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 even 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
CDDFS Parenting Project
Charity 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 HOPE, 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