This year has been a challenging time for nonprofit organizations and children’s advocates. Financially strapped Oklahoma state government relied heavily on federal infusions of cash to balance the state budget.

Programs designed to spur economic recovery have kept many afloat, but our state’s economic recovery hasn’t been sufficient enough to provide adequate support for many children and families who face greater needs than ever before. Amid the changes and challenges, the mission of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy has remained constant -- to be a strong advocate for the health, safety and well-being of Oklahoma’s children.

Big wins for kids don't just happen by accident. They happen when skilled advocates backed by thoughtful funders show policymakers that investments for Oklahoma’s children must be a priority for our state.

For more than 25 years, the Institute has continued to advance an agenda that focuses on the needs of children by:

- **Raising awareness.** Through data, research, issue education and the media, we communicate the most vital needs of Oklahoma’s children.

- **Taking action.** By bringing the power of a state together – legislators, business, funders, government agency representatives, child/youth-serving organizations and caring citizens – we help identify and address the tough problems facing Oklahoma’s children and families.

- **Changing policy.** We work to ensure that a strong voice for children is included in critical state policy discussions and decisions.

Thank you for working alongside us to keep Oklahoma children safe, healthy, learning and thriving. We could not do this work without the support of so many generous donors and committed Oklahomans.

We urge you to join us in encouraging all our state and community leaders to help make Oklahoma a great place to be a child.

For the children,

Terry Harryman, President, Board of Directors
Linda Terrell, MHR, Executive Director
Mission Statement

Creating awareness, taking action and changing policy to improve the health, safety and well-being of Oklahoma’s children.
The Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Data Center is Oklahoma’s premier, most comprehensive data source for child well-being in our state that is used by thousands of individuals each year, including policymakers, state agencies and community leaders. KIDS COUNT data raises awareness, tracks progress and highlights areas that need improvement. For more information, check: http://datacenter.kidscount.org/

As the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT partner in The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s national KIDS COUNT network, the Institute supports the KIDS COUNT Data Center, providing an overview of the status of Oklahoma’s children, trends to watch, a county data on key indicators and special reports on critical and emerging issues.

Oklahoma KIDS COUNT data shows that our state had 929,314 children under age 18 in 2011:

- One in four (232,329) lived in poverty
- 7,857 (ages 0-17) were in the state’s foster care system
- 639 youth were in the state’s juvenile system
- 7,248 were confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 599 youth were arrest for committing a violent crime
- 6,496 teen girls had babies
- More than 400 babies did not live to see their first birthday
- Nearly another 400 did not live to see their 20th birthday
- 19,000 abused alcohol and drugs in the past year
- Nearly three-fourths (73%) of the state’s 4th graders read below grade reading achievement levels
- 19,000 teens, ages 16-19, were not in school and not working
Changing Policy

Leading Foster Care Reform Efforts

The Institute is a familiar presence at the State Capitol during the legislative session each February through May – organizing meetings, talking with legislators, providing data and information to guide policy decisions and ensure children’s needs are being considered when a vote is taken that affects their future. Reform of the state’s foster care system was a major policy focus in 2011, with the Institute’s Executive Director, Linda Terrell, and board member Jay Scott Brown, co-chairing the legislatively-mandated Foster Care System Improvement Task Force during the interim between the 2011 and 2012 sessions. The task force included a variety of partners who explored ways to improve the state’s foster care system and protect the children in its care. National experts on child welfare presented information and suggestions to the task force, along with current child welfare workers and youth who once lived in foster care. Specific recommendations to improve the state’s child welfare system and outcomes for children in foster care were developed by the task force for enactment during the next session. The Institute’s leadership on reform of the foster care system was a major focus and achievement of its work in 2011.

Promoting Child Abuse Prevention

In addition to foster care reform, the Institute’s legislative priorities included protecting critical child abuse prevention funding, including the Children’s First home visitation program. The Institute helped coordinate the very successful “Protect Kids” Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol on April 12th, which included a mini-conference and meetings with legislators.

2011 Fall Children’s Legislative Forum

The Institute combines data, issue advocacy and policy work to address root causes and practical solutions for critical problems facing our state’s most vulnerable children and families. Our work with children, youth and service providers informs our policy work at the State Capitol. On October 11, 2011, agency directors, concerned citizens and child advocates from across the state convened at the University of Central Oklahoma to learn more about the pressing problems facing children, set priorities for the upcoming legislative session and began developing action strategies. “Creating Wins for Children” was the Institute’s Fall Legislative Forum theme, reflecting the need to keep children’s issues in the forefront and connected to Oklahoma’s economic future in the midst of our state’s changing economic realities and state budget reductions.
Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

Advocacy efforts were high on the priority list for the Oklahoma Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (OK-HMHB) in 2011. With many newly elected officials at the state capitol, OK-HMHB partnered with the Association for Women’s Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses to provide education and awareness at a legislative breakfast held on February 24th. We facilitated a great discussion between coalition members and legislators about important maternal and infant health issues.

