

A photograph of two women lying on their backs on a green lawn, laughing heartily. The woman in the foreground is wearing a light blue shirt, and the woman behind her is wearing an orange shirt. The scene is bright and sunny.

Voices

For Virginia's
Children

**2021 Annual
Report**

Voices for Virginia's Children is a nonprofit organization committed to improving and protecting the lives of Virginia's children, youth, and families.

We believe every child should have equitable access to the resources, services and opportunities needed to thrive. For us, that means advocating for sound policies, educating the public, mobilizing communities, utilizing data to determine unmet needs, and leading with compassion.

Our aim is to always close the systemic gaps that fail children, prioritize racial justice in policymaking, and ensure every voice has a role in shaping their future.

GET INVOLVED AT **vakids.org**

Dear Friend,

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2021. We are very proud of our accomplishments in helping Virginia's children and their families find stability and resiliency. Your support has been foundational to Voices' achievements, and we are thrilled to share them with you.

In 2021, the pandemic continued to impact every aspect of the lives of children and families in the Commonwealth. Unemployment, lack of childcare, food, and housing insecurity, as well as closures of community-based organizations eroded the economic stability of families. Parents reported high levels of stress to meet their family's financial and emotional needs. Relief programs were rapidly changing, and parents could barely keep up. In response to this crisis, our team partnered with state and federal government officials and organizations to direct financial support to families and advocate for investments that would support parents.

Our fantastic team also grounded the policymaking process during this tumultuous year by bringing the insights and experiences of children and families to the State Capitol. We organized and empowered youth, early educators, parents, and mental health professionals to speak up and share their stories with policymakers. All of this was done by offering sound data to Virginia's leaders, such as Voices' *State of Virginia's Children Report* and Annie E. Casey



Foundation's *KIDS COUNT Data Book*. Within this Annual Report, you will find details of how Virginia's children have benefited from Voices' advocacy, research, and outreach efforts. Your support has been crucial to achieving these outcomes. With your help, we look forward to doing more for and with kids in the year ahead.

Thank you for your generosity and trust, which have advanced public policies that create a better tomorrow for the children of Virginia.

With gratitude,

Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia
Interim CEO

Cyrillene Clark, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

General Assembly & Policy Updates

Between the Virginia General Assembly, Congress, and a new White House Administration, our policy team stayed busy in 2021. We have endured never-ending legislative sessions where we worked with elected officials on both sides of the aisle at the state and federal level to deliver policies and investments to support children and families.

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **Legislative highlight:** Provided testimony in support of the governor's priority bills to improve public benefits. We supported Del. Helmer's bill to expand eligibility for SNAP food assistance and TANF cash assistance and Del. Tran's bill to improve the workforce development incentives for TANF participants.
- **Our impact:** Created a social media toolkit, distributed online resources, and met with families to direct them to financial benefits from the American Rescue Plan, including the enhanced Child Tax Credit. Elevated parent voices to extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit through storytelling, press conferences, and meetings with Congressional representatives.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Legislative highlight:** Crafted legislation with Sen. McClellan's office to fund true costs of quality child care and improve pay equity for early childhood educators.
- **Our impact:** Increased financial assistance for more families to help pay for child care by increasing the income threshold and cutting red tape that required enrollment in the child support enforcement system to receive funds.

MENTAL HEALTH

- **Legislative highlight:** Supported passage of Sen. Dunnivant's bill to enact the "free care rule" with testimony and lobbying to allow schools to bill Medicaid for health and mental health services



Allison Gilbreath regularly collaborates with Delegate Emily Brewer (left), the co-chair of the Foster Care Caucus and member of the House Appropriations committee.

outside a student's individualized education program (IEP).

- **Our impact:** The policy solutions we presented to the Behavioral Health Commission and stakeholders for student mental health include recommendations and perspectives of providers and students highlighted in our *Children's Mental Health Discussion Paper*.

supporters and organizations through action alerts and sign-on opportunities.

- **Our impact:** The resolution passed uncontested in the Senate, making Virginia the first state in the South to make this acknowledgment and systematically recognize the impact of racism on health and life expectancy.

CHILD WELFARE

- **Legislative highlight:** Collaborated with the Department of Social Services and Commission on Youth to direct more funding and support for kinship caregivers ensuring that relatives and kin are a priority in new foster care placements.
- **Our impact:** Participated in the Commission on Youth's "workforce development for foster youth study group" alongside former foster youth.

CROSS-SYSTEMS CHANGE

- **Legislative highlight:** Collaborated with Del. Aird on a press conference and testimony to declare racism as a public health crisis, mobilizing over 300

Voices' staff welcome Delegate Ken Plum (far left) and Senator Barbara Favola (far right) back to a special session of the Virginia General Assembly.



DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN VA

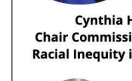
Part of the 'Racism is a Public Health Crisis Webinar' Series

April 16th, 2021
12pm-1:30pm
[Register here](#)

Key Speakers Include:



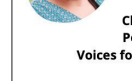
Delegate Lashrecse Aird, VA House of Delegates, 63rd District



Cynthia Hudson, Chair Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in Virginia Law



Tina Stevens, Councilwoman for Stephens City, VA



Chloe Edwards, Policy Analyst, Voices for Virginia's Children

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Leading with Lived Experience

Although most meetings were virtual in 2021, we didn't stop helping advocates speak up for their communities. During session, Voices supported three advocacy cohorts of individuals meeting with legislators. The 52 participants represented their lived experiences as early childhood educators, foster care youth, and Racial Truth and Reconciliation coalition members.

Each of the three advocacy cohorts received training on the legislative process, assistance in sharing and crafting their stories, as well as a stipend for their time preparing for and participating in legislative meetings. Cohort members met with 13 bipartisan legislators, participated in virtual advocacy days, and attended virtual

town hall meetings conducted by elected officials. While participants missed the energy of the Capitol, participating in virtual meetings created a great opportunity for working professionals and parents that we hope to continue in 2022.

Cohort members met with 13 bipartisan legislators and participated in virtual advocacy days and town hall meetings.

After the end of the General Assembly session, Voices maintained connections to participants and enjoyed seeing many pursue new leadership positions in their communities, in their careers and in professional organizations.

Two members of the foster youth cohort got the chance to see their advocacy come full circle. Kamaria Wilburn and Brianna Scott were guests of honor as Governor Ralph



Kamaria Wilburn and Brianna Scott (far left) joined Governor Northam and Del. Wendy Gooditis (left of Gov. Northam) along with Allison Gilbreath and baby Ella at the signing of Del. Gooditis' "KinFirst" legislation.

Where Are They Now?

Shortly after participating in the Early Childhood Professionals Cohort, Nicole Lazarte was featured in a profile about child care in the *New York Times*, highlighted in the National Women's Law Center's "We Are the Backbone" campaign, and elected to represent early educators on the national governing board of National Association for the Education of Young Children.



Nicole Lazarte

Northam ceremonially signed Del. Wendy Gooditis' "KinFirst" legislation. Del. Gooditis championed the effort for the Department of Social Services to encourage courts to consider kin caregivers in child placements and to codify "fictive kin," non-relatives who

are close to their children and their families. Voices' Policy & Programs Director Allison Gilbreath (and new baby Ella) were on hand to support the cohort members and celebrate this victory for the foster care policy network.

Voices was featured in:



Racial Truth & Reconciliation

Forty-seven percent of children in Virginia are children of color. The commonwealth is becoming increasingly diverse - racially, ethnically, and linguistically - and represents different backgrounds and identities. Acknowledging lived truths and experiences is critical to dismantling systems of oppression and establishing equitable health outcomes and culturally empowering environments.

Governor Ralph Northam officially issued a second proclamation recognizing August 22-28, 2021 as Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week (RTRW). Throughout the week, the Voices team joined with community leaders and partners to reflect upon the creation and accomplishments of the

Racial Truth & Reconciliation (RTR) Virginia Campaign, the evolution of the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia. The state's first RTRW in 2020 was a direct response to the impact of cultural, racial, and historical trauma. As a result, RTR responded to two pandemics: COVID-19 and racism as a public health crisis.

Over 1,000 participated in the community-driven conversations about equity, cultural pride, and trauma-informed education. At one of the highest attended events, "Cultural Pride & Familiarity - Creating Positive Mental Health Outcomes for Youth & Young Adults," community leaders and advocates discussed the power of cultural familiarity and pride in the face of racism, xenophobia, and

Acknowledging lived truths and experiences is critical to dismantling systems of oppression.

Recordings of RTRW sessions including this one on "Cultural Pride & Familiarity" are posted on Voices' YouTube channel.



Families joined RTRW for a hike around Byrd Park with Greater Richmond Fit4Kids and Metro Richmond Urban League.

microaggressions that occur in white-centering environments.

Youth advocate, Elijah Lee (13 years old) discussed his own experiences of being othered in his predominantly white middle school. "When we look at school systems especially, this is where our young people spend the majority of their time... I felt like I wasn't safe here which is a feeling you never want to have in school... I just felt different than everyone else... There's this line that has been drawn that separates me from everyone else and you can't help but see it."

