



# Executive Director's Message

Who said the more things change, the more they stay the same?

Compared to KYA's beginnings nearly 30 years ago, when we seemed to be the sole voice speaking out on behalf of children, there are many child advocates who join us in our work today. Indeed, a welcome change.

What stays the same? The fight. Despite this growing and very welcome chorus of new voices in the advocacy arena, we fight daily for attention and resources. Children's issues are still not a priority for many decision makers or for the public at large. It seems as our voices grow in volume, so do all the others with whom we compete for scarce public resources. It seems we shouldn't have to fight this battle to begin with—that in a perfect world, children wouldn't be considered a special interest group. But that is not the reality we deal with. It's not enough to say that providing adequate health care for all Kentucky children is the right thing to do: we have to demonstrate that it is actually more cost effective and will cost taxpayers less in the long run.

We use data and research as empirical evidence of both problems facing children and families as well as effective solutions that would ameliorate those problems. Yet, even armed with this evidence, it is a struggle to get people to support public policy solutions for what are most often considered individual problems within the province of families. Too often poverty is seen as the result of bad choices rather than bad policy.

Many philosophical questions follow: What is the true role of government in a civil society? What is our obligation not only to our children but to other people's children?

Kentucky Youth Advocates believes in the responsibility of families and communities for rearing healthy children, but also in government's responsibility for assuring the well-being of children. While much changes in the world around us, these principles remain the same.

In the face of mass cynicism toward government and the democratic process itself, we need strong voices now more than ever to help us carry the torch for Kentucky's children.

Won't you join us?

Debra Miller  
KYA Executive Director  
November 2004

## Kentucky Youth Advocates,

a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization, is an independent voice for Kentucky's most precious asset — its youth. KYA delivers Kentucky children's message to the state's decision makers, the community, and the media. We insist that our young citizens be given the opportunities and resources to ensure their productive development and health. KYA listens to children, their families, and service



KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES

providers who are reluctant or unable to raise questions about existing policies and practices. In short, we act as a liaison between the powerless and the powerful.

KYA represents the interests of all Kentucky children by vigorously promoting positive changes and policies that impact children. KYA researches, publishes, and distributes information on emerging policies affecting Kentucky's children, especially those who are poor and otherwise disadvantaged.

*"For these are all our children. We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become."* JAMES BALDWIN

## History and Purpose

---

*“Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”* MARGARET MEADE

KYA has been passionately committed to improving the lives of Kentucky’s children for nearly 30 years. In 1975, a group of citizens came together over concerns about the care of abused and neglected children and delinquent youth in the custody of the state. KYA incorporated and hired staff in 1977. Two early catalyzing events proved the necessity of citizen oversight of services purported to help children. KYA learned of a nine year old boy in foster care who weighed just 17 pounds. Despite visits from social workers and visits to doctors, no one identified the neglect of the young boy. The second tragedy was the suicide of a troubled 15 year old boy placed in a county jail operated for adult prisoners. Left alone, he hung himself just 30 minutes after his detainment.

At first our work focused on four major areas of activity, geared towards preventing future tragedies and building service systems better able to meet the needs of vulnerable children. KYA’s early goals included the following:

- Support adequate programming for children in need of protection from abuse and neglect;
- Assure that each neglected and abused child secures a permanent home;
- Assure that delinquent children and those with emotional problems receive effective and humane treatment; and
- Prevent the unnecessary jailing and detention of youth and secure adequate remedial services for these youth.

Our mission and scope expanded in 1983 as we identified additional needs for vulnerable children in the areas of health care and education. We expanded our stated goals:

- Support programs to provide proper prenatal and early childhood service for mothers and children; and
- Assure that the educational system is responsive to the needs and rights of vulnerable children by helping children, their parents, and other citizens.

