ORGANIZING THE COMMUNITY

The kind of change The Children's Agenda works toward requires that people engage in democracy. But engagement isn't only about individuals. It's about coming together as a community to take action together. That's why, over the past three years, we have tripled our staff whose primary focus is on community organizing.

In January we saw the power of community organizing in action at our Story Lab event, made possible by generous support from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation.

On a wintry night, more than 150 people from across Monroe County gathered at the Montgomery Neighborhood Center in Rochester to hear from youth and parents about the impact school suspensions have had on their lives.

Through this event, community members and school officials:

- **Gained knowledge** about how often suspensions are used in our school districts, even with children as young as pre-kindergarten
- **Became aware** of the ways suspensions disproportionately impact children of color and children with disabilities
- **Developed a shared vision** of better alternatives
- **Had opportunities to take direct action** to advocate for those alternatives
- **Were emboldened** by the support of the community

Learn more about **Solutions Not Suspensions**.

VIPs giving a warm welcome

Rapt attention

Powerful stories from strong youth leaders

Small group discussion