



**VOICES FOR**  
OHIO'S CHILDREN

# *Every Child* **DESERVES** AN AMAZING **CHILDHOOD**



safe



healthy



educated



connected



employable

**2017** **CASE** FOR SUPPORT  
& PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# WHY KIDS?

## BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAVE...

### ONE CHILDHOOD

Remember being a kid? Learning to read, making friends, fighting on the playground, getting really sick for the first time, snow days, lazy summers, first love, first job...

Childhood is special. It happens just once and no two of us have the exact same experience. As we learn more and more about the impact of childhood, we have found lifelong influences on everything from health and financial stability to career choice, relationships, and overall happiness.

### ONE CHANCE TO LEARN THE ESSENTIALS

Kids have one job: to learn. And, the work of learning doesn't start on the first day of school. Children are born instinctively learning about the world around them from Day 1. Depending on his relationship with his caregivers, her home environment, and life experiences, a child's brain, between birth and age 3, can produce 700 new neural connections every second. That's why at Voices our focus on education starts with early care, including our support of \$25 million in new state funding to support more than 6,000 additional preschool slots.

### ONE CHANCE TO GROW HEALTHY

Kids are constantly growing and developing. We now know that young minds, in particular, are not fully developed until age 25. This means kids need more than just the routine care designed for adults. Health care centered on children must focus on tracking developmental milestones and providing foundational and preventative care. At Voices, we are proud of the work we have done to promote Ohio's Healthchek benefit—which fully covers the cost of developmental screenings for Ohio kids on Medicaid. We will also remain vigilant in fighting to preserve the Children's Health Insurance Program, which has helped Ohio reach record levels of children with health insurance coverage.

### ONE CHANCE TO BECOME WHO THEY WANT TO BE

Adolescence is a vital time in a kid's life—a time for trying various identities, forming more mature relationships, and developing more advanced skills that will shape the kind of adult he/she will become. At Voices, we believe every child, regardless of background or current circumstance, should enjoy the opportunity, support, and resources to explore throughout their adolescence. We have partnered with afterschool, community, and youth employment programs to ensure Ohio kids can leave behind their childhoods with no regrets and ready for the next stage in life.

# WHY ADVOCACY?

## RAISING THE VOICE OF OHIO'S FAMILIES

Advocacy isn't always easy to explain. It isn't a product like a bicycle helmet or a service like home visiting. Advocacy is about connecting the dots; it's about looking at how process impacts results; it's about raising the voices of families and sharing their stories with the right people and the right systems to identify trends and make changes that will benefit the whole community.

Amber, a young mother of three, came home one day last April to find her son, Torian, lying on the couch—which was unusual for the energetic 11-year-old. Torian's chest was tight and he was struggling to breathe. That morning, he had gone to the school nurse who told him he was fine and should return to class. But, Torian was clearly not fine. Diagnosed with Asthma at age five, Torian takes four daily medications to keep his asthma at bay. But, sometimes he suffers an attack that requires an emergency inhaler. Otherwise, his symptoms worsen exponentially, which is exactly what happened. Amber rushed him to Nationwide Children's Hospital, where he stayed for the next five days.

Amber searched for answers. She thought she had done everything right: she provided Torian's school with an epi-pen, emergency inhaler, and multiple ways to contact her. The problem, however, was bigger than Amber and her son. At the time, more than 75 percent of Ohio families whose child was diagnosed with asthma had not supplied their schools with inhalers. Some parents couldn't afford a spare brand-name albuterol inhaler (there are no generics) to give over to the school and others didn't even know this was the protocol. In addition, school nurses—whose availability can vary—were the only staff members allowed to administer an inhaler and only if it was specifically prescribed to the child. So, schools were in the habit of assuming there would be no inhaler available and gauged an asthma attack based on whether or not it seemed like an emergency necessitating EMS.

Kids waited and suffered through their attacks, classes were interrupted, EMS were diverted from other emergencies, and school personnel stood by helpless.

The problem was growing and last year, it caught the attention of the Ohio General

Assembly. When the Voices Team met Amber and heard her story, we introduced her to House Bill 39, a policy that would allow schools to stock inhalers for emergencies and provide guidelines for their use. Amber wanted to testify. She had never done anything like that. So, we walked her through the process, showed her sample testimonies, and connected her with the bill's sponsor. She testified before a Senate Health and Human Services Committee in September 2015, eliciting understanding and concern among committee members that there was "more to do." The bill was signed into law on November 2nd.