KYA is grounded in a number of key beliefs and values. We believe in the potential of every child. Our belief in justice and equity leads us to shape our advocacy around the rights of children and the obligations of service systems to meet children’s needs. We believe that families and communities are responsible for rearing healthy children, but we also believe that government has the ultimate responsibility for assuring the well-being of children. Today, KYA’s mission statement encompasses all earlier programmatic goals and is clearly stated:

*To be a strong voice for all of Kentucky’s children by promoting positive public policies.*

This mission drives us to look more broadly at governmental policies around poverty, job development, education and training as they shape how families can successfully nurture their children. We advocate for tax policy that does not unfairly burden families struggling to raise children. We advocate for governmental fiscal and economic policies that prioritize families and children and promote the well-being of each and all of Kentucky’s children.

## Our Strategies

---

*“Our strategy is our strength.”* DEBRA MILLER, KYA

KYA is a catalyst for positive change to improve children’s lives and increase their chances for success. Our organization is independent of government or other agencies providing services to children. We collect information and data, monitor services, and research promising programs, all in an effort to effect policy change at local and state levels. In doing so, we positively affect the lives of large numbers of children. An example of this would be our 2003 success in winning an additional \$5 million for the Child Care Assistance Program. Our research on the impact of the subsidy waiting list improved the lives of more than 10,000 children of low-income working families who desperately need help to afford quality child care.

Whether addressing children’s health care or state tax policy, KYA uses a set of interrelated strategies to achieve change for our state’s children. The following strategies may target government decision makers, state and com-

munity opinion leaders, service providers, the general public, or the media:

- *Case advocacy*
- *Research*
- *Public education*
- *Coalition building*
- *Legislative advocacy*

## 2003-2004 Activities and Accomplishments

---

### CASE ADVOCACY

*“This work keeps our finger on the pulse of what is going on in the day to day lives of children and how well their needs are being met.”* JACKIE TOWN, KYA

In keeping with our roots, KYA continues to assist individuals who are concerned about services a child is receiving or about services needed by a child. We ensure that the child’s best interests are being met. We help individual service providers understand the rights of children and their obligations. We help parents and other care givers understand how to hold schools, child protective services, the courts, child support, public health, and juvenile justice systems accountable.

Our case advocacy services assist children who are having trouble getting their questions answered or the appropriate services delivered. We conference over the phone and provide assistance with resources to contact, questions to ask, and strategies for resolving issues. We can help families contact attorneys, the media, or lawmakers for further assistance in resolving issues. Sometimes families decide that it is important to tell their story in order to help other children besides their own.

Here are two examples of the more typical scenarios we encounter:

### *Devon* (not a real name)

A group home called KYA regarding Devon, who was receiving out-of-home care on court orders. Despite the group home’s best efforts over seven months, no state social worker had been assigned Devon’s case. KYA contacted the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Devon’s case was immediately assigned. A social worker visited the group home and developed a case plan that included visits from Devon’s family. Currently, Devon, his family, and the staff at the home are working to achieve the plan goal of reuniting Devon with his family one day.



### *Michele* (not a real name)

Michelle’s mother told KYA her four year old was developmentally delayed and not getting the services she needed at her preschool program. She was afraid this pattern would continue in kindergarten. Michele displayed characteristics of autism but had never had any diagnostic evaluation. KYA acted on Michele’s legal right to receive a complete and thorough evaluation to determine her disabilities and needs. With our intervention, Michele was screened by Wiskoff Center in Louisville for autism and other learning disabilities. After the Center reached their diagnosis and made educational and behavioral recommendations, KYA staff worked with the mother and school personnel to create an Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.) that addressed Michele’s disabilities. Michele started kindergarten with a good I.E.P. in place that ensures she receives the educational supports and services she needs to succeed

### 2003-2004 Highlights

- *Provided case advocacy services to 348 families, resulting in better services for 1,055 individuals.*
- *Provided information to more than 535 low-income families on the Lifeline/Link-up America programs, which offer low-income*

*families financial assistance for telephone installation and monthly local service bills.*

- *Conducted 15 presentations on child protection and KYA's case advocacy program to more than 400 child advocates.*
- *Distributed information on child protection and KYA's case advocacy program at the UPS Employee Fair, BellSouth Employee Fair, the Federal Campaign Kick-Off and the 10th Annual Neighborhood Place Meeting.*

---

## RESEARCH

*"What gets measured gets changed."*

DOUGLAS NELSON, PRESIDENT, THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

KYA is well known for our authoritative, timely, and accessible publications on issues affecting the well-being of children in Kentucky. The 2003 KIDS COUNT Data Book marked the 13th edition of county by county data, which included current data and trend analysis on 21 indicators of child well-being. Our poverty primer provides data, descriptions, and sources for the various measures used to document the extent of poverty among children and families.

