



# 2019 Annual Report

Improving the Lives of Oklahoma's Children



# Legislative Advocacy

OICA worked hard to ensure children's issues remained "top of mind" at the State Capitol in 2019.

## Legislative Advocacy

At Child Advocacy Day and the Child Advocates' Lunch at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion, more than 200 Oklahomans stood for our state's children.



## Legislative Advocacy

Among the key components of OICA's legislative agenda was enactment of \$5,000 tax exemption for foster families. That bill was signed into law.





# Legislative Advocacy

## OICA's Legislative Report Card.

The Oklahoma Legislature had an overall score of 85% on OICA core issues, showing the efficacy of advocacy efforts. Further, 13 Representatives and 7 Senators earned “perfect” scores for their voting records on OICA issues. The governor earned a 95% score on OICA core issues.



### For Immediate Release

June 10, 2019

Media Contact: Joe Dorman; [jdorman@oica.org](mailto:jdorman@oica.org) or 405-892-9205

### Child Advocates Release “Report Card” for Lawmakers

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) today released its 2019 Child Well-being Legislative Report Card. The Report Card tracks 25 key pieces of legislation related to the health and safety of Oklahoma children and rates lawmakers based on their voting record. The bills were selected by the Advocacy Committee for OICA.

Overall, the Legislature received a score of 85 – or a letter grade of “B”. Lawmakers were rewarded for passing a budget that included funding for more immunizations at county health departments and more services for children with disabilities. Other positive accomplishments included the restoration of a tax credit for families with foster children and the adoption of “healthy relationship” curricula in public schools.

## Legislative Advocacy

Biweekly meetings during session and quarterly legislator/OICA-member meetings in the interim were well-attended by lawmakers and advocates for great exchanges of ideas that will lead to even stronger policy for Oklahoma's children.





# Events

OICA presented several events during the year to advance the cause of child advocacy and make a difference in children's lives.



## Events

Women and Children First Advocacy Training for 2019 as several sponsor organizations helped prepare a team of advocates for 2019.







## Events

The Wrap Party benefiting OK Foster Wishes and OICA brought together caring Oklahomans to celebrate the work of OK Foster Wishes.

## Events

Heroes Ball –  
spotlighting the real  
heroes fighting to  
make Oklahoma a  
better place for  
children – welcomed  
more than 300  
advocates from  
across the state!

**THE OKLAHOMAN**  
NEWSOK.COM



## Events

OICA co-sponsored The First Lady's Foster Family Back to School Backpack Party, providing a schools supplies to the state's precious foster children.





