



Stand for Children

www.stand.org

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The Year in Review

Strategy, passion, and persistence were critical to every gain made by Stand for Children members in the difficult budget climate of 2003. It was a year of hard-fought gains — mostly related to public schools, early childhood education, and after-school enrichment — and of sowing seeds for the future. Massachusetts became our fifth staffed state, and successful Chapter-building efforts gained momentum there as well as in other states.

The 2003 Chapter successes and actions highlighted in this report reflect the tremendous commitment of Stand for Children's members and supporters.

Idaho

In 2003, Idaho Stand for Children was responsible for replicating Boise Cares — a local training and retention program for early-childhood teachers — as part of the State's professional development system. The Boise City Council and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare funded Boise Cares as a pilot program in 2001, and Idaho Stand for Children members are now working to increase the funding allocated to the statewide model, from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

Boise Stand for Children made great progress in its effort to pass a Boise Children's Initiative, which would establish a dedicated source of funding to increase the availability of high-quality, affordable early childhood education and after-school enrichment programs in Boise. Chapter members took a lead role in the creation of a City-authorized Boise Children's Initiative Task Force. The role of the Task Force is to design an Initiative that the Boise City Council will refer to the ballot.

Now Stand for Children also made an impact for young children. In a year when no other positions were added by the City, the newly formed Chapter convinced the City Council to fund a quarter-time City childcare licenser to ensure the health and safety of children in child care.

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How Stand for Children Works

Stand for Children is an effective citizen voice for children. We advocate for funding for schools, early childhood education, after-school enrichment, and other programs that give children a fair chance in life.

Stand for Children has five state affiliates — Idaho, Massachusetts, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Each state organization is made up of Chapters, which are local grassroots groups for children. Chapters bring together parents who care about children to identify solutions to locally and globally felt issues, and work with elected officials and other public officials to win support for those solutions. In states with multiple Chapters, Stand for Children members coordinate on statewide issues.

Over the past year, Stand for Children members have touched the lives of more than 27,000 children, winning more than 44 legislative victories that have secured more than \$177 million in funding for critically needed children's programs.


Massachusetts

Massachusetts Stand for Children took its first stride toward building a statewide grassroots voice for children. Lexington Stand for Children was founded in the late fall with a successful kick-off event. The Chapter, which already has more than 100 members and six Teams, is currently working on winning a local Proposition 2H override, in order to raise millions of dollars in public funding for the Lexington Public Schools. Massachusetts Stand for Children's State Director is also working with community members in Arlington to build a local Chapter.

Oregon

Stand for Children members from across the state united in 2003 to help convince the State Legislature to pass House Bill 2152, a temporary income tax surcharge that would raise \$800 million for Oregon schools, health care and other key services. More than 100 members assembled at the State Capitol during the longest Legislative session in Oregon history. Many more lobbied in their hometowns. The result: we helped persuade six critical, moderate Republican legislators to vote for a surcharge that passed by the bare minimum of votes.

The dismay of Stand for Children members and child advocates across the state, anti-tax activists gathered enough signatures to put House Bill 2152 to a vote as Measure 30. Oregon Stand for Children members from Albany, Jackson County, Lane County, Portland, and Salem-Keizer countered by campaigning ceaselessly for the Measure, reaching tens of thousands of voters through determined outreach. In the end, however, Measure 30 was defeated, leading to painful cuts to children's programs. In addition to pursuing alternative strategies for raising revenue, Oregon Stand for Children will focus on increasing its membership and expanding into other key areas of the State, including Clackamas County.



At the local level, Stand for Children initiated the Oregon Cares program, increasing enrollment in early childhood education training programs and decreasing teacher turnover in all three counties where we won federal funding for the program. Stand for Children members in Benton, Lane, and Marion Counties are currently seeking permanent funding to keep the program in place.

Salem-Keizer Stand for Children helped thousands of children in 2003 by successfully lobbying the City Council to maintain funding

for the POWER in Youth after-school program; persuading the School Board to reopen school buildings for community use after 4 p.m.; and expanding the Neighborhood Dentist and dental health education programs they initiated in 2002.

Through persistent, strategic lobbying and effective coalition-building with the Chamber of Commerce, Salem-Keizer Chapter members paved the way for a May 2004 "Kids and Cops" levy. "Kids and Cops" would raise \$3.6 million annually to pay for a comprehensive after-school program for middle-school students and additional public safety officers to fight Salem's growing methamphetamine problem.

