs. This is a big step to help ensure that kids are safe and making the best use of their time away from school. The Ohio Afterschool Network is comprised of more than 400 afterschool providers, partners, parents, educators and others who support investing in quality, affordable afterschool programs.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Voices worked with *goundwork.org* and *The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics* to improve state support of early childhood care and education, such as increasing eligibility for the Early Learning Initiative, expanding early childhood education for three- and four-year olds. Additionally, *Help Me Grow's* budget was expanded by \$24 million and more funding was secured for early childhood mental health consultations and treatment, and expanding the *Reach Out and Read* early literacy program.

Juvenile Justice Initiative

Voices' Juvenile Justice Initiative, committed to ensuring a sound juvenile justice policy agenda, now has more than 30 partners. The Juvenile Justice Initiative Steering Committee is working to increase effective community-based alternatives to institutionalization, help youth who have special needs, improve access to legal advocates and ensure all youth have access to treatment and care. The group has prepared legislative briefings on Ohio's juvenile justice system, provided resources to affect policy change, and held site visits and educational sessions.

The Juvenile Justice Initiative also partnered with the Ohio Department of Youth Services to enhance the involvement of families of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Six confidential focus groups were held in June to secure these families' attitudes and opinions about the system and ways to make it more effective. Their input will help improve our efforts in this area.

Transitional Youth

Voices worked to help transitional youth (children aging out of the foster care system with no families) begin productive and independent adult lives. Our efforts have resulted in a new project that involves leaders from all fields. The Cuyahoga County Transitional Youth Project (TYP) is working to identify the most promising opportunities and strategies for improving supports for the most vulnerable young people transitioning to adulthood in our county. This project is expected to serve as a model for the entire state.

Legislative, Media Awards

Voices and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics gave awards to four legislators and one reporter to spotlight their work for Ohio's children when more than 120 child advocates gathered at the Ohio Statehouse in May to highlight children's issues in the state budget debate. Leaders from both organizations presented awards to *Columbus Dispatch* reporter **Cathy Candiskey** for her coverage of Ohio's programs for children without health care; **Sen. Tom Niehaus-R**, New Richmond, for his work to strengthen Ohio's child welfare system; **Rep. Mike Skindell-D**, Lakewood, for his bipartisan work to support increased investments in early care and education and health care expansion for children and parents; **Rep. Jimmy Stewart-R**, Albany, for introducing a bill to expand Medicaid/SCHIP coverage for children; and **Rep. Fred Strahorn-D**, Dayton, for his commitment to public education, including preschool and all-day kindergarten.

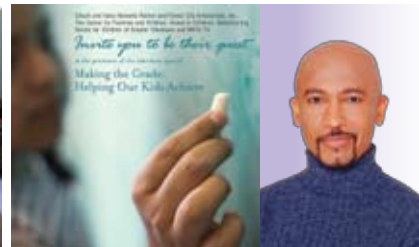
Advocacy Trainings



Education & Advocacy Legislative Awards Luncheon in Statehouse Atrium



Making the Grade event with special guest emcee, Montel Williams.





Making the Grade

Voices' third television program, *"Making the Grade: Helping Our Kids Achieve,"* received an Emmy for Public Affairs Programs—Special category. This program spotlighting grassroots efforts that are really working for children in Northeast Ohio was seen by more than 200,000 households. Our partners on this include WKYC-TV3 and KidsOhio.org, the Center for Families and Children, Invest in Children, Chuck and Ilana Horowitz Ratner, and Forest City Enterprises. The Emmy is the highest award given in television.

Champion for Children Event

Voices held the Third Annual Champion for Children breakfast celebration on June 1. Attended by more than 300 people, the event featured a keynote address by Arthur Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research of The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

He stressed the positive economic benefits of investing in early childhood, stating that communities will see stronger economic returns on investing in high quality early care and education programs than from building stadiums and arenas.