Recent qualitative research projects have moved us beyond and behind the data. Focus groups in rural areas around Kentucky provided insight into the unique challenges and benefits facing low income families in rural parts of our state. A survey project of families on the waiting list for child care subsidies helped us explain to lawmakers the choices these families made between work and welfare, paying for child care or paying other bills, selecting high quality child care programs or settling for what they could afford.

A major body of KYA research examines budget and tax policies in the state. We documented the recent rounds of spending cuts following revenue shortfalls. We provide easily understandable information explaining the basics of the state's tax system.

One of the key philosophies behind our research efforts is "What gets measured gets changed." For this reason you will find that KYA strives to quantify and measure the key issues affecting Kentucky's children in order to set benchmarks for progress and change. We use this data to make specific policy recommendations as well as educate the public about issues that should be of concern to them.

## 2003-2004 Highlights

- *Survey results and evaluations confirmed that our data, especially the KIDS COUNT Data Book, is used by grant writers and program planners and is the place many people get data on child well-being in Kentucky.*
- *Our two major reports on child poverty were downloaded more than 5,500 times.*
- *Our extensive series of reports, "Money Matters," covering tax and budget issues in state government is frequently used by child advocates as well as other individuals. KYA published 18 of these reports in 2003-2004.*
- *KYA was called on by legislators who needed assistance in understanding complex policy issues.*
- *KYA produced the only independent analysis of the impact of Governor's failed 2004 tax reform plan. While the Governor did propose to lower some taxes for the lowest income families, his overall plan most benefited the wealthy and corporate interests. Our analysis was often cited by legislators and others.*
- *Our report on children's access to dental health care was cited in the state's dental strategic plan and a major federal grant application. The report received considerable coverage from the media.*

---

## ***PUBLIC EDUCATION***

*“KYA is consistently the voice on the other side.”*

REP. JIM WAYNE (D-LOUISVILLE)

KYA continuously strives to reach new audiences in order to generate public debate about critical issues affecting the lives of Kentucky’s children. We believe that the amount and content of the public discourse around children’s issues are critical to changing public policy. KYA is frequently used as a primary source of information by the media, including print, television and radio. Increasingly, we are able to strategically place letters to the editor and opinion pieces authored by ourselves or our partners.

We are taking our message directly to our audience. We do this through a variety of means, such as public presentations, press releases, letters to the editor and opinion pieces, and our newsletter and other outreach materials. Last year KYA’s efforts to funnel various issues to the media generated more than 150 articles in numerous local and regional papers across the state, covering issues such as children’s dental health, the budget deficit and fiscal crisis, and the increase in child poverty. Following the release of the 2003 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Book, we held KIDS COUNT “conversations” in local communities to talk with service providers, advocates, and community residents about how well kids are doing in their area and how they might begin to work for improvements for children.

With electronic technology we can directly reach large numbers of people. In recent months, we have begun looking at ways to reach social workers and other professionals who deal directly with children on a daily basis. We established an e-advocacy network that now boasts nearly 800 members and allows child advocates to receive timely reports, alerts, and invitations to our events via email. We also offer numerous opportunities for these same advocates to receive more intensive training and information to help them speak out on behalf of children. Decision makers such as department heads and executives of major institutions affecting the lives of children are another key target audience.

