



OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY
2 0 0 8 A N N U A L R E P O R T

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

2008

OICA

OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy 2008 Annual Report is a publication of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy.

Our mission and statewide leadership role is based on the belief that all children should have...

- Quality health care
- Quality educational opportunities
- Protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence
- A nurturing family in a supportive community
- Economic security and freedom from poverty; and
- Equal opportunities and freedom from racial disparities

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From the Director _____

In 1978, Oklahoma's child welfare and juvenile justice systems were sued by three civil liberties groups over the conditions in the institutions housing children in state custody. The Terry D. Lawsuit prompted the Gannett News Service to conduct a five-month investigation that uncovered scores of accounts of children being brutally beaten, sexually assaulted and subjected to barbaric conditions. One study showed that less than 8% of the children in custody had entered as delinquents, and there existed no state or court records to explain how or why over half the children were being detained. At the time of the lawsuit, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services had a capacity of over 1200 beds in large congregate care facilities housing juvenile delinquents alongside abused, neglected or abandoned children.

It took a great many people to come to the rescue of these children, working for years to clean up the mess, close down the institutions, establish services closer to home and ensure that children in state custody are not only safe, but well cared for.

Yet in the midst of it all, the Gannett Foundation felt there was a piece missing. The Foundation wanted to ensure that, after all the attorneys, judges and legislators had finished their work and gone on to other business, there should remain an organization solely focused on the needs of children. So, in 1983, the Foundation provided a \$50,000 grant to start the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy.

For 25 years, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) has built a legacy of asking the tough questions and seeking the answers - not for just one child, but for all Oklahoma children and youth.

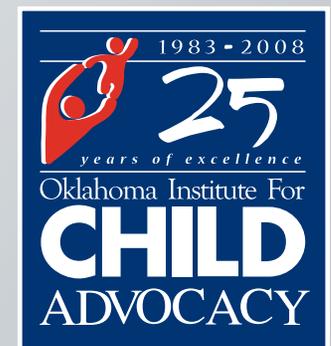
OICA works with advocates, parents, industry leaders, local communities and policy makers to provide a strong, effective voice on critical issues that will improve the health and well-being of Oklahoma's children, youth and families.

In 2008, OICA made great strides in serving the children and youth in Oklahoma by making sure their needs were met, by bringing people together to ensure that programs and policies work and by changing policy to achieve real and lasting results. This annual report serves as a reflection of those accomplishments.

For the children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Roberts".

Anne Roberts



Serving Children by Raising Awareness

Research and data are the foundation for addressing critical barriers to meet the needs of children and youth. We work to make sure that kids get what they need, when they need it and how they need it.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROJECT

Oklahoma's teen birth rates and numbers rose in 2006 and 2007, reversing a nearly 15-year downward trend. Currently, OICA provides one of the only teen pregnancy prevention program models in the state - Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) for Young Teens - that has shown, through rigorous evaluation, to actually change behavior and help young people delay the onset of sexual activity. PSI is recognized by national researchers and leading prevention organizations as a "program that works." Thanks to additional funding, OICA was able to expand its PSI program model to four middle schools and was able to provide training and guidance to several community groups that were establishing new PSI programs. During 2008, over 30 high school teens served as peer educators for the PSI programs, which reached over 600 middle school students and hundreds of their parents.

YOUTH ASSET STUDY

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health, has partnered with OICA since 1996 in an important youth development research study, to explore the relationship between a core set of protective factors (youth assets) and specific adolescent health risk behaviors (tobacco, alcohol and drug use, sexual activity, violence and truancy). The in-home data collection from over 1,100 pairs of adolescents/parents in the greater Oklahoma City area was completed at the end of

2008, with a retention rate of 96.24 for this five-year longitudinal research study.

In 2008, five additional papers were published, or were in press, in peer-reviewed journals. Numerous presentations were made both locally and nationally, including three at the annual conference of the American Public Health Association.



