

Vision for Children advances the well-being of St. Louis-area children who face socio-economic risk through:

- **Research.** Compiling data on 30 indicators of St. Louis-area child health and well-being to the ZIP-code level, available on the Vision for Children at Risk website and the *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis* report.
- **Collaborative strategic action.** Building, staffing and facilitating collaborative programs to address priority needs of children.
- **Advocacy.** Facilitating coordinated state legislative/policy advocacy for children, and building support for the importance of providing for healthy development of all children.

Program Highlights: Making Things Happen for Children

Promoting Early Childhood Development

Efforts to advance early learning for children continue to grow through the efforts of the St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council (RECC), a coalition of more than 130 child-serving organizations formed in 2011 and staffed by Vision for Children at Risk. Nearly 100 participants attended the RECC's second annual "Scenarios for Success" conference training early childhood educators. The RECC also contracted with a UM-St. Louis team led by E. Terrence Jones, Ph.D., to conduct a baseline study related to early care and education. Study results were released in September. Work moved forward on a pilot school readiness checklist.



Scenarios for Success training.



Parent Café training

Increasing Child Health/Wellness in High-Need Areas

Implementation began on Project LAUNCH, a five-year, \$850,000 per year federal grant to the Missouri Department of Mental Health and Department of Health and Senior Services. Vision for Children at Risk is carrying out grant operations which are focused on the 63106 and 63107 ZIP codes. 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. In one of the first local activities, nearly 20 northside parents are now hosting Parent Cafes helping other parents build strong families. During a two-day training in October, the host parents learned how to lead discussions about taking care of themselves, raising strong children and building strong relationships with their children.



Improving Child Advocacy Efforts

The Missouri Children's Leadership Council, facilitated by Vision for Children at Risk, now involves over 40 children's agencies statewide. In 2013, members collaborated on a common legislative agenda that included restoring state investment in early care and education, obtaining additional funding for foster and adoptive family recruitment and supporting Medicaid expansion. In addition, VCR partners held legislative forums prior to and following the 2013 session, attracting large audiences. One forum was coordinated by the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership and the St. Louis Area Council on Child Abuse & Neglect, and the other by the St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council.



Missouri legislators at a 2013 forum held at VCR, from left, Rep. Jill Schupp, Sen. Joe Keaveny and Rep. Rick Stream.

Working to Prevent Child Abuse and Support Strong Families

The St. Louis Family & Community Partnership, a coalition of more than 60 child-serving agencies facilitated by Vision for Children at Risk for the past seven years, continues to work to prevent child abuse and support strong families. The annual Child Abuse Prevention Month rally in April attracted more than 175 supporters; the event featured St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley and representatives of other major elected officials, plus a children’s art show. Debbie Monterrey of KMOX Radio was emcee. In one of the Partnership’s bi-monthly informational programs, more than 50 people attended a presentation on the growing problem of child trafficking. In August, more than 200 supporters joined the Partnership in honoring two longtime leaders of the Missouri Children’s Division on their retirement, Tena Thompson and Susan Shelton. The Partnership and VCR thank the Missouri Children’s Trust Fund for awarding a five-year General Prevention Grant supporting the Partnership’s educational activities.



Attendees at the 2013 April Child Abuse Prevention Month rally.

Promoting Collective Impact

Vision for Children has been a key participant in promoting the development of a regional cradle-to-career collective impact initiative for the St. Louis region. VCR Executive Director Rich Patton serves on the steering committee of this initiative, Ready by 21 St. Louis, and VCR is conducting data research for the project. VCR has been an advocate for collective impact since it was first introduced in a 2010 *Stanford Social Innovation Review* article. The five guiding elements in collective impact are a) a common agenda, b) shared measurement systems, c) mutually reinforcing activities, d) continuous communication, and e) backbone support organization.

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Financials

For the Year Ended December 31, 2013
(Unaudited Cash Basis: From IRS Form 990)

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue	
Contributions and grants	446,266
Total Revenue	\$ 446,266
Expenses	
Program services	\$ 429,300
Management and general	59,717
Fundraising	330
Total Expenses	\$ 489,347
Net Revenue over Expenses	(\$ 43,081)

Balance Sheet

Net Assets	(51,889)
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Mission

Vision for Children at Risk promotes 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.