Also at the event, Goldie Alvis, who retired in 2006 as a program officer at The Cleveland Foundation, received the 2007 Champion for Children Award. Ms. Alvis, along with leaders from Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and many community leaders, was involved in the formation of Voices.

Goldie Alvis, Champion for Children Awardee



BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION DONORS

Achievement Centers for Children	Ciuni & Panichi Inc.	Independence Excavating	Physician's Staffing
Advance Payroll	Cleveland Browns Football Company	Initiatives in Urban Education Forum	PolyOne Corporation
Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County	Consolidated Graphics Group, Inc.	Interactive Media Group	Positive Education Program
Alliance for Child Caring Service Providers	Cooper Consulting	Invest in Children	Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Allied Enterprises	Council of Agency Directors	JoAnne Stores, Inc.	RPM International, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter	CRU Solutions	Jones Day	RSM McGladrey
Applied Industrial Technologies	Dancing Sheep	KeyBank	The Sherwin-Williams Company
Beech Brook	Dingus & Daga	KidsHealth 20/20	Strategic Communications: Consulting for Nonprofits
Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau	Dix & Eaton	Liberty Community Center	The Center for Community Solutions
Berea Children's Home and Family Services	Dominion East Ohio	Max-Ventures	Thompson Hine LLP
Browning Design	East End Neighborhood House	Medical Mutual	United Way of Greater Cleveland
Center for Community Solutions	Eaton Corporation	Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	University Hospitals of Cleveland
Center for Families and Children	EyeMG	Ministerial DayCare/Headstart Association	UPS
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland	Fairmount Minerals	National City Corporation	US Bank
	Forest City Enterprises	Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral	Wasylshyn Design, LLC
	Giant Eagle, Inc.		West Side Ecumenical Ministries
	Goode Investments		
	GoodSearch		
	Great Lakes Science Center		

FOUNDATION DONORS

The Bruening Foundation	Eaton Foundation	The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation	Thomas H. White Foundation
Charter One Foundation	The George Gund Foundation	Ohio Children's Foundation	William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation	Giant Eagle Foundation	Raymond John Wean Foundation	William M. Weiss Foundation
Columbus Medical Association Foundation	John S. Knight Foundation	Saint Luke's Foundation	Woodruff Foundation
David & Lucile Packard Foundation	Mott Foundation	Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland	



PUBLIC POLICY PARTNERS

Achievement Centers for Children

Adoption Network Cleveland

Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers

American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter

American Sickle Cell Anemia Association

Applewood Centers, Inc.

Beech Brook

Bellefaire JCB

Bellflower Center for Prevention & Child Abuse

Berea Children's Home and Family Services

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland

Boys Village, Inc.

Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

CCBA Juvenile Court, Guardian Ad Litem Project

Center for Adolescent Health

Center for Community Solutions

Center for Families and Children

Center for Mental Retardation

Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Children's Law Center

Children's Museum of Cleveland

Christian Children's Home of Ohio, Inc.

Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation

The Cleveland Foundation

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Cleveland Public Theatre

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Cleveland Regional Perinatal Network

Cleveland Sight Center

Cleveland State University, School of Social Work

Cleveland State University, Urban Child Research Center

Collaborative for Organizing Mt. Pleasant, Inc.

Community United Head Start & Day Care, Inc.

Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.

CONNECTIONS

Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland

Council of Agency Directors

Cuyahoga County Bar Association

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Cuyahoga County Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board

Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board

Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services

Division for Adolescent Health

Domestic Violence Center

Easter Seals

Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland

Garfield Heights Community Center

The George Gund Foundation

Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council

Great Lakes Science Center

Greater Cleveland Family Support Consortium

Hanna Perkins Center

Heights Parent Center

Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County

Hitchcock Center for Women, Inc.