## ***2003-2004 Highlights***

- *Nearly 800 child advocates signed on to the e-advocacy network.*
- *Conducted more than 50 workshops on issues such as early childhood policy, tax and budget issues, KIDS COUNT data, and our case advocacy program.*
- *Developed and disseminated more than 40 research briefs, reports, and newsletters to advocates across the state.*
- *Launched KIDS COUNT Conversation series in 12 locations across the state, offering intensive training on how child advocates can interpret and use KIDS COUNT data to set policies and priorities for their area. Coverage of these events and the 2003 KIDS COUNT Symposium generated more than 40 articles in newspapers across the state.*
- *In addition to our Kids Matter newsletter, we produced an additional 30 newsletters focusing exclusively on children’s health and early childhood issues.*
- *Achieved record attendance at the 2003 KIDS COUNT Symposium and sold a record number of KIDS COUNT data books to more than 600 child advocates.*
- *KYA’s newly designed website reached 11,000 peak monthly visits—averaging more than 6,000 visitors monthly.*



---

## COALITION BUILDING

*part-ner (pärtnr) n. One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest. Synonyms: colleague, ally, confederate*

- WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY

When KYA began nearly 30 years ago we were one of the only organizations of our kind in the state. As our focus broadened to address the root causes of issues that negatively affect the lives of children, so did our partnerships.

Today, coalition work, as well as our various collaborations with other organizations, is absolutely vital to our success as an organization. It allows us to focus on our core areas of expertise but also offer a child-centered perspective to issues that normally would not be considered “children’s issues.” A good example is our work on tax reform. By joining coalitions such as the Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance (KEJA), we are able to communicate our message to a broader audience as well as help educate the public about how state fiscal health is crucial to assuring that children continue to benefit from programs and services that help keep them, safe, healthy, and strong. KEJA and our other key coalitions are listed below:

### **Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance**

Kentucky Youth Advocates is one of four organizations in a partnership that envisions a Kentucky where the basic needs of all individuals and families are met, where public funds are equitably distributed for the advancement of the common good, where private corporations are accountable to citizens, and where sustainable local economies are nurtured. The alliance combines policy research, community organizing, and message development to reach its goals. KEJA has joined KYA in a campaign for comprehensive tax reform.

### **Kentucky Asset Success Initiative and the Louisville Asset Building Coalition**

The Louisville Asset Building Coalition is a broad-based collaborative dedicated to promoting financial stability for individuals and families. LABC provides free tax preparation assistance in a number of low-income neighborhoods in the city. The coalition also promotes public policies supporting family asset building such as Individual Development Accounts [IDAs] and The

Earned Income Tax Credit [EITC]. The Kentucky Asset Success Initiative (KASI) is a statewide effort to provide free tax preparation assistance and build support for family asset building programs and policies.

### **Partners for Kentucky’s Future**

As the budget shortfalls forced education cuts, major education interest groups, university presidents, and civic groups banded together to present a united front. The basic message is “Don’t rob Peter to pay Paul.” Cutting public education funds to fund universities, for example, is not a viable solution to the problem. KYA represents early childhood interests on this coalition.

### **Success By 6**

KYA is one of many community leaders and agencies convened by Metro United Way in Louisville to do whatever it takes for young children to be healthy, safe, and nurtured and to enter school with the attributes, skills and capacities to succeed.

### **Making Connections Louisville**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation selected Louisville for intensive neighborhood improvement and family strengthening work to improve outcomes for children. KYA provides the local coordinator for this highly catalytic and collaborative project in four low-income Louisville neighborhoods.

## *2003-2004 Highlights*

- *KYA’s participation on the Kentucky Children’s Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) advisory committee helped prevent higher premiums and stiff penalties for non-payment.*
- *Served on more than 21 coalitions and partnered with numerous organizations on issues such as progressive tax reform, education, smoking prevention, asset building, economic analysis, and children’s health.*
- *Jointly planned and executed three major conferences in conjunction with our partner organizations, covering issues such as tax*

*reform, children's policy issues, and KIDS COUNT child well-being data.*

- *Worked closely with 12 local hosts to garner local participation for KIDS COUNT Conversations.*
- *Formed a close partnership with the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) and selected to participate on a statewide strategy team as part of a national effort to create a multi-disciplinary approach to end domestic violence.*

