

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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October e-update 2015

Dear Advocate,

Here's the latest news and items of interest from The Children's Agenda. We also invite you to visit [our new website](#) and let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you!

2015 State of Our Children Address



Pictured above (left to right) Jackie Campbell, Lovely Warren, Bolgen Vargas, Maggie Brooks, Fran Weisberg, Erika Rosenberg, and Jennifer Leonard

On October 16, 2015 over 250 community members gathered to hear [ROC the Future](#) present its [2015 report card](#) of data indicators on important milestones for children's success, from cradle to career. The purpose of the annual address is to have our community's key leaders (County Executive Brooks, Superintendent Vargas, [United Way](#) President Fran Weisberg, and [Community Foundation](#) President and ROC the Future's chair Jennifer Leonard) all address the same key data points. Leaders discussed aligning our efforts across silos, making collective impact, and doing what needs to be done in the long term to allow all of Rochester's children to achieve their full potential.

We also celebrated positive movement of indicators at the early end of the cradle to career continuum: many more mothers accessing early prenatal care and children in pre-K are bright spots. Chronic attendance, though still high, has declined 7 percentage points among K-3 students in schools with the worst attendance records. The graduation rate also inched above 50%; too low, but moving in the right direction. [View the full report card.](#)



Upcoming Events

[Election Day](#)

Tuesday, November 3

[Paid Family Leave in 2016](#)

November 4

[ROC the Day](#)

Tuesday, December 1

In the News

[Rochester learning to stick with it](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

[Progress report on college readiness in Rochester](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

[Kids report shows progress, problems](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

Citizen of the Year



Jackie Campbell, TCA's Alliance Director of ROC the Future, was named Signature Citizen of the Year by Action for a Better Community at their 12th Annual Signature Luncheon on October 15th. Jackie was honored for fostering opportunities that help improve the quality of life for people in our community through professional work and volunteerism. Dr. Leonard Brock (former Director of ROC the Future and current Director of Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative) was keynote speaker. Speaking of our community, Leonard said, "The only way we can actually change things is if we change things." Among Jackie's most valuable words to live by is, "You must be the change that you wish to see in the world" and, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

Children's Interfaith Weekend

The 2015 Children's Interfaith Weekend was a great success! Once again, places of worship from diverse faith traditions celebrated children and took action to make our community a better place where kids can thrive and succeed. This year our advocacy letter requested increased state funding for subsidies and also urged state leaders to pass Paid Family Leave Insurance (PFLI) legislation. PFLI would help families remain employed during times of transition such as a new baby, an ill family member or a military deployment. The Children's Interfaith Weekend advocacy letter can be signed online now. Our final count of congregations and advocacy letters generated will be available soon.



Participants sign advocacy letters

The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative also sponsored three candidate forums in Henrietta, Greece, and Fairport to allow County Legislature candidates to meet with potential constituents and answer questions about their plans to address critical issues facing Monroe County children and families.

Parent Leadership Retreat

The Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is excited to welcome 20 new parent leaders to its fourth cohort this year, as well as 20 more children to its 2nd Children's Leadership Training Institute. PLTI delivers skills and knowledge so parents can move forward as advocacy leaders for our entire community's children and youth. This year, PLTI welcomes parent leaders hailing from Rochester, Greece, Brighton, Irondequoit, Gates, and Spencerport, who will join 60 other parent leaders from previous classes already hard at work. Rochester City Council Vice President Dana Miller and Monroe County Legislator (and PLTI alum) Ernest Flagler-Mitchell, along with Department of Human Services Deputy Commissioner Nancy Forgue stopped by the all day kick-off retreat to greet the new class.



Rochester City Council VP Dana Miller addresses parents (Additional photos on [Facebook](#))

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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