KIDS COUNT

We measure the challenges and obstacles in our children's lives in a variety of ways. We see some trends that are positive, we see others that show a great need. The 2008 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook provides a county-by-county profile of Oklahoma's children and youth and suggests positive actions on their behalf. The Factbook is a

tool used by policymakers, service providers, the media and advocates interested in the well-being of children. Statewide data shows:

- 171,495 children live in poverty
- Each year nearly six thousand (5,899) youth quit high school before graduating.
- Mental disability is the most common developmental disability among Oklahoma children.
- In FY 2008, confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect fell to a 10-year low of 11,714

The KIDS COUNT data shows where the trouble spots are, and provides the basis for well-informed budget and policy development by decision makers at the local and state levels.

CHILD ADVOCATES HALL OF FAME

Each year, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy celebrates the hard work of organizations and individuals who are improving the lives of Oklahoma's children and youth at our annual Friends of Children Awards Banquet. The 2008 tribute was especially meaningful as OICA celebrated our 25th Anniversary by inducting policy makers into the Child Advocates Hall of Fame. The event was held on April 22, 2008 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, the same site as our very first celebration in 1983.

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy was proud to honor 34 policy makers, including the Governor and Mrs. Brad Henry as the 2008 Champions for Children.

2008 CHILD ADVOCATES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Senator Tom Adelson	Rep. Larry Adair*
Senator Bernest Cain*	Rep. Thad Balkman
Senator Harry Coates	Rep. Chris Bengé
Senator Glenn Coffee	Rep. Kevin Calvey
Senator Brian Crain	Rep. Doug Cox
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Senator Mike Morgan*	Rep. Ron Peters*
Senator Jonathan Nichols	Rep. Kris Steele
Senator Susan Paddock	Rep. Susan Winchester*
Senator Nancy Riley	
Senator Ben Robinson*	*Previously inducted into the Child Advocates Hall of Fame and received a Distinguished Service Award
Senator Kathleen Wilcoxson	
Senator James Williamson	



Children's Champions

Governor Brad Henry
First Lady Kim Henry



Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
**2008 Child Advocates
Hall of Fame**

Building a

Legacy
for children and youth

Bringing People Together by Taking Action

OICA brings people together to find common ground. Through combining street-level experience and expertise we are able to develop relevant strategies that improve the lives of Oklahoma's children and youth.

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES

The Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (OKHMHB) is the grassroots voice for mothers and babies in Oklahoma. Their purpose is to promote positive perinatal health habits, provide education and awareness on maternal and infant health issues, and advocate for needed health systems' changes in Oklahoma.

2008 was a monumental year for the coalition. In January, Carole Kenner, Dean of the OU College of Nursing, and Colleen Ayres-Griffin with the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa were named coalition co-chairs, and have played an active and vital part in helping OKHMHB create positive change for mothers, babies and families in Oklahoma. In June the coalition created an exciting strategic plan that will provide the foundation for all of the coalition's work. Because of the effective and passionate leadership of both Dean Kenner and Ms. Ayres-Griffin, the coalition has attracted many new stakeholders who have come to the table eager to participate and work together for the common purpose of improving maternal and infant outcomes in Oklahoma.

YOUTH INITIATIVES

The Youth Initiatives section of OICA plays an important role in developing ideas, materials, trainings, resources and partnerships to inform and support state and community efforts designed

to improve opportunities and outcomes for Oklahoma's young people.

During 2008, OICA worked with a number of national organizations on trainings, projects and special events that supported these initiatives including:

- Afterschool Alliance
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Forum for Youth Investment
- Healthy Teen Network
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Governors Association
- The Finance Project

HEALTHY TEENS OK! (HTOK) PROJECT

2008 was the third of a five-year "Promoting Science-Based Approaches to Teen Pregnancy Prevention" project coordinated by OICA and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The project goal is to help key state and local organizations plan, implement and evaluate specific teen pregnancy prevention programs that are nationally recognized as being effective.

During the spring, the project co-sponsored trainings on the "Characteristics of Effective Teen Pregnancy Programs" with trainers from the national Healthy Teen Network. The HTOK Project adapted CDC's national Getting To Outcomes (GTO) with Teen Pregnancy Prevention program planning and implementation manual for use with Oklahoma programs participating in the HTOK project; the guide, GTO-OK!, is available online at www.healthyteensok.org.

