

# TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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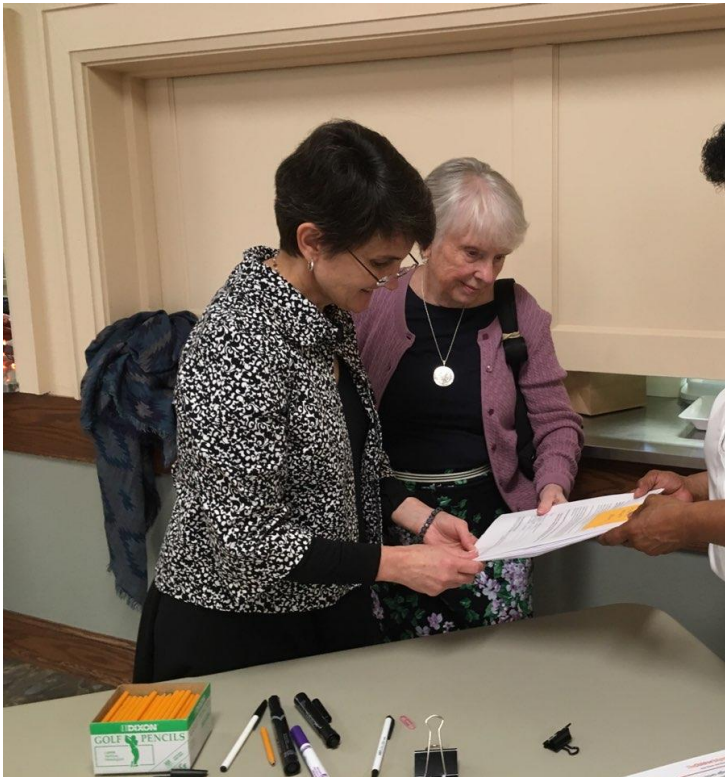
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Dear Advocate,

Happy Autumn! Here is the latest news and items of interest from The Children's Agenda.

## Children's Interfaith Weekend All About Prevention



Brigit Hurley of The Children's Agenda & The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative with congregants from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

The Children's Agenda and its [Interfaith Collaborative](#) would like to thank all who participated in our annual Children's Interfaith "Step Up for Kids" Weekend and those who signed the [child abuse prevention advocacy letter](#). The Weekend is celebrated every October and it is an opportunity to pray, learn about, and act on troubles

## Upcoming Events

### [FAFSA Fest](#)

Thursday, November 2

### [National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon](#)

Friday, November 3

### [Election Day](#)

Tuesday, November 7

### [TCA Day: The Children's Agenda's 13th Anniversary](#)

Monday, November 20

### [Attendance Blitz](#)

Thursday, November 30

## In the News

### [WATCH: Are Rochester's Children Better Off Now Than They Were in 2011?](#)

WXXI News

### [School Budgets Are About Trust](#)

Minority Reporter

### [Guest Essay: Child Protective Service Workers Are Unsung Heroes](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

### [RCSD Gets \\$7.1 Million for After-School Programs](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

### [Dinolfo Plans to Boost Staffing at Child Protective Services](#)

City Newspaper

### [Monroe County Pledge to End Poverty](#)

Southwest Tribune

### [Kindergarten Behind Massive Uptick in Homeless Student Numbers in RCSD](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

## Contact Us

facing children in our community. This year, the Interfaith Collaborative focused on child abuse and neglect in Monroe County. Earlier this month, County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo announced a reform proposal that addresses many of the issues that have been raised by The Children's Agenda, along with our partners in an effort to address the crisis of our community's staggering reports of child abuse and neglect. Dinolfo's 8-point plan includes the creation and funding of 30 new caseworker positions, a salary increase for CPS caseworkers and improved resources, training and mentoring for CPS staff. It is equally important to invest in preventive programs that provide support and education to families so child abuse and neglect never happen. Step up for kids by [sending a message](#) to urge County leaders to restore funding for services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

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## 5th Annual State of Our Children Address



On Tuesday, October 17th, [ROC the Future](#) held its 5th Annual State of Our Children Address & Report Card Release as part of the Rochester Business Journal's (RBJ) Power Breakfast Series. The purpose of the event is to address the challenges and opportunities in ROC the Future's data-based Report Card and action plan for moving key indicators of children's success, cradle to career. Approximately 250 professionals, parents and caregivers attended this year's event, which consisted of

the Report Card and data findings, followed by a panel discussion. The Report Card revealed that Pre-K enrollment is at 96.8%—the highest ever reported, which is important since the first three years of a child’s life is when 85% of the human brain growth occurs; chronic absenteeism is down, thanks to monthly attendance blitzes, and the number of prospective college students applying for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is up, thanks to monthly FAFSA Fests. Jackie Campbell, ROC the Future Alliance Director, concluded, “We have a lot of work going on but we need to do more and we need to do it faster.” ROC the Future encourages you to ‘Join the Movement’ by participating in the [Attendance Blitz](#) or [FAFSA Fest](#). To learn more, [download the 2017 Report Card](#). Get additional coverage and media features [here](#).

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### **StriveTogether's Cradle to Career Network Convening**



This month, ROC the Future Alliance Director Jackie Campbell, Board Chair Ajamu Kitwana, Communications Specialist Jessica Lewis, along with TCA CEO Larry Marx, were among 400 professionals at [StriveTogether's](#) annual

[Cradle to Career Network Convening](#) in Phoenix, AZ. StriveTogether is a national, nonprofit network of more than 70 communities, including Rochester, using a rigorous approach to accelerate progress and sustain success in education. The theme, Be The Change: Getting Results for Every Child, demonstrates each member's commitment to fight to end disparities, close gaps, and get better results for kids in our communities.

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## TCA Spotlight



Children's Institute Executive Director Dirk Hightower, The Children's Agenda Senior Advisor and University of Rochester Medical Center Professor & Vice Chair Dr. Jeff Kaczorowski, ROC the Future Communications Specialist Jessica Lewis.

Dr. Jeff Kaczorowski was honored and inducted in the [Children's Institute's](#) "Coterie for Children" honor society. Jeff is Senior Advisor to The Children's Agenda and Professor of Pediatrics & Vice Chair for Government and Community Relations at [Golisano Children's Hospital](#) at the [University of Rochester](#) School of Medicine and Dentistry. Congratulations, Dr. Jeff! Thank you for all you do for children. We're honored to have you on our team!

Jessica Lewis was recently named a finalist for the ATHENA Young Professional Award by the [Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce](#) and its Women's Council affiliate. Also, this month Jessica graduated from the United Way's [African American Leadership Program \(AALDP\)](#). Congratulations, Jessica, you truly are a [woman to watch](#).

***Did you know?***

October is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Stay Connected



**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

Max and Lita Boudakian; Hagedorn Foundation; Holmes Family Foundation; John and Alice Leddy; Martin L. Suter and Suzanne S. Suter Family Fund; Karl and Gloria Pleger; St. Thomas's Episcopal Church; Peter Collinge and Carol Thiel; Third Presbyterian Church.

Special thanks to [Every Child Matters](#) for sponsoring this year's Children's Interfaith Weekend.