---

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**

*"Sure it's political—but it's good and necessary work."*

DEBRA MILLER, KYA

Ultimately, how children fare in Kentucky is very much connected to how laws are written and how state funds are allocated. From our beginning, we have been in the hallways of the Capitol speaking out for children. We provide information and testimony to legislators about what works, what doesn't work, and how certain policies affect the well-being of Kentucky's children. This year we provided legislative candidates with district level data on children and briefing materials on children's issues. We analyze budget proposals to discern how state investments in children and families match rhetorical talk about the importance of children to Kentucky's future. We are working diligently to build the base of individuals — service providers and other child advocates — who will contact legislators on important children's issues.

### **2003-2004 Highlights**

- *Exposed the effects of the imposed waiting list for child care subsidies to the legislature and won an additional \$5 million for the Child Care Assistance Program.*
- *Delivered testimony on five separate occasions to the legislature on tax and budget and child care issues.*
- *Recruited, selected, and trained 20 KYA Fellows on legislative advocacy around early childhood and children's health issues. We helped them establish relationships with legislators and the media—growing the network of effective advocates across the state.*
- *Conducted, with other child advocates, a gubernatorial candidate forum in 2003 and produced the briefing paper used to educate the candidates on children's policy issues. Both candidates publicly endorsed reducing the state income taxes low-income families pay, a major policy recommendation of our briefing paper.*
- *Conducted a series of nine legislative candidate briefings around the state in 2004 on children's policy issues.*
- *Produced and distributed to legislative candidates individualized data cards on child well-being for each of the 138 House and Senate districts.*
- *With our KEJA partners, KYA produced a report card on key components of the governor's 2004 proposed tax reform plan and distributed it to all legislators. This report card graded the proposals based on fairness and impact on revenue.*
- *KYA's analysis of the unfair impact of the governor's 2004 tax reform plan on low and middle income families was the authoritative document cited by legislators and editorial writers who supported the ultimate defeat of the plan.*

## 2003 - 2004 Donors & Funders

---

### *Major funding provided by:*

**The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Open Society Institute  
Stoneman Family Foundation  
The Ford Foundation  
Metro United Way**

**National Council of Jewish Women,  
Louisville Section  
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky  
Voices for America's Children  
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation**

---

Carolyn Balleisen	April Duval	Forrest S. Kuhn, MD	Ellen Rosenbloom
Sally & Charles Baker	George Edwards	Amanda Lange	Bonnie Roth
Helene Banks	Jack Edwards	Jane LaPin	Harry Rothgerber, Jr.
Gail R. Becker	Fran Ellers	Barbara Lasky	Robert Ruberg
Sharon Berger	Linda Engel	Melissa Lawson	D.A. Sachs III
Stephen Riley and Emily Bingham Fund	Mary Ann Fages Doane Fischer	David Leibson Selma Levy	Susan Samuel Katherine Sanders
Stephanie Blessing	Jack Fish	Judith Lippmann	Carrie Schaaf
Donald Bornstein	Dr. Elizabeth Fitzgerald	Linda Locke	Katherine Schneider
Julie Brackett	Nancy Opper Fleck	David Lott	Debi Schroader
Margie Bradford	Maud Fliegelman	Joan Lynch	Sheila Schuster, Ph.D.
Bethany Breetz	Ellen Friedman	Kathleen Lyons	Rich Seckel
Gordon Brown	Nancy Gall-Clayton	Amanda Main	Marcia Segal
Kathleen G. Bryant	Lorraine Garkovich	Lillian Milanof	Robert Sexton
Louise Buchanan	Coleman Gilbert	Kathy Miles	Ellen Shapira
Linda Stafford Burrows	Lancaster Gordon	Jayne Miller	S. Abby Shapiro, Ph.D., PSC
Thomas Calme	Sally Gorman	Beverly Moore	Barbara Sinai
Mary Lou Cambron	Holly Gustafson	Rita Moya	Pearl Sizemore
CASA	Lawrence W. Hammett	Kerby Neill	Bill Stewart
Catholic Charities	Nancy Harmon	Carolyn Neustadt	Diana Taylor
Center in Leadership in School Reform	Bani Hines-Hudson Cathy Hinko	Patricia Nightingale Susan North	Francis Thiemann Debbie Tinker
Betsy Chandler	Ilma Hirsch	Deena Ombres	Kim Townley
Priscilla Chandler	Jane Hope	Goldye Opper	Jack Trawick
Children's Alliance	Stephen Imoff	Gayla Peach	Betty Turnheim
Betty Wolf Coonrod	Joan Johnson	Joan Peoples	Jim Wayne
Laura Cooper	Dorothy Joseph	Richard Porter	Sarah Wilding
John Cumber	Kentucky Legal Services Program	Delores Pregliasco	Anita Williams
Betty Daniels	Ervin A. Klein	LynnCarol Ray	Richard Wolf, M.D.
Helen Dienes	Eleanor Koon	Lynn Rippey	Juanita Wright

