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Biography: Voices for Ohio's Children Spokesperson

Mary Wachtel

Mary Wachtel has a long career in child and family advocacy. As Director of Public Policy, she directs and coordinates Voices' public policy agenda in conjunction with the organization's Public Policy Partners and colleague organizations. Current priorities include child health, child safety, education, and family economic security.

Mary has extensive background on the issues affecting Ohio's children. She was hired as the Children Defense Fund-Ohio's first Health Advocate in 1994, a position she held through 2001. During her tenure, priorities included expanding health coverage for low-income children, families, and pregnant women, and increasing enrollment in public health insurance programs.

In addition, Mary served as Deputy Director of CDF-Ohio from 2002 through 2004. As Deputy Director, she managed day-to-day operations and was responsible for overall fiscal and administrative operations, grants management, development, and human resources.

Mary has worked for other non-profit organizations, including as Executive Director of the Forum for Faith in the Workplace (Columbus, Ohio), as Program Director for the Association of Junior Leagues International (New York, New York), as Assistant Director, Northeast Region, for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF (New York, New York), and Bread for the World (Saint Louis).

Mary holds an MSW from Washington University in Saint Louis and a BA from the University of Akron (Honors Scholar). Mary also holds a certificate in Education for Ministry from the Episcopal Seminary of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

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