

For Our Children, For Our Community



2009 Annual Report



Creating a better future for children

From the Board President And Executive Director

Since 1991, Vision for Children at Risk has been a catalyst for positive change in the way the St. Louis region takes care of its children. VCR brings together child-serving agencies and community partners to build needed programs and services addressing critical needs of children.

Benefits delivered by Vision for Children at Risk to the St. Louis community include:

- A solid base of comprehensive, current and reliable data and information on children, including nine editions of the *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis (CMSL)* report, plus the soon-to-be-introduced Children's Policy Forum website that will provide greatly expanded data, information, commentary and best practices on children's services.
- Collaboration and communication among agencies around a regional strategic agenda for children through the St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda involving some 300 agencies in over 25 strategies.
- New programs and initiatives serving tens of thousands of children and attracting over \$20 million in new funding to the region, would not exist without VCR and the Children's Agenda.
- A voice for children with business and civic leaders, engaging them to help advance children's issues. In addition, we have held six St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Summits bringing together hundreds of child-serving professionals and community leaders to call attention to the needs of children.

Because of Vision for Children at Risk, the needs of at-risk children are being addressed in a coordinated, strategic way. Your support of Vision for Children at Risk is a wise investment in a better future for children in the St. Louis region.



Bob Buck
Board President



Richard Patton
Executive Director

Making Things Happen for Children ...

2009 St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Summit

Nearly 300 child-serving professionals, child advocates and community leaders attended the Dec. 9, 2009 St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Summit. The theme of the 2009 Summit was "Investing in Children Today to Build the Region's Future." Keynote speaker was Robert Dugger, chair of the Partnership for America's Economic Success, who discussed how smart investments in young children can improve the nation's economy. Civic Strategies, Inc., a nationally respected Atlanta-based firm, facilitated a panel discussion and afternoon breakout sessions on strategies for making St. Louis a region where children of all means receive strong support for their growth and development. Also at the Summit, breakout sessions were held on the six fundamental needs areas of the Children's Agenda (Family Support, Early Childhood, Quality Education, Maternal Child Health, Youth Development, Safe Neighborhoods & Strong Communities).

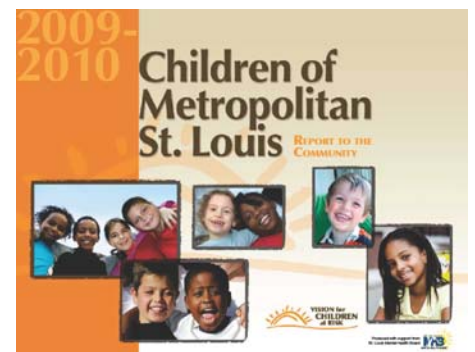


Keynote speaker Robert Dugger, left, and Mayor Francis Slay



Ninth Edition of Data Report on Children

Vision for Children at Risk believes in the importance of solid research in driving sound decision-making when it comes to children's services. This year we published the ninth edition the *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis* report containing comprehensive data on over 25 indicators of child well-being. The report is used extensively in developing program plans and writing grant applications. In addition, Vision for Children at Risk soon will introduce the Children's Policy Forum website, providing greatly expanded data search capabilities, as well as a library on best practices and local activities.



Collaboration: Taking Strategic Action for Children

Vision for Children at Risk provides leadership to **develop new programs and policies** improving services to children. We coordinate the **St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda**, through which some 300 agencies and organizations work together to design and implement new programs and services for children. Key accomplishments in the Children's Agenda include:

- In early childhood services, Vision for Children at Risk is providing staffing and support for four initiatives: the St. Louis Mayor's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Success; Missouri Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan (ECCS); P-20 and the Children's Zone. Focuses of these initiatives include quality standards for early childhood programs, developmental assessments of children at age 3 and kindergarten entry, and programs to increase young children's linkage with community resources.
- The St. Louis Family & Community Partnership achieved record participation in its April 2009 Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff ceremony at St. Louis City Hall, and coordinated presentation of four half-day training sessions in the Strengthening Families program to help prevent child abuse, attended by over 200 child-serving professionals.



Advocacy: Promoting Greater Civic Investment

Greater civic and community support is essential if we are to provide for the well-being of all children. Vision for Children at Risk works to engage business and civic leaders in children's initiatives. At the 2009 Children's Summit, over 50 civic leaders attended a breakfast presentation by Robert Dugger, chair of the Partnership for America's Economic Success. A follow-up effort is in process.

St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda Strategies and Lead Agencies 2009

Family Support

- Improve child welfare practice
St. Louis Family and Community Partnership
- Minimize impact of parental incarceration on children
Coalition for Children of Offenders
- Recruit foster and adoptive parents and increase permanency
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

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
- Maintain T.E.A.C.H. Program
Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Create early childhood data and information system
- Implement Missouri Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan in the St. Louis region
Vision for Children at Risk

Quality Education

- Continue to engage stakeholders to establish a St. Louis Public Education Coalition
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

Maternal and Child 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
Maternal Child Family Health Coalition

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
- Promote prevention strategies to reduce substance abuse among youth
Happenings 4 Youth

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
- Assess community assets to address children's needs
Vision for Children at Risk
- Educate state legislators on children's issues
Citizens for Missouri's Children

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Financials

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009
(Unaudited Cash Basis; From IRS Form 990)

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue	
Government grants	\$ 301,123
Contributions and grants	184,283
Program service revenue	<u>66,282</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 551,688
Expenses	
Program services	\$ 443,273
Management and general	42,996
Fundraising	<u>347</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 486,616</u>
Net Revenue over Expenses	\$ 65,072

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash & equivalent	\$ 72,407
Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$16,190	<u>6,276</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 78,683</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$ 29,884
Net Assets	<u>48,799</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets/Fund Balances	<u>\$ 78,683</u>

Audits are conducted in alternate years with financial reviews of odd-numbered years. An audited financial statement for 2008 is available by request.

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.

Supporters

Special thanks to the following for their support of Vision for Children at Risk received between January 1 and December 31, 2009:

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Annie E. Casey Foundation
Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center Foundation
Cardinals Care
Deaconess Foundation
Incarnate Word Foundation
Missouri Foundation for Health
Missouri Children's Trust Fund
Pettus Foundation
Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Norman J. Stupp Foundation,
Commerce Bank Trustee

Government

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

Children's Summit and CMSL Report Sponsors

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Deaconess Foundation
First Bank
St. John's Mercy Foundation
St. Louis Children's Hospital
St. Louis Mental Health Board

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Vision for Children at Risk

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