A special priority for the HTOK Project focused on youth in foster care group homes, a population at



high risk for pregnancy and STDs. During 2008, the project worked with the OU National Resource Center for Youth Services to update and pilot the Power Through Choices, the only teen pregnancy prevention curriculum developed with and for youth in foster care.

OKLAHOMA AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

The Oklahoma Afterschool Network (OKAN), part of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's National Statewide Afterschool Network initiative, expanded its resource, program and policy development efforts in 2008, while also launching new training and technical assistance activities to increase the quality of out-of-school time programs. A 30-member Leadership Team, representing key public and private sector organizations, helps share OKAN's message about the importance of out-of-school time experiences and opportunities, find resources to carry out OKAN's work and build the partnerships necessary to achieve OKAN's goals.

During 2008, OKAN conducted three major surveys designed to gather information from parents and program providers, and to identify sources of state and federal funding available for out-of-school time programs. These studies were funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and findings from these reports will be released in early 2009. In October 2008, OKAN co-sponsored the Governor's Summit on Expanded Learning Opportunities, along with the Office of Governor Brad Henry, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Metro Technology Centers of Oklahoma City. The day-long event, which featured an outstanding list of national and state keynote speakers and presenters, attracted over 200 stakeholders.

Thanks to OKAN's network of members across the state, over 100 communities held Lights On

Afterschool events in mid October, promoting the need for "keeping the lights on" and providing quality programs and experiences for Oklahoma's children and youth after school ends each day. As a capstone to a very successful year, OKAN was awarded a 3-year "innovation" grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation which will focus on identifying Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) resources and partnerships and incorporating them into afterschool programs across the state.

READY BY 21 – QUALITY COUNTS

The Forum for Youth Investment selected OICA as one of the 12 state and community organizations to participate in a national Ready by 21-Quality Counts (RB21-QC) initiative focused on strengthening the leadership, expanding workforce development opportunities and providing training and support for program quality improvement activities at the community and state levels.

At the state level, the Oklahoma RB21-QC effort has been coordinated through the Oklahoma Afterschool Network, with a focus on quality improvement of out-of-school time programs. The two communities participating in the project are Norman, where the effort is led by the Center for Children & Families, Inc., and in Tulsa, where the project is led by the Tulsa Area Community-School Initiative, a committee of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa. The national "Advancing Youth Development" (AYD) training was provided in Tulsa, as part of RB21-QC, to support the professional development of youth workers.

FIT KIDS COALITION

The Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition (OFKC) is a broad-based collaboration consisting of over 90 partner organizations committed to reversing the trend toward childhood obesity in Oklahoma. In 2008, OFKC sponsored the first Healthy Oklahoma Schools



event featuring Subway spokesperson Jared Fogle. Oklahoma City University welcomed over 300 elementary students, as they participated in fun fitness activities and ate a healthy lunch and snacks donated by Subway, Dairy Max, and Hiland Dairy. OFKC partnered with the Oklahoma Turning Point Council to host the annual Turning Point and Fit Kids Coalition Conference, where the third annual Fit Kids Awards ceremony and luncheon was held. Five awardees, including one student-led organization, were honored for their accomplishments in the fight against childhood obesity.

In addition to the exciting program activities, the Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition successfully marshalled two state-level policy changes through the 2008 Oklahoma Legislature:

- SB 1186 doubles the number of minutes of physical activity for students in grades K-5 from 60 minutes per week to 120 minutes per week.
- SB 519 directs the Oklahoma State Department of Health to develop fitness testing software to pilot in several elementary schools to acquire a baseline of student fitness data.

Achieving Real Results by Changing Policy

OICA combines direct service with advocacy and policy work to address long-term causes and solutions. Our work with young people and service providers informs our policy work at the State Capitol and keeps it real and responsive.

THE 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

With many challenges to tackle, child advocates from all walks of life worked hard during the 2008 Oklahoma Legislative Session to promote positive, lasting changes for Oklahoma's children, youth and families.

