

OICA

OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY



2007 Annual Report



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2007 was a year fraught with challenges and victories that deeply affect the children in Oklahoma. From wars overseas to immigration issues at home, from health care to child care and from economic factors to severe weather -- Oklahoma's children have felt the impact. Yet, child advocates from across the state continue to rally and bring forth practical, proven strategies so that leaders, in both the private and public arenas, can develop solutions. This has once again confirmed our belief that Oklahoman's care about our children.

The excitement and vision of hope generated by our state's centennial year has heightened the awareness and magnified the possibilities for children and their families during 2007. Through OICA programs, initiatives and partnerships, taking action and finding science-based and practical approaches to complex issues is taking hold. OICA has lead the charge and ignited a renewed resolve to make significant policy changes the priority for families, communities and our state.

The tremendous support OICA receives from grassroots advocates, the corporate community, tribal entities and state agencies alike, strengthens our determination to create an environment that is safe, healthy and enriching for our state's children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anne Roberts
Executive Director



OICA

**creates awareness,
takes action and
changes policy on
behalf of children,
youth and families.**

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) continues a legacy of finding common ground on difficult matters and providing the leadership that stimulates change.

creating awareness

to advance knowledge



“Knowledge is power” is an old adage that works well for OICA. Research, data, demonstration projects and science-based approaches are the foundation for addressing critical barriers to meet the needs of children and youth. By following the trends, applying the data and delivering the information to those who can make a difference, OICA has built a reputation of being a trustworthy resource for program providers, parents, policy makers, business, media and community leaders.

HIGHLIGHTS

KIDS COUNT FACTBOOK FOCUSES ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES STUDY (ACEs)

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACEs) is one of the largest investigations ever conducted on the links between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. As a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente’s Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) members undergoing a comprehensive physical examination provided detailed information about their childhood experience of abuse, neglect and family dysfunction.

The study indicates that when a child experiences trauma – whether from child abuse or a tornado ripping her

home apart – the stress changes her brain, and may lead her to adopt a health-risk behavior, such as smoking or overeating, to cope with the pain. It is these behaviors that are responsible for most of the physical ailments so prevalent today – heart disease, diabetes and depression. OICA released a series of issue briefs about the impact of the ACEs with funding from Integris Health and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. ACEs draws an undeniable connection between the traumas and family dysfunction suffered as children to health conditions years later. The implications for this work could help explain why Oklahoma ranks number one in the nation in deaths due to heart disease, and has some of the country’s highest rates of domestic violence, mental illness and incarceration.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION: TRANSLATING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE - USING WHAT WORKS

The data, resources and examples of “programs that work” included in the *Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Translating Research to Practice - Using What Works* publication has proven critical to program and advocacy efforts in the state. This publication, prepared through support from the Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma, makes the case for prevention investments and helps explain a complicated issue in clear, concise and compelling ways.

The publication has been shared with state legislators, state agency leaders, program providers and with the state Interagency Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs. It has been distributed at national and state conferences, provided to the local health departments and used at workshops and training sessions, including those coordinated by OICA to promote science-based approaches to teen pregnancy prevention.

During the 2007 legislative session, the publication provided critical research and best-practice program information that helped build bipartisan support for expanded funding for the *Postponing Sexual Involvement for Young Teens* (PSI) program.

YOUTH ASSET STUDY

Since 1997, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy has partnered with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center on the Youth Asset Study, which has been called one of the most important youth development research projects in the country. This study explores the relationships between a core set of protective factors, youth assets, and specific adolescent health risk behaviors, including tobacco, alcohol and drug use, sexual activity, violence and truancy. The research team developed an extensive survey and collected data from 1,350 pairs of adolescents/parents through in-home interviews conducted in high poverty, racially and ethnically diverse central city neighborhoods in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The original survey was expanded and revised, as additional funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allowed for a longitudinal study of five years to be conducted with over 1,100 pairs of participants in the greater Oklahoma City area. The survey revision increased the number of asset items to be gathered and began to examine relationships between assets and risk behaviors over time, as young people move through the developmental stages of adolescence.

In 2007, eight additional papers were published (or in press) in peer-reviewed journals, bringing the total number of publications to 27 in the fourth year of the

longitudinal research study. The findings continue to be shared through presentations to the American Public Health Association, CDC, and other local, state and national organizations.

OICA also recognizes the need to draw attention to the people in our state whose accomplishments and good works make a significant impact on the children and youth they serve. Through our Friends of Children Awards Banquet each year and the Child Advocate’s Hall of Fame, Oklahomans who are making a difference receive the recognition they deserve.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN

On May 1, 2007, OICA honored advocates from across the state during the annual Friends of Children Celebration.