Portland Stand for Children members created a Public School Improvement Platform and, after interviewing nearly all of the School Board candidates, endorsed four candidates based on their alignment with the Platform. The Chapter then successfully campaigned for the election of the four, who have brought outstanding new leadership to the School District.

Last spring, following the model created by the Salem-Keizer Chapter, Washington County Stand for Children recruited 50 volunteer Neighborhood Dentists, who are providing free care to low-income students at ten local elementary schools. Members then convinced the County to appoint and train a full-time VISTA volunteer as a community dental disease prevention educator.

In addition to its work on Lane County Cares, Lane County Stand for Children helped stave off cuts to several children's programs. In the Spring of 2003, members attended budget hearings and provided the pressure needed to save funding for a swimming pool in a low-income neighborhood; Eugene's Relief Nursery, which offers child protection and family preservation services; and other programs serving children and families.

South Carolina

Deeply concerned about the quality and stability of the community's child care, newly formed Richland County Stand for Children advocated for a program to provide salary incentives for early childhood educators to receive more training and stay in the field. In 2003, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services agreed to administer a two-year pilot program called WAGES[®] in Richland County, and to include the program in a grant proposal to the federal government. Following an impact study, South Carolina may decide to expand the program statewide. The program is modeled on North Carolina's WAGES[®] initiative, which reduced childcare teacher-turnover from 31 percent to 17 percent and increased the number of childcare teachers pursuing early childhood training by 64 percent.

Aiken County Stand for Children successfully kicked-off in October and is steadily gaining momentum. The Chapter will take on its first issue in 2004.

Tennessee

Nashville Stand for Children members successfully implemented Nashville Supports Early Education (SEES), a citywide, high-quality childcare teacher substitute pool. In addition, they crafted a three-pronged agenda for reducing the overwhelming rate of Nashville children who enter Kindergarten unprepared. Their strategy calls for increasing access to high quality preschool programs for low-income children; increasing the number of highly trained, consistent childcare providers; and enhancing family literacy programs. The Chapter's immediate priorities are to win continued State and City funding for Nashville SEES, and to win funding for Nashville Trains and Retains, which will provide incentives to encourage childcare teachers to pursue additional training and stay in the field.

Beyond Nashville, Hamilton County Stand for Children moved forward and a successful kick-off. The Chapter will focus on improving the local public schools.

Other Chapters

Stand for Children members in Prince George's County, Maryland helped pass a bill in 2003 that increased the surcharge for school construction, renovations, and maintenance costs. The surcharge is slated to raise \$30 million annually and help 135,000 children. Members at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana helped restore the Early Childhood Education/Psychology program to Tulane's curriculum. Santa Barbara, California Stand for Children pushed for City funding to maintain an effective child care quality improvement program. The City appointed a task force to examine the issue. The Chapter will continue to press for a positive result in 2004.

To follow the progress of these actively growing Chapters, visit www.stand.org.

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Stand for Children Members and Supporters:

2003 was an incredibly important year for Stand for Children. We continued to be successful, winning eleven victories that will improve the lives of tens of thousands of children in the years to come. Equally exciting, we made key decisions that will make possible an even greater impact for children in future years.

The first decision was to move our national office from Washington, D.C. to Portland, Oregon. This relocation has made us more financially sustainable and more effective.

The second decision has to do with our overall strategy. After reflecting intensely on our past organizing experience, Stand for Children's Board of Directors and I agreed that we will effect the greatest change for children by focusing our energy on building statewide Stand for Children organizations capable of:

- Effecting significant changes for children in multiple communities through strong local Chapters.
- Playing a key role in passing state legislation and/or ballot measures.
- Influencing the decisions of federal officials from those states on key national issues.
- Sustaining themselves financially.

Embracing this focus has several implications:

1. While we will continue to support all existing Chapters, we will not support additional Chapters outside of the states where we have staff.
2. For at least the next several years, we will target less populous states where we can more quickly develop influential statewide organizations.
3. The new states we enter beginning in 2005 will be politically pivotal at the national level. This will enable our grassroots constituency to have the biggest possible impact on national policy decisions affecting children.