We highlighted relevant policy discussions, such as the persistent racism found in Virginia's foster care system, and continued the following important conversations that invite organizational change:

- the power of racial equity impact statements;
- trauma-informed leadership;
- diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- authentic youth engagement;
- and community-centric fundraising.

Using quantitative and qualitative data, we had discussions about the continued disparities of the impact of COVID-19 on marginalized families. We intentionally centered healing

and advocacy through events like our justice advocacy training, family mindfulness journaling, and an in-person event at the Children's Museum of Richmond with the Richmond Performing Arts Alliance Wolf Trap.

RTRW continues to emphasize the critical decisions we each can make to ensure the truths and experiences of communities of color are recognized and reconciled. We extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to these community leaders for serving on the RTR Executive Committee:

- Chlo'e Edwards, former Chair (until Aug 2021)
- Kristin Lennox, Chair
- Melissa McGinn, Vice Chair
- Audravette Jackson, former Secretary (until Dec 2021)
- John Richardson-Lauve, Committee co-chair
- Amanda Lynch, Committee co-chair
- Sophie Fontaine, Committee co-chair (until Nov 2021)
- Sophia Booker, Committee co-chair
- Kyra Parker, Ambassador
- Bianca Myrick, Ambassador

Data and Research

An increasingly diverse population of children, youth, young adults, and families across the commonwealth highlight the need for policies that reduce barriers to services and target the unique needs of Black and Brown people, immigrant families, and under-resourced communities.

Throughout 2021, Voices used data from the KIDS COUNT Data Center and Research Program to influence policy priorities and advocacy work. Voices' commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging work translates to how we collect, analyze, and summarize data as well. The data and research program elevated these principles throughout its work and created several tailored custom data products – including equity assessments and reports – to put data into action for communities.

DATA EQUITY ASSESSMENTS

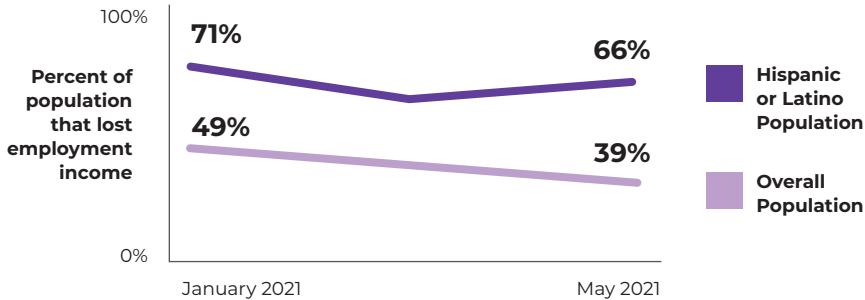
Equity assessments use locality level data from KIDS COUNT to look closely at sub-populations of children,

youth, and families over time and across domains like health, access, education, and community wealth. This assessment describes trends that allow for further investigation into the “why” and looks to attendees as the experts in their communities to understand the reasons behind the trends. These assessments can be used for policy and advocacy efforts for communities across Virginia to facilitate policy change in a multitude of different areas related to children and their families.

Building upon the 2020 equity assessments with the Winchester Trauma-Informed Community Network, the data and research program expanded its portfolio developing two additional assessments for partner organizations: the Southwest Trauma-Informed Community Network, in partnership with the United Way of South West Virginia; and Minus 9 to 5 in the Hampton Roads and Tidewater area.

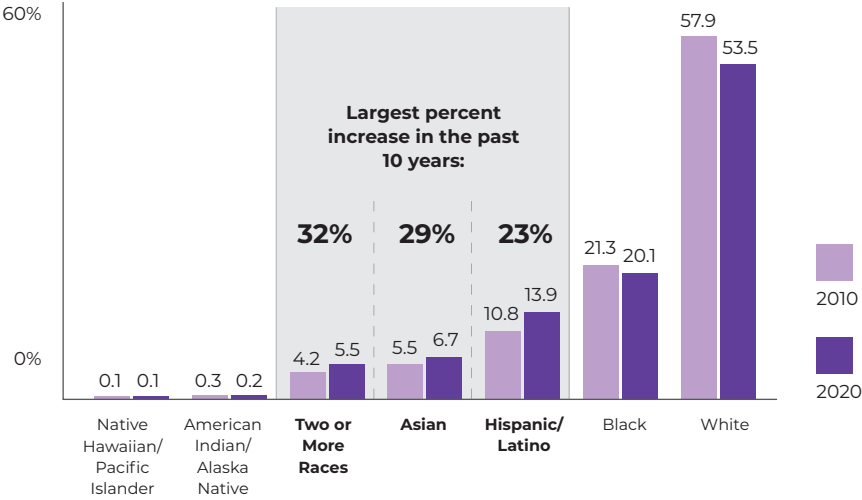
Pandemic Employment: Families

The pandemic has caused a loss of employment income for many Virginia families. Recent numbers show a recovery, but Hispanic/Latino families are being left behind.