VOLUNTEER

PEGGY MCCORMICK, Stillwater

PROFESSIONAL

PASTOR PERLA GOODY, Pauls Valley

YOUTH

KELLEY HAILEY, Oklahoma City

PROGRAM

RAISING A READER, Stillwater
Regina Hall, Executive Director

CORPORATION/BUSINESS

COMANCHE COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION, Lawton

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

JUDY COLLINS,
Oklahoma City and St. Petersburg, Florida

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

JOHN REX (1933-2006), Oklahoma City

CHILD ADVOCATES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

REPRESENTATIVE RON PETERS, Tulsa



OICA brings people together to find common ground and stimulate change in local communities and throughout the state. Each year, OICA works with thousands of people to provide a collective voice on issues ranging from maternal and child health, early childhood education and expanded learning opportunities, to youth development and leadership. Through focusing resources on building new relationships, cultivating strategic messages and working in partnership, OICA demonstrates a strong constituency for the needs of children, youth and families in Oklahoma.

HIGHLIGHTS

OKLAHOMA FIT KIDS COALITION

The Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition (OFKC) is a statewide coalition dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Oklahoma children and families by reducing childhood obesity. In 2007, OFKC collaborated with community partners to produce and distribute the *Healthy Oklahoma Schools Manual*, which was sent to every school site in Oklahoma to provide guidance for implementing wellness policies and programs. As follow up to the manual, OFKC and partner organizations conducted *Strong and Healthy Oklahoma Schools* workshops across the state to train over 200 school staff and other community partners on how to use the manual as well as other tools and resources provided during the sessions.

Once again, in 2007, OFKC partnered with the Oklahoma Turning Point Council to host an annual joint conference. During the conference, OFKC recognized business, education, civic, and community leaders at the Annual Fit Kids Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting to honor them for their extraordinary achievements in improving the health of Oklahoma children and families.

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES

Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (OKHMHCB) raises public awareness of the importance of good prenatal care, including early care; good nutrition and the promotion of breastfeeding; and avoiding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and smoking. In 2007, the

OKMHMB Coalition, in collaboration with the March of Dimes and members of the Perinatal Advisory Task Force, began working on a Perinatal Health Needs Assessment for Oklahoma. This assessment focuses on identifying the gaps that exist in perinatal health care. Vital statistic data from each county and provider survey information will help in the formulation of a blueprint for Oklahoma's perinatal health care system.

HEALTHY TEENS OK! PROJECT (HTOK)

Oklahoma is one of nine states participating in a national initiative, Promoting Science-Based Approaches (PSBA) to Teen Pregnancy Prevention, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help key state organizations and community programs plan, implement and evaluate teen pregnancy prevention programs more effectively. During 2007, the HTOK Project provided a series of trainings and informational events, along with additional activities focused on five local program sites. Preparation of HTOK factsheets and resource materials was supported by the Merrick Foundation. The HTOK Project was featured during a forum hosted by the Sarkeys Foundation, "Teen Pregnancy: Why It Matters," where the new state goal was announced: To reduce teen pregnancy in Oklahoma by one-third by 2015. As a result of its leadership in linking teen pregnancy prevention with youth development through advocacy, research and program efforts, CDC invited the OICA and the HTOK Project to be part of its Expert Panel on Youth Development. In recognition of its leadership in prevention and youth development over the last 25 years, the Sarkeys Foundation worked with OICA to provide a series of workshops on adolescent issues for its Regional Leadership Forum.

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 2007 through partnerships with the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities, the Finance Project and the Afterschool Alliance. It also expanded its statewide leadership by creating a statewide Leadership Council representing over 30 key public and private sector organizations. A major portion of OKAN's state level work focused on research and policy efforts to improve program quality, which included hosting a Leadership Forum with state agency administrators to discuss their support for quality afterschool programs and conducting a Statewide Afterschool Assessment Survey through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of OKAN members across the state, over 100 communities held Lights On Afterschool! events in 2007. Additionally, OKAN

members were responsible for seeing that *afterschool programs as a venue for reducing childhood obesity* was selected as one of the items to be included in the 2008 Oklahoma Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth.



From left: OKAN Chair and Former Senator Angela Monson; OKAN Director Katie Fitzgerald; Lt. Governor Jari Askins; National Conference of State Legislatures Program Manager Jennifer Stedron; and OICA Executive Director Anne Roberts pose for pictures at the OKAN leadership meeting.

