



Associates Board Newsletter

Welcome From the AB Chair

We've had a very busy and productive 2nd Quarter! We've had to say a sad "goodbye" to Voices staff members who are leaving Voices to share their talents elsewhere. Sheena Panoor has joined the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Jessica Anzaldua has joined United Way. We are truly thankful to them for all of the help they have given us.

Voices has provided the Associates Board with a new staff contact person: Dawn Melchiorre. Dawn serves as a Senior Policy Associate at Voices. She brings extensive policy knowledge and strong fundraising experience. She'll be a great addition to the Associates Board team.

We have also welcomed new Associates Board Executive Committee members. Elections were held at the 2nd Quarterly Meeting, and the following Executive Committee members were announced:

Brittany Beagley, Chair
Hannah Bloom, Membership Chair
Gena Miller, Treasurer
Jennifer Van Ee, Secretary
Monica Lee, Social & Fundraising Chair
Jessica Besser-Rosenberg and Niti Dhaliwal, Education & Outreach Co-Chairs

Looking ahead, we are excited about our first **Voices for Service** volunteer event and our **2nd Annual Kids at Heart FUNdraiser**. We hope that all Associates Board members will get involved with these events and help support the amazing work of Voices for Illinois Children. I look forward to working with you all!

-Brittany Beagley, AB Chair

Social and Fundraising Committee Update



Sarah Cross, John Goetter and Monica Lee celebrate at the 2009 Kids at Heart FUNdraiser

Our **2010 Kids at Heart FUNdraiser** benefiting **Voices for Illinois Children** will be held on **Saturday, September 25** on the **stunning rooftop of Sky Park at 63 East Lake**. (A special thank you to our fellow board member Angela Kawalski for coordinating the use of this space in her building!) Tickets are now available online at: [http://tiny.cc/kah10tickets!](http://tiny.cc/kah10tickets)

As an Associates Board, **this is our single most important event of the year!** A chance to fulfill our mission of supporting the work of Voices for Illinois Children by raising funds for the organization and providing education and outreach to the community on issues affecting children and families in Illinois. Last year we raised \$6,000 and our 2nd annual KAH FUNdraiser promises to be even more spectacular -- but WE NEED YOUR HELP to reach our goal of \$7,500 this year and 150 attendees! Here's how:

1) Join the Event Committee! The Event Committee is a great opportunity for our members who don't have much time to give, members who are only available to help out in the summer months, and for all Board members to contribute to this important event! Come to the **next Event Committee**

meeting on Thursday, August 5 at 6pm at Voices to learn all about the many ways (big and small!) you can help out with this very important fundraiser!

2) Sign up to be on the Kids at Heart Host Committee. As a member of the Host Committee, you will pledge to bring 3-5 people to the event, promote the event, and secure one auction item or one sponsor. For fulfilling your pledge, you will be recognized on stage at the event and in the program, and receive a VIP upgrade on your ticket! Contact Host Committee Chair Kelley Menzano at kelly.menzano@gmail.com for more details.

3) Promote the event and sell tickets!!! General tickets are \$40 for open bar and appetizers; VIP tickets for \$55 allows access to the VIP Reception prior to the event for an additional hour of open bar and appetizers, one ticket for the VIP-Only Raffle, and a special VIP gift. Tickets are available online at <http://tiny.cc/kah10tickets>. Purchase early bird tickets at a \$10 discount until August 31.

4) Find Sponsors!!! We've lowered the sponsorship levels this year to encourage sponsor participation. Please contact Brittany Beagley at bbeagley@childrenshomeandaid.org for more information.

5) Get an auction item. An auction letter and auction form is available to give to donors. Take a look at the donation spreadsheet (<http://tiny.cc/kah10auction>) for ideas and companies you can reach out to. For more information contact our Auction Chairs Angela Kawalski, kawalskia@hotmail.com & Sarah Cross, sagisar@hotmail.com.

6) Help us obtain children's artwork. We are looking for 8" x 10" pages (or 8.5" x 11" pages that can be



cut down) with artwork from children in grades 1-12 depicting families, friends, home, games, fun or children as the primary theme. Selected pieces will be framed and either auctioned or provided as a gift at our fundraising event.

Please email monicamlee@gmail.com if this is something you will be able to help with.

7) Volunteer at the Voices for Service event! This year we will be holding a volunteer event on July 28th with Children's Home + Aid's Excellence Academy to collaborate with kids on art pieces that will be auctioned off at Kids at Heart. Contact Brittany Beagley at bbeagley@childrenshomeandaid.org to find out how you can get involved!

