



## 2009 Annual Report Summary

### Voices Stayed Strong in 2009

2009, the second year of the deepest recession since the Depression, brought monumental challenges to Virginia's economy, to state and local budgets and the safety-net services they support, and ultimately to Virginia's nearly two million children. To protect the well-being of children during the recession, we called on our supporters to "keep Voices strong at the very moment kids need us the most."

Proudly and gratefully we can report that you responded to the call! As a result, **Voices stayed strong and led the way in urging Virginia's leaders to MAKE KIDS THE PRIORITY during tough times.** Along with our many partners and stakeholders, we persuaded Virginia's leaders to avoid drastic cuts to child-serving programs and to preserve the hard-fought policy gains made on behalf of kids during the previous few years. Here's a sample of our 2009 policy and advocacy achievements to help vulnerable children and families endure these trying times:

- Preserved funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative serving low-income 4 yr. olds
- Reversed the decision to close the state's acute care psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents,

preserving the inpatient safety net for 800 vulnerable children

- Extended earlier reforms in the foster care system to ensure that older foster youth can establish permanent family ties and transition to productive adulthood

We began the year by sounding the alarm, warning in a joint report with the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis of a possible 30% increase in the number of children living in poverty. We made the case that recession-induced



Artwork by Daniel from the "Voices for Change Project."

risks to child well-being were urgent and that safety-net programs were already experiencing unprecedented demands. Simultaneously, we were confronted with

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**Voices stayed strong and led the way in urging Virginia's leaders to MAKE KIDS THE PRIORITY during tough times.**

**“Voices stayed” continued...**

our own fiscal challenge – the prospect of reduced support from foundations and corporations whose giving capacity had shrunk during the downturn. A perfect storm had formed – prolonged financial distress for families, especially those most vulnerable; government revenue shortfalls threatening to shred the safety net at the moment of greatest need; and potential weakening of organizations like Voices who fight for public policies that protect child well-being.

Hence our urgent call to keep Voices strong when we were needed most, so we could lead the fight to make children the priority during tough times. Indeed we did endure some funding cuts from foundations. Yet thanks to the hard work of Voices board, staff and friends, we were able to more than offset this lost revenue by increasing gifts from individuals and by gaining support from new corporate and foundation sources. As a result, we finished 2009 financially stronger than the previous year and with a more balanced mix of funding to carry us into the future.

That future brings continuing challenges. State and local revenues will lag behind

the recovery in other sectors, putting added strain on safety net services and the growing number of children and families in need. The drastic cuts to public education voted by the 2010 General Assembly are stark indication that even fundamental core government services are under intense strain. The education cuts will have far-reaching consequences on Virginia’s schools, students, the future workforce, and ultimately on Virginia’s economy. As we predicted at the start of 2009, the poverty-related harm caused by the recession will persist well beyond the start of the economic recovery. With lots of help, Voices effectively stood up for kids in 2009 and is ready to do so again in 2010 and beyond. In tough times, kids need Voices more than ever. Thanks for being there for us so we could be there for them.

John R. Morgan  
Executive Director

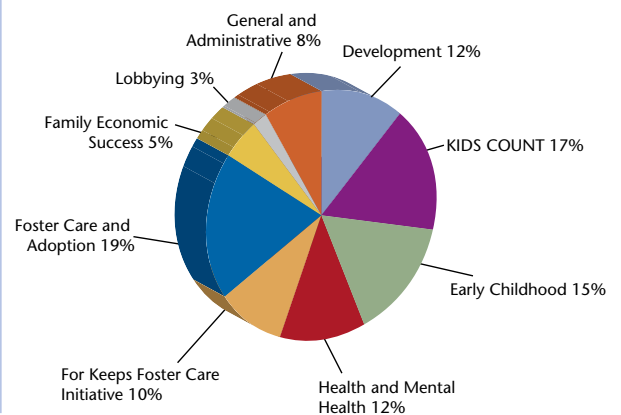
James V. Duty  
Board Chairman, 2009

**2009 Financial Information**

**Summarized Information**

Total Assets	\$620,680
Total Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 2,960
Total Amounts Held For Others	\$ 13,264
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 1,052,266
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$607,632</b>

**Operating Expenses By Program**



## 2009 Grantor & Donor List

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

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