



**Voices**

For Virginia's  
Children

**ANNUAL  
REPORT 2016  
AND  
2017 SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER**



GREETINGS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2016 at Voices for Virginia’s Children, we are struck by the **exciting new connections** we made, and opportunities they gave us to broaden our impact. To name a few:

- **We welcomed two new staff members last summer**, both of whom hit the ground running:
  - » **Allison Gilbreath**, our policy analyst for foster and juvenile justice. Allison has traveled the state educating former foster youth, judges, and attorneys about the Fostering Futures program and Medicaid to 26, two policies we continue to champion.
  - » **Beth Nolan**, our KIDS COUNT Director. Beth revamped the KIDS COUNT Data Center with a number of new indicators and developed new regional infographics on children’s economic well-being.
- **We were joined by enthusiastic and hard-working new members of our Board of Directors**, each of whom has already made meaningful contributions:
  - » **Joyce Shields** and **Laurie Flynn** of Alexandria, and
  - » **Peter Schneir**, **Annie Kasper**, and **Jennifer Gentry** of the Richmond area.
- **We hosted a unique and memorable event at Wolf Trap** in December called **“Voices Uplifted,”** highlighting the talents of opera singer Ryan Speedo Green and author Daniel Bergner, allowing us to introduce more community leaders in Northern Virginia to our mission and impact.
- **We connected with the many dedicated professionals** on the ground throughout the Commonwealth who are working to raise awareness about the impact of trauma on children and to create resilient communities through local and regional **trauma-informed community networks**.

We have carried that momentum into 2017 with significant achievements for children in the recent General Assembly session, which you can read about elsewhere in this report. Our reputation for bringing data and research to policy discussions in a non-partisan manner is what helps Voices realize success for children year after year.

Because of Virginia’s pending elections, 2017 is an especially important time for child advocates. We will be electing a new governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, as well as all 100 members of the House of Delegates. Voices must continue to expand our reach, and share valuable information about the well-being of kids throughout every locality and region of Virginia, if children’s issues are to become prominent in the minds of voters and candidates alike.

As part of our non-partisan electoral advocacy, we are releasing **The Future of Virginia Starts Today: An Election Guide** this summer. It provides up-to-the-minute data and infographics about what’s working for children in Virginia and what’s not, as well as questions you can ask candidates about their positions.

The board and staff of Voices for Virginia’s Children are incredibly grateful for all our supporters, who make our work possible. It is important to us that we remain **totally privately funded** so that we are never competing for governmental funds with programs that serve children directly. You—the foundations, corporations, and individuals who support us—are the champions that make that independence possible.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
  
Jamie Dyke Clancey  
Chair, Board of Directors

Margaret Nimmo Holland  
Executive Director



Advocates from all over Virginia joined us during Mental Health Advocacy Day in Richmond.



Delegate Betsy Carr (center) joined the Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Community Network (TICN) to present the House of Delegates’ resolution recognizing the important work of TICNs throughout the state.



Voices partnered with Child Care Aware for a lobby day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.



TICN advocacy day attendees, including our Board Chair Jamie Dyke Clancey (second from right).

WINS FOR KIDS IN THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Voices for Virginia’s Children, the Commonwealth’s only multi-issue child advocacy organization, works with policymakers on both sides of the aisle to advocate for laws and funding that improve the lives of Virginia’s children. We partner with organizations throughout Virginia and mobilize advocates to speak up for children and their well-being.

This year the Commonwealth faced a \$1.5 billion shortfall heading into the General Assembly session, so our first priority was to protect investments in children’s services, many of which were gained in 2016. We are proud to report that our efforts and those of our partners were successful: **no cuts to children’s services** were made in the 2017 session.

We also helped advance key policies in a number of areas:

Voices supported the new blueprint for Virginia’s **behavioral health system**, known as STEP-VA, which lays out a comprehensive array of services which, if funded, will be available at all community services boards in the coming years. Lawmakers took the first steps this year: writing this plan into Virginia law and funding same-day access to behavioral health screenings for children and adults.

To improve the **economic security** of families with children, Voices helped stop a bill to reduce the amount of time a family can receive TANF, a type of cash assistance for very low-income families. A bill to change the lifetime limit from 60 months to 24 months did not move from committee because we and others highlighted that the change would have no fiscal benefit to the state and that Virginia’s policies are already very restrictive.

We continued to champion the needs of Virginia’s **youth aging out of foster care** by ensuring they are enrolled in health insurance. A bill to auto-enroll foster youth into “Medicaid to 26” was passed, which will help ensure that youth do not lose their health insurance when they turn 19.

We worked with parents and partners to continue to improve **safety in child care**. A bill passed that applies fingerprint background checks to license-exempt, regulated child care providers.