## Events

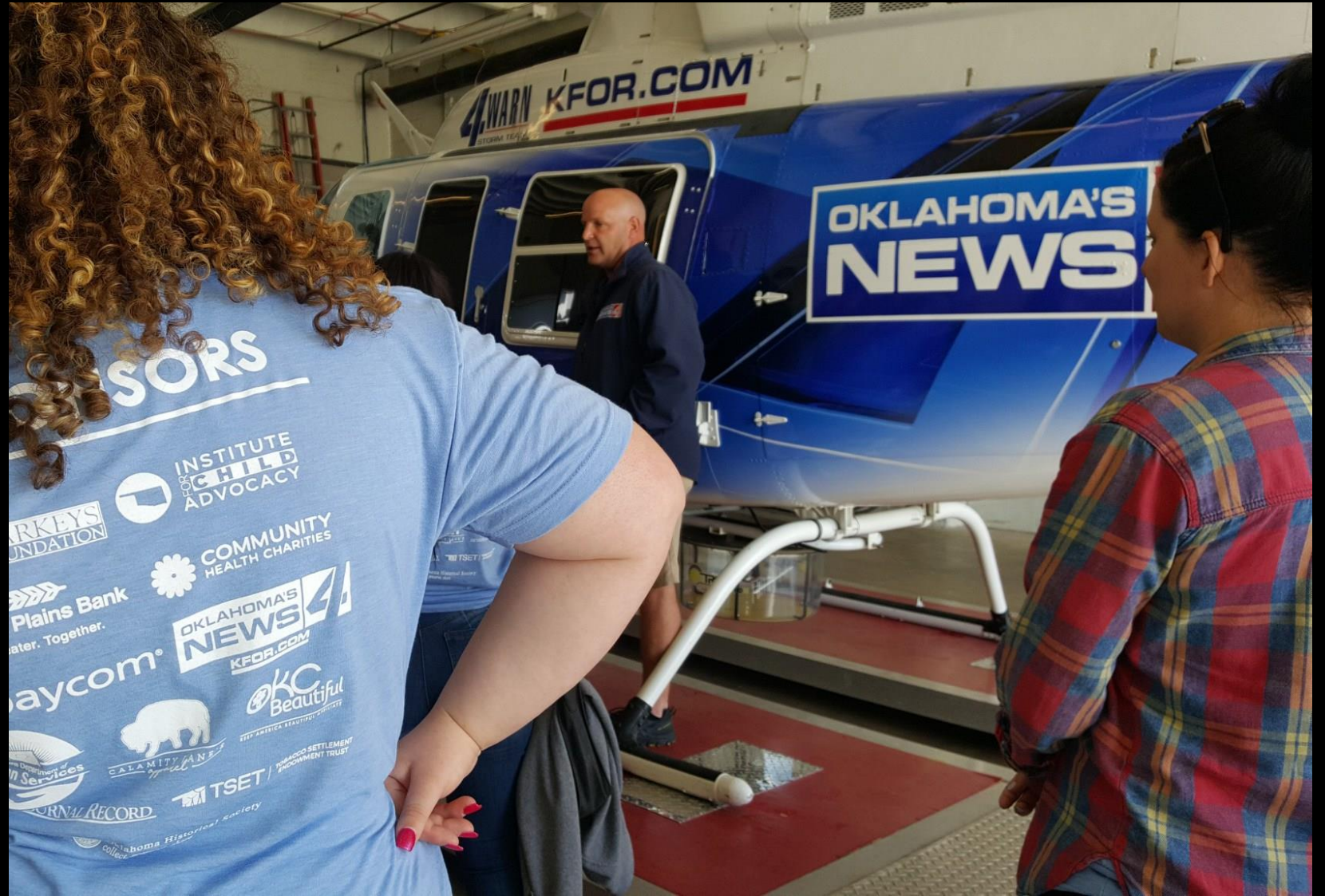
Fall Forum helped to Envision a Brighter Future for Oklahoma's Children in 2020 – with more than 100 advocates developing several recommendations for the 2020 OICA legislative agenda.





## Events

OK-LEAD, or  
“Oklahoma Kids –  
Leadership  
Engagement  
Advocacy  
Development,” allows  
foster children  
entering their junior  
year to learn critical  
skills which will  
benefit them for the  
rest of their lives.





## Events

UP! – A Graduation Celebration - reaches out to youth in foster care and celebrates the accomplishment of achieving their high school diploma or GED while in foster care with a huge party.





## Events

OK Foster Wishes provided holiday gifts to more than 4,600 of Oklahoma's foster children with hundreds of volunteers giving time, gifts, and money from all over the state.



## Events

Political Hacks Chili Cookoff. A dozen cooks and more than 100 participants helped raise money for OICA and spotlight children's issues.





# Public Outreach & Advocacy

OICA travelled the state and reached countless advocates with knowledge and encouragement.