### Through Amber's eyes...

“WHEN I EXPRESSED TO MY SON ABOUT THE BILL GETTING PASSED, HE BEGAN TO CRY AND SAID, “IF THE NURSE ISN'T AT SCHOOL, I WON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GET HOME TO BREATHE!” THIS MADE ME FEEL SADNESS AND JOY, SADNESS BECAUSE NOT BEING ABLE TO BREATHE HAS TO BE A HORRIBLE FEELING THAT NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO EXPERIENCE AND JOY KNOWING THAT FROM THIS DAY FORWARD ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR NECESSARY MEDICATIONS. KNOWING I HAD A PART, ALTHOUGH SMALL, IN GETTING THIS HOUSE BILL PASSED GIVES ME FEELINGS OF GRATITUDE AND PRIDE.”

# WHY VOICES?

## 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Voices for Ohio's Children was initially created for exactly what it sounds like: to give the children of Ohio a voice. Originally called the Coalition for Greater Cleveland's Children, we were formed in 1996 under the leadership of Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and the Rainbow Board of Trustees. Seeing a void in advocacy and research for children's issues in the state of Ohio, our tenacious founders formed the Coalition to speak up for kids and the issues that affect them. Over 20 years, our scope, our focus, and our impact have grown. In 2004, the Coalition became Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland, and in 2007 we became Voices for Ohio's Children. As our name evolved, so did our work—starting out as a small voter forum, we grew into a comprehensive and hands-on advocacy organization, focused on educating, influencing, and improving policies that impact children in our state.

## TRUSTED BY DECISION-MAKERS

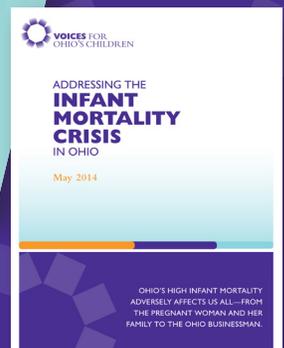
Committed to nonpartisanship, Voices enjoys the support and trust of policymakers on both sides of the political aisle. Our Policy Team enjoys seats at several policy tables that span the full spectrum of kids' issues. State agencies have also brought Voices in multiple times to convene and facilitate stakeholder discussions, including talks on Ohio Medicaid's Healthchek for kids, home visiting programs, and foster care supports.

“  
AFTER NINE YEARS,  
I STILL FIND MYSELF  
EXCITED TO WORK  
WITH THIS INSPIRING  
ORGANIZATION.  
VOICES CONTINUES  
TO BE SEEN AS THE  
GO-TO, NON-PARTISAN  
ADVOCACY RESOURCE  
ON ISSUES AFFECTING  
THE OVERALL HEALTH  
OF CHILDREN...”

**Thomas Scheid**  
Health Policy Consultant

## RECENT SUCCESSES:

- ☀ **Successfully advocated on Capitol Hill** for the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- ☀ **Developed and distributed a Communications Toolkit** across the state that primes providers and advocates to discuss the importance of routine developmental screenings.
- ☀ **Successfully protected comprehensive health coverage** for pregnant women on Medicaid and increased funding for early childcare services—during the last state budget cycle.
- ☀ **Gained more than 580 participants** at monthly policy webinars.
- ☀ **Offered testimonies on policies to:**
  - extend foster care supports to age 21
  - individualize truancy interventions
  - require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine
  - expand asthma inhaler access for kids
  - fund afterschool programs
  - improve data collection and services surrounding infant mortality.



# WHY THE SUCCESS?

## COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY IS THE KEY

Voices uses the expertise of its staff, consultants, and more than 60 statewide collaborating organizations to educate lawmakers, community leaders, interested individuals and the media about public policy that is cost-effective and results oriented—thus maximizing the economic advantages of investing in children.