Horizon Activities Centers

Hospice of the Western Reserve

HumanArc

Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland

Individual: Carol Rogers Hilliard

Individual: John C. Duby, MD

Individual: Linda D. Neugebauer

Individual: Marilyn Hofford Morino

Individual: Thea Wilson

Individual: Barbara Oehlberg

Individual: Carolyn Green

Individual: Gabriella Celeste

Individual: Gayle Channing Tenenbaum

Individual: Nancy Bernotaitis

Individuals: Susan and Doug Smith

Initiatives in Urban Education Foundation

Interact Cleveland

Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

KidsHealth 20/20

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

Mt. Pleasant Community Zone, Inc.

Murtis H. Taylor Multi Service Center

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

Ohio Boys Town

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers

Ohio Fair Schools Campaign

Ohio Hospital Association

Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga County

Only One Way Records

Options for Families and Youth

Oriana House, Inc.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland

Policy Matters Ohio

Positive Education Program

Providence House, Inc.

Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland

Shaker Family Center

Starting Point for Child Care and Early Education

Tapestry System of Care

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Twelve of Ohio, Inc.

U.S. Bank

United Cerebral Palsy Association

United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

United Labor Agency

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

United Way of Greater Toledo

United Way of Greater Cleveland

Westside Ecumenical Ministry

Womankind

YMCA of Greater Cleveland

YWCA of Greater Cleveland

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Delphia Bey
Office Assistant

Margaret Demko
Family Story Bank Consultant

Sandra Grieshop
Health Policy Consultant

Bridget Hawes
Donor and Partner Relations Manager

Yvonne C. Hunnicutt
Policy Associate

Tom Scheid
Health Policy Consultant

Bridget Stewart
Communications and Technology Manager

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum
Senior Policy Associate

Mary Wachtel
Director of Health Policy

Akia Walker
Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Wilson
Foundation and Media Relations Consultant

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Judith Ulrich



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Rebecca Wilson
Alenka Winslett

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2006-June 2007

Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets \$575,063

Total Liabilities \$19,516

Total Net Assets \$555,547

Statement of Activities

Revenue

Contributions and Grants \$680,289

Donated Goods/Services \$50,000

Other Revenues \$75,000

Total Revenues and Support \$805,289

Expenses

Program Expenses \$710,638

Support Expenses \$124,191

Total Expenses \$834,829

Net Assets (beginning) \$457,744

Net Assets (ending) \$555,547

Join Voices

You are invited to become a Public Policy Partner (PPP) with Voices for Ohio's Children. Voices is comprised of over one hundred non-profit, for-profit and government organizations and individuals that care about the well-being of children. If you are affiliated with an Ohio organization that is concerned about the needs of children and want to speak with one clear voice on their behalf please consider becoming a PPP.

Benefits of being a PPP include, but are not limited to:

- Network: participation in a network of people unified as a voice for children
- Training: advocacy training for your Board and organizational staff
- Updates: access to local, state and federal policy and political updates
- Events: invitations to legislative briefings, events and conferences
- Viral Marketing: ability to post your events and job openings on Voices website and eNewsletter
- Discounts: 25% discount to attend Voices' events

PPP dues:

The partnership dues structure below is used for all individuals and organizations regardless of for-profit, government or non-profit status. Your Voices partnership gives you the ability to vote on issues related to the organization. Partnership dues are used to cover the costs of advocacy workshops, staff, community forums, policy papers, conferences, issue briefings, communications and other operating costs. In addition, since we don't accept any government funding, these dues allow Voices for Ohio's Children to be an independent voice for children.

The annual fee scale is:

All individuals	\$100
Organizations with budgets under \$1 Million	\$100
Organizations with budgets between \$1 and \$5 Million	\$175
Organizations with budgets over \$5 Million	\$250

Sign up:

To become a PPP fill out the application and tear at the perforated line. Use the enclosed envelope to mail the application and payment to Voices.

Questions or comments:

If you should have questions or concerns, please contact Bridget Hawes, Donor and Partner Relations Manager at (877) 881-7860 or via email at: bhawes@vfc-oh.org



PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print your information directly on this form and fax or mail in the provided envelope.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

FOR ORGANIZATIONS ONLY (continue to fill information below)

PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON AND TITLE: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT PHONE: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT EMAIL: _____

SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON AND TITLE: _____

SECONDARY CONTACT PHONE: _____

SECONDARY CONTACT EMAIL: _____

PERFORATE ON LINE

Public Policy Partner FAQ

What is a Public Policy Partner?