Oklahoma Infant Alliance

The mission of the Oklahoma Infant Alliance is to improve the health and care of babies born too soon. Late Preterm births make up nearly seven out of every 10 (71%) of all preterm births. Babies born during this period are often over looked because they are larger than their younger counter parts, yet they have some of the same medical concerns, such as respiratory distress, jaundice and feeding issues. They are at high risk for learning delays when they enter school. The “Late Preterm Infant Toolkit,” a major focus of the Alliance in 2011, was a great success and received national recognition. The Alliance was asked to participate on the National Perinatal Association Late Preterm Guideline Development Committee, the only state organization invited to join the many national perinatal organizations serving on the committee. The Alliance represented our state at the National Prematurity Coalition meeting in Washington D.C., in April, where it presented information to participants about the new toolkit.

Oklahoma Infant Mental Health Endorsement Program

In June, the Institute concluded its work in coordinating the Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health (OK-AIMH). Thanks to the Institute’s support, OK-AIMH increased its ability to administer the Oklahoma Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Endorsement Promoting Infant Mental Health, a project that recognizes and documents the development of infant and family professionals within an organized system of culturally sensitive, relationship-based, infant mental health learning and work experiences. In 2011, OK-AIMH developed plans that expanded the coordinator’s position to full-time and moved it to a new level of visibility and partnerships. OK-AIMH was grateful for its partnership with the Institute that allowed this vital workforce development program to build its momentum and expand training opportunities related to infant mental health. OK-AIMH will continue to work in collaboration with the Institute to improve the mental health of infants, very young children and their families.

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Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition

The mission of the Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition is to improve the overall health and well-being of Oklahoma youth and families by decreasing childhood obesity. During 2011, the statewide coalition expanded its presence at events and in the media, reaching a wide range of groups, from youth to policymakers. Fit Kids partnered with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to sponsor a Youth-Hosted Forum in Oklahoma City in April, where youth led discussions and activities that identified ways to make their schools and communities healthier.

The Fit Kids Coalition expanded its electronic communication through its new website, the Fit Kids Flash e-newsletter and in social media through Facebook [Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition] and Twitter [ #OKFitKids]. A new blog was added, “LiveOK, A Candid Look at Living Healthy in Oklahoma.” Fit Kids wrote articles for the bi-monthly OK Health & Fitness magazine and was featured in the Oklahoma State Medical Association’s special issue on Child Health, along with other health-related publications. To launch Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September, a guest editorial by Fit Kids appeared in the Oklahoman, emphasizing the critical importance of addressing the state’s childhood obesity epidemic. For more information on Fit Kids visit:  www.fitkidsok.org

Fit Kids Legislative Action

The work of Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition is guided by its Leadership Council, which includes public and private sector organizations concerned about health, wellness and workforce issues. In the fall, the Leadership Council adopted its policy agenda for the upcoming legislative session, identifying Shared Use legislation as its policy priority. Shared Use legislation enables schools to open their facilities at night and on weekends, so more Oklahomans would have an option to participate in fitness activities in their own neighborhood schools. Guest speaker, State Senator Clark Jolley, Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman, spoke to the Leadership Council, affirming his support for their work to improve the physical health, nutrition and fitness of Oklahoma’s children and families.
Oklahoma Afterschool Network

The Oklahoma Afterschool Network (OKAN) works to ensure all Oklahoma children and youth have access to safe, enriching learning opportunities during their out-of-school time. As part of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation’s National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks, OKAN received a new 3-year grant from the Mott Foundation in 2011. The multi-year funding will expand partnerships and resources to help afterschool programs increase their college and career readiness focus, develop the first-ever Oklahoma afterschool program quality standards and strengthen its governance and operational structure.

