

STEP UP FOR KIDS 2012 SUMMARY

On Monday, September 24, 2012, Every Child Matters in Nevada, an advocacy initiative at the UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, hosted an evening event at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum. Step Up for Kids events across the country raise awareness among voters and political candidates regarding the issues American children and their families face. Some of these issues include poverty, child abuse and neglect, access to early care and learning, access to healthcare, and access to after-school programs. The event encourages residents, the community, and government to step up and invest in kids.



This year, Step Up for Kids was held on Nevada 2nd Annual Children's Day. To celebrate our children, the organizers rented the Lied Discovery Children's Museum and offered free admission to the public during event hours. In addition to free admission, free t-shirts and cupcakes were given on a first come first serve basis, a resource fair was held throughout the museum with over 20 community vendors, and all attending families were given the opportunity to enter a free raffle for several fabulous prizes, including several toys, games, books, gift cards and 2 brand-new bicycles.



This year's event was a huge success; over 700 people attended the event. There was a line out the door for the first 90 minutes, and the museum was full of children and families enjoying themselves. Senator Breeden, the lead legislator who introduced the legislation that designated a children's day in Nevada, attended the event in support of Nevada's children.

We would like to thank our sponsors and community supporters who made this event possible:

Sponsors: Children's Advocacy Alliance, Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative, Freed's Bakery, UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, TEACH, Vegas PBS.

Community Co-Supporters:

Acelero Learning, Baby's Bounty, Children's Cabinet, City of North Las Vegas, Clark County Black Caucus, Clark County Department Services/Foster and Adoptive Program, Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Courts Catalyzing Change, East Valley Family Services, Every Child Matters in Nevada, Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Las Vegas Urban League, League of Women Voters Nevada, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, Nevada Children's Day Committee, Nevada Early Intervention Services, Nevada Newborn Screening, Nevada PTA, Olive Crest, Project Real, St. Rose Hospital's Family to Family, Southern Nevada Health District, Sunrise Children's Foundation, The Monkey Gym Inc., United Way of Southern Nevada



List of Vendors: 10-Minute Parenting, Baby's Bounty, CASA, Children's Choice Learning Center, Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Courts Catalyzing Change, Department of Family Services, the District Attorney for Family Support, the Division of Child and Family Services, Empowering to Excel, Fostering Southern Nevada, KinderCare, Life Enhancement, Las Vegas Sportz Foundation, the Monkey Gym Inc., Nevada AEYC, Nevada WEBIZ, and UMC Family Resource Center.