

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



**When the history of child advocacy in Virginia** is written, the 2010 chapter might begin "In the face of another year of nearly unprecedented threats, Voices led the fight to prevent harmful budget cuts and ensure that even in tough times, policymakers would stand strong for kids."

As part of the national Voices network, we hear of drastic budget cuts elsewhere – cuts to child services that in a day wipe out years of progress. In many states such cuts will erode child well-being, especially for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, for years to come.

By convincing many legislators to stand strong and reject proposed cuts to services for children, we avoided such a drastic outcome in Virginia. Potentially harmful cuts were minimized and the child and family safety net

was preserved. Under the circumstances, this was a huge victory for children! It's also a sign that many policymakers have responded to the call to make kids the priority. Virginia now has a cadre of legislators and leaders who have shown that even in tough times, they will hang tough for kids.

Influencing policymakers, especially in tough times, requires strong public support. In 2010 we greatly expanded our ability to engage concerned citizens. We added 500 members to our electronic policy action network – we now have 4500 people enrolled. The Campaign for Children's Mental Health enrolled more than 600 advocates pledged to fight for a better child mental health system. Our Step Up For Kids rally again attracted a lively crowd of supporters to Capitol Square. Can all this make a difference? Yes! In 2010, in response to various Voices alerts, Voices supporters sent nearly 12,000 messages to legislators!

In addition to the remarkable budget victory, here's a sample of other accomplishments that helped to keep kids a high priority in 2010.

**Campaign for Children's Mental Health:** The campaign in its first year set the stage for major system reforms in 2011-12. Voices joined with the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, NAMI-Virginia and Mental Health America-Virginia to form a Steering Committee; recruited more than 60 partner organizations; conducted five regional forums to gather input from more than 400 concerned individuals; and published the Campaign's first report, *Virginians Speak Out*, highlighting findings from the forums. The Campaign spearheaded the effort to overturn the proposed closing of the state's inpatient child psychiatric facility, preserving the acute care safety net for nearly 800 children per year.

**Foster Care Reform:** The nearly 6,000 children and youth in Virginia's foster care system benefited from Voices continued work to protect recent reforms that help connect children to permanent families. Together with The Virginia Poverty Law Center, FACES of Virginia Families and JustChildren, Voices launched the Child Welfare Policy Network, which gathered input from 23 partner organizations and analyzed policies and practices to improve the odds for children in foster care.

**Early Childhood/School Readiness:** Voices led an effort to better unify the early childhood sector. We re-activated our Working Families Child Care Coalition to expand collaboration on childcare policy issues. We co-sponsored the third Smart Beginnings School Readiness Summit and prepared the 230 attendees for unified action. We led the process to produce Virginia's first-ever unified early childhood legislative agenda. *Continue to page 2*

We partnered with JustChildren to help defeat a proposed cut to the Virginia Preschool Initiative, preserving pre-K for the program's 15,000 disadvantaged four year olds. We also successfully advocated to preserve funds for child care assistance for low-income working parents.

KIDS COUNT: Voices published data and policy briefs to ensure that public policy initiatives are based on objective data. In addition to those mentioned above, they included:

- *Child Poverty Data Briefs* detailing the scope of child poverty in each VA congressional district
- *Child Care and Development Block Grant Policy Brief* documenting the need for and value of investments in child care assistance for low-income working parents
- *Portrait of Children in Northern Virginia* - In conjunction with the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, compiled multiple indicators of the well-being of the region's children.
- *Quality Matters: Setting the Stage for Life for Virginia's Infants and Toddlers* - Assisted Child Development Resources in preparing this brief for the Infant-Toddler Specialist Network.

We also greatly expanded our KIDS COUNT Data Center, adding 21 indicators and released a *KIDS COUNT Data Center User Guide* to help users access the 100-plus child well-being indicators. Visit [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org) to see that Kids Count is better than ever.

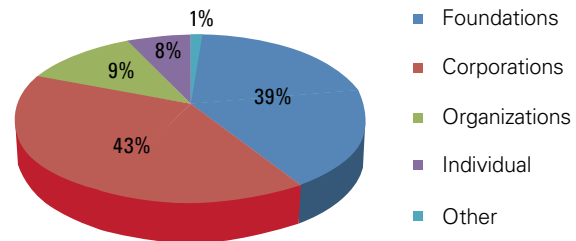
Every partner and supporter shares in Voices' 2010 achievements. Thanks for standing with us during tough times – together we came through when kids needed us the most.

John R. Morgan, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

James Mallory  
Board Chair, 2010

### Schedule of Income for 2010

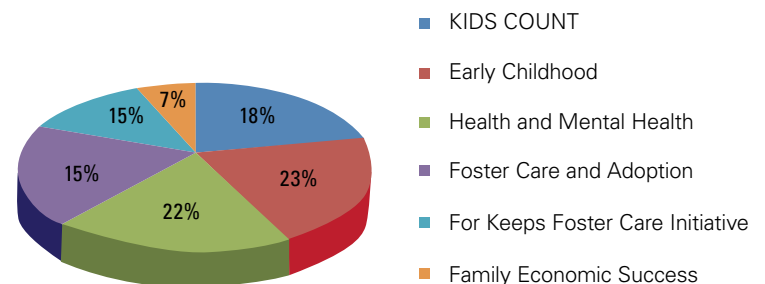
Income	
Foundations	\$240,722
Corporations	268,400
Organizations	56,678
Individual	48,643
Other	6,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$620,700</b>



### Schedule of Expenses for 2010

Expenses	
Program and advocacy areas:	
KIDS COUNT	\$99,891
Early Childhood	119,042
Health and Mental Health	128,928
Foster Care and Adoption	85,790
For Keeps Foster Care Initiative	81,110
Family Economic Success	37,434
Lobbying	13,234
Admin and Support	122,350
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$687,779</b>

### Program Expenses



## 2010 Donor List

### **\$100,000 +**

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

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