



## Voices is Stepping Up For Kids

The current economic crisis and the recently-passed “rescue plan” will have far-reaching implications for the nation’s financial health and for our children and their future. It is more important than ever, as our nation commits vast energies and resources to dealing with economic stresses, that our leaders prioritize the needs of families and children. We need bold political leadership, committed to an agenda that sets clear priorities on strengthening families and communities, so that children receive the parent support, early education and schooling, health care and community services needed to prepare them for productive lives.

During this election cycle and into the first hundred days of the new administration, Voices is collaborating with the Virginia Poverty Law Center to let candidates and officeholders know what they must do to earn the votes and on-going support of all those who care deeply about children’s issues.

Leading up the election, Voices hosted “Step Up for Kids,” a high-profile rally to influence candidates by encouraging citizens to “vote for kids.” Over 100 Virginians came out on a rainy day in September to be inspired by speakers including Delegate William Fralin,

Senators John Miller and Yvonne Miller, renowned Richmond pediatrician Dr. Colleen Kraft, and Voices Executive Director John Morgan. Voters were urged to ask candidates for their views on children’s issues and to insist on campaign platforms that address these issues.

Voices is also publishing fact sheets on critical children’s issues, building relationships with and educating candidates, and capitalizing on the excitement surrounding the 2008 election season to recruit new child advocates.

Voices is educating Virginia’s federal and state lawmakers about several child and family-related issues, including two important programs that will be up for reauthorization in the near future: the children’s health insurance program (SCHIP) that covers children in low-income

**We champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia’s children.**



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## From the Executive Director

John Morgan

### Making Kids Count



Yes, we at Voices and our many partners and supporters can proudly claim “We Make Kids Count”. We speak for children and speak up about their needs to policy makers and the public. As the Commonwealth’s not-for-profit children’s policy research, education and advocacy organization, our job is to lead the way in making children a higher public policy priority.

Our leadership has helped to produce recent policy successes, yet we must continue to strengthen our voice and expand our impact. One new initiative will help us get there.

#### **The Kids Count Improvement/Expansion Project:**

**Kids Count** is our flagship program – part of a nationwide data system, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to monitor and improve the well-being of children over time. Our system provides ready access to multiple indicators of child well-being for every locality in Virginia. Frank Beylotte, our new Data and Research director, leads this project, which will:

- Develop a more complete picture of the status of Virginia’s children by adding new indicators in juvenile justice, health and mental health, and alcohol and other drug use.
- Expand our **Kids Count** Advisory Group, to get broader guidance in selecting new indicators and strengthening the program.
- Launch two new publications: a bi-annual, comprehensive “Report on the Status of Virginia’s Children”; and in alternate years a major issue brief, “Child Poverty in Virginia”.
- Sponsor a bi-annual **Kids Count Day**, to publicize key trends and findings for our partners, policy makers, advocates, program leaders and the media. Events could be held in multiple locations around the state, co-sponsored by local partners.

So, we’ll make kids count more by making **Kids Count** better. And as partners and supporters, your input is welcome – please contact me or Frank Beylotte with your suggestions.

Clearly our success is dependent on many dedicated partners and generous supporters.

**To our partners:** We have pledged to “partner unselfishly” to advance the children’s agenda. Please let us know how we are doing.

**To our supporters/contributors:** Strengthening our effort requires new resources. Now more than ever we need your financial and in-kind support. If you have not already made your gift to the “New Voice” campaign, please do so today.

**Help us make Kids Count!**

## “Heroes in the Fight” Honored for Mental Health Advocacy

On September 23, Voices and its partners honored five individuals and one team for their inspiring dedication to the mental health field at its “Heroes in the Fight” awards dinner. Joining Voices to honor these heroes were Mental Health America of Virginia, Psychiatric Society of Virginia, NAMI Virginia, Virginia Federation of Families and the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.

Many of the award recipients were recognized for their work on behalf of children with serious emotional disturbance. The awards dinner was part of a national program sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company to recognize the hard work of healthcare professionals, community supporters and treatment teams as they seek to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

The inspirational comments of award winners encouraged attendees to rededicate themselves to the fight against the persistent stigma of mental illness and for policy advances to make mental health services more accessible. In the words of award-winner Dr. Brian Meyer, “We do this work because it is the important thing to do and the right thing to do for kids.”

