



Building a Community That Takes Care of its Children



2008 Annual Report

From the Board President and Executive Director

Vision for Children at Risk is a unique organization with a unique mission ... to make the St. Louis region a place where all children have their essential life needs met. We are the only agency of our kind in the region. We are a catalyst promoting positive change, by improving the level of coordination and investment across our community in policies and services that take care of children.

Too many kids in the St. Louis area don't have what most people take for granted ... a safe home, a supportive family, good health, a quality education and more. Research by Vision for Children at Risk shows that **some 3 in 10 children in our region go without these essentials.**

Many agencies across the community do good work for children. But their efforts too often are not coordinated with those of other agencies, leaving duplication and gaps. Only by joining together in collaboration, and by working regionally and strategically, can we be most effective in attacking these issues.

The well-being of children is important to everyone. When a child in the inner city grows up without his or her basic needs being met, it costs the entire community. Low educational attainment results in a workforce lacking basic skills. Unstable families perpetuate the cycle of abuse and neglect to the next generation. Juvenile crime often leads to a lifetime in the criminal justice system.

On the other hand, communities that provide for their children see an improved quality of life and economic health. When children do better, the community does better.

We can make St. Louis a more appealing and rewarding place to live and work by taking care of our children!



Bob Buck
Board President



Richard Patton
Executive Director

Building a Community That Takes Care of its Children

Vision for Children at Risk mobilizes people, organizations and resources to improve the health and well being of children in metropolitan St. Louis, especially those who face serious risks to their well-being. We spark the development and implementation of programs and initiatives that address critical needs of children. All children deserve the opportunity to have good health care, quality education and a supportive family ... we must work together as a region to make this possible.

Leading Strategic Action: The St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda

Hundreds of agencies and organizations from across the St. Louis region work together through the Children's Agenda to address critical needs facing the region's children. The Children's Agenda contains 25-plus strategies targeting children's needs; for each strategy, work groups of interested agencies develop and implement strategic program and policy initiatives. Vision for Children at Risk staff provide hands-on support to assure the success and sustainability of Children's Agenda work groups, assuring their activities are research-based, draw on best practices, and have measurable outcomes.

Assessing Children's Needs and Resources

Data and information from Vision for Children at Risk supports effective community planning and program design for children. Every two years, VCR publishes the *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis* report containing comprehensive data on over 25 indicators of child well-being.

Increasing Community Support for Children

Vision for Children at Risk works to advance the well-being of children as a civic and community priority. Using the theme "**Invest in Kids,**" VCR educates civic leaders and the public about the benefits to the community of investing in children's programs and services.



Early Childhood Development

Vision for Children at Risk brought together some 100 child-serving professionals and community leaders at the studios of KETC-TV to view a national videoconference by Pre-K Now promoting early childhood programs. Participants discussed how to implement recommendations made by conference speakers. Throughout the year, VCR played an active role facilitating the St. Louis Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Success and local implementation of the Missouri Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan.



Family Support

The St. Louis Family & Community Partnership, a Children's Agenda strategy, attracted strong attention to the issue of child abuse prevention by displaying a giant blue ribbon in a kickoff ceremony for April Child Abuse Prevention Month. More than 100 community leaders and child advocates attended the event.

In addition, the Partnership trained over 40 school personnel in the Family Support Team model which helps school staff monitor and intervene with families showing potential for abuse. The Partnership assisted five child-care centers in implementing the Strengthening Families program to prevent abuse and neglect.



Maternal Child & Family Health

The Maternal Child & Family Health Coalition worked to develop a community agenda for child health advocacy and regional child health.

Teen Pregnancy

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership trained health professionals, educators and young people on preventing teen pregnancy and STDs.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vision for Children at Risk 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 risk. The goal of VCR is to ensure the St. Louis community makes more effective, systematic provision for meeting the fundamental needs of all area children.

