EVERY YEAR ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH conducts research to understand how Maryland's children are faring. We are the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT research affiliate that collects annual statewide data on over 50 indicators on child well-being. We also publish child well-being data sheets for all 23 counties and Baltimore City. This important data is used by all those who support and are active in bettering the lives of the most vulnerable—our children.

Baltimore
8 Market Place, 5th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202
410.547.9200

Silver Spring
8720 Georgia Avenue, Suite 303, Silver Spring, MD 20910
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www.acy.org | info@acy.org
Twitter @MarylandACY

2012 COLLABORATING PARTNERS

ACLU of Maryland
Adoptions Together
Advancement Project
American Association of University Women
Baltimore Child Advocacy Center
Baltimore Education Coalition
Catholic Charities
Citizen's Review Board for Children
Coalition to Protect Maryland’s Children
Community Law in Action
Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Coordinators of Maryland
Family Tree
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Governor's Office for Healthcare Reform
Health Care Access Maryland
Healthy Howard
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Just Kids Partnership
League of Women Voters
Maryland Alliance for Poverty
Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth
Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus
Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute
Maryland Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative
Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC)

EVERY YEAR ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

we can do so LITTLE

ALONE

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

—Helen Keller

2012 IMPACT REPORT

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2012 IMPACT REPORT
**MISSION STATEMENT**

To identify problems, promote policies and programs that improve results for Maryland’s children in measurable and meaningful ways, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies for the state’s children and youth.

**GOALS**

- **Understand the Child’s World**—Conduct research that tells us how Maryland’s children are living and performing.
- **Protect, Strengthen and Stabilize Families**—Recommend programs and policies to keep children and youth safe in their homes, schools and communities.
- **Keep Children Healthy**—Promote better nutrition, encourage physical activity and increase access to affordable high-quality health and wellness programs.
- **Promote High-Quality Education**—Promote quality programs, policies and practices to increase a child’s ability to learn.
- **Champion Second Chances**—Promote opportunities that enable youth to rebound from contact with the juvenile justice system and prevent system involvement altogether.

**STRENGTHENED ALLIANCES**

Advocates for Children and Youth collaborated with more than 50 organizations, including state agencies and businesses, to advance ground-breaking legislation and significant policy changes in education, health, child welfare and juvenile justice. They also played a major role in coalition building.

- Reorganized the Maryland Education Coalition to champion policies that keep Maryland’s children ready to learn.
- Co-founded the “Get It Right” team—a group of health policy analysts and advocates working to implement health care reforms in Maryland that put consumers and their children first.
- Revived the Coalition to Protect Maryland’s Children to testify on 14 bills during the 2012 legislative session—8 of those bills passed due to the coalition’s efforts.

**IMPROVED POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

With the help of our partners, coalition members, legislators and government agencies, Advocates for Children and Youth was able to develop, recommend and improve policies for Maryland’s children.

- Completed the second stage in developing the state’s new healthcare marketplace—the Maryland Health Connection—where families can shop for and compare affordable, high-quality insurance plans.
- Addressed the need for reductions in suspensions, expulsions and arrests that disproportionately affect children of color and students with disabilities which resulted in proposed regulations and a school resource officer training program.
- Increased accountability for agencies that treat, manage and monitor youth in the juvenile and adult correctional systems by requiring written reports to the Maryland General Assembly.

**EXPANDED BASE OF SUPPORT**

Advocates for Children and Youth successfully rebuilt our base of support in contributions, connections and media coverage.

- Increased financial contributors by 8%, bringing in $901,570 in FY2012.
- Increased our Facebook network by 15% to 1,896 “likes” and expanded our electronic newsletter subscriber base by 30% to 7,797 supporters within a year.
- Received news coverage from regional newspapers and broadcast outlets to focus attention on issues that Advocates for Children and Youth supports—the Baltimore Sun, Gazette, Washington Post, WBAL-TV, WBFF-TV and WYPR radio.

**ADVANCED LEGISLATION**

In addition, Advocates for Children and Youth was able to get legislation adopted, amended, enforced or funded through advocacy efforts. These laws will significantly improve the lives of Maryland’s children.

- The Maryland Meals for Achievement Program received a $560,000 budget increase so that an additional 20,000 low-income elementary school students can eat breakfast each morning. (Budget Bill)
- Households in less serious child abuse and neglect cases can opt to work with caseworkers to receive in-home support so that more families can stay intact. (HB 834)
- The new Maryland Health Connection will mean that many more families and children will have access to high-quality affordable health care. (HB 443)
- Counties are required to fund schools at the previous year’s levels to better protect students from budget cuts. (SB 848)
- School operating expenses can be better managed with a 1% inflationary increase to compensate for rising costs—the first increase in five years. (SB 130)

**PARTNERSHIPS**

At Advocates for Children and Youth, we knew that making effective and long-lasting changes to better children’s lives was going to require great collaboration. We could not do it alone. It would take the concerted effort of contributors, nonprofit organizations, businesses, elected officials and government agencies to make advances in a tough economy in which other social priorities claim attention. In 2012, Advocates for Children and Youth made a major shift in strategy by developing solutions in a more collaborative and inclusive manner.

The strategy worked. We strengthened alliances, expanded our base of support, improved policies and pushed for strong legislation to benefit Maryland’s children. This impact report highlights our advances as “alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”—Helen Keller.

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**REVENUE, GAINS and OTHER SUPPORT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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**EXPENSES**

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**Note:** Advocates for Children and Youth’s fiscal year runs from July 2011 to June 2012.
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