

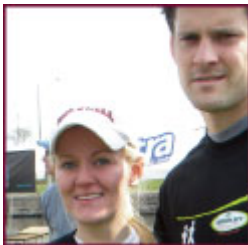


Associates Board Newsletter

Welcome From the Co-Chairs

Congratulations on a very successful first year! You have all worked so hard on behalf of Voices for Illinois Children to help kids grow up healthy, happy, safe, loved and well-educated. We're proud to celebrate the Associates Board's first year of service with our first Quarterly Newsletter. We hope that this newsletter will help keep all Associates Board members connected and involved as we continue to build on the successes of our first year.

-Brittany B. Beagley and Kristin M. Culbertson, Co-Chairs



Associates Board members at the Wrigley Start Early Run

Social and Fundraising Committee Update

On April 18, 2009 the 12th Annual Wrigley Start Early Run and Pledge Walk, benefiting Voices for Illinois Children and Prevent Child Abuse America was held on Chicago's beautiful lakeshore. The event attracted nearly 2,500 runners and raised over \$200,000 for PCAA and Voices. Associates Board members volunteered in promoting the race, with packet pick-up and registration, and in raising funds. We look forward to another successful Start Early Run on April 10, 2010.



Saturday, October 10, 2009 marked the inaugural Social & Fundraising Committee's "Kids at Heart: a FUNdraiser benefiting Voices for Illinois Children." Inside an exclusive rooftop lounge with stunning city vistas, the benefit featured a silent auction with children's artwork and autographed memorabilia; childhood comfort food like a mac 'n cheese bar and mini hot dogs; and challenging 80s trivia. Michelle Alegria, host of ABC7's 190 North, was the MC for the evening. Our event raised over \$6,000 for Voices, which succeeded in leveraging a challenge grant from the Pew Charitable Trust.



Kids at Heart FUNdraiser

2010 promises to be an exciting sophomore year for the S&F Committee, with plans for our next Kids at Heart FUNdraiser already underway. Additionally, we have board mixers and kickoff events in the works, so please stay tuned for more information. We are always happy to have more people, so if you would like to get involved please contact Monica Lee at monicamlee@gmail.com.

Education and Outreach Committee Update

The Education and Outreach committee has made some exciting progress in its first year. We have run a number of Friendraisers, where committee members invite their friends to an informal meeting to learn about and discuss issues that are important to Voices. Additionally,

we have had several phone trees in which a network of people have made calls to legislators at key times and have also called their own contacts and urged them to do the same.

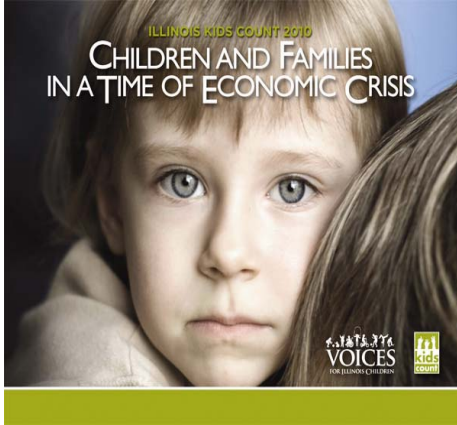
We are also pleased to present the first Education and Outreach during the first week of May 2010. The theme of this event will be Children and Families in a Time of Economic Crisis, complementing the upcoming 2010 Kids Count. We will also be producing a quarterly electronic newsletter, which will update members on the Voices Associates Board committees and upcoming events, as well as feature a spotlight on a Voices issue. If you would like to get involved please contact Neelamjit Dhaliwal at dhaliwal@gmail.com or Jessica Besser-Rosenberg at besserrosenberg@gmail.com

Voices Spotlight

Voices' annual Kids Count report is designed to highlight the challenges confronting children and their families in order to help shape policy discussions and catalyze action. This year's report examines the impact of the economic crisis. Here is an excerpt from the opening essay: "When poverty and hardship block children from striving, we all lose. As a society, we support children—providing an education, ensuring their health, preventing poverty—because in the end, they support us. When parents' tempers snap, when prescriptions are skipped to save money, when the school field trip is abandoned because of costs, we all suffer. To put a hard number on it, the costs of childhood poverty are estimated to be about \$500 billion per year, or the equivalent of nearly 4 percent of the nation's gross



domestic product. Simply put, kids count.”



The Kids Count Report will be released on February 11, 2010 with a statewide media event including press conferences in eight locations around Illinois. The Kids Count Symposium, which brings to together experts and community to explore the implications of the data, will be held on March 5, 2010 at the Standard Club in Chicago.

2010 Associates Board Member Dues

For 2010, Associates Board Members will have two options for meeting their membership commitment:

- Paying \$25 dues; or
- Registering to participate in the Wrigley Start Early Run/Walk 5k/10k

Associates Board Members who make their 2010 membership commitment will be listed in Voices for Illinois Children's Annual Report and on www.voices4kids.org.

Are you on **facebook**?

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If you are, please join the Voices Associates Board Facebook group! Joining the group can help you stay informed of Associates Board activities and network with other members.

Just search Facebook for “Voices for Illinois Children Associates Board.”



Volunteering at the Kids Count Symposium

For more information or to join the Associates Board, please contact:

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Upcoming Events

- Associates Board Meeting (March 2, 2010)
- Kids Count Symposium (March 5, 2010)
- Shamrock Shuffle booth staffing (March 19 and March 20, 2010)
- Shamrock Shuffle leafleting (March 21, 2010)
- Associates Board Membership Drive (March 2010)
- Start Early Run race packet pick-up events (April 2010)
- Start Early Run--Race Day (April 10, 2010)
- Education and Outreach Event (Early May 2010)
- Kids at Heart FUNdraiser (August/September 2010)
- Gubernatorial and other candidate forums (September / October 2010)
- Kids Count Awards Dinner (October 2010)