### The 2008 Heroes in the Fight Award Recipients include:

#### Community Supporter:

**The Honorable William Fralin**, member of the House of Delegates representing portions of Roanoke City and Roanoke and Botetourt Counties, was recognized for his leadership in eliminating the devastating practice of “custody

relinquishment”, whereby dedicated parents were forced to relinquish custody of their child with mental health needs solely to gain access to needed treatment.

#### Individual Psychiatrist:

**Dr. Aradhana “Bela” Sood** champions system reform and a greater role for parents in mental health policymaking. She is Division Chair in the Department of Child Psychiatry at VCU Medical School and Medical Director at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children. One of Virginia’s most influential and respected child psychiatrists, Dr. Sood was appointed by Governor Kaine to serve on the Independent Review Panel following the Virginia Tech tragedy in 2007.

#### Health Care Professional (two awards):

**Dr. Brian Meyer**, a child psychologist, is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at VCU Medical Center and formerly was the Director of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children. Dr. Meyer was recognized for influential advocacy on behalf of children with mental health problems and their families. He has had leadership roles in system reform efforts, written and spoken persuasively in support of expanding treatment services, advocated effectively with legislators, and conducted workshops for parents and family members.

**Dr. Robert Cohen** has had a distinguished career in children’s mental health as a program manager, state

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Chief Deputy Attorney General Bill Mims (right) and Voices Policy Director Mary Dunne Stewart congratulate “Heroes” honoree Delegate William Fralin (left).





## 2007 Annual Report Summary

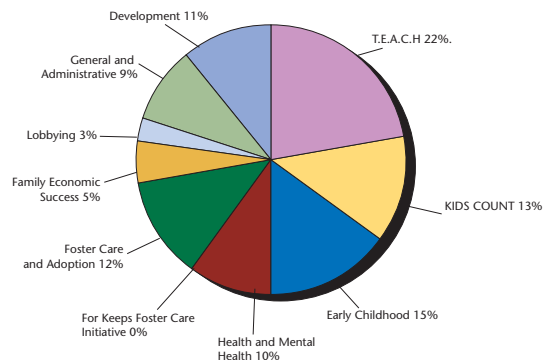
Normally this information would appear in the Summer edition of our newsletter. We apologize that the information was not ready in time for earlier release.

### 2007 Financial Information

#### Summarized Audit Information

Total Assets	\$232,260
Total Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 33,081
Total Amounts Held For Others	\$ 38,658
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 614,637
Total Expenses	\$831,367

### Operating Expenses By Program



### 2007 Grantor & Donor List

We are grateful to the following, whose generous contributions strengthen our voice for the children of Virginia.

#### \$100,000 and above

Freddie Mac Foundation

#### \$25,000 - \$99,999

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.  
The Moriah Fund  
The Robins Foundation

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Mrs. and Mr. J. Carter Fox  
Mary & Daniel Loughran Foundation  
SunTrust Mid-Atlantic Foundation  
Washington Forrest Foundation

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Northern Virginia Community Foundation  
R.E.B. Foundation  
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Swedish Match North America, Inc.

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Ms. Allison A. Hiller  
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The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine  
& The Honorable Anne B. Holton

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Mr. and Mrs. John C. Purnell  
Mr. and Mrs. S. Buford Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Strickler  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Villanueva  
Ms. Elizabeth Wash

#### \$200 - \$499

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Episcopal Church Women –  
Wicomoico Parish  
Fauquier Hospital  
Professor and Mrs. David D. Franks  
The Heart Sing Foundation  
The Honorable and Mrs. A.L. Holton, Jr.  
Mr. Daniel W. Hooks  
The Josephine Kugel Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rosenthal  
Ms. Eleanor B. Saslaw

