HONEYWELL MAKES THINGS HAPPEN FOR KIDS

Until Honeywell stepped to the plate, a bill to expand a prenatal outreach program in the Department of Health Services was limping along (Senate Bill 1131). Despite the fact that Arizona ranks 47th lowest in the nation in the percent of births with early prenatal care, the bill was going nowhere.

The bill carried an appropriation of $300,000. It was to support lay workers, long-time residents in low-income areas with high birth rates, to counsel and guide pregnant women through the state’s AHCCCS program and other child health programs.

But in a tough budgetary year, the outlook for the bill was not good. Then, through the impetus of SUCCESS BY 6, Honeywell stepped in. On May 29, 1991 Honeywell’s John Dewane handed Governor Fife Symington a check for $100,000 - to be matched by the state - to expand the outreach program. The Governor, who is promoting partnerships between private and public groups, and who is committed to investing in proven programs that work for vulnerable children and their families, strongly endorsed the Honeywell gift.

Honeywell, through the leadership of its CEO Dr. Jim Renier, has become a national leader in emphasizing early care and education services for low-income families as a means of maintaining America’s competitive position in the international market. In Arizona, Honeywell’s support of CAA’S SUCCESS BY 6 project, is one example of that interest and corporate commitment.

NEW AMERICAN AGENDA FOR CHILDREN


The Commission’s major recommendations include ensuring income security by the possible addition of a $1,000 refundable tax credit improving health care; increasing educational achievement; reforming the child welfare system and adoption of family-oriented policies by government and the private sector. The overall cost of the reforms are estimated to be approximately $52 to $56 million.

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman of the Commission, concluded in the preface to the report that “history will judge this generation of Americans harshly if we allow futile debate to take the place of action. For millions of children and families the hour already is late.”

For more information contact the National Commission on Children, 1111 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Suite 810, Washington D.C., 20036, (202) 254-3086.
COMMENTS

Carol Kamin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

SCHOOL REFORM - WHAT IT REALLY WILL TAKE

Higher standards, school choice, improved evaluation, better curriculum, decentralization, district consolidation and equitable school finance systems. For the past number of years, Arizona, along with just about every other state and the federal government, has been grappling with these and other important school reform issues, and the Governor’s Task Force on School Reform is now in the process of putting together its recommendations.

None of these reforms will make any difference to the 25 percent of children born underweight and malnourished because of poverty. These are the children who receive little intellectual stimulation during the early years - children who have never been read to, some never even talked to. These are the children who are placed in first grade — one classroom, one teacher — with children whose mothers had good prenatal care, who were well-nourished and nurtured infants, who were in quality early childhood programs at ages three and four. But to ask them to compete in these circumstances is purely unfair.

Discussions of “school restructuring” to a child feeling the pain of hunger, the miserable discomfort of an untreated ear infection, the fatigue and shame of sleeping every night in the back seat of a cold car or on the river bottom, is meaningless rhetoric.

According to national KIDS COUNT data, Arizona ranks 44th in the nation on key indicators of children’s well-being such as early prenatal care, support of early childhood education, high school graduation, births to teenagers and children living in poverty. In 1991, for too many of our children, Arizona is not the place for a good start.

The early care and education of disadvantaged children is an investment, not an expense. That’s why the president and the nation’s governors determined school readiness to be the number one goal for education. That’s why nationally recognized children’s experts and business leaders are all in agreement that we either invest in our poor children now or pay a lot more later. And that’s why Children’s Action Alliance, through our SUCCESS BY 6 project and the Arizona Children’s Campaign, is working together with the governor, the legislature, the business community and concerned Arizona citizens, toward establishing the building blocks for meaningful education reforms for all our children. The price of success is high, but the cost of failure is higher.

Carol Kamin

THE KIDS COUNT PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to a KIDS COUNT grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Children’s Action Alliance, in conjunction with the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU, are conducting a comprehensive study on the state of Arizona’s children, and developing strategies to affect public policy on their behalf. The three year grant will be used to gather and publish data measuring the health, social, education, and economic status of Arizona’s children and to advocate for public policy changes.