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, ideas for Kids at Heart 2010, please reach out to Monica Lee at 310.795.5449 or monicamlee@gmail.com.

Education and Outreach Committee Update

On May 6, 2010 at the Erickson Institute, the Education and Outreach Committee hosted its first *Voices Around Town* Educational Event.



Almost 40 young professionals interested in supporting children and families, joined Kathy Ryg, the president of Voices and former state representative, and Nancy Ronquillo,

the president and CEO of Children's Home + Aid, as they examined the effects of the economic crisis on children and families, and presented a vision for the future. After the presentation, there was a question and answer session for the audience. We received incredibly positive feedback from all who attended! We want to thank everyone who helped make the event a tremendous success.

If you are interested in learning more about the Education and Outreach Committee please contact Niti Dhaliwal at dhaliwal@gmail.com or Jessica Besser-Rosenberg at besserrosenberg@gmail.com

Voices Spotlight

With the help of the Associates Board and other caring supporters, we have already scored important victories for Illinois children in 2010. Despite the ongoing state budget battles in Springfield, Voices secured approval of four bills that will have significant and lasting impact for Illinois children—big wins for kids! These successes include:

Removing the “sunset” date from Illinois’ **“Preschool for All” program**. Now there is no going back on Illinois’ commitment to providing voluntary high-quality early learning opportunities for every 3- and 4-year-old. Had SB2594/HB5322, signed into law on June 25, had not been passed, as many as 20,000 young children would have been denied the chance to attend preschool this fall. Supporting expansion of **facilities for youngsters in early childhood programs** by making \$45 million in bricks-and-mortar funding more accessible to school districts and other providers. SB3460, likely to be

signed by the Governor in early August, also strengthens accountability measures for those undertaking such construction and renovation projects.

Removing some of the barriers that keep geographically isolated kids from participating in quality preschool programs by helping schools defray the costs of transportation. HB4879 is on the Governor’s desk, awaiting final approval. Setting a course toward **stronger afterschool policies and programs**. SB3543, signed on July 27, establishes a Youth Advisory Council to study youth needs, review best practices in afterschool programming, and lay the groundwork for dramatically expanding and strengthening community efforts to provide safe, enriching and educational experiences for kids outside of school.

Associates Board Featured at National Conference

The Associates Board was featured at the recent conference of the Voices for America’s Children network. Voices’ president Kathy Ryg presented on the birth and growth of the board, sharing insight on the opportunities it has created within the organization’s advocacy and fundraising. “Being recognized as a model in this arena is a real testament to the incredible work the Associates Board members have done over the past two years.” The presentation was very well received, and in the intervening weeks we’ve fielded lots of requests for information from our sister organizations in other states.



The first Voices for Service volunteering event will be held on **Wednesday, July 28th**. With feedback from Associates Board members, we've decided to provide opportunities for "hands-on" volunteering in Chicago. For our first event, we've partnered with Children's Home + Aid to volunteer with children living in specialized foster care in Chicago.

Children's Home + Aid's Excellence Academy, located in Chicago's Englewood community, targets youth in foster care 11 years old and older who are in need of services to help them in their foster care placements. One of the biggest struggles facing at-risk foster children is maintaining interest and performance in school. Through mentoring, tutoring and positive support, Children's Home + Aid's Excellence Academy helps children build confidence, self-esteem, life skills and academic skills.

We have arranged for Sandra Bohn, an art teacher and photographer, to help us lead a photography project with the kids. Mrs. Bohn will provide the children with a brief overview of photography and some examples of great African American photographers, like Roy DeCarava.

Associates Board volunteers will then have the opportunity to work one-on-one with children as they take pictures at the Excellence Academy. The kids will have the opportunity to photograph what their community

means to them, showing beauty and hope in an urban atmosphere, much like DeCarava's pivotal work in collaboration with Langston Hughes, *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*.

All supplies needed for the project will be donated by Mrs. Bohn and the Avery Coonley School in Downers Grove. The resulting black and white photographs will be auctioned off at our upcoming Kids at Heart event.

For more information, contact Brittany Beagley at bbeagley@childrenshomeandaid.org

Are you on  ?

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."](#)

Upcoming Events

- Voices for Service event: Children's Home + Aid's Excellence Academy (July 28)
- Event Committee Meeting (August 5)
- Third Quarterly Board Meeting (September 14)
- Kids at Heart FUNdraiser (September 25)
- Voices For Service: Chicago Food Depository (October 4)
- Kids Count Awards Dinner (October 7)
- Associates Board Mixer (October 2010)
- Holiday Party (December 2010)

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

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