

Stronger Together

Our 2013 Legislative Report



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

August 2013

Join us! Turn to the back cover.

We all want the best for our state's children.



But not every child can get their hands on the building blocks of success: nutritious food, health care, and quality early learning.

To build a strong future for all of us, the laws and rules of our state ought to reflect these priorities. When all of us — parents, neighbors, service providers, aunts, uncles and community leaders — speak up, we can make Washington work for kids.

Together, we can give all kids the opportunity to thrive.

Here's how we took steps toward that goal in 2013.

What we won

EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE. We strengthened Apple Health for Kids so that it offers affordable coverage to all children.

QUALITY PRE-K. We expanded the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program to offer quality learning opportunities for an

additional 1,700 children. We also helped strengthen child care and home visiting programs.

FOOD FOR KIDS. We partially restored State Food Assistance, raising food stamp benefits for thousands of children and immigrant families.



"I WANT TO SPEAK OUT

This session, we

- **PARTNERED** with immigrant families to make sure legislators considered their children;
- **PURSUED** quality learning opportunities for kids aged birth to 5;
- **LED** the Washington Dental Access Campaign in seeking a workforce solution to our oral health care crisis;
- **ENSURED** that health reform builds healthy kids;
- **PUSHED** for revenue to protect kids and families;
- **HELPED** hundreds of first-time visitors realize their power to lobby their elected representatives and make a difference in Olympia;
- **TOLD** stories and used data to protect children;
- **TOOK ACTION** on 126 bills with the potential to change the lives of kids and their families.



At critical moments in the budget process, Jiji Jally (*far left*) and many others in Washington's migrant Marshallese community worked with the Children's Alliance to connect key lawmakers to the issue of childhood hunger. Our work together resulted in the partial restoration of food stamp benefits for thousands of Washington children.



Have a Heart for Kids Day brought Yanava Ferreria-Allah of Sumner (*opposite page*) and hundreds of other participants to the Capitol steps, where they were greeted by Governor Jay Inslee (*right*).

for kids who couldn't be here today and for moms and dads who have to go to work, or even people who aren't able to work."

—Yanava Ferreria-Allah, age 12

At Children's Alliance

we are advocates for kids. We ensure that laws, policies and programs work for kids, and we hold our leaders accountable until they secure the resources required to make all children safe and healthy.

**Advocacy works.
And it works best
when we work
together.**



Thank you

WE PROUDLY WORKED WITH: Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition · Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition · Coalition to Restore Medicaid Adult Dental · DREAM Team · Early Learning Action Alliance · Equity in Education Coalition · Health Coalition for Children and Youth · Healthy Washington Coalition · Home Visiting Coalition · Our Economic Future Coalition · Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee · Racial Equity Team · Washington Dental Access Campaign · Welfare Advocates Group · And our **2013 LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS:** Speaker Frank Chopp · Sen. Joe Fain · Sen. Andy Hill · Sen. Steve Hobbs · Rep. Ross Hunter · Rep. Laurie Jinkins · Rep. Ruth Kagi · Rep. Eric Pettigrew · Learn more about their accomplishments at childrensalliance.org/2013-leg-champions.

Get involved

JOIN: Sign up today to become a member of the Children's Alliance: <http://action.voices.org/signup>.

GIVE: Put your money to work protecting kids: donate at www.childrensalliance.org.

LEARN the tools of advocacy this fall at one of three workshops across the state. For more information, go to www.childrensalliance.org/news-events. Or e-mail emijah@childrensalliance.org to organize a training in your own community.



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Speaking Out for Washington's Children Since 1983

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TOGETHER, we can:

- **BUILD SUPPORT** for a workforce solution to our oral health care crisis;
- **PUSH** for greater public investments in the first five years of life;
- **CALL** for practical investments that fight childhood hunger;
- **ADVOCATE** for other smart steps that get kids across the opportunity gap.