



# Annual Report 2012

Creating a better future for children through research, collaboration and advocacy

## Mission

The mission of Vision for Children at Risk (VCR) is to promote the well-being of children and youth in the St. Louis metropolitan area, targeting particularly those young people who face serious socio-economic risks. VCR works to ensure that the St. Louis community makes more effective, systematic provision for meeting the fundamental needs of all area children.

## Program Accomplishments for the Year

- Facilitated activities of the **St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council (RECC)** which now involves over 125 members representing child-serving agencies, funders, businesses, government and civic groups. A March 2012 daylong *Scenarios for Success* conference was attended by more than 100 early childhood workers and related professionals; a second conference is planned for June 2013. In August, a Childhood Resource Fair at Centennial Christian Church in the Fountain Park neighborhood to help parents connect with community resources assisting young children and their families. The RECC has received funding from the United Way of Greater St. Louis and the St. Louis Mental Health Board to develop a screening and assessment program. Work includes conducting a research survey to establish a baseline of children's preparation for kindergarten, and piloting a kindergarten readiness assessment tool.



- Worked with the Missouri Department of Mental Health to secure a \$4.2-million, five-year federal **Project LAUNCH** grant for the St. Louis area. The goal of Project LAUNCH, a program of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is to improve wellness among children ages birth to 8 across a range of social, emotional, behavioral, physical and cognitive factors. A major feature of Project LAUNCH is building a coordinated system promoting young child wellness. The St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council will function as the local child wellness council under LAUNCH. Services in this project will focus on the 63106 and 63107 ZIP codes in north St. Louis where poverty and health disparities are severe.



- With the **St. Louis Family & Community Partnership**, held the sixth annual Child Abuse Prevention Month event attracting over 250 attendees, the largest audience to date. Major public officials attended and wide media coverage was achieved. The Partnership involves over 60 child-serving agencies including nonprofits, schools, courts, police and government agencies as well as parents and community volunteers. Other Partnership accomplishments include continued reduction in the number of children in out-of-home placement across the community, training for professionals in strengths-based techniques to work with families in distress, and coordination of regional training for adoption/foster care workers.



- Provided staffing and leadership for the **Missouri Children's Leadership Council**, a coalition of over 30 child-serving agencies across Missouri who are working together on a common policy and advocacy agenda for children.
- Supported the development of a community coalition on **youth violence prevention**.

## Working for a Better Future for St. Louis-Area Children

Vision for Children is a catalyst for positive change in the way the St. Louis area takes care of its children:

**Research.** Vision for Children at Risk compiles data on 30 indicators of St. Louis area child health and well-being to the ZIP code level to pinpoint needs by geography and plan programs and strategies. Data is disseminated through the Vision for Children at Risk website, [www.visionforchildren.org](http://www.visionforchildren.org) and the *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis* printed report.

### Collaborative strategic action.

Vision for Children at Risk builds, facilitates and staffs collaborative programs to address priority needs of children around the St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda which engages key stakeholders from across the region. Major collaboratives currently supported include the St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council, Project LAUNCH, and the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership, along with providing staffing for the St. Louis Mayor's Commission on Children & Families. Past successes include creation of the Mater-

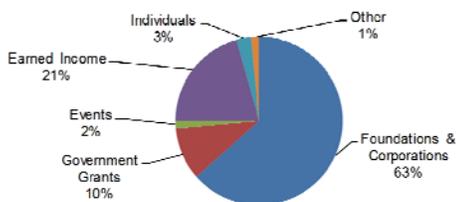
nal Child & Family Health Coalition, SafeFutures, quality standards for after-school programs, and more.

**Advocacy.** We facilitate coordinated state legislative/policy advocacy among children's agencies through the Missouri Children's Leadership Council, in the St. Louis area work to raise public awareness of and support for the importance of providing for healthy development of all children.

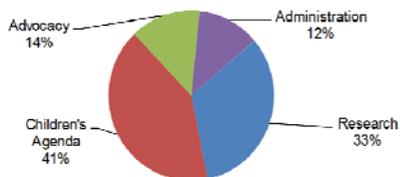
### Financials

Year ended Dec. 31, 2012—Cash basis, unaudited, from Form 990

#### Revenues



#### Expenses by Program



Total Revenues - \$291,379

Total Expenses - \$288,554

Net Assets Dec. 31, 2012 - (-\$8,808)



### Board of Directors

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SSM Cardinal Glennon  
Children's Medical Center

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Executive Director  
Richard Patton

Vision for Children at Risk brings together people and organizations across the St. Louis region to create a better future for the area's children, especially the most disadvantaged socioeconomically. We provide research, facilitate collaboration and advocate on behalf of children.