



Vision for  
Children at Risk

2021 ANNUAL REPORT:

*Celebrating 30 years!*



Vision for  
**CHILDREN**<sub>at Risk</sub> | **30**  
Years

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Around this time each year, we take a moment to reflect on our work and annual progress. We review our approach to serving our community, celebrate what worked well, and work together to determine what we might do differently moving forward. The year 2021 brought continued and considerable challenges, but it also gave us the opportunity to realize great successes. The pandemic still impacted service delivery, forcing all of us to offer programs virtually. This was especially challenging for us because so much of our work is built around face-to-face engagement within communities. However, we were inspired by the ability of the community to adapt, connect, and engage virtually in their commitment to promoting child well-being.

Through all facets of our work, VCR continues to value and uplift the voices of the families with whom we work alongside. To that end, we poured our resources this year into sustaining the peer support and Café models, relying on virtual methods to keep having the conversations that fuel and inform our work. The Cafés offered an avenue for parents and community members to connect in a safe way, while focusing on strengthening their families. The peer support model supported parents to navigate the systems and connect to resources.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary as an organization this year. Coming together in celebration with our partners, we honored champions for children’s wellbeing who have been a part of our work over the years and helped our organization get to where we are today. VCR was also honored in turn by one of its allies with the Contributor Champion Award. United 4 Children recognized our organization for being a financial giving institution that supports early childhood education in our community. We were honored and encouraged by this award, especially coming from a partner and a champion for children like U4C.

We look forward to another year of progress and express our sincere gratitude to all the partners (parents, providers, and child advocates) who make our work possible.

Sincerely,  
*Sanaria Sulaiman*  
Executive Director

**WHO** we are

Vision for Children at Risk is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting the well-being of children, families, and the community. Over the past three decades, we have advocated tirelessly to change the relentless inequities that persist in our region’s systems. The work of building a better future for children at risk has never been easy, but it has always been rewarding. We do it by sticking to what we know works: **engaging with the experience, passion, and creative voices of our community members.** Our team is committed to empowering families and uplifting communities. We cultivate active collaborations to develop new ideas and methods for protecting our community’s youngest and most vulnerable members.

**WHAT** we do

Vision for Children at Risk (VCR) promotes the well-being of children, youth, and their families, with a primary focus on those impacted by socioeconomic risk and racial inequity. We do this by:

- **Informing** the community with data and research,
- Promoting **collaborative** action,
- **Engaging** and supporting families, and
- **Advocating** for child well-being through policy and community investment.

**WHY** we do it

We believe that the neighborhood in which a child lives should not determine the limits of their future. We know that change is possible when you empower parents and engage with communities as partners in the work of protecting our region’s children.



# 1991 to Today: Centered on Child and Family Well-Being

**1991**  
Project Respond published first *Addressing the Needs of St. Louis Children at Risk* report.



**1996**  
U.S. Safe Futures grant of \$7.2 million for juvenile justice programs awarded to St. Louis through Project Respond and Vision for Children at Risk.

**1999**  
Vision for Children at Risk established as independent 501(c)(3) organization.



**1993**  
Vision for Children at Risk initiative evolved from Project Respond and launched with three strategies: Research; Collaboration; and Advocacy.

Second report was also published, and renamed *Children of Metropolitan St. Louis (CMSL)*.



**1998**  
First St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Summit held; establishes *St. Louis Metropolitan Children's Agenda* with some 25 strategies.

**2002**  
Maternal Child & Family Health Coalition received first \$2.2-million federal Healthy Start grant for preventive health services to disadvantaged young mothers.

“...the St. Louis Metropolitan Children’s Agenda. A collaborative effort involving more than 300 agencies and community organizations, the Children’s Agenda is implementing 36 policy and program strategies...” -St. Louis Business Journal 2004

**2004**  
Vision for Children at Risk works with St. Louis Mayor’s Office in holding Mayor’s Summit and established city Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Success. Vision for Children at Risk and Children’s Agenda also partner with St. Louis Mental Health Board and helped achieve passage of Community Children’s Services Fund tax providing dedicated revenue for children’s services.

**2006**  
Vision for Children at Risk launched a series of forums on public education issues in St. Louis and received U.S. Compassion Capital, Community Empowering Youth program grant of \$750,000 over three years for capacity building with community partners.