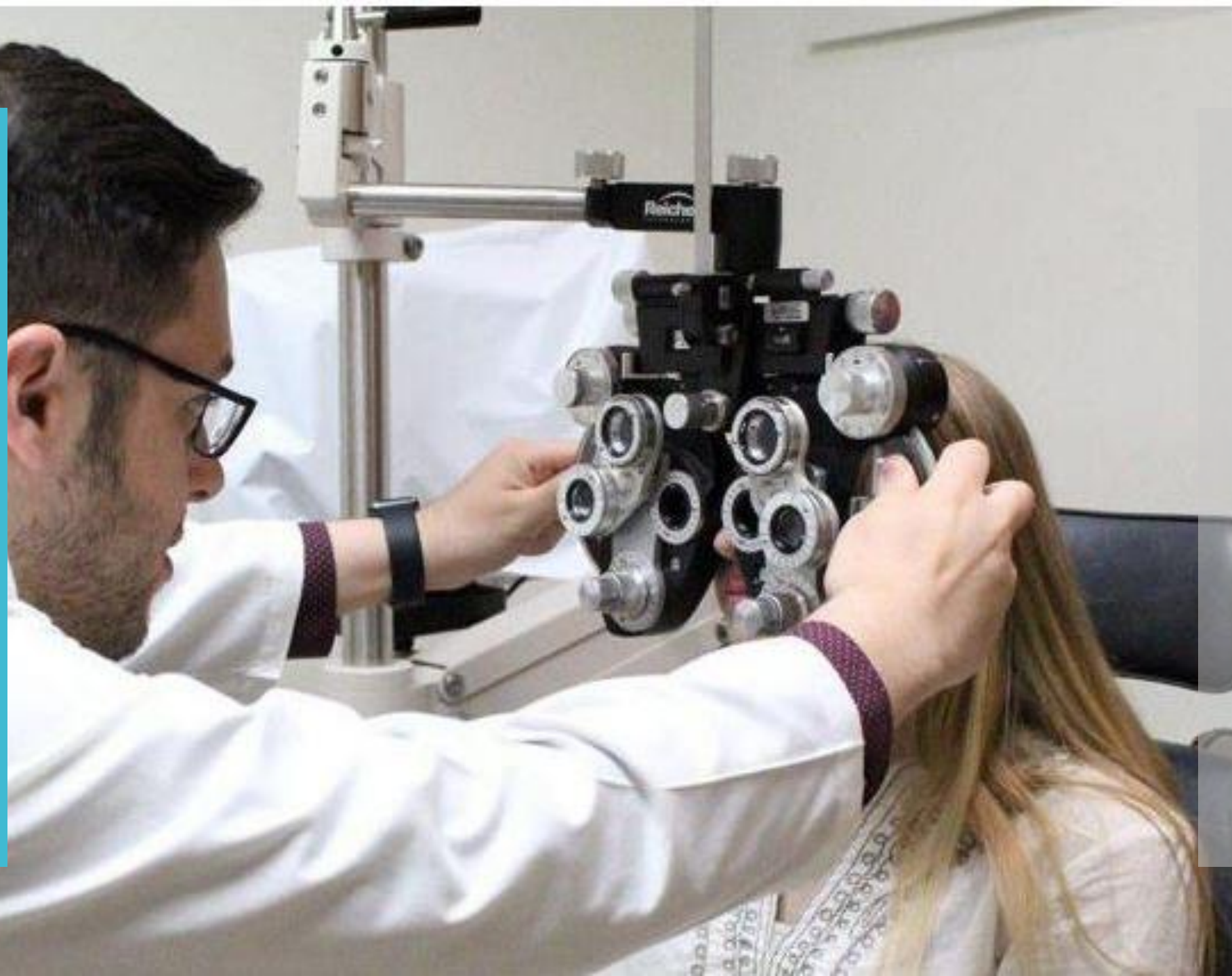
## Public Outreach & Advocacy

OICA Staff traveled the state to train advocates and caring individuals on ways to be more effective as they work to improve conditions for children across Oklahoma.



## Public Outreach & Advocacy

When the federal government established new verification rules, OICA advocated and got approved an only-state-in-the-nation plan to protect SoonerCare families' health insurance.





COLUMN

## FOR THE CHILDREN: Help brighten the holiday season for a foster child



**JOE DORMAN**  
OICA CEO

There are almost 8,000 children in Oklahoma's foster care system. Most of those are kids under 12 years old, and many of them also have brothers and sisters in the system. Needless to say, it is important for the state to recruit and retain foster parents so that all these children have loving and safe homes.

Foster parents are performing one of the most important, selfless acts that we can ask of our fellow Oklahomans. If you are a foster parent and are reading this, thank you for your service and the compassion you are demonstrating. If you are a foster parent, you also know that opening your home

We normally start our OK Foster Wishes campaign on Nov. 1, so we are getting a late start this year. We hope our generous donors can help us make up for lost time!