READY BY 21 – QUALITY COUNTS

OICA is one of 12 state and community organizations selected by the Forum for Youth Investment to participate in their new *Ready by 21 – Quality Counts* initiative. This effort is directed by the Oklahoma Afterschool Network and is intended to improve the quality of out-of-school time for children and youth in the state. The out-of-school time networks in Norman, led by the Center for Children and Families, Inc., and in Tulsa, led by the Tulsa Area Community-School Initiative, a committee coordinated by the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa, are organizing local efforts.

REFUGEE YOUTH PROJECT

Special tutoring, academic support and volunteer service opportunities were provided for refugee youth attending Taft Middle School and Northwest Classen High School in Oklahoma City, thanks to support from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROJECT

OICA continues to provide one of the only teen pregnancy prevention middle school program models in the state identified by leading researchers and numerous national organizations as a program that really works to change behaviors and help young people delay sexual activity. Each year, over 24 high school teen leaders are recruited to serve as peer educators for the Postponing Sexual Involvement for Young Teens program. Parents and a wide array of community organizations support the young people in this project. Funding was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Integris Health and numerous Oklahoma City area organizations and businesses.

changing policy to achieve results



The child advocacy community in Oklahoma has a significant role to play in bringing street-level experience and expertise to the policy-making table. This component is vital in developing relevant strategies that will impact the children we serve. OICA leads the charge to improve the lives of children and youth by partnering with Oklahoma policy makers and other child advocates.

HIGHLIGHTS

THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

During the 2007 legislative session, child advocates felt the full brunt of the dramatic changes in the political landscape of Oklahoma in the last four years. Term limits have forced many long-time policy makers to exit the legislature and ushered in a large new class of freshmen eager to make their mark. In the 2007 Oklahoma legislature, over two-thirds of the members had less than three years of experience.

On the one hand, the loss of institutional memory and long-term relationships with champions for children's causes resulted in an upheaval in the advocacy community. With so many new members, it was challenging to meet each individual and bring them up-to-speed on our issues. In addition, lack of state revenues

to invest in new programs hampered our efforts to expand services to children and their families – key priorities within the Children's Agenda.

On the other hand, many of the new policy makers brought a fresh perspective and new ideas to the Capitol. Unfamiliar with the Children's Agenda, and unencumbered by the burdens of their predecessors, members introduced bold initiatives for children and youth and fought with vigor and passion to make them happen! Child advocates eagerly supported these initiatives, but with such limited resources, this support often came at the expense of the Children's Agenda.

Ultimately, the session was very good for children. The Legislature passed one of the most sweeping child health

measures in the country through SB 424, the *All Kids Act*. This bill has the potential of providing health insurance coverage for an additional 42,000 presently uninsured Oklahoma children, ensuring a healthier and more productive student population and future workforce.

In addition, several new child protection measures were put into place to help keep children safe, including new defenses against online predators and a requirement that children wear protective helmets when riding ATVs. New funding streams were created to generate much-needed funds for the multidisciplinary teams that investigate child abuse, as well as for programs to help prevent domestic violence.

2007 FALL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Each year, OICA conducts the Annual Fall Legislative Forum to set the priorities for the following year's legislative session. The 2007 Fall Forum broke all previous attendance records with over 500 participants. The event focused on "Magnifying the Possibilities" and built upon the energy, excitement and vision of hope generated by the efforts that many have made on behalf of Oklahoma's children.

After two days of debate, compromise and just plain hard work, advocates chose their top nine priorities for the 2008 Legislative Session:

- Provide health care coverage for autism
- Increase access to health care through workforce development
- Increase physical education in schools
- Combat childhood obesity through out-of-school programs
- Prevent youth access to alcohol
- Provide funds for additional child welfare workers
- Provide funds for children's behavioral health network of services
- Increase funds to child abuse prevention programs
- Increase funds for quality, affordable child care



(from left to right) Dr. Laura McGuinn, Dr. Steve Grissom, Dr. Mark Chaffin and Dr. James Allen, panelists during the Fall Forum opening session. Joe Hight, Managing Editor, *The Oklahoman* facilitated the panel.



(from left to right) The Child Abuse: Intervention and Treatment workshop panelists included, Consumer, Lana Freeman, Resource Person, Vionette Torres Dunn, Senator Jonathan Nichols and Representative Anastasia Pittman.



State Superintendent Sandy Garrett greets Fall Forum participants after her keynote address.

Advocacy is...

- Identifying a problem
- Identifying a solution
- Determining who is responsible
- Working with the responsible party

FINANCIALS

In 2007, hundreds of advocates across the state and nation played a crucial role in the work of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy through their contributions. In addition, OICA welcomed the financial support of individuals, foundations, businesses, tribal entities and government to help fulfill our mission. Many thanks go to those who supported our work in 2007.