**2007**  
First annual Child Abuse Prevention Month ceremony at St. Louis City Hall held by the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership.



**2009**

New Vision for Children at Risk data and information website launched with greatly expanded data on child well-being along with commentary and best practices on children.

**2011**

St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council formed combining four existing early childhood initiatives.



**2014**

Missouri Children’s Leadership Council obtained funding to hire a lobbyist in the Missouri Capitol; achieves many legislative and funding successes for children.

St. Louis Family & Community Partnership started annual “Stepping Up for Kids” Awards Luncheon honoring foster and adoptive families and the agency staff who serve them.



**2018**

Vision for Children at Risk evolved as a result of Project LAUNCH and added Family Engagement as its fourth focus area, in addition to Advocacy, Collaboration, Data and Research.

Vision for Children at Risk formed a partnership with the System of Care Network, providing Family Support Services in St. Louis City and County.

**2020**

Eleventh Children of Metropolitan St. Louis data book published.



Vision for Children at Risk introduced its new logo, website, and branding.

**2010**

Missouri Children’s Leadership Council formed to coordinate statewide advocacy for children.

**2012**

Implementation began of five-year, \$4.2-million Project LAUNCH grant promoting young child wellness in the 63106 and 63107 ZIP codes. VCR houses project operations under contract to the State of Missouri, the project grantee.



**2017**

Vision for Children at Risk’s co-founding Executive Director Richard Patton retired as of December 31 and is succeeded by Sanaria Sulaiman.

**2019**

Implementation began of five-year, \$4 million Project LAUNCH grant funded by SAMHSA to promote young child wellness in the City of St. Louis and five-year, \$2.7 million Parent and Children Together St. Louis grant Funded by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families to promote the well-being of children and families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

**2021**

Celebrated 30 years and the Office of the Mayor proclaimed August 30th as *Vision for Children at Risk Day*.



## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### JUNETEENTH

In 2021, VCR marked Juneteenth as an official holiday and also hosted an **inaugural celebration** for staff and VCR families.



The VCR team embraced a day of song, dance, poetry, spoken word, and fun activities.



### PARENT CAFÉS

Throughout 2021 VCR hosted **35 Parent Cafés**, providing a safe space for parents and caregivers to connect and grow together.

Positive feedback from attendees included that they:

- “Learned something through somebody else’s story/experience”;
- “Learned a new way to handle stress or challenges in life”; and
- “Learned how to use Protective Factors to keep family strong.”

### RACE EQUITY EXPANSION WORK

Through Administration on Children, Youth, and Families funding we are preparing to engage with Annie E. Casey Foundation and Race Forward in 2022.

We will be exploring their Building Racial Equity Framework and taking action to ensure our work is helping to undo systems of institutional and structural racial inequities.

### CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Project LAUNCH kicked off a Community Café series focused on Reducing Mental Health Stigma. We are now in the process of refining the action plan to equip us all to take united next steps.

- We take real community issues;**
- We create a safe space for community members & stakeholders to talk;**
- We learn and grow together;**
- We take action together.**

### STLCANN QUARTERLY TRAININGS

With the support of VCR, STLCANN hosted four trainings throughout 2021, including a **3 part series focused on the child welfare system in our state.**



## ALIGNING THE WORK

The System of Care Council and Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Council merged this year, **reducing duplicative efforts while strengthening the work**. On average we have had broad representation of providers representing 45 organizations at each of these meetings.



*Support is all around you*  
SYSTEM OF CARE | ST. LOUIS REGION



## BUILDING A NETWORK OF PARENT ADVOCATES

Our 3 primary Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) met routinely throughout 2021, connecting and working to be a voice for change. We also hosted our first two Joint PACs for all members to come together for training and development.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENINGS

The LEAP Ahead Initiative and Project LAUNCH have continued to grow screening efforts and alignment in the region. Throughout 2021 we tracked the screening of

**1,196 children**

for a total of

**2,858 screenings.**

**LEAP Ahead STL**

## HONORED BY OUR PARTNER

Our long-time partner in promoting early childhood well-being and education, United 4 Children, honored VCR with the

**2021 Contributor  
Champion Award.**

## CHILDREN'S DATA CENTER

In 2020 VCR launched new branding and a revamped website, all of which has been helpful in better informing the community of who we are, what we do, and why we do it. In 2021 we dedicated focus to the next phase for the website, the Children's Data Center. We are excited to share that the new Children's Data Center will be coming in 2022!

**SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER** The Family Support Network Group (FSN Group) is a safe and supportive space for families actively working with our Family Support Partners. These parents and caregivers are navigating difficult situations and systems as they support their child(ren) with behavioral health challenges, and the FSN Group provides a moment of reprieve as well as practical and relevant support. The FSN Group began meeting bi-monthly this year.





## PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER - ST. LOUIS (PACT-STL)

### Collaborative

Our Collaborative has met bi-monthly throughout 2021 to discuss systems level changes, review data, ensure the voices of families with lived experiences are represented, and oversee project implementation.

The Executive Committee is made up of formal partners and meets on the opposite months. The Collaborative and Executive Committee were instrumental in:

- Helping revise and finalize PACT-STL's Theory of Change;
- Approving a draft Child Protection Action Plan; and
- Participating in a series of Group Model Building sessions to elucidate strategic challenges to collaboration in St. Louis.

Members also participated in the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) Standards training, attended a Parent Café Training Institute (PCTI), and contributed to the Community Café work-group action.

### Family Engagement Specialists

We provide peer support to families in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Families can connect through our general prevention work or through our Parent Mentor program which is in direct connection with Children's Division. Our Family Engagement Specialists are focused on building authentic and lasting relationships and have recruited parents for the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), built turnout for the Parent and Community Cafés, and have helped connect families to supports and resources such as housing, utility assistance, and weatherization for their homes. We currently have 12 parents committed to the PACT-STL PAC which has helped shape our cafés and guide our work. Five of these members also sit on the Collaborative and provide valued family voice to the systems level work.

### Parent Cafés

The team hosted 11 Parent Cafés, led by parents for parents. Our Parent Advisory Council members are integral in helping shape these cafés and have helped host cafés with themes including: "New Growth Coming In", "Let the Sunshine In", and "We are Family". In addition, we have provided two Parent Café Training Institutes (PCTIs) spreading the impact of the cafés throughout the region. Participants have reported making the following changes because of their café experiences: better communication skills, more positive time as a family, practicing self-care by taking more time for myself, communicating better by listening first and extending more patience, and more. Parents have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback to the cafés, including:

**"Grateful to be seen and heard"**  
**"It was like a fresh start"**  
**"Confirms you're not alone"**



**PACT-STL**  
 Parents & Children Together ST. LOUIS



### Community Cafés

PACT-STL is in the middle of a Community Café focused on child abuse prevention. Over 30 parents, caregivers, and social service professionals gathered together (virtually) in 2021 to outline the action plan and commit to one of the three work-groups: public awareness, communications, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Some of the key takeaways from these conversations have included the need to define the scope of child abuse and neglect beyond physical abuse, and to distinguish and understand the connection between consequences of poverty and child abuse and neglect. We are continuing to explore emerging themes that came out of the community input.

### HOPE Initiative Network

Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences – is a new way of seeing and talking about experiences that support children’s growth and development into healthy, resilient adults. Research has shown that Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) can help protect against poor health outcomes associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). These PCEs can be categorized into 4 Building Blocks: relationships; safe, equitable, stable environments; social and civic engagement; and emotional growth.

Vision for Children at Risk is a part of the Hope Innovation Network (HIN) as a key player in the adoption and dissemination of the HOPE framework. Team members from PACT-STL attend monthly meetings and have now integrated HOPE into our Parent Café! The HOPE building blocks align well with the Strengthening Families Protective Factors and are a natural fit to include in Parent Cafes.

### Racial Equity Expansion Work

In recent months VCR was awarded an expansion grant through the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families focused on racial equity. We then selected Annie E. Casey Foundation and Race Forward to support the year of work, fully anticipating and planning to sustain the work beyond the year of funding.

With the support of their Building Racial Equity Framework we will be re-envisioning and taking action to strengthen our work, organization, and partnerships, ensuring that equity and inclusion are at the center of it all.

“The focus of the Building Racial Equity Framework training is on understanding how institutional and structural racial inequities are grounded in history and ongoing practice. It is not focused on interpersonal racism or microaggressions, but rather how we all operate within a context of systemic racism -- and **how we can all make decisions that undo these systems.**” We will start the work with three tracks of focus: Parents, VCR as an Organization, and the PACT-STL Collaborative.