Public Policy Partners (PPPs) are individuals, corporations, or health and human service organizations that have a vested interest in and concern for the well-being of children. Collectively, PPPs seek to enhance the lives of children through the creation or continuation of effective public policy. PPPs are leaders of child advocacy.

In what ways is Voices for Ohio's Children (Voices) a partner-driven organization?

In order for Voices to successfully raise awareness and improve the quality of life for children, it is essential that we collaborate with others in order to make the voice for children loud, strong, powerful, and far-reaching. PPPs serve as a central component of Voices because, without them, Voices would not have the varied influences and resources necessary to improve the lives of children. Voices partners are involved in brainstorming and networking processes that fuel Voices' agenda.

What advantages do Public Policy Partners receive that are not available to non-partners?

PPPs receive training on how to advocate for children and updates on public policies on the local, state and federal level. PPPs also have the opportunity to attend and participate in events, conferences, and legislative briefings at discounted rates, when applicable. Structurally, PPPs have voting privileges that non-partners do not receive.

What does Voices for Ohio's Children expect of me/my organization as a Public Policy Partner?

Voices expects individuals and organizations to get involved (to the degree that is comfortable for the partner) in the development of public policy for children's issues so that Voices has an effective agenda to move forward. Involvement can include, but is not limited to, attending Voices PPP meetings and communicating with legislators. PPPs are required to pay their annual dues in a timely manner. Voices also expects individuals and organizations to keep Voices informed of issues that they feel are on the horizon in the advocacy landscape.

How will my partnership with Voices directly affect children?

As a PPP you will have input and access to key issues that develop around children. Your participation in advocacy workshops, issue briefings and community forums will directly benefit children and their families by helping to raise public awareness of important matters regarding children.

How will I/my organization be in contact with Voices on a regular basis?

Voices sends an electronic newsletter to the PPPs and issues policy briefings and legislative updates as necessary via the Voices' list serv. Voices keeps the PPPs informed of upcoming conferences and events via the website as the information becomes available.

Will I be expected to attend meetings?

Attendance at the meetings is not mandatory, but your participation is preferable.

How will I be made aware of local, state, and federal policy updates?

Voices often employs an electronic service (list serv) to keep its partners informed, as well as the US Postal Service.

What does advocacy training entail?

Voices supplies local and/or national speakers with varying areas of expertise relative to children's issues or pending legislation that has an impact on children and their families. Voices produces materials related to the trainings, as well as toolkits that offer detailed strategies on when, where, and how to advocate, as well as who to contact for the best outcome.

What do my annual dues contribute to?

PPP dues are used to partially cover the costs of advocacy workshops, staff, community forums, policy papers, conferences, issue briefings, communications, and other operating costs. In addition, since we don't accept any government funding, these dues allow Voices to be an independent voice for children.

What are the short- and long-term returns on my investment?

Immediately, you will notice the growth and power of Voices through various workshops and meetings that you will be invited to attend, as well as communications materials that you will receive. Long-term returns on your investment are countless. You/your organization will receive recognition for your cause; witness the building and strengthening of programs, policies, and legislation that enhances the well-being of children; know first-hand how children are being helped; and watch the promise of future generations grow as children become stronger.

How am I connected with other Public Policy Partners?

PPPs have countless opportunities to connect through attendance at year-round meetings, community briefings, advocacy workshops, and conferences.

Are there networking tools in place that will allow me to share advocacy opportunities with Voices and other Public Policy Partners?

The electronic newsletter is currently the most effective means to transmit information via the Voices Network.



To raise your voice for children, visit our website at www.vfc-oh.org

Contact Information

Cleveland Office:
4019 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
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OHIO'S CHILDREN

4019 Prospect Avenue
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