OKAN sent a team to the Midwest Afterschool Science Academy, sponsored by Time Warner and the Noyce Foundation, to plan a project called Project Liftoff which is based in part on Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). OKAN’s Project Liftoff proposal was selected for two-year funding by the Noyce Foundation, beginning in August. OKAN co-sponsored and provided a pre-conference session for the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s statewide 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool conference on September 30, attended by more than 500 afterschool program staff. New funders for OKAN in 2011 included the Devon Corporation and the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

Health and nutrition activities/resources during out-of-school hours were a key focus for OKAN in 2011. A new funding award from the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) will provide additional support for the program quality standards project, with an emphasis on standards related to health and nutrition. The Afterschool Alliance asked OKAN to submit a proposal for a VISTA volunteer to assist afterschool programs serving low-income, Title I areas in accessing available federal funding to expand nutrition resources for their programs. Each October, OKAN promotes Lights On Afterschool, a national afterschool awareness event led by the Afterschool Alliance. To raise awareness at the community-level, OKAN hosted a Lights On Afterschool event on October 20 in Del City.

Oklahoma Serves was an OKAN partner in 2011, providing an AmeriCorps member who visited afterschool programs across the state and shared program stories on the OKAN website. The Network released two new policy briefs in 2011: Economic Return on Investment in Afterschool and STEM in Afterschool, which looked at the important role afterschool can play in STEM education and the development of the state’s future workforce. Both publications can be downloaded at www.okafterschool.org.
Healthy Teens OK!

Healthy Teens OK! (HTOK) continued to serve as the umbrella for the Institute’s youth development and adolescent health efforts, providing data, factsheets and links to state and national resources. HTOK provided information to media in addition to state and community organizations to help them analyze Oklahoma data related to youth risk behaviors understand how our state compares to other states on key adolescent health and well-being indicators and identify effective strategies and approaches for improving the outcomes for Oklahoma’s youth. Findings from the Youth Asset Study research, factsheets and links to new national research and resources can be found at: www.healthyteensok.org.

OKC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project

During spring 2011, the project provided the nationally-recognized, evidence-based “Postponing Sexuality Involvement for Young Teens (PSI)” curriculum to more than 350 students at three Oklahoma City middle schools, in neighborhoods with high poverty and high teen birth rates. High school students served as peer educators and as role models for the younger students.

The program model linked quality risk-reduction content provided by the curriculum with asset-building youth development strategies. The program model was funded by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The evaluation showed positive results. This is a prevention program that really works!

The project was a major partner in the Espera Mas teen pregnancy prevention collaboration supported by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, which is working with schools and community groups serving youth living in south Oklahoma City neighborhoods. Our Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project provided trainings that increased the skills of state health educators which, in turn, increased the quality of programs they presented to youth. The project led several statewide trainings on evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention curricula proven to be effective in helping young people avoid early sexual activity, as well as parent education workshops to improve parent-child communication about important “growing up” issues.
POWER Through Choices Research Project

The Institute continued its leadership role in youth development and adolescent health research when its POWER Through Choices 2010 Demonstration and Evaluation Project (PTC 2010) was one of 107 projects selected in late 2010 as part of the new federal teen pregnancy prevention initiative. The research project is funded through the Administration for Children and Families and Office of Adolescent Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The research builds upon the curriculum revision conducted by the Institute as part its previous Promoting Evidence-Based Practices project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 2005-2010.

The purpose of the multi-year project is to provide a rigorous evaluation of the newly revised POWER Through Choices 2010 (PTC 2010) curriculum which was originally developed in the mid 1990s with and for youth in foster care and other out-of-home placements. Oklahoma and three other states serve as demonstration sites; the evaluation is being conducted by the College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

PTC 2010 is one of only two projects, overall, that addresses the needs of youth in foster care. In 2011, the project was selected to be part of a large national evaluation being conducted by Mathematica Policy Research. Week-long curriculum trainings were held in Oklahoma City for program and evaluation staff from the four state demonstration sites. The state demonstration sites finalized their program and data collection plans by late spring, piloting of the curriculum began in the early summer, with full implementation beginning in the fall. Due to its vulnerable youth population and strong research design, interest in the PTC 2010 research project increased substantially in 2011, at both the national level and among the states, which in turn, has increased the visibility of the project and the importance of its research findings.
2011 List of Donors

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Donor Report

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. Approximately 57 percent of the income was provided by government (federal/state) grants; 31 percent was provided by private foundations; and 12 percent was provided by contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations and tribal entities.

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 of Oklahoma’s children and youth. In 2011, 97 percent was used for administration and three percent for fund development.

At the end of 2011, the staff included 17 employees and numerous consultants and volunteers. OICA has partnered with local universities and a variety of program providers that continually refer excellent practicum students and interns to our organization. We are especially pleased to have the opportunity to train young people in the practical aspects of child advocacy and how to create partnerships and projects that make good things happen for children.
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