I want to take a moment to write about why this program has been delayed, and to encourage Oklahomans to consider another way they can help those who are in-need.

Miranda, our OK Foster Wishes Program Director, is on temporary extended leave. She writes, "The past month has been incredibly difficult for my family. We were blindsided by the diagnosis of our oldest son with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, an aggressive form of cancer. We have been in the hospital since October 1st. We are soon to start his second round of

## Public Outreach & Advocacy

The weekly "For the Children" column reaches more than a million Oklahomans through dozens of local papers which carry it. The column also is distributed electronically to more than 20,000 online OICA online subscribers.



## Public Outreach & Advocacy

A pair of weekly newsletters – one to OICA Members only the other to a wide distribution list – get OICA issues and insights to more than 20,000 online subscribers.



## Public Outreach & Advocacy

The OICA Desktop Calendar gets important child-centered facts and statistics, as well as the names of child advocates and OICA-partner organizations onto the desks of lawmakers, agency directors, and executive branch officials. It is also shared on OICA social media pages each morning.



# Public Outreach & Advocacy

Social media connects have grown significantly in 2019 as we now have more than 7,200 Facebook followers, more than 2,300 Twitter followers, and more than 1,000 Instagram followers. The pages are updated multiple times daily, with an average of 17 new posts each week – and more when events warrant.



Oklahoma Institute  
for Child Advocacy  
@OKChildAdv

Home

About

Services

Fundraisers

Groups

Events

Posts

Photos

Videos

Community

Sign-Up for Newsletter

Jobs

Countdown Clock

Promote

Visit Ad Center



**Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy**

4,587 Tweets



Edit profile

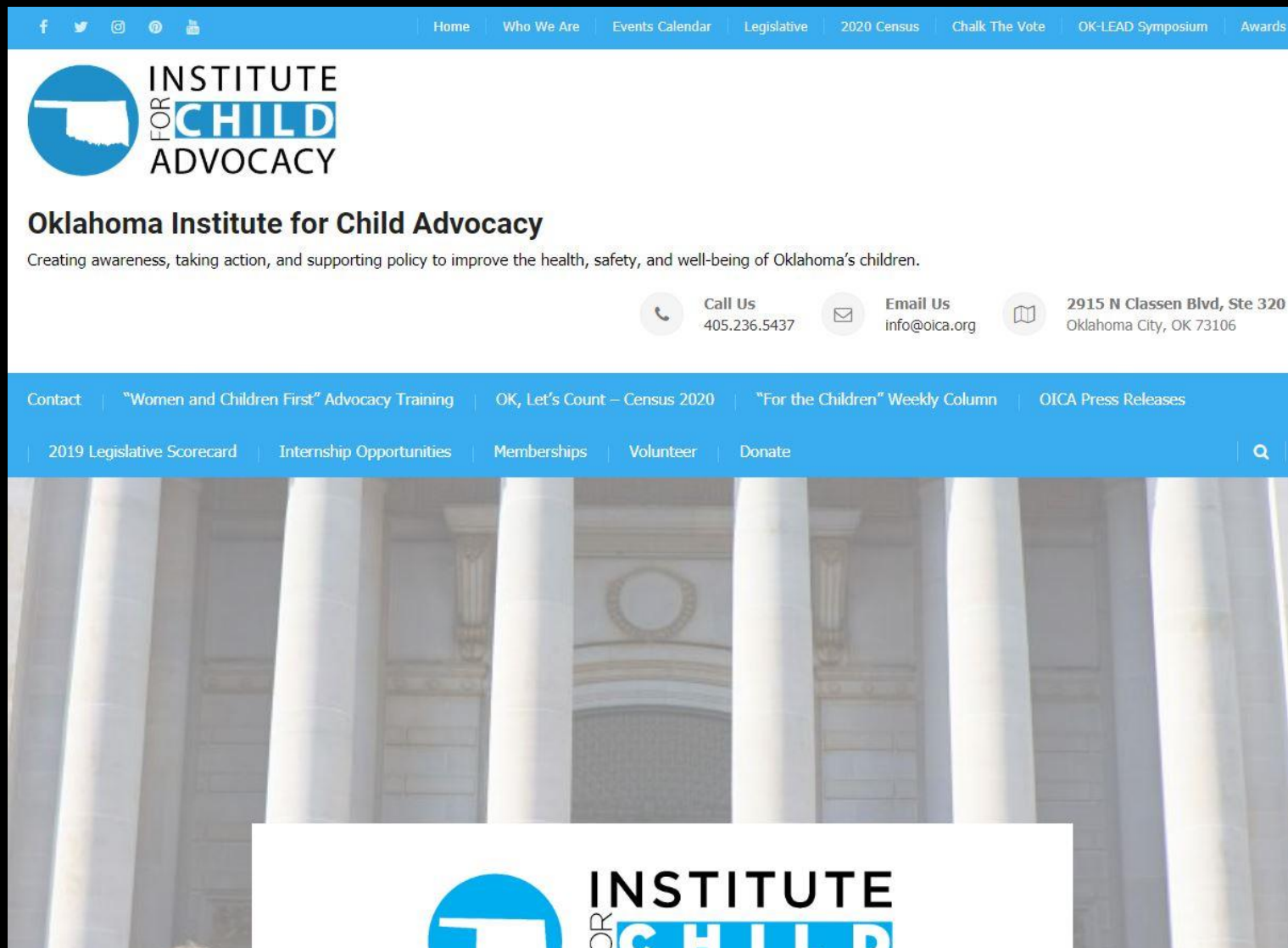
**Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy**

