

Step Up for Kids 2011 Summary

On Saturday October 15, 2011 Every Child Matters in Nevada, the UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, and the Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative hosted a Kids Zone and Press Conference at the Annual Heart Walk organized by the American Heart Association. Step Up for Kids events across the states raise awareness among voters and political candidates regarding the issues American children and their families face. Some of these issues include access to early care and learning, access to healthcare, access to after-school programs, poverty, and child abuse and neglect. The event encourages residents, the community, and government to step up and invest in kids.

With an estimated 100,000 Nevada children living in poverty, children's advocates across Nevada are calling on federal, state, and local policy makers to offer support for programs that ensure the well-being of Nevada's children. At our press conference during the event, guest speakers Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Saitta, Judge Sullivan, and Assemblyman Hambrick discussed the need to ensure that children have equal access to quality care and programs, especially those in the foster care system and for youth who have been involved in human trafficking. The Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative was highlighted as one program in Southern Nevada that pulls together community resources to reduce the disproportionate representation of children of color in the child welfare system.



With a turnout of well over 1000 people, the event was a big success. Over 20 community serving organizations distributed information at the Kids Zone and hosted educational activities for the children. In addition, children were able to visit with Deputy Drip and McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, and watch performances by Sign Design Theater and the Toe Tag Monologues.

We would like thank the Children's Advocacy Alliance, Family Court Judges, Plaza Hotel, George Wallace, Terry Fator, Louie Anderson, and Mac King for their donations, the American Heart Association for their partnership, and all of our event cosponsors (listed below) for their support of Nevada's children and families.



Community Co-Sponsors



8th Judicial Court CASA Program
 A Brighter Day Family Services
 Addicted...To HOPE
 American Heart Association
 American Lung Association
 Baby's Bounty
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada
 Brand New Horizon
 CAN Prevent
 CCDFS Parenting Project
 Chaplaincy Nevada
 Child Focus
 Children's Advocacy Alliance
 City of North Las Vegas
 Clark County Democratic Black Caucus
 Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
 Courts Catalyzing Change
 Department of Family Services
 Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee
 Empowering 2 Excel
 Every Child Matters in Nevada

Family Ties of Nevada
 Foundation for a Drug Free World
 Fresh Start Family Services
 Glass House Counseling Agency
 Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
 Hands of Comfort Foundation
 Heart of a Girl
 HopeLink
 It's All About KIDS Inc.
 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
 Las Vegas Urban League Childcare Subsidy Program
 Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
 and the Children's Attorneys Project
 Living Waters International
 NASW-Nevada
 Nevada Blind Children's Foundation
 Nevada CASA Association
 Nevada Child Seekers
 Nevada Children's Center
 Nevada Conservation League
 Nevada PEP
 Nevada Parent-Teacher Association

Nevada Public Health Foundation
 Nevada Values Coalition
 Olive Crest
 Operation H.O.P.E. Inc.
 PACT Coalition
 PARLADE LAW, LLC
 Prevent Child Abuse Nevada
 Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
 Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force
 Southern Nevada Health District
 St. Jude's Ranch for Children
 The Children's Cabinet
 The Shade Tree
 Three Square
 Touch and Agree Christian Ministry COGIC
 Tune in Talk
 UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
 Vegas Rock
 VegasValleyResources.org
 Victory Missionary Baptist Church
 Women with a Vision International
 Women's Federation for World Peace