Racial Diversity

Racial and ethnic diversity of children and youth have increased in Virginia.



MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

Voices also hosted an event during RTRW in partnership with the Institute for Public Health and The Kaiser Family Foundation. This community chat focused on the impact of the pandemic on families, social determinants of health, and racial-ethnic disparities in health and health care prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provided valuable insights into the current state of the public health sphere and suggested future steps to address and close gaps in health inequities.

STATE OF VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN REPORTS

In addition to the equity assessments, the data and research program also released *The State of Virginia's Children: A Data Snapshot of Children, Youth, and Families* in November 2021. This unique product summarizes key trends for children, youth, and families in the areas of

demographic growth, economic security and mental health. Each section focuses on major findings and elements of each issue area and provides easy-to-understand data visualizations that are accompanied with summarized headlines that suggest what future policies Virginia's leaders should emphasize. Graphics are provided to distinctly illustrate each point.

Voices also joined the Annie E. Casey Foundation in releasing the 2021 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, an annually published resource that tracks child wellbeing nationally, offering state-by-state insights and ranks states accordingly. Virginia ranked 13th overall and showed improvement in several area domains. Policymakers, researchers, and advocates can continue to use this information to help shape their work and build a stronger future for children, families, and communities.

Donor List

\$100,000+

Partnership for America’s Children
Annie E. Casey Foundation

\$25,000-\$99,999

Alliance for Early Success
Zero to Three
Potomac Health Foundation
The Greater Washington
Community Foundation
Community Foundation for a
Greater Richmond
Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg
Foundation
The Robins Foundation
Richmond Memorial Health
Foundation
Adiuvans Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Mr and Mrs. J. Carter Fox
Mrs. Peg Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Thomson M. Hirst
Mrs. Patte Koval
Ms. Joyce L. Shields
Ivakota Association
Hopewell Fund
IF Foundation
Williamsburg Health Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Conley Family Charitable Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Daniel
Dominion Energy
Ms. Terry Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Wash Jr.
Estes Family Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Coby and Lindley Beck
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Bennett Jr.
Michael and Kristin Bolton
Allison Brody
Katherine and Mark Busser
Drs. C.C. and Kevin Clark
Darla Edwards
Ms. Laurie Flynn
Jennifer and Fred Gentry
Dr. Joann and Mr. Phil Grayson
Mr. Russell W. James
The Honorable Timothy Kaine and
the Honorable Anne Holton
Ms. Karen Kallay
Dr. Leslie S. Kaplan
Dr. and Mrs. Janet and John R. Morgan
Mr. John C. Purnell Jr. and
Dr. Joyce Beckett
Mike and Camille Royster
Shannon Rudisill
E. Lee Showalter
Amy Strite
Dr. and Mrs. Don Switz
Mark Varah
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Wash Jr.
Joan Zantzinger

\$500-\$999

Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Catron
Mr. J.P. Causey Jr.
Mr. Ralph Crosby
Laura Cummings
The Honorable* and Mrs. A. L. Holton Jr.
Ms. A. Phoebe Meyer
Ms. Elizabeth Millner
The Honorable and
Mrs. Kenneth R. Plum
The Honorable Anne G. Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. Joe David Robinson

Paige Shevlin
Dr. and Mrs. Dagobert Soergel
Virginia Health Catalyst

\$100-\$499

General Clara Adams-Ender
Drs. Cheryl and K. Bakeer Al-Mateen
F.J. and Mary S. Barnes
Ms. Lib Baron
Brenda Bartges
Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia
William and Lisa Boatwright
Katharine Bond
Amanda Bozarth
Rene Cabral-Daniels
Mrs. Mary S. Cawthorne
Eric Clay
Adrienne Cole Johnson
Cynthia Coleman
Ms. Judith Cossitt
Mrs. Ann Brody Cove
Mrs. Anna Csakychase
Ms. Janice Dinkins Davidson
Ms. Kathleen Desmond
Dr. Dan Edwards
Ms. Ellen Folts
Ms. Margaret Friedenberg
Emily Griffey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griffey
Dr. William Mark Habeeb
Mr. and Mrs. J. Keith Hare
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Harmata
Ms. Ann L. Hess
Ms. Margaret E. Hu
Janie Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Joyce
Barbara Kallus
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kauders
Ms. Linda Langley
Ms. S. Jeanne Lefever
Lucille Lindamood