@OklaChildAdv

Creating awareness, taking action and supporting policy to improve the health, safety and well-being of Oklahoma's children.

📍 Oklahoma 🔗 [oica.org](https://oica.org) 📅 Joined October 2009





## Public Outreach & Advocacy

The OICA Website – [oica.org](http://oica.org) – has been updated and will be maintained with the latest data about OICA, and now includes direct links to the “For the Children” column, any news releases the organization issues, links to Census data, and a links to join OICA, donate, or register for events.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a firm grip. The hands are positioned diagonally across the frame, with one hand from the upper left and the other from the lower right. The skin tones are light and medium. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage or trees. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

# Partnerships & Development

OICA travelled the state and reached countless advocates with knowledge and encouragement.

## Partnerships & Development

- OICA continues to partner with organizations, businesses, and individuals to host events, advance advocacy, and whatever is necessary to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma's children.



Media partnerships allow OICA to reach more people at little or no cost and highlight our partner individuals, businesses, and organizations.

## Partnerships & Development

**OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN SAY "THANK YOU!"  
TO THE SPONSORS AND EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE  
THE 2019 OICA HEROES BALL A SUCCESS!**



**AT&T** **the Chickasaw Nation** **BIS** **Potts Family Foundation**

**Great Plains Bank** **ARNALL** **GEORGE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION** **Youth VILLAGES** **THE KERR FOUNDATION**

**INASMUCH** **Gateway** **BancFirst** **CHESAPEAKE ENERGY** **epic**

**OKLAHOMA'S CREDIT UNION** **The Ann Lacy Foundation** **CHESAPEAKE ENERGY** **The Skirvin Hilton** **KRUSH**

**Oklahoma Watch** **COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES** **SMITH SIMMONS** **Hickman Law Group** **Glenn Coffee & Associates**

**AmFund** **McIntyre Law** **THE JOURNAL RECORD**

**ADDITIONAL SPONSORS**

Terry & Susan Boehrer | The Bridgewater Fund | Martha & Bert Marshall | Scott Fischer | Tracy Evans | Bob Burke Law A&A Advocates | OKCU | Sarkeys Foundation | Dave Schwarz | Republic Bank & Trust | Jay Scott Brown | Mitchell Rozin | Marnee Taylor | Michael & Debbie Doyle | Karen & Andy Regier | Uppercase Strategies | CASA of Western Oklahoma

Thanks to event co-chairs Jonna Kirschner and Mary Blankenship Pointer, our MCs Mac Mullings and Chad Alexander, and to the in-kind donors who helped make the evening great.