According to Carol Kamin, Executive Director of the Children’s Action Alliance, “The significance of the KIDS COUNT Partnership cannot be overstated. Now, for the first time, we will be able to accurately assess what is really going on with kids in Arizona and to compare ourselves to other states. Children will have a voice through these statistics which will provide us with an important tool to use to urge greater investment in our state’s youngest citizens.”

KIDS COUNT PARTNERS MEET TO SET GOALS

KIDS COUNT is about setting goals for children, measuring results and creating accountability for those results.

The first meeting of the KIDS COUNT Partnership Advisory Committee was held February 8, 1991. The committee includes the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Governor’s Office for Children, and the Directors of the Department of Economic Security, Health Services, AHCCCS, and Youth’s Treatment and Rehabilitation. The Co-chairs of the Partnership are Mark DeMichele, President of Children’s Action Alliance Board of Directors and CEO of Arizona Public Service, and Bill Jamieson, a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona and Co-Chair of the Arizona Children’s Campaign.

First Year Priorities Include:

- Assembling of data for a FACTBOOK that profiles children disaggregated by county, grouped according to race and ethnicity, analyzed over a five year period.
- Exploring the institutionalization of the FACTBOOK to ensure long term impact.
- Utilizing the information to transform public policy through public education efforts of the Arizona Children’s Campaign.

At its next meeting scheduled for October 29, 1991, the committee will review the data compiled by the Morrison Institute over the past number of months, as well as discuss the interpretation of these statistics as they impact public policy for children.

The first reports of the KIDS COUNT Partnership, which will be available in February 1992, will include two publications - a complete compilation of the data into a “FACTBOOK,” and an interpretation of the facts.

For information contact Gail Jacobs 266-0707.
GOOD NEWS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

Attention given to the plight of homeless children and youth has brightened over the past few months.

- Homeless youth now have access to medical care. The major victory came in the state legislature with the passage of HB2099 which was signed into law by Governor Synnott. Sponsored by Senate President Pete Rios and Representatives Ruth Solomom and Patri Nolund, the measure will allow a physician to treat a homeless minor without parental permission and without fear of violating the law. Prior to passage of this bill, a homeless minor could suffer from a minor ailment indefinitely as there have no parent or consent to care.

- The Children’s Action Alliance Task Force on Homeless Children and Youth held a successful conference at the Fiesta Inn this April. Chair of CAA board member Barbara J. Polk, the conference highlights were Della Hughes, Executive Director of the National Network of Runaway Youth and Senate President Pete Rios. Attended by 200 professionals and child advocates, the conference provided inspiration for overcoming homelessness in Arizona.

- The legislatively mandated Advisory Task Force on Runaway & Homeless Youth, chaired by Jacques Steiner, and staffed by CAA, will deliver a comprehensive report this October making recommendations for a coordinated statewide system to deliver services to runaway and homeless youth.

FORD FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED

Congratulations to the Arizona and Tucson Community Foundation on being awarded a Ford Foundation grant. The Children’s Action Alliance and the Governor’s Office will be collaborating with these community foundations during this three year grant. The purpose of the grant is twofold: to develop a “Blueprint” which articulates strategies to restructure Arizona’s delivery system for vulnerable children and families so that services are comprehensive and integrated, and to promote the implementation of the restructured system through expansion of the Arizona Children’s Campaign.

KAET-CHANNEL 8 AIRS “Childhood” SERIES

Beginning Monday evening, October 16th at 8pm and continuing for seven weeks the series “Childhood” will air on KAET. “Childhood,” focuses on children’s “normal” development and the contrasting norms of different cultures. The seven one hour programs encompasses scenes of daily life from 12 families in Brazil, Cameroon, Japan, the United States, and the USSR. The final “Childhood” program, on December 23rd, will be followed by a two hour special, “Childhood in America.” This series is being sponsored by Arizona Community Foundation and Arizona Public Service Company.