Jan Lodal
Lisa Loudermilk
Mr.* and Mrs. J. Fletcher Lowe
Ms. Lisa M. Macey
Karen Marangi
Michael and Jeanine Maruca
Dr. Norma and Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt
Dr. William L. Murray
Ms. Jane Newell
Ms. Renette Oklewicz
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Olsson
Ms. Ruth Anne Paisley
Ms. Trish Palmer
Ms. Carol R. Parker
Gail Perruso
Mr. and Mrs. James. L. Peters
Mr. Andy Pineau
Ms. Lenore H. Plissner
Mr. and Mrs. Susan M. Poretz
Mr.* and Mrs. H. Russell Potts
Nicole Poulin
Dr. Patricia. N. Reams
Cullen and Faye Rivers
Brenna Salgado
Cynthia Schmitz
Janet Schwarz
Mrs. Susan Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Shimer
Ms. Mira Signer
Alison Standring
Ms. Nancy Strite
Ms. Nisha Talati
Leah Tarbell
Ms. Bonnie Williams
Dr. Melvin Wilson
Rockingham Insurance
Virginia Retired Teachers
Association

*deceased

*deceased

Board Members

- Cyrellene Clark, Ph.D.**
(Chair)
Arlington, Va.

Patte G. Koval
(Vice Chair)
Richmond, Va.

Richard Bennett, M.D.
(Secretary)
Richmond, Va.

Kristin Bolton
(Treasurer)
Manakin Sabot, Va.
- Lindley Beck**
Midlothian, Va.

Dr. Richard Bennett Jr.
Richmond, Va.

Juan Pablo Berrizbeitia
Staunton, Va.

Katharine Bond
Mechanicsville, Va.

Allison Brody
Williamsburg, Va.

Rene Cabral-Daniels
Williamsburg, Va.

Eric Clay
Richmond, Va.

Adrienne Cole Johnson
Richmond, Va.

Darla Edwards
Williamsburg, Va.

Laurie Flynn
Alexandria, Va.
- Jennifer Gentry, Ed.D.**
Glen Allen, Va.

Mr. J. Keith Hare
Henrico, Va.

Mrs. Patte Koval
Henrico, Va.

Michael Royster, M.D.
Midlothian, Va.

Dr. Joyce L. Shields
Alexandria, Va.

Ms. Terry Thompson
Arlington, Va.

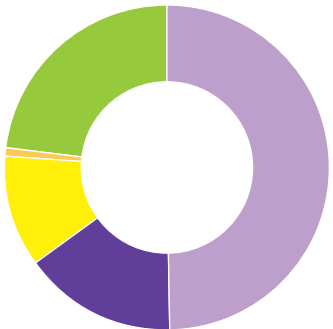
Mark Varah
Richmond, Va.

Darlene Walker
Hampton, Va.

Joan Zantzinger
Richmond, Va.

Financial Report

INCOME



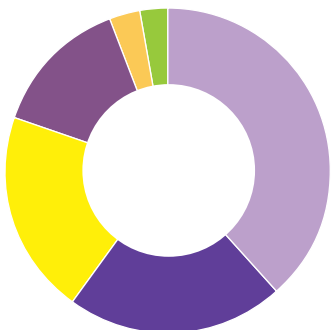
- Foundations
- Organizations
- Individuals
- Corporations
- Other

Audited Schedule of Income January 1- December 31, 2021

Foundations	\$	652,150
Organizations		201,650
Individuals		146,738
Corporations		5,000
Other		299,310
Total Income		\$ 1,304,848

In 2021, Voices applied for and received a second Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan for \$136,930. During 2021, Voices was notified by the lender that the full amount of both the 2020 and 2021 loans was forgiven by the SBA and Voices was released of any obligation for repayment. The total loan forgiveness of \$274,630 is in the "Other" income line above.

PROGRAM EXPENSES



- Early Childhood
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Health & Mental Health
- KIDS COUNT
- Family Economic Success
- Lobbying

Audited Schedule of Expenses January 1- December 31, 2021

Programs and Advocacy:	
Early Childhood	\$ 280,423
Foster Care and Adoption	157,416
Health and Mental Health	148,233
KIDS COUNT	100,944
Family Economic Success	21,347
Lobbying	19,720
Total Program and Advocacy	\$ 728,083
Development	191,909
General and Administrative	\$ 77,006
Total Supporting Services	\$ 268,915
Total Expenses	\$ 996,998



For Virginia's
Children

1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 109
Henrico, VA 23229

2021 Annual Report