

Kya

Kentucky youth Advocates



2023-2024 Impact Report

Kentucky's *Independent* Voice for Kids!

Financials

Fiscal Year October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

Revenue

Contributions: \$606,847
 Fee for service: \$371,373
 Foundation and organizational grants: \$2,795,422
 Contributions of nonfinancial assets: \$17,966
 Program revenue: \$145,930
 Other revenue: \$14,744

Total revenue: \$3,952,282
Increase in net assets: \$186,207

Expenses



Program Expenses
\$3,144,993

General/Administrative
\$462,986

Fundraising
\$158,096

Total expenses: \$3,766,075
Final net assets: \$3,050,415



Board of Directors

Allen County
Tom Emberton, Chair-Elect

Daviess County
Rosemary Conder
Keith Sanders, Emeritus

Fayette County
Bill Stewart, Emeritus

Gallatin County
Dr. Dorothy Perkins

Hardin County
Pastor Edward Palmer

Jefferson County
Charlie Baker, Emeritus
Karina Barillas

Yvette Livers
Andy Parker, Chair
Nancy Peterson, Emeritus

Lynn Rippy
Marita Willis, Emeritus

Kenton County
Shane Noem

Letcher County
Angie Hatton

Madison County
Angie Boggs

Oldham County
Dr. Gregg Cobb, Treasurer

Union County
Dr. Laura Hancock Jones

Warren County
Dale Brown

\$100,000+

Aetna Better Health of Kentucky
Annie E. Casey Foundation
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Casey Family Programs
C.E. & S. Foundation
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Gheens Foundation
Frank and Paula Harshaw
James Graham Brown Foundation
Jewish Heritage Fund
Kosair for Kids
Lift a Life Novak Family Foundation
New Venture Fund
Trager Family Foundation

\$20,000-\$99,999

Brown-Forman Corporation
Food Research and Action Center
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
Humana Foundation
Journey to Success
Metro United Way
Prevent Child Abuse America
Snowy Owl Foundation
University of Kentucky Research Foundation
U.S. Department for Health & Human Services

\$5,000-\$19,999

Bellewood & Brooklawn
Bluegrass Community Foundation
Charter Communications
Community Foundation of Louisville
Community Foundation of Western Kentucky
Fairdale Elementary
Family Health Centers
Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation
The Greater Clark Foundation
Dr. Dean Hite
Humana
IPA Foundation
JP Morgan Chase & Company
Kentucky Children's Home Corporation
The Lawrence and Augusta Hager Educational
Foundation
Marilyn and William Young Charitable
Foundation
Nicklies Foundation
Norton Foundation
Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative
Partnership for America's Children
Save the Children
Seven Counties Services
Bill Stewart
V.V. Cooke Foundation
WDRB Media

\$1,000-\$4,999

Appalachian Children's Home
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentucky
Boyle County Agency of Substance Abuse Policy
Casey County School District
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Child Care Council of Kentucky
Children's Alliance
David & Janice Jackson Family Foundation
Elizabeth Deknatel
Phyllis DeMark
EC Learn
Family & Children's Place
Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Bria Isaacson
Kentucky CASA Network
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Learning Grove
Maryhurst
Meyzeek Middle School
Dr. Leon Mooneyhan
Mountain Comprehensive Care Center
National Council of Jewish Women
Nancy Peterson
Public Life Foundation of Owensboro
Save the Children Action Network
Sunrise Children's Services
UnitedHealthcare
Volunteers of America Mid-States
YMCA of Greater Louisville

Investments made October 2022 through September 2023

Champions for Children

Thank you to these donors and funders for their generous support.



From the Executive Director

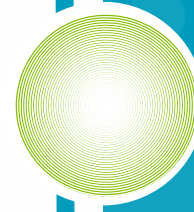
Advocates,

Because of the generous support of donors like you, Kentucky Youth Advocates continues in our mission as Kentucky's independent voice for kids – in the halls of the state Capitol and in communities across the Commonwealth.

Our solutions-focused approach to improving the well-being of all children and their families is data-driven, research-backed, and often the result of personal experiences. We empower young people with diverse backgrounds to share their stories, strengthen their advocacy skills, and to use their voices to speak up for the vulnerable.