Art Othon, New Co-Chair

Art Othon, Senior Public Affairs Representative for Arizona Public Service Company, will serve along with C. Diane Bishop, as co-chair of the SUCCESS BY 6 Steering Committee. Children’s Action Alliance welcomes Art’s leadership, skills and commitment to children’s issues. Art comes to SUCCESS BY 6 as a representative of the Valley of the Sun United Way Board of Directors. SUCCESS BY 6 exists in over 30 cities thanks to United Way’s involvement and CAA looks forward to Art’s help in establishing a United Way and CAA partnership.

SUCCESS BY 6 Expands Agenda

Through the support of the Honeywell Foundation, SUCCESS BY 6 will expand its efforts beyond preschool for at-risk young children. The project will address the critical unmet needs of thousands of Arizona’s youngest children and their families for pre and post-natal care, as well as safe and affordable infant and toddler child care.

SUCCESS BY 6 will collaborate with existing community efforts to eliminate barriers which prevent women from receiving prenatal and post-natal care and will produce a report on the crisis in infant and toddler care in Arizona.

For more information contact Patty Briggs, SUCCESS BY 6 Project Director 266-0707.

AMERICAN EXPRESS - LEADER IN CHILD CARE

The American Express Company recognizes the problems associated with finding adequate child care and has taken a leadership role in developing a policy and providing services for its employees. Through its support of child care referral services, American Express is working to significantly improve the availability and quality of child care for all families.

It began in Arizona in 1986 when the American Express Foundation invested in the recruitment and training of family child care providers.

During the past 18 months, the Foundation has funded the development of a statewide Childcare Resource and Referral Plan (CC&R) through Children’s Action Alliance. This added Arizona to a growing list of states funded by American Express to conduct this planning.

What does this mean for parents?

It means a local CCR&R compiles lists of available child care, helps link parents with the type of care they need, informs parents what quality indicators to look for and helps providers get needed training. It also collects and analyzes data on supply and demand for services and works with other community groups to develop additional services, like infant and nighttime care, when such needs are identified.

Children’s Action Alliance thanks the American Express Foundation for its leadership and financial support of these important child care programs. Thanks to them, many more families will have access to better quality child care, something which will benefit all of Arizona.

For more information call Sue Lefebvre 279-2619.
ARIZONA'S CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN MOVES FORWARD

The Arizona Children's Campaign, a broad-based, multi-year approach to solving problems facing children, has made significant progress since it was launched in June 1990. It is designed to alert the public to critical children's issues, to mobilize supporters and to educate decision makers around the state. The campaign received a significant boost through the support of the KIDS COUNT grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Campaign's new Co-chair is Mark DeMichele, President of CAA's Board of Directors, and CEO of Arizona Public Service Company. Mr. DeMichele joins Bill Jamieson Jr., a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, and the former Director of the Departments of Economic Security and Administration who has chaired the Campaign since its inception.

Over the past several months the Campaign has successfully worked for the adoption of legislation to benefit Arizona's children. Significant gubernatorial and legislative support was garnered to move the Campaign forward. Press conferences have been held, publications produced and over 60 organizations have been recruited to be "Partners" of the Campaign. Partners will work with CAA to achieve our 10-year plan articulated in A Platform for Arizona's Children.

In addition, the Campaign has reached out to communities all over the state to build the grass roots support we will need in the future. Over 500 Arizona citizens have attended workshops in: Holbrook, Tucson, Prescott, Flagstaff and Tempe with physician, teachers, parent groups, churches, foundations, hospitals and other interested parties.

To become a Partner or receive a copy of A Platform for Arizona's Children call Irene Jacobs 206-0707.