## PROJECT LAUNCH

### Young Child Wellness Council

We joined forces with the System of Care Council in early 2021 to form one joint council that aims at forming collaborative networks of local organizations and parents focused on the total health of children, youth, and family. We are working together to improve coordination and collaboration of the child and family services.

Our joint council consists of 41 member organizations and continues to include providers from the following sectors: health, behavioral health, education, childcare, early intervention, child welfare, government, research, and parent representatives. We meet every other month and have an average of 31 organizations, or 55 representatives at each meeting.

**Most organizational representatives have agreed that participation in the joint council has helped them have better understanding of the parent's challenges and needs as well as helped them/ their organization in developing meaningful interactions with parents and other local organizations.**



### Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care Settings

Back in December of 2020 our partner Behavioral Health Response (BHR) established a designated helpline for Project LAUNCH providers (Family Engagement Specialists) and community members.

The helpline is a 24/7 service that provides referrals and linkages for callers with children 0-8 years old. This was an important addition to the existing BHR helpline targeting clients and providers for children 8 years old and up. We are helping build a great foundation for access to behavioral health resources and connections.

### One Word Closing

In wrapping up every Parent Café, participants are asked to offer a one-word closing to express what the time has meant to them. Project LAUNCH asked a few parent advocates this question recently; here is what one person had to say:

“My one word for Vision for Children at Risk, Project LAUNCH initiative is life-changing, because not only has it changed my life for the better by listening to participants and staff shared experiences. But, by me integrating and implementing what I’ve learned from their experiences into my own life. Sharing my life events with others can possibly cause a ripple effort, and hopefully have a positive impact on many lives.”

...

“Project LAUNCH is my therapy. While sharing my truth with participants it invigorates me and releases my inner peace. I feel as if I can climb mountains...it’s a form of freedom. **Having the ability to share my truth with others and knowing that it can possibly impact and improve the life of one person, one family, one community, one city, one state, one country, and one world.** Then I will share my truth a million times over with the help of Project LAUNCH. Freedom and a voice...this is what Project LAUNCH has done for me.”

### Community Cafés

We started promoting the **Community Café: Reducing Mental Health Stigma** in May as part of Children’s Mental Health Day and our virtual celebration. The café began in August and we’ve hosted two sessions to build out a strong action plan. In the new year parents, caregivers, and providers will come back together to work together towards change. We are first taking time to do an in-depth exploration of the themes that have emerged. Some of those include:

- When parents speak up for their children’s needs, they give their children a considerable advantage early in life.
- Families need more access to resources and more information about the kinds of resources available to support their children’s mental health.
- Parents who receive support for their own mental health challenges are better emotionally equipped to support their children with such challenges.
- Parents can only trust mental health providers to support their child’s well-being if those providers are culturally sensitive and prioritize equity.
- When communities confront the stigma surrounding mental health challenges with empathy and trust, collective mental health thrives.
- The behavioral patterns and academic performance of children are reflective of their mental health, and should be treated as such.

### Parent Cafés

Project LAUNCH has hosted **15 Parent Cafés and 9 Dad’s Cafés** throughout 2021.

Three of those cafés were a unique opportunity to support St. Louis Public School families that had students at schools set to close at the end of the ’20-’21 academic year. The team empathized with the families that needed to make transitions amidst the challenging year with a pandemic. The team coordinated with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis’s Student & Family Mentors who were embedded within those elementary schools for three successful cafés centered on “Let’s End the School Year with Strength and Support”.

Parent Cafés continue to be a powerful tool for strengthening families and expanding our family engagement reach.

### Early Childhood Screening

Through Project LAUNCH and LEAP Ahead STL, VCR hosts the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) Data Hub** and offers free access to the Data Hub for partners. The ASQ is an early childhood screening tool that helps parents, caregivers, and providers check in on a child’s overall development and their social and emotional development.

These partners included health and social service providers and early childhood centers in the St. Louis region. The Data Hub is a centralized database and platform for ASQ partners to enter and collect assessments. Although the number of partners dropped this past year, primarily due to capacity issues as well as choosing other screening tools, the number of screenings is going strong.

In 2021 we tracked screenings for **1,196 children for a total of 2,858 screenings (developmental and social and emotional)**. Partners continue to meet bi-monthly to strengthen this collaborative work.

# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES & SYSTEM OF CARE

## Family Support Services Overview

We have a strong team of Family Support Partners (FSPs) providing peer support to parents and caregivers of children with mental health and behavioral health challenges. FSPs have lived experience as a parent, or family member of a child with a serious emotional disorder, as well as a deep connection to the St. Louis community. In addition to peer support, we offer multiple platforms for families to support one another as well as advocate for change including the SOC Parent Advisory Council and Family Support Network Group.

## Family Support Network

Our Family Support Network Group began meeting in February and has continued meeting every other month since then. This is a space for parents currently on the Family Support caseload to connect with one another, support each other, and discuss group selected topics.

This year the group has been working on building their toolbox and has focused on the following topics: coping skills and communication; navigating housing and tenant rights; self care; parenting transitional age youth; and trauma informed parenting.

## Parent Advisory Council

Parent Advisory Councils are all about parents and caregivers being at the table, ensuring their life experiences can make a difference for others. The System of Care Parent Advisory Council (SOC PAC) is keen on advocating and learning all they can to effectively work towards change.

The parent advocates are focusing on learning more about navigating services, education and resources for behavioral health diagnosis, and the IEP process. They seek to ensure parents have the information and support they need, both at the family and systems levels.

## SOC Expansion Overview

Our work with the System of Care-St. Louis Region Expansion (SOC Expansion) is strongly rooted in our family engagement work, and it continues to grow. We provide the Family Support Services for the project and had a strong year offering peer support. We reached 100% of our goal set for families served by the Family Support Partner program in 2021. Each family served was connected with a Family Support Partner to walk alongside them as they navigate mental health services. We also participate actively in the broader System of Care Expansion work and are looking forward to expanding this in the coming year as we begin to provide the Project Management and Infrastructure services in addition to our Family Support Services.

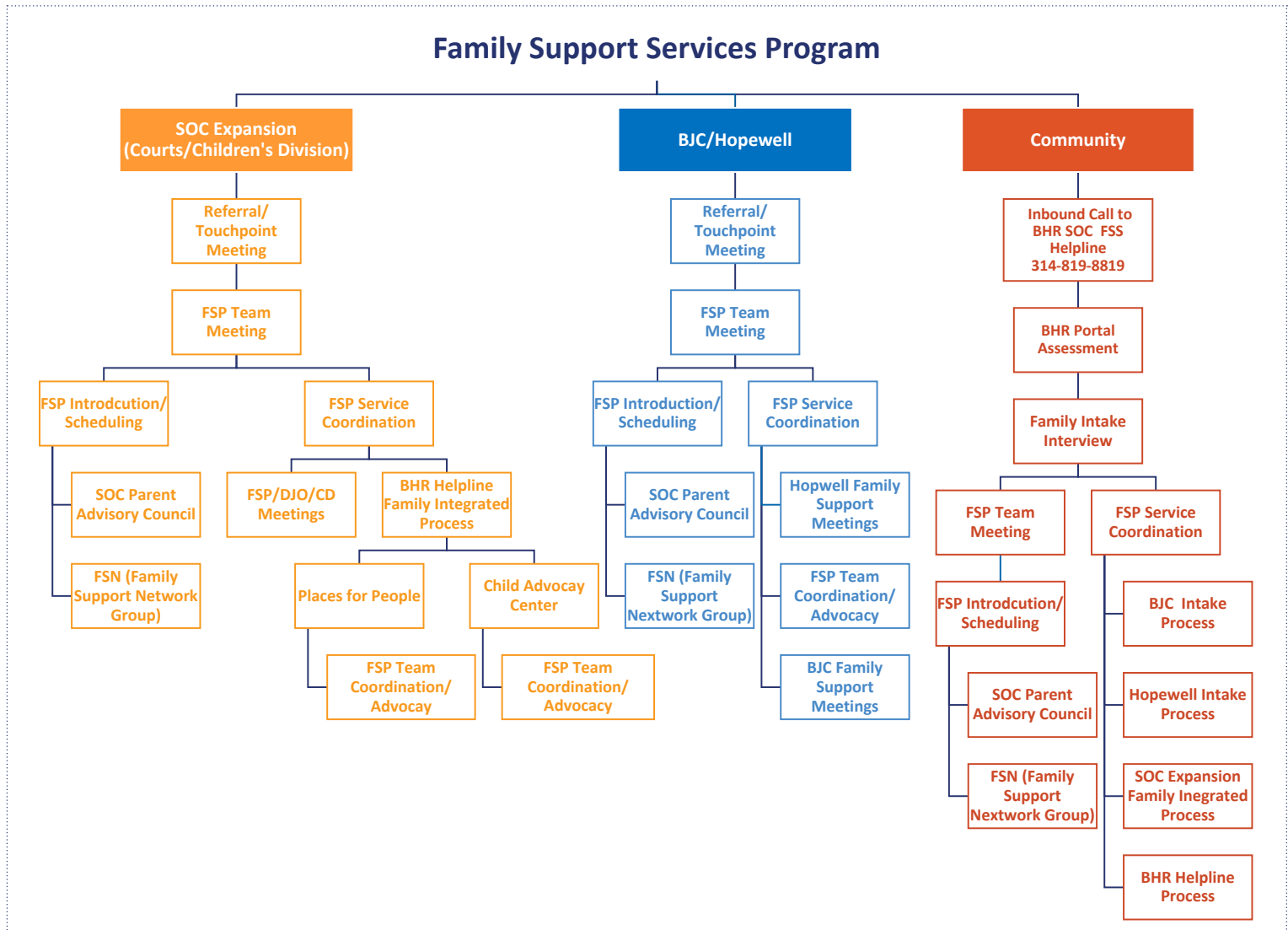
**About the SOC Expansion:** This project is working to improve mental health outcomes for children and youth, birth through age 21, with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED), and their families by creating sustainable infrastructure and services. Throughout 2021 we strengthened our referral process by hosting info sessions with judges and deputy juvenile officers.