Health

The State Scorecard from The Commonwealth Fund ranks Oklahoma 51st (last) among all the states and the District of Columbia in child health status. A major contributor to this alarming news is the high rate of Oklahoma children and families without health insurance. With the help of many child advocates, the legislature passed a number of measures aimed at addressing this critical issue, including expansion of the successful Insure Oklahoma program.

Child Care

In response to the death of a toddler in a Tulsa child care facility, a new law was passed to make comprehensive changes to regulations governing the emergency closure of a facility, requiring more extensive background checks for workers and owners, and establishing an on-line registry and assessment for parents to evaluate the quality of facilities.

Children with Disabilities

With the alarming increase in the prevalence of autism in children (one child in every 150), the



systems that provide services to these children require expansion and education. Policy makers established a new program at the University of Central Oklahoma to train behavioral therapists to deliver research-based interventions to children with autism. The bill also requires all Pre-K through third grade teachers to complete training in the area of autism.

Child Protection

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study verifies that children exposed to domestic violence suffer tremendous trauma that puts them at risk for serious negative effects, such as behavioral problems and physical health challenges. In addition, the ACEs study reveals that households experiencing domestic violence are more likely to have other risk factors present, such as poverty, substance abuse and mental illness. Lessening the trauma to children and their caregivers was a top priority for legislators in the 2008 Session.

These victories were tempered by a state budget shortfall that left many critical programs for children and youth with "standstill" budgets. So, rather than expanding to meet the growing needs, state agencies had to put plans on hold. All the more reason to recruit more caring adults to speak on behalf of our most vulnerable residents!



2008 FALL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Each year, OICA conducts the Annual Fall Legislative Forum to set the priorities for the following year's legislative session. *Let's Talk About Our Future* was the theme for the 2008 Fall Forum which broke all previous attendance records with over 600 participants. The event began with a bipartisan debate on children's issues and concluded with participants voting on their priorities for the 2009 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth.

The 2008 Forum was the largest attended event in the history of the Forum with over one-fourth of the attendees participating for the first time! After two days of debate, compromise and good old all-American democracy advocates chose their top seven priorities in four general topic areas:

Poverty

- Provide assistance to low-income working families

Health

- Provide Health Care Coverage for Autism
- Support Children's Behavioral Health
- Require Health Education

Youth Development

- Help Youth Transition into Adulthood
- Prevent Youth Access to Alcohol

Child Abuse

- Increase funding to prevention programs

On the Move...

OICA moved our office after nearly 15 years! In June 2008, we received word that our office building had sold and the new owners needed the entire building for their office space. After a tremendous effort to find just the right place, in September OICA moved to our new location at 3909 N. Classen Boulevard in Oklahoma City.



Financials

Donations up to \$500

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Association of Obstetrics & Neonatal Nurses
American Cancer Society
Kenneth Arinwine
Colleen Ayres-Griffin
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David Roth
Donna Roth
Ann Salazar
Claudette Selph
Speed Petroleum Corporation
Vionette Torres Dunn
Eileen Van Kirk
Terri White
Diane J. Willis

Donations \$501 - 2000

Phyllis Avanzini
Anne Calvert
Caring for Children Federation
Citizens for Cain Campaign Account
Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa
Conoco Phillips
Terry and Michelle Harryman
Maccini Construction Company
Robert and Peggy McCormick
Oklahoma AFL-CIO
Cindy Penland
Tom and Lisa Price
Anne Roberts
Ronald and Barbara Roche
Darryl Schmidt

Roger and Carol Sheldon
United Way - PCFO
University of Oklahoma Department of Pediatrics
University of Oklahoma Foundation
Jack & Maxine Zarrow

Donations \$2001 - 5000

BancFirst
First United Bank
MedImmune
Larry and Polly Nichols
SandRidge Energy, Inc
Stillwater National Bank
Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust

Donations \$5001 - above

Chickasaw Nation
Laurie Fuller
INTEGRIS Health
OG&E Energy Corporation
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation
Pfizer
Sonic Corporation
Western Oil & Gas

In-Kind Donations

Arby's
BancFirst
Lynn Barnett Sparks
Calvert's Plant Interiors
Chelino's Mexican Restaurant
Bonnie Clements
Danise Connell
Anita Cross
Denton's Picture Framing & Supplies
Jamie Dunnington
Lee Hill