As *the lobbyist for kids*, we double down on our vision of making Kentucky the best place to be young – despite the challenging political realities – and urge you to remain steadfast in your support of Kentucky Youth Advocates.

With gratitude,



Social media posts from Kentucky Youth Advocates about the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly and policy priorities received more than **195,000** views and nearly **9,000** interactions.

During the session, Kentucky Youth Advocates secured

nearly **100** media mentions

by news outlets across the state, helping lift up our support for good bills for kids and our concerns about harmful bill proposals.



Speaking Up

for Kentucky Kids in Frankfort

Although much work remains to ensure Kentucky is the best place for all kids to grow up, we celebrate several wins for kids during the 2024 legislative session.



Founded By



Wins for Kids

HB 377 strengthens the student-to-teacher pipeline by creating the Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program and establishing Student-Teacher stipends in eligible programs.

HB 561 supports the stability of the child care infrastructure by permanently establishing the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership and creating the Certified Child Care Community Designation Program.

SB 145 increases child safety when interacting with healthcare professionals by allowing child abuse and neglect registry checks of employees within the healthcare system.

SB 151 prioritizes children who have experienced abuse and neglect by closing gaps in kinship caregiver access to additional supports and by allowing young people themselves a say in where they are placed upon removal from their home.

The **biennial state budget** invests in child care, youth mental health services including for those in juvenile detention, the Relative Caregiver placement benefit, summer food supports for students, among other areas impacting kids and families.





CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY WEEK 2024

The 2024 Children's Advocacy Week featured our 20th Day at the Capitol!

11 LIVE VIRTUAL EVENTS including Q&A sessions with legislators; a data and advocacy lunch-and-learn; information sessions for advocates to learn more about the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children policy priorities; and networking coffee breaks that offered advocates the chance to connect with one another.



MORE THAN **800** ADVOCATES

from across the Commonwealth participated during the week and joined us in the Capitol Rotunda to rally on behalf of Kentucky kids for Children's Advocacy Day.

300 OF THE ADVOCATES WERE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



Bloom Kentucky has had an impactful year in continuing its efforts to prevent and mitigate the impact of childhood adversity.



In the summer of 2023, the **Sowing Resilience: A Bloom Listening Tour** visited **19 regions** throughout Kentucky, covering **2,000 miles**, and heard from over **350 Kentuckians**, including teachers, parents, community leaders, elected officials, youth, and more.



Each region identified themes specific to the needs of children and families, including food insecurity, community violence, kinship supports, and substance misuse, amongst others.

Following the tour, the Bloom initiative crafted state policy and budget recommendations based on themes that permeated all regions across Kentucky.



OUR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PARTNERS HAVE HAD AN EXCITING YEAR OF WINS!

True Up increased awareness of racial disproportionality in the foster care system through the Truth Telling Circles project within the Thriving Families, Safer Children initiative. During a Truth Telling Charette, young adults joined with community partners to share their personal experiences in the foster care system, create solutions to disrupt racial disproportionality, and create action steps.



The True Up Peer Network, a family-styled team of foster care alumni in Louisville, expanded into Northern Kentucky this year. The NKY Peer Network currently has 3 members and membership continues to grow in Louisville, which now includes 14.



Leveling Up Foster Care
TRUE UP



Health Youth Ambassadors (HYA) are a statewide cohort of high school students advocating for improving the health outcomes of youth, including curbing youth vaping.

Over the last year, HYA members shared testimonies in the 2023 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* and at the release day event. HYA members also participated in the annual Blueprint Summit, led the Rally for Kentucky Kids at the 20th Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, gained valuable skills during the legislative retreat, and testified on legislation to protect kids from nicotine products.



A HIGHLIGHT OF THE KID-SECTOR WORKFORCE AND YOUTH TESTIMONY IN THE 2023 COUNTY DATA BOOK

For more than 30 years, the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* has provided readers with a report card on Kentucky's children within 16 indicators of economic security, education, family and community, and health.



The opening essay of the 2023 edition focused on the kid-sector workforce, including teachers, counselors, youth detention and child welfare workers, and many others. We attested that a strong “kid workforce” is an integral piece of our state’s infrastructure, in line with bridges and roads, in need of investment as an investment in our children’s current and future well-being.