**Family Support Services:** Through our SOC Expansion work we directly serve juvenile justice involved youth ages 8-18 and families involved with Children’s Division with Serious Emotional Disturbances and those with early signs and symptoms of mental health diagnosis who live in St. Louis’s Promise Zone.

**How It All Connects: The Referral Process**

The Family Support Services we offer are designed as a support system for parents and caregivers of children or youth up to 23 years of age who have, or are at risk for, a Serious Emotional Disorder diagnosis (SED). We serve families through three primary referral processes: through System of Care-St. Louis Region Expansion, through partnership with local mental health providers, and through the BHR helpline open to the entire St. Louis community.

**BJC & Hopewell:** As mental health providers, both BJC and Hopewell have partnered with us for when they see parents and caregivers could benefit from additional support. BJC and Hopewell both provide the case management for the youth, and our Family Support Partners walk alongside the families for comprehensive peer support.



**Legislative Wrap-Up**

We welcomed another opportunity to offer a Legislative Wrap-Up this year. In partnership with Generate Health and STLCANN we hosted the 2021 wrap-up featuring presentations from Missouri Budget Project, Kids Win Missouri, and Missouri KidsFirst.

**Mayoral Debates**

We partnered with the Social Policy & Electoral Accountability Collaborative (SPEAC) as a host of the 2021 St. Louis Mayoral Candidate forums. With the virtual platform there were 3700+ viewers for the primary forum alone.

**Child Advocacy Day**

We were a sponsor for the 2021 Child Advocacy Day and had staff and families attend the prep workshops as well as the day of advocacy.

**Action Alerts**

This year we created action alerts around issues and action that matters to the families we work alongside. These action alerts went out to the broader community through our newsletters and social media but also went directly to families we serve. We had three action alerts in 2021, one for SNAP benefits, another for utilities, and one for expanding Medicaid.

**Take Action:  
To Keep Utilities On!**



**THE PROBLEM (WHY?)**

Too many Missourians have lost their jobs or have had their hours cut because of the COVID-19 global health emergency. Many individuals and families are now facing the disconnection of their utilities. **Providing utility service and keeping people stably housed is one important way that we can keep Missourians safe and slow the spread of this deadly virus.** Please join us as we speak to the people in power: Missouri is hurting. We need utility service protection today.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Email Governor Parson today.  
Go to: <https://governor.mo.gov/contact-us>

**HOW? Follow these quick steps:**

Follow these quick steps:  
1 2 3

**1 COMPLETE THE CONTACT FORM**

Fill out the contact form that shows up. Select "Utilities" from the drop-down menu that appears under the Subject line.

