

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

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September 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!

The Future of Monroe County

The Children's Agenda's [Interfaith Collaborative](#) is hosting candidate forums for the Monroe County Legislature in three different locations throughout the county. The purpose of these forums is to present candidates and their potential constituents an opportunity to discuss issues affecting Monroe County's children and youth. The first forum will be:

- Henrietta - Sunday, October 11, 2015, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Henrietta United Church of Christ, Henrietta, NY.

Light refreshments will be served and child care will be provided. Should you require child care, please RSVP by phone at (585) 334-0900 by Friday, October 9, 2015. Click [here](#) for a program flyer.

Supporting Physical Activity in Schools

The Children's Agenda provides staffing support for [Rochester's Leadership Council for Healthy Weight](#), a convening organization that builds upon existing local strategies and partnerships to address our city's need for health, nutrition, and physical activity.



TCA's Rachel Pickering with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at press conference



Upcoming Events

[State of Our Children Breakfast](#)

Friday, October 16

[Children's Interfaith Weekend](#)

Friday, October 16
-
Sunday, October 18

In the News

[Head of ROC the Future focuses on family](#)
Democrat & Chronicle

[ROC the Future reduces chronic absence](#)

STRIVETOGETHER

[Local religious leaders fighting to make child care more affordable](#)
News 8 WROC

[Rochester to get \\$12M for more pre-k programs](#)
Democrat & Chronicle

Earlier this month, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand held a press conference at the Children's School to announce her legislation—[Fitness Integrated into Teaching Kids Act](#), as part of National Childhood Obesity Awareness month. 1/3 of U.S. children and adolescents are overweight or obese and 35.7% (an estimated 91,000) in the Greater Rochester Region. "We have to make our children's health a priority, and that means investing in physical education programs that will boost their fitness and help them thrive in class," Senator Gillibrand said. Also in attendance was Rachel Pickering, The Children's Agenda's Director of Community Health Initiatives. In her address, Pickering called attention to the relationship between increased physical activity and positive academic performance. "As a community, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that all children are afforded every opportunity to be physically active in school. We must champion solutions that work, maximizing every child's potential."

Anti-Poverty Initiative's Progress

The Children's Agenda is proud to partner on the [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative](#) with our government leaders, many dozens of other organizations, and hundreds of community members. Thanks to the mandate from Governor Cuomo, the attention from State agencies, [United Way's](#) staffing of this process, and convergence with several unfolding economic development initiatives, this Anti-Poverty initiative represents an unusually important and preciously rare opportunity for breakthroughs.

As we [tweeted](#) about the initiative's [Progress Report](#) when it was first released, The Children's Agenda is especially gratified that early childhood care and education is one of the 3 initial priorities coming out of the initiative so far. By focusing on expanding, integrating and improving our systems for early child care and home visitation—all of which require policy and funding changes—our community can achieve a rare dual-generation impact: support for both low-income working parents now and supporting children's development long-term. We estimate the unmet need for child care access in Monroe County to be 8,300 children of low-income working families and more than 1,000 additional families need evidence-based home visitation programs (Nurse Family Partnership Program, Building Healthy Children, and Parents as Teachers).

The extent of childhood poverty in our area is well known; the problems are long-standing, deeply entrenched and systematically intertwined. As the Monroe-Rochester Anti-Poverty Initiative fully appreciates, there are no easy answers or quick fixes. Congruent with that understanding is also "[the fierce urgency of now](#)," as Dr. Martin Luther King called it, when it comes to children. Thousands of children will be born or celebrate a birthday and advance in school this year and every year in our community. What happens with our children now not only shapes their world of opportunities but also affects our entire community's world of opportunities, both now and in the future. That fact

requires our community to find the courage and hope to take the actions our children expect from us everyday, so that they have what they need most and whatever works best.

The Children's Agenda is deeply grateful to the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative providing community-wide leadership for our children. We look forward to continuing our partnership to make the positive changes our children need from us as soon as possible.

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 American Baptist Churches, Jennifer Canning, Vincent and Laurie Leo, Terry Schwartz, and Robert Thompson.

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