The most recent edition of the *County Data Book* also highlighted Kentucky youth’s input on what their communities need through video testimonies on mental health, housing insecurity, school nutrition, and justice involvement.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO **LEARN MORE**
AND TO HELP US TURN DATA INTO ACTION



REFORM Louisville, a group of young people with justice experience, advocated for community groups to be able to come into detention centers

and connect with youth to support their well-being as they prepare to exit detention. With legislator support, a bill was filed and passed because of the efforts of the young adults who work with REFORM Louisville.



JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO EXPERIENCE FOSTER CARE

Journey to Success (JTS) Kentucky joined national JTS advocates in Washington D.C. to urge Kentucky Congressmen to pass federal legislation focused on better outcomes for foster youth.



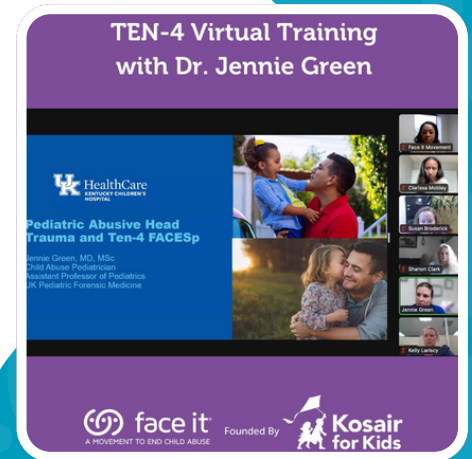
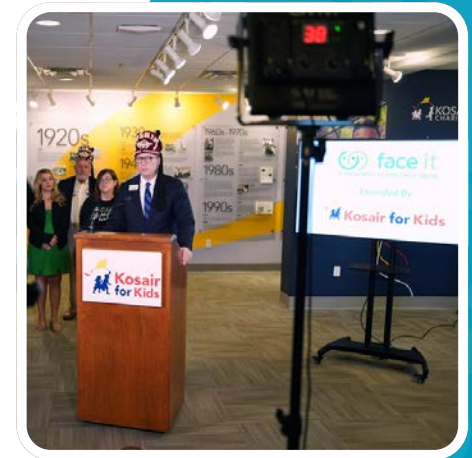
In October 2023, the **Kosair for Kids Face It Movement** once again brought awareness to the critically important **TEN-4-FACESp Bruising Rule**, the technique to recognize concerning bruising on young children and the importance of training adults on recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse.



In recognition of October 4th as TEN-4 Day, Face It hosted **three** Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma trainings with **more than 250** social workers, early childhood educators, community health workers, emergency medical service providers, dentists & dental hygienists, FRYSCs, and nurses in attendance.

Face It secured TEN-4 Day proclamations from **Governor Andy Beshear, former Attorney General Daniel Cameron, and 14 local Mayors and leaders** across the Commonwealth. TEN-4 Day is beginning to spread **nationwide** with recognition by the Governors in Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Michigan.

To balance recognition with prevention, Face It partners hosted positive parenting events throughout the year with **over 2,750 participants** to help strengthen families by building parental resilience, social connections, and more.



Learn more at faceitabuse.org/ten4rule



A Message From **Bill Stewart**, Longtime Donor and Supporter

A joyful occasion led Bill and Mary to revise their will. They were preparing to welcome their first grandchild and realized that they hadn't updated their estate plans since their son was a teenager.

As they considered their legacy, they made the decision to include Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) as a beneficiary in their will.

As a donor of 35 years and board member, Bill shared:

"I have literally seen the impact that KYA has made for children, legislatively and systemically. I attended the first Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol back in 2004 when there were only a handful of attendees and have seen it grow to a full week with a rotunda overflowing with advocates.

KYA's consistent track record of wins and positive approach to tackling hard challenges emboldened me to make the decision to support KYA even after I'm gone. It brings me peace to know that, with my support, KYA will continue to make a difference for my grandson's generation and beyond."

"I have literally seen the impact that KYA has made for children, legislatively and systemically."

Join Bill and other generous supporters by making a gift to KYA today!









Kentucky Youth Advocates is the independent voice for Kentucky kids. We advocate for policies that give children the best possible opportunities for a brighter future and are making Kentucky the best place in America to be young.

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