# Finance Report 2003

Independent Auditor's Report - January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003

## Assets

Cash	\$567,936
Accounts receivable	1,701
Interest receivable	1,011
Grants receivable	180,020
Prepaid expenses	-
Total fixed assets	126,398

**Total Assets \$877,066**

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities

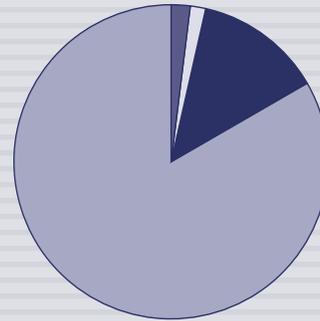
Accounts payable	\$30,947
Deferred revenue	116,517
Accrued vacation/sick pay	17,844

**Total Liabilities \$165,308**

### Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets	175,795
Temporarily restricted	535,963
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$711,758</b>

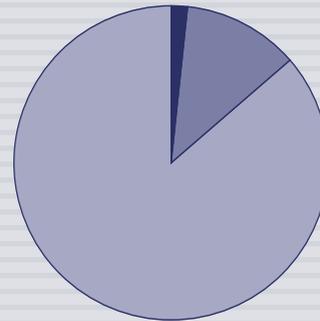
**Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$877,066**



**2003 Revenue**

Foundation Grants	\$444,921
Metro United Way	70,041
Individual Donations	8,464
Earned Income	10,403

**Total Revenue \$533,829**



**2003 Expenses**

Program Services	\$577,114
Management and Support Services	79,998
Fundraising	11,200

**Total Expenses \$668,312**

**Note:** KYA expenses and revenues for 2003 are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The decrease in net assets of \$134,484 for the year ended December 31, 2003, is a factor of the timing of KYA's receipt of various grant funds and reflects the use of grant revenues that have been carried over from the previous year and used as designated by the funding sources. As of December 31, 2003, grant funds totaling \$535,963 have been received but not yet spent on the corresponding grant related activities. These funds are classified as temporarily restricted net assets and are to be used in subsequent years for their approved grant related activities and expenses.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right: Barbara Lasky, Ellen Friedman, Lancaster Gordon, Lynn Rippy, Sheila Schuster, Ph.D., Sally Gorman, Lois Dunner, Holly Gustafson, Ph.D., Bani Hines-Hudson, and Beth Myers.

### **Lynn Rippy** PRESIDENT

Lynn has been involved in youth programs for the past 27 years in the Louisville community. She currently directs the new YouthBuild organization in Louisville. She has provided consulting work for the Education Research Institute in Boston, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and many other local community-based organizations. She is active with Metro United Way, Planned Parenthood of Louisville and St. Anthony's Outreach Center.

### **Ellen Friedman** VICE PRESIDENT

Ellen has a legal practice concentrating in family law and consumer fraud issues. She is also a guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children in Family Court. Previously, she serves as staff attorney, litigation director and associate director of the Legal Aid Society.

### **Sally Gorman** TREASURER

Initially introduced to KYA as a Metro United Way volunteer, Sally is starting her third term as Treasurer. She is an accountant and former Vice President/ Controller of the Louisville Community Development Bank. She is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Classroom Teachers Federal Credit Union.