INTEGRIS Health
Raganald Ivey
Bob Kenworthy
Jane Kistler
John Maisch
Mazzio's Corporation
Office Depot
Oklahoma Natural Gas
Public Service Company of Oklahoma
Marcus Salazar
Darryl Schmidt
Tan & Tone America
The Colonial Art Gallery & Co.
The Skirvin Hilton of Oklahoma City
Melissa White
YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City

Grant Funding

A.E. Casey Foundation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Forum for Youth Investment / Ready By 21
INTEGRIS Health
George Kaiser Family Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
March of Dimes Oklahoma State Chapter
C.S. Mott Foundation
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Health
Oklahoma State Department of Human Services
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and equivalents	\$351,459
Grants and Contracts Receivable	90,952
Employee Receivables	<u>18</u>

Total Current Assets **442,429**

Property and Equipment

Computers and Software	\$ 80,877
Office Equipment	14,331
Furniture and Fixtures	<u>5,257</u>

	100,465
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(43,675)</u>

\$ 56,790

Other Assets

Security Deposit	\$ 5,208
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Total Assets **\$504,427**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 3,435
Deferred Subscription Revenue	<u>2,225</u>

Total Current Liabilities **\$ 5,660**

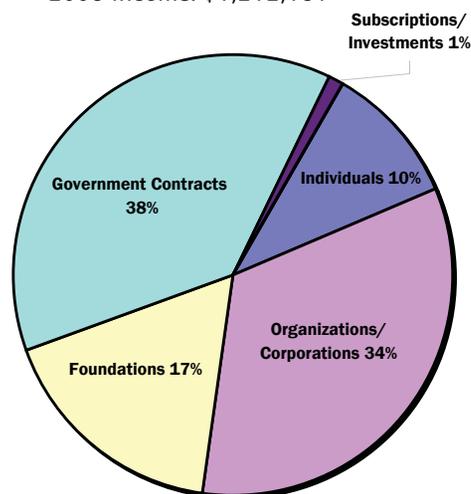
Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$224,428
Temporarily Restricted	274,339

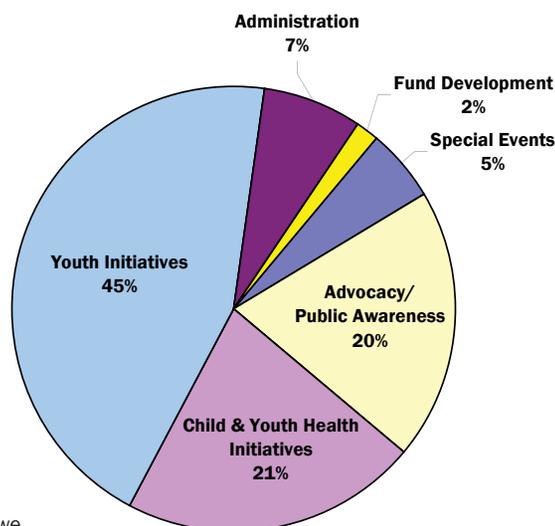
Total Net Assets **\$498,767**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$504,427**

2008 Income: \$1,212,181



2008 Expenditures: \$1,211,441



Disclaimer: These figures are preliminary and have not, as yet, been audited. Additionally we have tried our best to list all of our donors correctly; however If your name has been inadvertently omitted, placed in the wrong category or misspelled, please contact us at 405/236-5437ext.111 to report our error.

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of expertise to their service on the Board. In 2008, OICA operated on a budget of \$1.21 million. Approximately 38% of the income was provided by government grants; the other 62% was provided through the generosity of individuals, corporations, organizations, tribal entities and foundations.

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy is a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Funds raised by OICA are used to improve the lives and life-chances of Oklahoma's children and youth. In 2008, 9% was used for administration and fund development.

At the end of 2008, the staff included 11 full-time employees, 7 part-time employees and numerous consultants and volunteers. OICA has partnered with local universities and service providers, who continually send us excellent practicum students and interns. We are especially pleased with this opportunity to train young people in the practical aspects of child advocacy and build new relationships within our community.



Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
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