St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda Strategies & Lead Agencies 2008

Family Support

- Improve quality and impact of parent education programs
Family Support Network
- Improve child welfare practice
St. Louis Family and Community Partnership/Vision for Children at Risk
- Minimize impact of parental incarceration on children
Coalition for Children of Offenders
- Recruit foster and adoptive parents and increase permanency
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
- Provide Family Development Credentialing
Family Support Council

Early Childhood Development

- Improve state & local child care policies and strategies
 - Increase Missouri child care subsidies
 - Promote universal access to voluntary Pre-K programs
 - Support implementation of Quality Rating System
Child Day Care Association
 - Vision for Children at Risk*
- Implementation of City of St. Louis Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Success
 - Streamline child care licensing in the City of St. Louis
 - Enforce annual lead testing
 - Increase urban PAT participation
Early Childhood Success Steering Committee
- Increase access to services for young children with special needs
Childgarden Child Development Center
- Maintain T.E.A.C.H. Program
Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Create early childhood data and information system
E. Desmond Lee Technology & Learning Center, UM-St. Louis

Maternal Child & Family Health

- Increase access to and utilization of health care services
Maternal Child Family Health Coalition
- Improve youth physical activity & nutrition
Healthy Youth Partnership
- Teen pregnancy & STD prevention
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership
- Reduce fetal infant mortality
Maternal Child Family Health Coalition
- Improve access to behavioral and mental health services

Quality Education

- Conduct community forums to address critical issues facing the St. Louis Public Schools
Vision for Children at Risk
- Continue to engage stakeholders to establish a St. Louis Public Education Coalition
Vision for Children at Risk
- Pursue strategies to improve regional educational quality and equity
Public Education Coalition Steering Committee

Youth Development

- Promote quality nonschool-hour programs and professionally trained youth development workers
St. Louis for Kids
- Enhance mentoring programs
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
- Analyze youth employment/ skill development opportunities and barriers
Regional Center for Education & Work, UM-St. Louis
Vision for Children at Risk

Safe Neighborhoods & Strong Communities

- Analyze need and identify strategies/ best practices related to Gang Outreach and violence prevention programs
Vision for Children at Risk

Advocacy and Civic Engagement

- Conduct Invest in Kids public awareness campaign
Vision for Children at Risk
- Engage civic leaders in addressing children's issues
Vision for Children at Risk
- Analyze state and regional budgets for children's services
Vision for Children at Risk
- Perform community asset assessment
Vision for Children at Risk
- Establish Community Children's Services Fund in St. Louis County
Putting Kids First
- Educate state legislators on children's issues
Citizens for Missouri's Children

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Supporters

Special thanks to the following for their support of Vision for Children at Risk received between January 1 and December 31, 2008:

Corporations and Foundations

Ameriprise Financial Foundation
 Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center Foundation
 Cardinals Care
 The Chrysler Foundation
 Deaconess Foundation
 First Bank
 Incarnate Word Foundation
 Missouri Foundation for Health
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Government

U.S. Administration for Children & Families, Communities Empowering Youth Program

Individuals

Meredith Anderson
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 Nanci Bobrow
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 Jill Thompson
 Tom and Leslie Tupper
 Tuscan Lodge
 Jan Vest

Financials

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 (Audited)

Statement of Activities

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Support and Revenue | | | |
| Grants and awards | \$ 184,848 | \$ 225,000 | \$409,848 |
| Contributions | 13,465 | - | 13,465 |
| Other | 4,482 | - | 4,482 |
| Satisfaction of program restrictions | 290,888 | (290,888) | - |
| Total Support and Revenue | <u>493,683</u> | <u>(65,888)</u> | <u>427,795</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program services | 405,793 | - | 405,793 |
| Management and general | 49,400 | - | 49,400 |
| Fundraising | 2,727 | - | 2,727 |
| Total Expenses | <u>457,920</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>457,920</u> |
| Change in Net Assets | 35,763 | (65,888) | (30,125) |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | (92,209) | 444,457 | 352,248 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | <u>(\$ 56,446)</u> | <u>\$ 378,569</u> | <u>\$ 322,123</u> |

Statement of Financial Position

| Assets | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Grants receivable | | \$ 378,569 |
| Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$16,190 | | 6,276 |
| Total Assets | | <u>\$ 384,845</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Bank overdraft | | \$ 7,255 |
| Accounts payable | | 51,467 |
| Loan from related party | | 4,000 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>62,722</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | (56,446) | |
| Temporarily restricted | 378,569 | |
| Total Net Assets | | <u>322,123</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | | <u>\$ 384,845</u> |

Schmersahl Treloar & Co.

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Vision for Children at Risk

Vision for Children at Risk

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