### **Bani Hines-Hudson** SECRETARY

Bani is a sexuality educator and consultant who works with organizations, faith-communities and families on initiatives to promote health and responsibility across the life cycle. She is a community activist and organizer and serves on various boards related to youth development, educational equity, fairness, and protecting rights.

*Lois Dunner*

*Linda Locke*

*Lancaster Gordon*

*Beth Myers*

*Holly Gustafson, Ph.D.*

*Sheila Schuster, Ph.D.*

*V. Faye Jones, M.D.*

*Bill Stewart*

*Barbara Lasky*

## OUR STAFF

**Debra Miller** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Debra has been with KYA since 1983 and has been Executive Director since 1997. She is often appointed to state and local task forces and advisory committees as an expert on a wide range of children's issues. The development of KYA's expertise in budget and tax policy work has been directed by Debra. She serves as the primary lobbyist for KYA during legislative sessions. Her prior experience includes five years with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, recruiting doctors to underserved areas, and interning in then Senator Wendell Ford's D.C. office. She holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Kentucky.

**Tara Grieshop-Goodwin**, KIDS COUNT COORDINATOR. Tara produces the KIDS COUNT data book, an annual county-by-county data book on child well-being in Kentucky as well as research briefs on current children's topics. Prior to her work at Kentucky Youth Advocates, Tara coordinated data collection for a project working to identify mental health problems, substance abuse, domestic violence, and learning problems among TANF recipients and parents suspected of child abuse or neglect. Tara received her Master of Public Affairs degree from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

**Kathleen Hoyer**, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH POLICY ANALYST. In addition to conducting policy research, Kathleen is responsible for developing outreach materials for KYA, expansion of our e-advocacy network, messaging, dissemination of research materials, fundraising, and other types of outreach to the communities we serve. She holds a master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois-Chicago and has specialized in economic development options for low-income and disenfranchised populations. She majored in communications and history as a Valparaiso University undergrad and was the youngest person to receive the Atlantic Fellowship in Public Policy.

**Dana Jackson**, LOCAL COORDINATOR FOR THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION'S MAKING CONNECTIONS INITIATIVE. *Making Connections* is an initiative designed to improve outcomes for some of the nation's most vulnerable children and families. In her role as a local coordinator Dana helps develop and coordinate relationships with strategic partners and potential co-investors, works to build the capacity of residents and neighborhood leaders to use data to improve conditions in their community, and identifies additional opportunities for *Making Connections* to create a family strengthening movement in Louisville. Dana comes to the position from the Cabinet for Families and Children, where she served as a Deputy Commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services. She holds a bachelor's degrees in child development and psychology and a master's degree in psychology from Spalding University.

**Lacey McNary**, EARLY CHILDHOOD AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH POLICY ANALYST. Lacey's responsibilities include monitoring the annual state legislative session, conducting research and writing about the current policy climate in relation to children's issues, working in coalition to move sound policy, and building a committed early childhood and children's health advocacy constituency that voices their opinion on issues that are important to them. She graduated from Ball State University and Washington University in St. Louis with a bachelors and a master's degree in social work.

**Donna Mellick**, OFFICE MANAGER. Donna has been with KYA since 1986. She provides administrative support to professional staff and assists the Executive Director in preparing budgets, tracking grants, and preparing financial reports to the Board of Directors. She attended Jefferson Community College.

**Jackie Town**, DIRECTOR OF CASE ADVOCACY. Jackie has been with Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) since 1992. Before coming to KYA, she was the director of a community-based program for youth who were in trouble at school or in the community. At KYA, she provides information, referrals and evaluations for individuals who contact KYA for help. The issue areas include juvenile justice, education and child welfare. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Murray State University.



KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES

**2034 Frankfort Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40206  
voice: 502.895.8167  
fax: 502.895.8225**

**624 Shelby Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
voice: 502.875.4865  
fax: 502.875.2507**

**[www.kyyouth.org](http://www.kyyouth.org)**