CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE

1993 Annual Review

OUR FIRST FIVE YEARS

CELEBRATING ARIZONA’S CHILDREN

Children’s Action Alliance (CAA) exists to provide a strong and effective voice for the children of Arizona. We speak for those who cannot vote, lobby, or sign petitions.

Fundamentally, we believe that the quality of life of our state’s children is the single most important determinant of Arizona’s future and the cornerstone of Arizona’s family culture.

CAA and its supporters have two primary objectives. First, to increase awareness of children’s issues through the promotion of intense thought and public debate.

Second, to help move our fellow citizens and policymakers to act upon that awareness for the benefit of all of Arizona’s children.

CAA is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporate grants, and individual donations.
Executive Director's Report

Over the past five years, Children's Action Alliance (CAA) has promoted public policies that move beyond politics and touch the lives of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens: our children. We accomplished this through research, public policy development, polling, education of the media, long range strategic plans, and the construction of coalitions and partnerships.

- As a result, public awareness of children's issues is at an all-time high and, more importantly, specific action steps have been taken and are continuing to unfold.
- Specifically, CAA has initiated efforts to:
  - Create programs for homeless children and youth.
  - Improve the scope and strength of public and private services for poor children and their families.
  - Help low income families access maternal and child health services.
  - Created the Arizona Children's Campaign, a multi-year effort to influence public policy and budget decisions.
- Coordinated "Visions of Arizona's Children," an on-site visitation program for state and community leaders.

Absent this universal ethic, the political and policy debate continues to be shaped by the dynamics of competing agendas rather than a unified approach to resolving children's issues. We continue to allow the short-term rationalization of limited resources cloud our judgement and ability to see beyond tomorrow or the next day.

Carol Kamin

This age of complexity and intensity, as it is for most "5 year-olds," signals a time when we have the opportunity to move beyond the difficult task of building awareness and on to the even greater objective of helping our state take action.

Certainly, without CAA's efforts over the past five years, the current widespread understanding of children's issues would be far less significant than it is today. But awareness is only a preliminary step; it is an intermediate objective and not the ultimate goal.

All of this, however, does not leave us with a feeling of pessimism. On the contrary, there are significant signs of hope and optimism that stretch from Arizona to Washington and back again.

Our new President has made it clear that children are not only on his agenda, they are a top priority of his administration. And it will fall to those of us who call ourselves advocates for children to support his initiatives or, should the situation arise, be strong in reminding him of his pledges.

In Arizona, it seems that the collective news media has "discovered" the plight of our children and embraced them with an intensity that holds tremendous promise. As advocates, we welcome them as allies in the ongoing effort to raise awareness and promote solutions.

At a time like this it is tempting to either rejoice in our accomplishments or become depressed over all the work that still remains to be done. I suggest that, like the question of whether the glass is "half-empty or half-filled," the best response is to find another glass: new, more creative ways of thinking and solving basic problems.

Carol Kamin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The 1990 Candidate Forum with Marion Wright Ededman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, Terry Goddard and Governor Fife Symington.

The signing ceremony with Governor Rose Mofford.

John Dewsnap, Group Vice President Commercial Flight Systems Group Honeywell Inc. presenting $100,000 challenge check for Health Start program 1991.

Bill signing ceremony with Governor Fife Symington.
Since 1990, Children's Action Alliance has presented the Horace Steele Child Advocacy Award. This prestigious honor is given annually to outstanding individuals who have demonstrated vision and leadership, and distinguished themselves as advocates for children in Arizona.

Horace Steele, Phoenix businessman, created the Steele Foundation in 1980 through a bequest from his estate to realize his philanthropic interests. Through a grant from the Steele Foundation, the Children's Action Alliance was founded in 1988.

The award is an original sculpture, commissioned by the Children's Action Alliance, and donated, in part, by John Waddell, a nationally known artist who lives in Phoenix.

Past recipients of this award include Dan Cracchiolo, Jacque Steiner and Eddie Basha. This year the award is being presented to C. Kipp Charlton, M.D. for his distinguished work on behalf of abused and neglected children.
Thanks to Our Funders

The work of the Children’s Action Alliance is made possible only through the vision and commitment of individuals, foundations, and corporations who understand that the quality of our state’s children is the single most important determinant of Arizona’s future. We gratefully acknowledge their contributions:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Arizona Community Foundation
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
The Steele Foundation, Inc.
Melody S. Robidoux Foundation
Honeywell Inc.
Arizona Public Service
Cigna Healthplan of Arizona, Inc.
Valley of the Sun United Way
American Express Foundation
US West Communications
The Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.
McKesson Foundation, Inc.
Intergroup
Tucson Community Foundation
Phoenix Firefighters Foundation
Phoenix Suns Charities
Gannett

We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of hundreds of concerned and committed Arizona citizens. Many have provided personal financial support. Others have volunteered their time and expertise by serving on CAA’s numerous committees and task forces as well as helping with CAA projects. Thank you all!

Invest in children or Arizona won’t work.

CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE 266-0707

Community service of Gannett Outdoor

Speaking Out for Children

METRO
Child-care referral bill becomes law

Arizona’s Forgotten Children:
Promises to Keep

5,400 homeless children live in state, report says

Let’s not neglect children

Advocates defend kids’ programs

Hope to blunt budget ax

The Arizona Daily Star

Preschool
Prepare kids for learning, it’s worth the investment

The Phoenix Gazette

Survey: Kids don’t count in state
Board of Directors

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