**INSTITUTE OF CHILD ADVOCACY**  
Envisioning a Brighter Future for Oklahoma's Children  
October 1-3 | OSU-OCC & The Capitol Complex  
Register at [OIC.ORG](http://OIC.ORG)

**20 20**  
ENVISIONING  
A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

**INSTITUTE OF CHILD ADVOCACY**

As we work to improve the lives of children,  
The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy  
is grateful to our sponsors and partners. Together, we are  
"Envisioning a Brighter Future for Oklahoma's Children!"

**FOSTER FAMILY BACK TO SCHOOL  
MOVIE NIGHT &  
SCHOOL SUPPLY PARTY**

Hosted by First Lady Sarah Stitt (center), State Superintendent Joy Holmeister (right), and Linda Edmondson (left), and sponsored by:

**Walmart** **Simmons Bank** **Express**

**20 20**  
ENVISIONING  
A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

OICA's 2019 Fall Forum: Where leaders, advocates, and activists came together to learn and shape an agenda for 2020.

Sponsored by:

**SONIC** **the Chickasaw Nation** **OKLAHOMA CITY** **LOVE MEYER FAMILY FOUNDATION** **TSET** **CHESAPEAKE ENERGY** **OSMA** **OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE** **Potts Family Foundation**

To join OICA, or for more information about the organization and its mission, go to [www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org).

**INSTITUTE OF CHILD ADVOCACY**  
The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy  
is grateful to our sponsors and partners. Together, we are  
"Envisioning a Brighter Future for Oklahoma's Children in 2020!"

**OK FOSTER WISHES**

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers who helped OK Foster Wishes make the holidays brighter for our state's foster children!

**DR. STEPHEN M. BUCHANAN D.D.S.** **BUY FOR LESS** **SuperMarket** **SMART OWNER**

**Communication FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** **DARBY'S** **FEED THE CHILDREN** **U First United** **HOBBY LOBBY**

**Human Services** **morningstar STORAGE** **OKLAHOMA'S CREDIT UNION** **OnCue** **Oklahoma Blood Institute** **shareTHANKS**

**Memberships Make It Happen!**

OICA Members stand tall in the fight for Oklahoma's children by improving policies that:

- Help reduce child hunger,
- Help place foster children in loving and safe homes,
- Reduce abuse and neglect,
- Support quality public education, and
- Reform and improve the criminal justice system.

Would you like to get more involved with OICA and our work to improve the lives of children throughout our state? OICA has five different tax-deductible membership levels to allow you to be part of our efforts to make Oklahoma the best place possible for children.

In short, **WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!** Take a look at the memberships and choose the one best for you. You may rest assured your membership moves Oklahoma forward in its goal to be a "Top Ten" state for its children.

To join, go to: [www.oica.org/memberships](http://www.oica.org/memberships)

**2020 Women and Children First Advocacy Training**

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST** **National Foundation for Women Legislators** **OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR NONPROFITS** **CMT4K** **SALLY'S LIST** **CHESAPEAKE ENERGY**

Join the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy and partner advocacy organizations on February 3, the opening day of the 2020 session of the Oklahoma Legislature, to learn how to effectively communicate with policymakers. "Women and Children First" Advocacy Training will include chances to interact with lawmakers, panel discussions, advocacy training, and the governor's annual "State of the State" address followed by a panel discussion about issues that will drive the 2020 session. Training sessions include sessions on the legislative process, effective lobbying, grassroots organization, and media skills. Go to [www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org) to get more information. Registration - \$20 (covers meals and training materials).

To join OICA, or for more information about the organization and its mission, go to [www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org)

Full-page advertisements in *The Journal Record*.

# Partnerships & Development

- OICA development efforts have yielded significant financial support for the organization's mission of advocacy. In 2019, more than \$306,000 was raised by OICA to support advocacy at the State Capitol and across Oklahoma.



# Partnerships & Development

- OICA staff will continue to seek development and partnership opportunities that will further allow the organization to be an effective and aggressive advocate for Oklahoma's children, at the State Capitol and in communities across the state.