

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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December e-update 2015

Dear Advocate,

As the year comes to a close let us remember that we are making a difference! And your support makes a difference, too. Thank you to all who have supported us this year by way of [advocacy](#) and [donations](#). We have much to celebrate together.

Monroe County Budget

The County Legislature approved Monroe County's 2016 budget on December 8, 2015. The Children's Agenda's findings from our annual analysis of the budget include:

1. The County projects that there will be 8,925 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2016—1,260 more than in 2014, an increase of 16%;
2. At the same time, vacancies in Child Protective Services staff remain and caseworkers are carrying a caseload that exceeds recommended standards;
3. The County projects that it will serve 276 fewer children with child care subsidies, and Monroe County is once again allocating the minimum mandated amount for child care subsidies for low-income families;
4. A child care program, which serves to assist families undergoing child protective investigations or the incapacitation of a family member, was cut by \$120,000;
5. There continue to be insufficient resources directed toward evidence-based preventive programs that help children and families avoid crises, and that cost far less than the interventions needed once a crisis has occurred.

Read our [4-page analysis](#) or [full report](#).



Upcoming Events

[Children's Behavioral Health Forum](#)

Thursday, January 28

Hold: Screening of [Paper Tigers](#) at MCC

Tuesday, February 9

In the News

[Limited access to after-school programs for city youths](#)

Rochester Business Journal

[70 percent of city kids have no access to afterschool programs](#)

News 13WHAM

[County OKs 2016 budget, raise for sheriff](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

Programs for Kids' Out-of-School Time

The Children's Agenda just released a report on out-of-school time (OST—after-school, expanded day, and summer learning, etc.) programs in Rochester. The major findings:

- Only 31% of Rochester children in need have access to an after-school program;
- Consistent participation in an after-school program has been shown in rigorous research studies to result in higher grades and school attendance, lower risk of negative behaviors like crime and teen pregnancies, and improved social skills among youth.
- High-quality OST programs should be available to all children, and we should advocate for more public funding so that programs can be accessible to low-income families.

For continued reading, our [Executive Summary](#) is available.

Our Work Isn't Possible Without Our Donors

The Children's Agenda does not accept any government funding, and none of our work is possible without the generous support of private individuals, foundations, businesses and others. Our sincerest thanks go out to the following for their donations since our last update:

Scott Adair; James and Loraine Ahearn; Janet and David Anderson; Holly Barrett and Joel Lynaugh; Howard and Marilyn Berman; Brent and Jane Bernard; Leslie Blake and Bill Fine; Ted and Peggy Boucher; Max and Lita Boudakian; Lorraine and Daan Braveman; James and Carmen Brush; Jacqueline Cady; Jacqueline Campbell; Robert and Nancy Carlisle; Catherine B. Carlson; Laurel and Rock Castor; Lisa Cauda; Children's Institute; Robert and Flor Colon; Elizabeth Cook; Jennifer Cranch; Ned Davis and Anne Kress; Jason Dunn and Robin Adair; Chris Farnum and Mary Jo Brach; Nancy Farrell; Thomas and Janet Fink; Gloria Forgione; John and Lois Giess; Molly Giles; Mary Jo Green; Jon Greenbaum; Mara Hazzard-Wallingford; H. Robert Herman;

John Heveron; Barb Higgins; Helen Hoffman; Sica Jean; Joseph and Patricia Kelly; Klein Steel Service Inc.; Joan Kohout; Pebble Kranz and Daniel Rosen; Richard Kreipe; John Laing and Kathleen King; Marc Lavender; R. Wayne and Beverly LeChase; Jennifer Leigh and Ethan Borg; Norman Loomis; Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation; Jane and Bernard Lynch; Karen Mancuso; Albert and Jean Mangold; Sarah and Carlos Marques; Lisa McCabe; Elizabeth McDade; Andrew McGowan III; Rev. Marvin and Peggy McMickle; Caroline and Albert Merenda; Joseph and Marie Merenda; Lawrence Merrill and Susan Kramarsky; Margery Morgan; Angela and Albert Nash; Emily Neece and Alan Ziegler; Nocon & Associates; Craig Orłowski; Sandra Parker; Linda Phillips and Lee Sigelow; Marcia Pickering; Rachel Pickering; Pike Company; Don and Karen Pryor; Robert and Lucy Pryor; Thomas and Betty Richards; Marge and Richard Rosen; Gloria Rosenstein; Jay and Dan Ross; Lewis Rothberg and Shelby Nelson; Rubin Family Foundation; Ruth I. Morton Fund; Thomas and Linda Sargent; Richard Schauseil; Robin and Charles Sheppard; Bridget Shumway; Eleanor Siegfried and Barbara Pamper; Barbara Smith; Lincoln and Susan Spaulding; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Robert Thompson; Jane Tuttle; Eric and Lori VanAuken; James Wallace; Lilita Lassen Ward; Ann Weitzel; Dennis and Marilyn Wienk; William G. McGowan Charitable Fund; Ann Winslow; Michelle and Randy Yale.

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