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. Dunnavant’s bill to enact the “free care rule” with testimony and lobbying to allow schools to bill Medicaid for health and mental health services 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.
- **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 supporters and organizations through action alerts and sign-on opportunities.
- **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.

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

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

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

Voices was featured in:

NEWS ARTICLES 39
RADIO & TV INTERVIEWS
PODCASTS
OP-EDS 3

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.
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 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

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.
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.

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  
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 Shevin  
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 Oklewich  
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
Audited Schedule of Income  
January 1- December 31, 2021

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Organizations</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,304,848</strong></td>
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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.

Audited Schedule of Expenses  
January 1- December 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
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<td>Foster Care and Adoption</td>
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<td>Health and Mental Health</td>
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<td>KIDS COUNT</td>
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<td>Family Economic Success</td>
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<td>Lobbying</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program and Advocacy</strong></td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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