### Our policy work's focus:

safe

healthy

educated

connected

employable

- Afterschool Programs
- Behavioral Health
- Child Welfare
- Grade-Level Reading
- Healthcare Access & Coverage
- Home Visiting
- Hunger
- Infant Mortality
- Juvenile Justice
- Multi-System Youth
- Obesity and Wellness
- Oral Healthcare
- Preschool & Early Learning
- Quality Childcare
- School-based Healthcare
- Youth Development

**Voices is a multi-issue child advocacy organization with three levels of energy:**

### proactive LEADER

Voices researches issues and directly advocates for sound policy that benefits children at the local, state, and federal level.

### aligned PARTNER

Voices offers expertise and is a visible collaborator that engages a robust and active grassroots network of child advocates.

### strategic SUPPORTER

Voices monitors legislative proposals and responds to requests while partnering with many organizations to prioritize Ohio's youth.

“WHEN I THINK OF VOICES, I IMMEDIATELY THINK OF COLLABORATION. THEIR COMMITMENT TO OHIO HAS PROVEN THEY ARE ENGAGING THE RIGHT PARTNERS AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS.”

**John McCarthy**

Director, Ohio Dept. of Medicaid

# WHY SPONSOR?

We make it easy for you to receive name recognition and to place service and product information in front of the right audience.

Let Voices bring that audience to you!

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### DIAMOND \$50,000

#### Event Presence:

ALL EVENTS

#### Benefits:

1. Premium event signage
2. Spotlight on promo collateral (e-newsletters, media releases)
3. Remarks at event
4. 6 private reception tickets
5. 2 dais seats
6. 2 tables (approx. 20 seats)
7. Exhibit booth
8. 10 event registrations (can scholarship)
9. Video presence
10. Program presence (back cover ad)
11. Logo on swag bag
12. Swag bag items
13. Website presence (logo banner, messaging)
14. Event site handouts
15. 1 Policy Brief sponsorship
16. Recognition plaque for your office

### PLATINUM \$30,000

#### Event Presence:

ALL EVENTS

#### Benefits:

1. Premium event signage
2. Spotlight on promo collateral (e-newsletters, media releases)
3. Remarks at event
4. 4 private reception tickets
5. 1 dais seat
6. 1 table (approx. 10 seats)
7. Exhibit booth
8. 8 event registrations
9. Program presence (inside back cover ad)
10. Swag bag items
11. Website presence (logo banner, messaging)
12. Event site handouts
13. Recognition plaque for your office

### GOLD \$20,000

#### Event Presence:

KIDS SUMMIT  
& ONE CELEBRATION  
(Cleveland -OR- Columbus)

#### Benefits:

1. Premium event signage
2. Spotlight on promo collateral (e-newsletters, media releases)
3. 2 private reception tickets
4. 1 dais seat
5. 1 table (approx. 10 seats)
6. Exhibit booth
7. 6 event registrations
8. Program presence (inside, full-page ad)
9. Swag bag items
10. Website presence (logo banner)
11. Event site handouts
12. Recognition plaque for your office

### SILVER \$10,000

#### Event Presence:

KIDS SUMMIT

#### Benefits:

1. Premium event signage
2. Spotlight on promo collateral (e-newsletters, media releases)
3. 1 private reception ticket
4. 1/2 table (approx. 5 seats)
5. Exhibit booth
6. 4 event registrations
7. Program presence (inside, 1/2-page ad)
8. Swag bag items
9. Website presence (logo banner)
10. Event site handouts

### BRONZE \$5,000

#### Event Presence:

KIDS SUMMIT

#### Benefits:

1. 1/2 table (approx. 5 seats)
2. Exhibit booth
3. 2 event registrations
4. Program presence (inside, 1/4-page ad)
5. Swag bag items
6. Event site handouts



VOICES FOR  
OHIO'S CHILDREN

# Thank You

“Voices for Ohio's Children provides information to legislators and other policymakers in an effective, nonpartisan manner. This is enormously valuable to me as a legislator, and to our staff, as we seek to understand the sometimes conflicting claims that are presented to us.

– **Ohio State Rep. Debbie Philips** (D-Albany)

Voices for Ohio's Children offered a great opportunity to my after school program. With their training, my high school students learned to advocate for themselves and for our after school program to state legislators. It was an experience of a lifetime.

– **Lauren Bajda**, High School Program Coordinator for Lexington-Bell Community Center.

