Each year Step Up for Kids brings together thousands of people across the country to show widespread support for investments in children and families. Participants include child advocates, politicians, parents and kids. Events held across the country raise awareness among voters and political candidates regarding the issues American children face such as access to early care and learning, after-school programs, poverty, child abuse and neglect, and health care. This year, events were organized throughout Nevada, with participation in Las Vegas, and Reno, allowing us to reach more children and families to spread the message of making children a priority!

**LAS VEGAS**

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy and the Children’s Advocacy Alliance, hosted the 12th Annual Step Up for Kids event. For the fifth consecutive year, the event was held at Springs Preserve; however, this was the first year the event was held on a Saturday morning from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This year’s event was a success with over 500 attendees. Throughout the event, families had the opportunity to interact with over 35 community organizations that provided information about resources and activities for the kids. Families also enjoyed free food, ice cream, face painting, raffle prizes, a petting zoo, as well as a Farmer’s Market organized by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension with free fruit and vegetables donated by Get Fresh! The audience was also entertained throughout the event by live performances from All4Kids Dance Activities, Desert Pines High School Mariachi Band, The Wonder Artists, Dance Confidently Against Obesity (DCAO) from I.D. Street Dance, and JorDance Studios.

In addition, the Strong Start for Children campaign hosted the 3rd Annual Clark County Kid Mayor election to engage children in the electoral process. Fourth and Fifth graders in Clark County were given the opportunity to apply. Five finalists were selected to campaign at the event. Finalists, Zayden Ciargiaglini, Isabella Velez, Hamilton Hampton, Emalee Martinez, and Camryn Caldwell created campaigns about an issue they were passionate about, displayed their campaign materials at the event, discussed their issues with attendees, and gave a 2-3 minute speech on their campaign issues. Since this election was for kids and by kids, only kids under the age of 18 could vote for their favorite candidate. The kids in attendance were able to register to vote, enter a voting booth, cast their ballots, and receive an “I Voted” sticker when they were finished. Each Kid Mayor candidate received a certificate of participation from the Federal offices of Congressman Amodei, Congressman Horsford, Congresswoman Lee, Senator Rosen, Senator Cortez-Masto. This year, over 200 kids voted and the 2018 Kid Mayor, Trey Young-Winfrey, announced this year’s winner - Camryn Caldwell!

Stay up to date on her activities by visiting www.strongstartnv.org.

Thank you to all of our 2019 Clark County Kid Mayor Candidates!

Raffle prizes promoting family activities and healthy habits donated by Eye Care 4 Kids, Crystal Dental, and members of the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council including Acelero Learning Head Start Clark County, The Children’s Cabinet, Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, & UNCE Partners in Parenting were awarded to attendees throughout the day.

RENO

In Reno, The Children’s Cabinet and The Children’s Advocacy Alliance with support from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy worked together to put on the 2019 Step Up for Kids event. The event was held Sunday, October 27, 2019 at Ferrari Farms from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Ferrari Farms provided a farm style barn that housed 12 local organizations and nonprofits. The first 200 kids were given a free pumpkin, a hayride, and a stroll through the corn maze. Overall the event was a big success with over 200 attendees!

Vendors set up throughout the barn, greeted parents and kids, and provided them with information about their services. The vendors included; Strong Start Nevada, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, The Children’s Cabinet, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Discovery Museum, Paws 4 Love, Immunize Nevada, Community Health Alliance, Washoe County Library System, Washoe County Human Services, Nevada Early Intervention, Dr. Pinocchio, and Tu Casa Latina.

Kids were also given the opportunity to understand and experience the electoral process first hand during the event. The kids who attended the Reno Step Up for Kids event in Northern Nevada had the opportunity to vote for the third Washoe County Kid Mayor. The Candidates included Zoe Osornio-Perez, Maddie Grimm, Lincoln Kieckhefer, Chloe Schuler-Barragan, and Jack Denarend. Only kids ages 18 and under could vote for their favorite candidate. Over 100 kids registered to vote, cast their ballots for the election, and received an “I Voted” sticker once they were finished. This year, kids elected Lincoln Kieckhefer as the 2019 Washoe County Kid Mayor! Stay up to date on his activities by visiting www.strongstartnv.org.

Thank you to our 2019 Washoe County Kid Mayor Candidates!

Congratulations to our 2019 Washoe County Kid Mayor!

LINCOLN KIECKHEFER

I VOTE FOR KIDS

STEP UP FOR KIDS