



## Raising Our Voices

2006 was a time of transition and change for Voices for America's Children. It was a year in which we laid the groundwork for a stronger, bolder network of child advocates committed to making the child well-being a national priority.

Each year, VOICES advances its mission to improve the lives of children by advocating for effective public policies at the local, state, and national levels. VOICES members are the heart and soul of our organization and our greatest asset. Through our work at all levels of government, we have been able to educate and influence legislators and opinion leaders to address the critical needs of America's children. While VOICES works on behalf of all children, we are particularly concerned with those who are most vulnerable and most in need. VOICES is the champion for the children least able to speak for themselves.

It is our mission at VOICES to ensure that the needs of children are raised in every policy debate. At times that can be a significant challenge. To paraphrase Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it is an unfortunate human failing that a full pocketbook often groans more loudly than a child in need. By coming together as a unified force, VOICES is amplifying the voice of children and focusing policymakers on their critical needs.

During 2006, VOICES rethought and reorganized every segment of our leadership, operations, and governance and we have emerged with a stronger voice and an unmatched capacity to advocate for the full range of children's issues at every level of government and in every debate. We look forward to playing a leading role in the crucial battles ahead as we fight to shape a brighter future for America's children.

Sincerely,

WALTER H. SMITH, JR., PH.D.  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

BILL BENTLEY  
*President & CEO*

**Voices**  
FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN





## VOICES' MISSION

The mission of Voices for America's Children is to improve the lives of children in the United States by advocating for effective public policies. Addressing issues that impact child well-being from age zero to 21, VOICES ensures that the needs of children are raised in every policy debate. VOICES accomplishes its mission by advocating at the federal level and by strengthening member capacity to achieve their goals at the state and local level. Voices for America's Children is a national advocacy network that speaks up and gets results for kids.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

America's children need a voice to represent their interests in the political arena. Voices for America's Children lobbies for children at the federal, state, and local levels. Children are our constituency. We are an advocacy network working tirelessly to make the needs of children a priority. Continually seeking to expand our ranks and amplify our voice, in 2006 VOICES welcomed the following new members:

- ★ Children's Campaign, Inc. (Florida)
- ★ Good Beginnings Alliance (Hawaii)
- ★ Idaho Voices for Children Foundation, Inc.
- ★ Children's Coalition of Indiana
- ★ Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth

### 2006 Financial Information *For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 From audited financial prepared by McQuade Brennan, LLP, Washington, D.C.*

Revenue & Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Foundation Grants	\$255,067	\$353,533	\$608,600
Membership Fees	106,055		106,055
Contributions	22,980		22,980
Conferences	1,500		1,500
Interest Income	41,700		41,700
Other Income	6,815		6,815
Net Assets from Restrictions	722,047	(722,047)	—
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>1,156,164</b>	<b>(368,514)</b>	<b>787,650</b>

Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Program Services	\$2,004,272		\$2,004,272
Management and General	253,465		253,465
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,257,737</b>		<b>2,257,737</b>

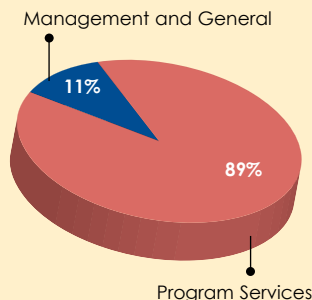
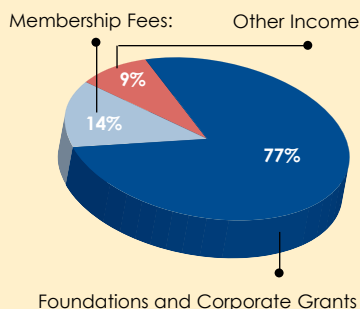
  

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	(1,101,573)	(368,514)	(1,470,087)
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	1,772,454	722,047	2,494,501
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$670,881</b>	<b>\$353,533</b>	<b>\$1,024,414</b>



## Funders

- Anonymous
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The Atlantic Philanthropies
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- The William Penn Foundation



## Strengthening Our Voice

VOICES works to elevate the strength of our entire network by providing the information resources to better inform advocates and programs to build the capacity of member organizations.

Among the member services VOICES provided in 2006 were the following:

- ★ **Pass-through grants totaling \$465,000** to member organizations to support their federal advocacy on health and budget and tax issues; a four fold increase over the amount distributed in 2005.
- ★ **2006 Forum**, VOICES premier networking event, was presented as, *Making Voices Count for Kids*, a joint conference with The Annie E. Casey KIDS COUNT grantee network.
- ★ **2006 Policy & Advocacy Priorities Guide**, an easy reference tool detailing the issues individual member organizations are focusing on.
- ★ **Voices Update**, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter.
- ★ **Expanded VOICES'** advocacy hub that provides online conduits for taking action and messaging tools. The e-communications vehicle is designed to connect and empower VOICES' members and grassroots network.
- ★ **Wisdom Circles**, VOICES facilitated peer-to-peer support targeting the challenges faced by executive directors of member organizations.
- ★ **Policy seminars and member strategy sessions** on early care and education, health, and communications.
- ★ **Technical assistance, resources, and referrals** on policy, advocacy techniques, and organizational development issues.
- ★ **Legislative updates, action alerts, and tool kits** at critical points in the federal legislative and budget processes, designed to assist members with effective communications on the impact of legislative initiatives and federal budget decisions on services and programs for working families and their children.