**2 TELL YOUR STORY**

Think about your own experiences or those you know whose utilities have been disconnected or who have received a disconnection notice. We need to help the Governor understand what utility disconnection means for families!

**3 DRAFT YOUR EMAIL -- here's an example:**

I am very concerned about utility shutoffs as we head into winter during a global pandemic. Having gas and electric service is basic to family health. Without hot water it is very difficult for people to prevent the spread of CO-VID-19 by properly washing their hands and the surfaces in their homes. While there is a federal moratorium on some evictions, there is no moratorium on utility disconnections. Utility shut offs do lead to tenants being displaced. Eviction, especially during winter, will increase street homelessness and is another way that people could be vulnerable to increased infection rates. Please put a moratorium in place immediately and extend it until CO-VID 19 is under control and people are able to work in a fully functioning economy. Your action will save lives. Thank you for considering this. I look forward to your response.

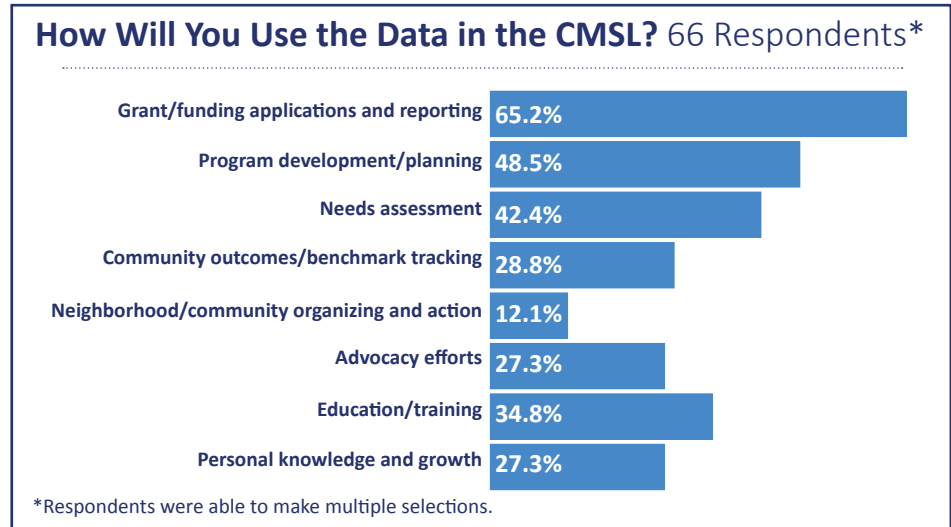




A primary goal of VCR’s data work is to continue to improve the accessibility and usability of the child well-being data we collect, and to ensure that accurate data is being used by our partner organizations and grassroots community members to address inequities and improve the well-being of children in our region.

**CHILDREN OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS DATA BOOK (CMSL)**

Throughout 2021 Vision for Children at Risk distributed more than 150 copies of the eleventh edition of our Children of Metropolitan St. Louis (CMSL) data book. Traditionally, the many in-person collaborative meetings that VCR hosts with our partners is a primary mechanism we use to distribute this important child well-being data throughout the community. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic drastically reduced these in-person meetings throughout 2021. However, we worked hard to promote the CMSL in our newsletter, during virtual meetings, and on our website. We are excited to report the primary ways in which the data we collect and publish is being used in the community to improve child well-being (see chart to the right).



**CHILDREN’S DATA CENTER**

Back in 2009 VCR expanded data sharing efforts and launched its first data and information website. Unfortunately, over time the data portion became outdated and we lost the ability to add in new data. We have dreamed about what the 2.0 version could look like and were excited to take initial steps with the newly branded website back in 2020 but knew that a data center would have to come as a second phase in the work. In May of 2021 VCR began working with a web development firm to envision and create this new and revised Children’s Data Center.

We are working to develop an interactive Children’s Data Center that includes a more expansive look at the data we share in the CMSL. Viewers will be able to interact with maps, download data, and easily navigate between different indicators and geographies. We are committed to creating a tool that serves a wide audience including organizational representatives writing grants and determining plans of action along with families ready to advocate for change. Stay tuned for the Children’s Data Center in 2022!