Partners of the Arizona Children's Campaign to date are:
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children (AAEYC)
- Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Public Service Company
- ASU School of Social Work

Arizona Women's Initiative
Arizona Youth for Change
Association for Retarded Citizens of Arizona, Inc.
Baugh's
Casa Maria Catholic Worker House
Center for Excellence in Education
Center for Youth Resources, Inc. duv Tumbleweed
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Christian Family Care Agency
Community Council, Inc.
Department of Pediatrics, Maricopa Medical Center
Developmental Pediatric Associates
El Rio Health Center
Governor's Office for Children
Governor's Office of Women's Services
Honeywell, Inc.
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
Kingman Aid to Abused People, Inc.
Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Melody S. Bobbins Foundation
National Coalition of Jewish Women
Office of Peace and Justice, Diocese of Phoenix
Open Inn, Inc.
Parents Anonymous of Arizona
Phoenix Urban League
Phoenix Women's Commission
Pima Parent Partnerships
Pima County Homeless Teen Student Project, Inc.
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center
Steel Foundation, Inc.
Tucson Association for Child Care, Inc.
Tucson Community Foundation
Tucson Women's Commission
Turning Point
Upward Foundation
USPHS Phoenix Indian Medical Center
YWCA of Tucson

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN:
"Keeping the Promise Campaign" Launched

In our world 40,000 children die each day from malnutrition and disease.

The World Summit for Children, held last September, was the largest gathering of heads of state in history. At the Summit, President Bush and 70 other world leaders made bold promises to try to end preventable child deaths by the year 2000.

The question is: Will these promises be kept? Building on the success of the Candlelight Vigils in which over one million people gathered in 75 countries last year, The World Summit for Children “Vigil ’91 - Keeping the Promise” campaign will consist of Summit anniversary activities in churches, temples and mosques on September 27, 28 or 29, and in schools during the week of September 30 - October 6, 1991. For further information on involving your own school or place of worship or to organize Summit anniversary activities throughout your community, contact: Karen McQuillan, 442 W. Canuda, Tucson, Arizona 85706, (602) 889-2931.

On February 14, 1992 at the YWCA Leadership Center, Children’s Action Alliance will sponsor a leadership/advisory conference. This is your opportunity to network with child advocacy colleagues and corporate, civic, and government leaders.

Nationally renowned speakers will inform, inspire, enrich and empower you to take action on behalf of Arizona’s children. Chaired by Nadine Mathis, the conference will explore new strategies for implementing change and will present the first look at the publication “FACTS AT A GLANCE,” a compilation of critical statistics from KIDS COUNCIL, which measures the health, social, educational and economic status of Arizona’s children.

For more information contact Parry Briggs 266-0707.

Friday February 14, 1991
YWCA Leadership Conference
9440 North 25th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona
“CAMPAIGNING FOR KIDS”  
CONFERENCE ADDRESSES  
POLITICAL CLOUT

According to local and national research, the problems facing children — access to health care, good education, decent housing — are top-of-mind issues with the public. However, turning public concern into votes at the ballot box remains an elusive endeavor.

A conference addressing this problem was held in Washington D.C., on April 12th, 1991 entitled, “Campaigning for Kids: How Will They Run in ’92?” The conference was co-sponsored by the Benton Foundation and newly organized Coalition for America’s Children of which CAA is a member. The conference focused on strategies to turn private sentiment into a public mandate. It was the first of its kind to bring together children’s advocacy groups from around the country for a strategy session.

**Experts agree middle class support is key**

Major research and political consulting firms from around the country agreed that children’s issues had made impressive progress in the past few years. However, how to keep the momentum with the voting public going and which issues to push sparked considerable debate among the experts.

The experts also agreed that middle class people do have empathy for poor kids and don’t blame them for their condition. However they want to hear about programs that will help their own kids, too. To succeed, child advocates must find ways to tie issues identified with the poor, like Medicaid and Headstart, to issues of concern to the middle class, like child care and parental leave.

The conference validated much of what Children’s Action Alliance learned in the research it conducted last fall and provided important new methods for the Arizona Children’s Campaign.