## Voices Member Organizations

(as of December 31, 2006)

Member organizations are alphabetized according to state



### FULL MEMBERS

VOICES for Alabama's Children (Montgomery, AL) ★ Children's Action Alliance (Phoenix, AZ) ★ Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families (Little Rock, AR) ★ Children's Advocacy Institute (San Diego, CA) ★ Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth (San Francisco, CA) ★ Kids in Common (San Jose, CA) ★ Colorado Children's Campaign (Denver, CO) ★ Connecticut Voices for Children (New Haven, CT) ★ DC Action for Children (Washington, DC) ★ Children's Campaign, Inc. (Tallahassee, FL) ★ Voices for Georgia's Children (Atlanta, GA) ★ Good Beginnings Alliance (Honolulu, HI) ★ Idaho Voices for Children Foundation, Inc. (Boise, ID) ★ Voices for Illinois Children (Chicago, IL) ★ Children's Coalition of Indiana (Indianapolis, IN) ★ Child & Family Policy Center (Des Moines, IA) ★ Kansas Action for Children (Topeka, KS) ★ Kentucky Youth Advocates (Louisville, KY) ★ Agenda for Children (New Orleans, LA) ★ Maine Children's Alliance (Augusta, ME) ★ Advocates for Children & Youth (Baltimore, MD) ★ Massachusetts Citizens for Children (Boston, MA) ★ Michigan's Children (Lansing, MI) ★ Priority Children (Flint, MI) ★ Mississippi Forum on Children & Families (Jackson, MS) ★ Citizens for Missouri's Children (St. Louis, MO) ★ Partnership for Children (Kansas City, MO) ★ Voices for Children in Nebraska (Omaha, NE) ★ Children's Alliance of New Hampshire (Concord, NH) ★ Association for Children of New Jersey (Newark, NJ) ★ New Mexico Voices for Children (Albuquerque, NM) ★ Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (New York, NY) ★ Westchester Children's Association (White Plains, NY) ★ Action for Children North Carolina (Raleigh, NC) ★ Voices for Ohio's Children (Cleveland, OH) ★ Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (Oklahoma City, OK) ★ Children First for Oregon (Portland, OR) ★ Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (Harrisburg, PA) ★ Philadelphia Citizens for Children & Youth (Philadelphia, PA) ★ Rhode Island KIDS COUNT (Providence, RI) ★ Voices for South Carolina's Children (Columbia, SC) ★ South Dakota Voices for Children (Sioux Falls, SD) ★ Black Children's Institute of Tennessee (Nashville, TN) ★ CHILDREN AT RISK (Houston, TX) ★ Texans Care for Children (Austin, TX) ★ Voices for Children of San Antonio (San Antonio, TX) ★ Voices for Utah Children (Salt Lake City, UT) ★ Voices for Vermont's Children (Montpelier, VT) ★ Voices for Virginia's Children (Richmond, VA) ★ Children's Alliance (Seattle, WA) ★ West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund (Charleston, WV) ★ Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (Madison, WI) ★ Wyoming Children's Action Alliance (Cheyenne, WY)

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Children Now (Oakland, CA) ★ KIDS COUNT in Delaware (Newark, DE) ★ Children's Advocacy Alliance (Henderson, NV) ★ North Dakota KIDS COUNT! (Fargo, ND) ★ South Dakota KIDS COUNT (Vermillion, SD) ★ Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth (Nashville, TN) ★ Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, VI)

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## Speaking Out and Getting Results for Kids

VOICES engages in advocacy work that influences and shapes policies for children at the state and national levels. In 2006, as a network, we focused on key priority areas including health care, budget and tax policy, and protecting children in times of disaster.

Over the course of the year our activities and successes included:

- ★ **Led a coalition of national organizations** to formulate specific Congressional and Administration policy requests that the federal government establish a mechanism to address the needs of children affected by major disasters.
- ★ **Achieved the successful reauthorization of the Promoting Safe & Stable Families program.** Included in the reauthorization was a \$200 million increase in available funds to strengthen child welfare workforce and the ability of communities to address the impact of substance abuse and child welfare systems.
- ★ **Educated Members of Congress** on the detrimental effect fiscal and tax policies would have on federal resources for programs and services that address children's needs. Among the measures VOICES spoke out on were: Deficit Reduction Act, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget resolution, FY 2007 appropriations bill that funds children's services, various tax measures including the repeal of the estate tax and other budget process changes, such as the line-item veto legislation.
- ★ **Provided Congressional testimony** reviewing the 10-year impact of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program on children and families. VOICES empowered our members to speak out on new TANF regulations by creating tools to assist their submission of comments to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services on the impact of new rules on children and families in their states.
- ★ **Produced the inaugural edition of a state-of-the-states report**, compiling governors' 2006 addresses noting an intention to better the lives of children in their respective states.
- ★ **Conducted a communications campaign** to engage a wide audience in supporting VOICES' policy recommendations, as well as elevate budget and tax issues. Among the tools utilized were news releases, letters to the editor, and op-eds to national and local new outlets.
- ★ **Active in the fight to ensure more children have access to health insurance.** VOICES sought to achieve this goal by seeking reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- ★ **Produced an award-winning video, Kids of Katrina**, that documented the impact of Hurricane Katrina on children through the experiences and insights of the staff of Agenda for Children, VOICES' Louisiana member organization.

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