**DATA AS A FOUNDATION**

Vision for Children at Risk was pleased to work closely with the City of St. Louis Mayor’s Office through the Office of Children, Youth and Families throughout 2021 to support the efforts of the St. Louis City Youth Development Collaborative. The Data Work-group of this collaborative worked hard to pull together data, create maps to identify service gaps in out-of-school time programing, and to create and administer surveys to better capture the out-of-school time landscape in the city. All of this is groundwork that is informing how this collaborative equitably expands access to quality out-of-school time programming to children in the city during the summer of 2022.



## 1991-2021: 30TH ANNIVERSARY

### CELEBRATING IMPACT

What a wonderful occasion! This year marked 30 years for Vision for Children at Risk and our impactful work creating a better future for children, youth, and families in the St. Louis region.

Vision for Children at Risk launched with three strategies: data & research, collaboration, and advocacy in order to **be part of the solution to the complex issues facing children and families** illustrated by that first report. Although complex, it has remained true throughout the past 30 years that inequities are stark and unfortunately all too predictable. Racial and socioeconomic inequities continue to try and keep children and families from thriving, though we also know that many of these same families have a level of resiliency beyond comprehension.

VCR continues to center our work around data and research, collaboration, and advocacy. Though today, Family Engagement is also one of our core focus areas. Through our work with MO Project LAUNCH from 2012-2018, VCR was able to strengthen our connection to families and we continue to see how imperative it is **to support parents' power to create positive, lasting change within their own families AND throughout our region.**

The celebration was capped with the Mayor's Office proclaiming August 30, 2021 as Vision for Children at Risk Day. We remain committed to the well-being of children, youth, and their families, especially those impacted by socioeconomic risk and racial inequity.

### CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

We are forever grateful for the visionaries 30 years ago that were committed to centering community attention on inequities in the St. Louis region. Because of them, we are firmly rooted in data that illustrates the landscape, family experiences that drive our work and push us towards effective solutions, collaboration that gets the work done, and advocacy that calls for systemic positive change.

As we took the year to look back, we also focused on the great work that is happening now and what is yet to come. We were delighted to honor 5 Champions for Children through the Inaugural Rich Patton Champion for Children Awards. We are beyond grateful for their work and dedication to children, youth, and families.

- Rich Patton** - Visionary Leader
- Sam Blue** - Exemplary Parent Leader
- Serena Muhammad** - Exemplary Community Partner
- Cynthia Crim** - Exemplary Philanthropic Partner
- Alyssa & Bryan O'Connor** - Exemplary Philanthropic Leaders



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Bryan Berry - *President*
- Bob Buck - *Vice-President*
- Thomas Nolan - *Secretary*
- Michael Dozier - *Treasurer*

### MEMBERS

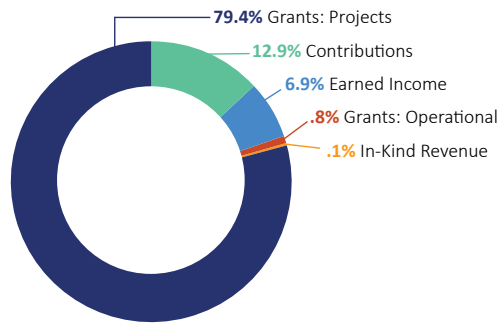
- Nanci A. Bobrow, Ph.D.
- Sylvester Bolden
- Marga Fronmuller
- Richard Harvey, Ph.D.
- Robert Mai
- Antonia Miceli, J.D., M.P.H.
- Dennis O'Connor, M.D.
- Michael O'Connor, M.D.
- Jamala Rogers
- Pastor Ron Stephens
- Sanaria Sulaiman

## OUR FUNDERS

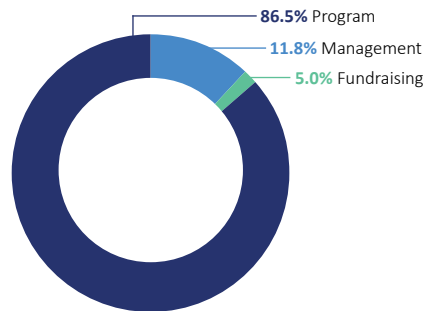
- Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF)
- Ameren
- Deaconess Foundation
- The Mental Health Board
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
- STUPP Foundation
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

## OUR FINANCES

### REVENUE \$1,785,642



### EXPENSES \$1,600,045\*



\*\$924.58 of In-Kind Expenditures Included

### REVENUE GROWTH 2017 through 2021

