

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

[About Us](#) [Donate](#) [Advocate](#)

July e-update 2015

Dear Advocate,

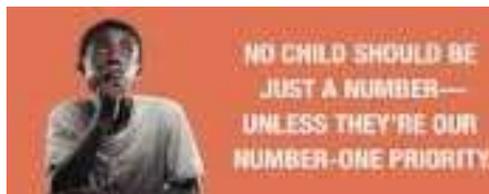
Here's the latest news and items of interest from *The Children's Agenda*. We also invite you to visit [our new website](#) and let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you.

Encouraging Accomplishments: ROC the Future



ROC the Future is an alliance of leading Rochester institutions and community partners working with the Rochester City School District to promote alignment and focus community resources for children's success, from cradle to career. The *Children's Agenda* provides backbone staffing for *ROC the Future*.

- **Improving school readiness** A new \$700,000, multi-year initiative for comprehensive, integrated screenings of city 3-year-olds gets underway this fall, thanks to the support of the [Greater Rochester Health Foundation](#) and the leadership of the [ROC the Future's School Readiness Collaborative Action Network](#). Assessments of children entering Rochester's excellent 4-year-old pre-K programs show 62% need multiple developmental supports in areas of language, motor, cognition, and social functioning. Addressing these needs early and cost effectively helps jump-start academic achievement.
- **Increased summer learning opportunities** 2,500 more kids will have access to



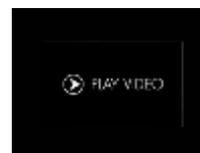
Upcoming Events

Friday, October 16
State of Our Children Breakfast

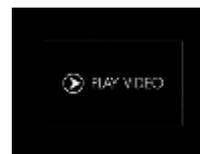
**Friday October 16 -
Sunday, October 18**
Children's Interfaith Weekend
[Register](#)

In the News

Child abuse on the rise
TCA talks to News 8 WROC



Impact of violence on children



New report on childhood poverty
[WXXI News](#)

community programs offering enrichment and summer learning opportunities - 12,500 students total - thanks to the leadership of the Rochester City School District, the Early Childhood Development Initiative, and the many leaders and organizations involved in ROC the Future's Expanded Learning Opportunities Collaborative Action Network. Low-income students without such quality summer learning opportunities may lose up to 2 months of proficiency in reading, while their middle-class peers actually gain reading proficiency over the summer.

- **Improving summer reading** All K-11 students in RCSD have the opportunity this summer to choose some of their books given for free, thanks to a district-wide roll-out of an evidence-based model to increase summer reading. Working with RCSD, the Hoekelman Center in URM's Department of Pediatrics, M&T, and Brighter Days Foundation helped lead a pilot project in School 36 last year to incorporate student choice of books and evaluate that variable as promoting summer reading. The recent, nationally publicized study of the pilot showed that adding student choice effectively stems summer reading loss.
- **Increased attendance** RCSD reduced the rate of chronically absent K-3 students by 10.7% in targeted elementary schools. Many ROC the Future partners visited the homes of chronically absent students to share information and connect families to needed services. Improving regular school attendance is key to improving students' academic achievement.
- **Increased filings for college financial aid** Thanks to the Rochester College Access Network and its ROC the Future partners, applications by RCSD students for federal student aid rose 9% from 2014 to 2015. Studies show that low-income students who



Welcome new staff



Latonya Johnson was recently hired as Communications and Development Assistant at TCA. Latonya will work closely with the Executive Director to manage the organization database and website for advocacy and development communications with individual supporters and contacts.

Visit our website to access Latonya's bio.

file financial aid forms have 122% higher odds of persisting to the 2nd semester of college compared to non-filers.

The Children's Agenda Interfaith Collaborative

The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative is a group of diverse faith communities in Monroe County, NY, committed to advocacy for vulnerable kids.



Last week, the Children's Defense Fund invited TCA's Policy Analyst Brigit Hurley to lead workshops at the annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute of Faith-Based Child Advocacy at the Alex Haley Farm in Tennessee. The Children's Agenda is considered a national leader in interfaith advocacy for children, thanks to our ongoing partnership with 100+ local Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and other faith communities through the Interfaith Collaborative and its annual Children's Interfaith Weekend (this October 16 - 18). Rev. Marvin McMickle, TCA Board Member and President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, also spoke at the Proctor Institute Friday morning. Pictured here is Dr. Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, who addressed hundreds of clergy and child advocates at the annual gathering.

THANK YOU TO 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:

Thank you to Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust, Brush Family Fund, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Feinbloom Supporting Foundation, Glover-Crask Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, Paychex, Richard and Vickie Schwartz Family Advised Fund, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Rochester Press Radio, and Xerox Foundation.

Thank you also to the following individual donors for their support of our work: Carrie Andrews; Fran Beth; Howard Berman; Judith Boyd; Sandra Cain; Jill Cicero; Kim and Jason Condon; Elizabeth Cook; Barbara Deitz; Gloria Forgione; Isabel Goldman; Mary Jo Green; Joan Kohout; David Kopp; Richard Kreipe; Deborah Leary; John and Alice Leddy; Jane Lynch; Rochelle McDaniel; Andrew McGowan; Lori Peloquin; Ida Perez; Peter Peters; Robert and Dorothy Romanet; Gloria Rosenstein; Dan and Jay Ross; Carol Snow; Eileen Spencer; James Spiller and Ann McPherson; Randall and Martha Stone; Linda Sullivan; Linda Cornell Weinstein.

1 S Washington St Suite 400 | Rochester NY 14614 | (585) 256-2620 | thechildrensagenda.org

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)