Donations up to \$500

Albertson's
Martha Alford
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Federation of Teachers
David Ames
Dan Arthrell
Barry Beauchamp
Jerry and Jackie Bendorf
Tom Berry
Kathleen Black
Favour Boss
Marilyn Branch
Mary L. Breshers
David Brownell
William Burnett
Church Women United
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Northeastern Oklahoma Community
Health Center
Okla. School Psychological Assoc.
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Delores Patterson
Cindy Penland
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Roberta Robertson
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Bernice Shiplet
Cynthia Shuberg
Terry Smith
Lynn Speir
Clayton and Marie Taylor
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Nancy vonBargen
Dale Wares
Tammy Wasson
Melissa White
Bethany White-Turner
Keli Wright
Katrina Wyckoff
Ken Young
Jack and Maxine Zarrow

Donations \$501 - \$2,000

American Fidelity Assurance
Bob and Anne Calvert
William Doenges
Doug Fox
Barbara Gish
Robert and Jean Harbison
Terry Harryman
Inasmuch Foundation
Carlos Johnson
Maccini Construction Co.
Robert and Peggy McCormick
Mortgage Management Inc.
OGE Energy Corporation
Oklahoma Chapter American
Academy of Pediatrics
Pfizer
Anne Roberts
Roger Sheldon
L. E. "Dean" Stringer
United Way - PCFO
United Way of Central Oklahoma
Wal Mart

Donations over \$2,001-\$5000

BancFirst
Caring for Children Federation
Oklahoma Natural Gas
Ron and Barbara Rocke

Donations over \$5,000

GlaxoSmithKline
MedImmune
Public Service Company of Oklahoma
SandRidge Energy, Inc.
Sonic Corporation
Stillwater National Bank

Donations over \$10,000

Chickasaw Nation
Integrus Health
Tom Ward

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of expertise to their service on the Board. In 2007, OICA operated on a budget of \$1.21 million. Approximately 40% of the income was provided by government grants; the other 60% 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 2007, 8% was used for administration and fund development.

At the end of 2007, the staff included 10 full-time employees, 5 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.

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and equivalents	\$404,160
Grants and Contracts Receivable	161,901
Employee Receivables	<u>40</u>

Total Current Assets **566,101**

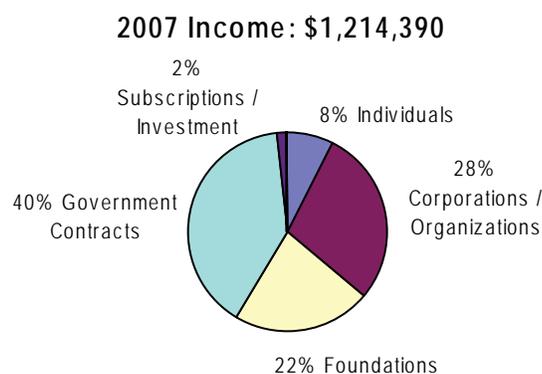
Property and Equipment

Computers and Software	\$ 94,540
Office Equipment	25,136
Furniture and Fixtures	<u>3,029</u>
	122,705
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(93,040)</u>
	\$ 29,665

Other Assets

Security Deposit	\$ 782
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Total Assets **\$596,548**



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

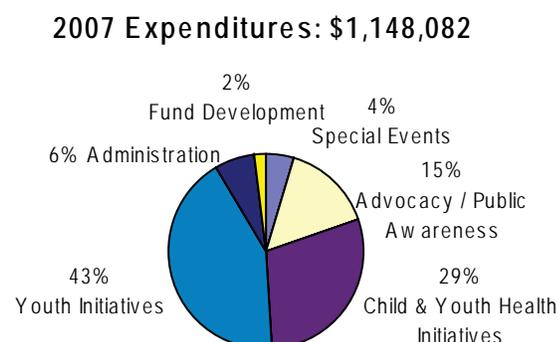
Accounts Payable	\$ 25,435
Accrued Expenses	1,767
Unearned Subscription Revenue	<u>1,350</u>

Total Current Liabilities **\$ 28,552**

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$145,433
Investment in Furniture & Equipment	<u>29,665</u>
Total Unrestricted	175,098
Temporarily Restricted	392,898
Total Net Assets	567,996

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$596,548**



The pie charts represent raw data as of the end of the fiscal year December 31, 2007. The above statement of financial position comes from OICA's audit for the year 2007 conducted by the CPA firm of Murrell, Hall, McIntosh and Co., PLLP.

We believe. . .

That Oklahomans care deeply about our children and youth

Children are valuable and deserve opportunities to reach their potential

Children are vulnerable and have the right to grow up healthy, safe and loved

Children rely on caring adults to give voice to their needs

Working together, Oklahomans can create a brighter future for our state's children and youth