Although I work directly with children in the child welfare field, it is equally essential for all professionals and community members to look at the bigger picture for children's rights, health, and well-being. What are the domestic and international laws, policies, and research findings that can help us to help children now and in the future? These questions keep advocates like Voices going and working hard to make the world a better place for children and for future generations.

– **Emily Ahn Wampler**, MSW, LSW

As a small non-profit organization, there is no way we have the funding, the expertise, or the time it takes to stay on top of all the federal, state, county and city relationships needed to be effective. That's why we so appreciate the Voices team and the collaboration that Voices has created for us in Ohio.

– **Carol Rivchun**, Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Voices for Ohio's Children has played an important role over the years in protecting critical programs for children. They have consistently advanced policies to help ensure children have access to affordable, quality health care; nutrition; child care and other important services.

– **Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**



MEET NAUDIA

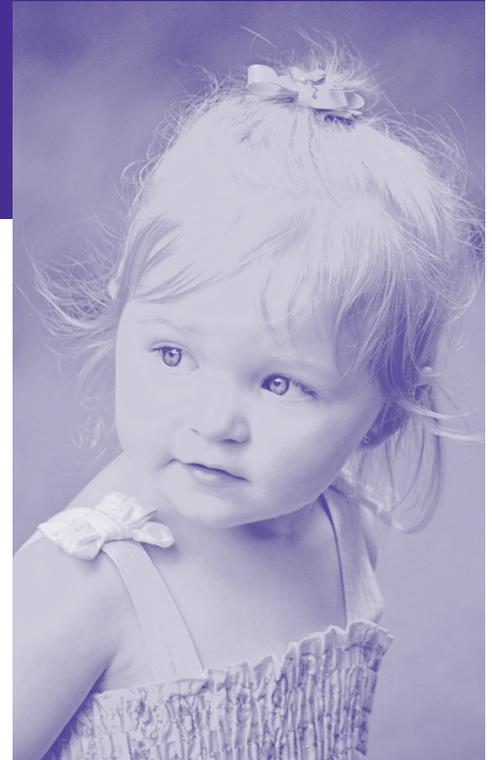
**2016**  
**Julie Adler Raskind**  
**Youth Champion**

**Each year, Voices recognizes and rewards an exceptional young person who has advocated to make a difference in the community.**

Naudia Loftis is a 17-year-old senior at St. Martin DePorres and a resident of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood, an area infamous for its high crime rate. Last year, assaults here were up by a quarter and homicide rates were on the rise. After losing her aunt and her cousin, Naudia has found strength in activism and fought back against the violence in her community. She became involved in Peace in the Hood, Inc., a non-profit, grassroots, empowerment-oriented afterschool program. There, she mentors neighborhood youth who are also facing violence and pressures to join local gangs. Last fall—on what would have been her cousin's 32nd birthday—Naudia organized the Value Our Lives Rally, an anti-violence march, rally and vigil in Cleveland to encourage community involvement in efforts to end the killings that have blighted Cleveland this past summer. The event caught the attention of the local media and ended up attracting hundreds of participants. Naudia is also a prolific poet and is looking forward to studying business and journalism at one of the several colleges that have already accepted her. We can't wait to see what's in store for her.

# YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES OUR SUCCESS

Voices' funding comes from people just like you—parents, advocates, local businesses, nonprofits, and foundations—who agree that every Ohio kid deserves an amazing childhood.



## How?

### RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR KIDS:

- ☀ Sign up to receive our e-newsletter and Action Alerts
- ☀ Follow Voices on social media
- ☀ Become a Voices Public Policy Partner
- ☀ Register for our monthly webinars
- ☀ Attend our events
- ☀ Participate in Voices' End-of-Year Campaign
- ☀ Sign on as a recurring, monthly donor
- ☀ Become a sponsor and enjoy a variety of advertising and exhibiting opportunities—all while helping Ohio kids!

### FIND OUT MORE:

contact Tracy Heard, Development Consultant  
TracyHeard@aol.com • 877-881-7860 • Cell: 614-361-1002

### VISIT:

[www.RaiseYourVoiceForKids.org](http://www.RaiseYourVoiceForKids.org)



*Voices for Ohio's Children is a registered 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*