Barbara B. and James E. Ukrop  
Fund of the Community  
Foundation

**\$100 - \$199**

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Dr. Wyatt S. Beazley, III  
Dr. Joann N. Bodurtha and  
Dr. Thomas J. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Cabell Brand  
Ms. Jodi Bufford  
Campbell County Department  
of Social Services  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Chevalier  
Child Advocacy Network, Inc.  
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Mary Frances and Fletcher Lowe  
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Mental Health America of  
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Ms. A. Phoebe Meyer  
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Newport News Office on Youth  
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rosenthal  
Ms. Margaret A. Smith  
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The Most Reverend Walter F.  
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Virginia Association for Early  
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Ms. Laurene Ann Warhol  
Ms. Norma White

**Gifts up to \$99**

Ms. Barbara J. Barrett  
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Dr. Nancy W. Morehouse and  
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The Rev. and Mrs. James A. Payne  
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Ms. Christine B. Scibetta  
John and Mary Dunne Stewart  
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Virginia Interfaith Center for  
Public Policy  
Ms. Ann Warshauer  
Ms. Janice E.  
Woodard

York/Poquoson Child Advocacy  
Team

**In-Kind Contributors**

Campagna Center (Alexandria)  
Christ Episcopal Church of  
Roanoke  
Fairfax Futures  
George Mason University –  
Center for Social Science  
Research and the Mason  
Project on Immigration  
John Tyler Community College  
Martinsville-Henry County  
Early Childhood Coalition  
McLean Bible Church  
Metro Richmond Boys and  
Girls Clubs  
New River Valley Area School  
Readiness Coalition  
Office of Youth and Family,  
City of Newport News  
PNC Bank  
Preschool Partners of the  
Virginia Peninsula  
Rappahannock United Way  
Success By 6  
Reston Interfaith Center  
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Smart Beginnings South  
Hampton Roads  
Success By 6 Coalition of the  
Shenandoah Valley  
T.C. Williams Law School -  
University of Richmond  
Troutman Sanders LLP  
United Way of Central Virginia  
Success By 6 (Lynchburg)  
Valley Interfaith Child Care  
Center (Blacksburg)  
Virginia Early Childhood  
Foundation

The fiscal year for Voices for Virginia's Children was from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. This 2007 Annual Report is produced to record all grants and gifts received in this fiscal year. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of these listings. If you were a contributor and your name was omitted, listed incorrectly, or misspelled, please notify Voices. Thank you.

"Step Up for Kids" rally at Capitol Square.



"Voices..." continued from front page...

families, and the Child Care and Development Fund which provides child care subsidies so low-income working parents can find affordable child care and remain in the workforce.

"Heroes..." continued from inside right page...

department official, researcher, hospital director, program creator, public policy advocate and champion of system reform. Dr. Cohen was one of the first to recognize and document the gaps and failures in Virginia's child mental health system and to advocate effectively for reform. He was an architect of the most sweeping system change to date in Virginia, the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth, and continues to advocate for the funding and best practices needed for that reform to be fully realized.

**Treatment Team:**

**The Parent Center of the Central Virginia Community Services Board** coordinated by Elizabeth ("Betty") Blevins was recognized as Outstanding Treatment Team. The Parent Center's mission is to support and promote the health, independence, and self-worth of parents

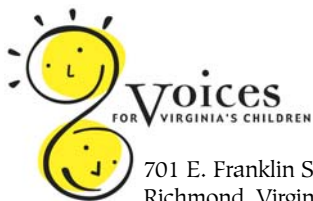


Dr. Colleen Kraft looks on as Senator John Miller delivers remarks at the "Step Up for Kids" rally.

and guardians in the Lynchburg area. It accomplishes this mission through a variety of means, including providing therapeutic services, parenting classes, support groups and a Parent Advisory Board to influence state, local and agency policy. The Center is now an indispensable support for parents and family members of children with serious emotional disturbance.

**Individual Media Professional:**

**Beth Macy** is a reporter with the Roanoke Times who covers health and family issues. Beth has written powerfully yet sensitively about the lives of individuals and families touched by mental illness, highlighting their struggles against stigma and the difficulties of navigating the inadequate service system. Her writing is persuasive testimony on behalf of those in need of mental health treatment.



701 E. Franklin Street, Suite 807  
 Richmond, Virginia 23219  
 804-649-0184

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