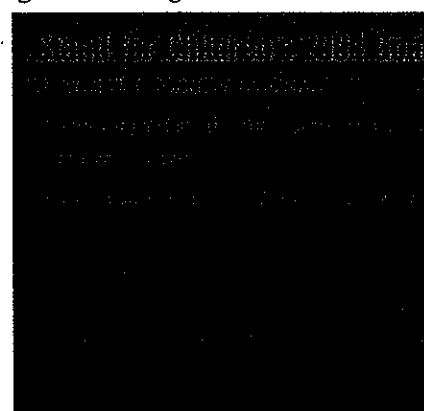
No matter where you are — in a state where we already have staff, a state which may become a focus for us, or a state we're unlikely to target soon — I hope you will enthusiastically embrace this strategy for enabling Stand for Children to have the greatest impact for children.

I also hope, as we strive to effect greater and greater changes for children every year, that we will be able to count on your continued support. To succeed in this mission, this movement, we need you to stay involved.

With deepest gratitude for your support,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonah Edelman".

Jonah Edelman
Executive Director



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 to inform you of action alerts and other
 immediate opportunities to stand for children.

Please e-mail stand@stand.org with your
 current contact information.



Statement of Activities

January 1 - December 31, 2003



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Since 1999, Stand for Children has helped to secure more than \$177 million in funding for urgently needed children's programs and services... on a cumulative budget of approximately \$6 million.

That means every dollar invested in Stand for Children's effective, no-frills advocacy has resulted in nearly \$30 in funding for children's programs and services.

Stand for Children, Inc. Stand for Children Leadership Center

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation grants	\$ 7,000	\$ 799,192
Individual gifts	54,841	462,997
Other contributed income	6,276	52,700
Membership	120,407	
Other income	13,628	8,792
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 202,152	\$ 1,323,681

EXPENSES

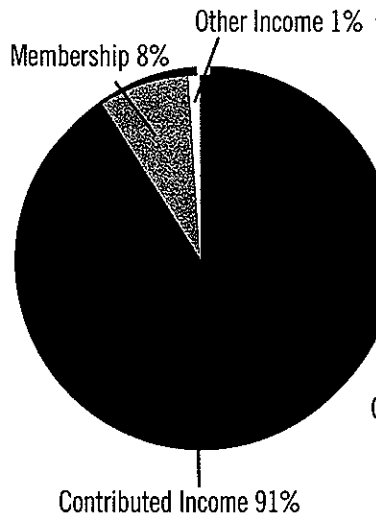
Program services

Idaho	\$ 25,646	\$ 159,902
Massachusetts	14,837	73,535
Oregon	83,620	405,017
South Carolina	15,161	106,967
Tennessee	14,906	118,359
Other States	34,164	107,348

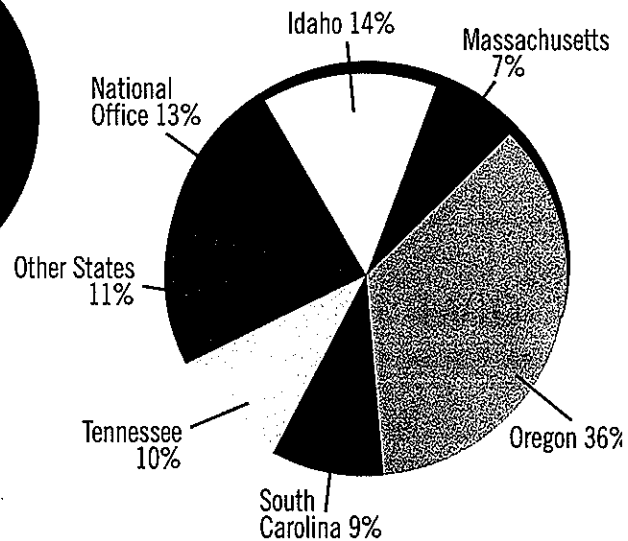
National office support services	27,758	143,228
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Total Expenses	\$216,092	\$1,114,356
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Combined Support and Revenue



Combined Expenses



Stand for Children Leadership Center is a public charity whose primary focus is to study policy and educate the public about children's issues. Stand for Children, Inc. is a social welfare organization and, as such, may do an unlimited amount of legislative lobbying and a limited amount of electoral activity. Both organizations work to ensure that every child has a fair chance in life.

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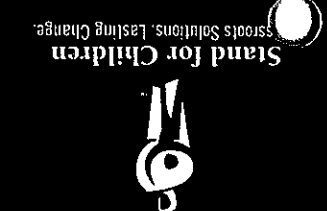
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