Often, the first step in moving policy forward is educating lawmakers about an issue. Voices was deeply involved in two important and related educational efforts this session:

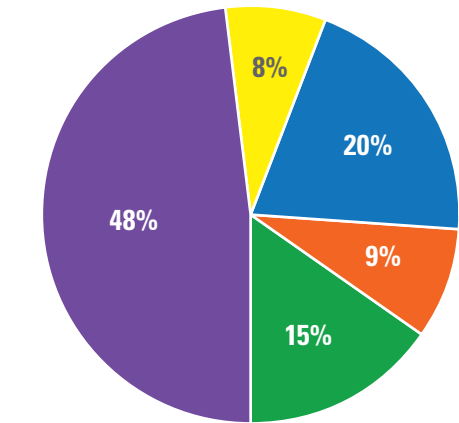
Introducing policymakers to regional **trauma-informed community networks** and recognizing their efforts to use brain research to work more effectively with children and families who have experienced trauma.

Sparking the conversation around dismantling the **school to prison pipeline** by reducing school suspension and expulsions.

Although the bills did not pass this year, we helped lay the groundwork for future policy changes.



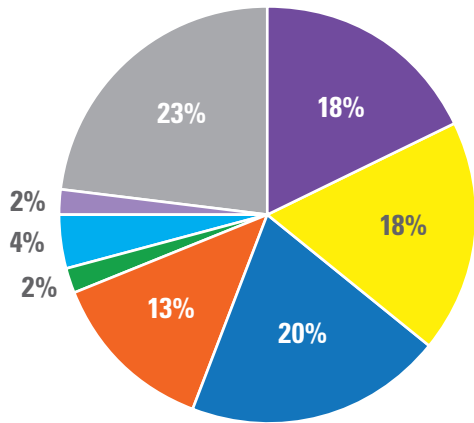
2016 FINANCIAL SCHEDULES



INCOME

Foundations	\$373,500
Corporations	\$59,500
Organizations	\$156,950
Individual	\$66,849
Other	\$118,042

Total Income \$774,841



EXPENSES

KIDS COUNT	\$133,393
Early Childhood	\$132,342
Health and Mental Health	\$147,555
Foster care and Adoption	\$99,136
Family Economic Success	\$13,033

Total Program and Advocacy \$525,459

Capacity and Growth	\$30,186
Lobbying	\$14,870
Management and Development	\$177,126

Total Expenses \$747,641

DONOR RECOGNITION 2016

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CHAMPIONS' CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

Voices for Virginia's Children introduced its first ever major gifts society in 2014. With eight inaugural members, The Champions' Circle provides an opportunity for child advocates to help build a reliable base of support for our current and future work.

To join The Champions' Circle, members make a three-year financial commitment of \$1,000 or more per year. This commitment provides Voices with the stability and flexibility to respond to the emerging needs of the Commonwealth's children. It ensures that Voices remains the leading independent, non-partisan advocate for children at the state capitol. As you know, Voices operates entirely through private funding, enabling us to put the interests of Virginia's children first.

THE CHAMPIONS' CIRCLE MEMBERS

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Ms. Joyce Shields  
Dr. and Mrs. Don Switz  
Dr. Brenda Tanner and Mr. Russell James  
Dr. Jamelle S. Wilson and Mr. James Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Wilt

For more information on  
The Champions' Circle, please  
contact Michael Brown  
at (804) 649-0184, ex. 22. or  
Michael@vakids.org



Senator Siobhan Dunnivant, former Secretary of Education Anne Holton, and Secretary of Health and Human Resources William Hazel enjoyed the Carol S. Fox Making Kids Count Award Reception.



Honorees of the Making Kids Count Awards talked about their experiences.





Opera sensation and Virginia native Ryan Speedo Green lent his voice and inspirational story.



Voices staff: Emily Griffey, Beth Nolan, Ashley Everette, Allison Gilbreath, Margaret Nimmo Holland, Nikkia Johnson, Michael Brown, and Northern Virginia consultant Mary Beth Testa.



Leslie Kaplan (board member), Leon Hughes, Bette Hughes, and Bill Owings enjoyed "Voices Uplifted."



Attendees were awed by Ryan Speedo Green's performance.



Ryan Speedo Green and author Daniel Bergner signed books for event guests.

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We try our best to  
list names properly.  
Please contact  
Nikkia Johnson at  
nikkia@vakids.org with  
any corrections.

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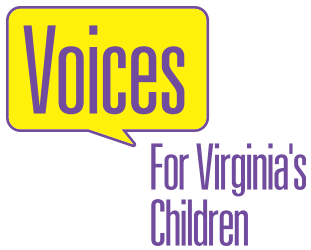
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Our mission is to  
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# SAVE THE DATE

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017 • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

CAROL S. FOX  
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