



Stand for Children
Stand for Children Leadership Center

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2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Children in communities across America have no power to influence our democratic system to meet their fundamental needs.

That's why Stand for Children and Stand for Children Leadership Center work together to recruit, train, and support grassroots citizen leaders who are making children a higher political priority in our three affiliate states.

Together in 2006, Stand for Children and the Leadership Center worked to:

- Improve educational opportunities for more than one million students in **Massachusetts** by helping to win a school funding increase of \$216.6 million.
- Help secure \$20 million in state funding to provide 250 new pre-K classrooms for 5,000 at-risk 4-year-olds in **Tennessee**.
- Win 10 other victories described in this report.

In **Oregon**, Stand for Children members played a decisive role in reshaping the political landscape for children by helping shift control of the House of Representatives to a pro-schools majority.

Why is this work so vitally important? Our country is in the midst of an economic shift as significant as the industrial revolution. If we don't step up to the challenge of the global economy, we're heading toward an America where children and young people have fewer opportunities than their parents.

Can we, as a country, develop the political will to bring America's public schools on par with our global competitors?

“The need for citizens to work together on behalf of children has never been greater.”

– Jonah Edelman, Executive Director



It will be extremely challenging, but my experience with Stand for Children members and supporters tells me: yes, we can. We can and we must. The health of our economy and society depends on it, and our children deserve to be given the tools to help them reach their full potential.

Since 1999, Stand for Children members have won 75 victories at the state and local levels that have helped over 2.6 million children by leveraging more than \$1.3 billion for schools and other programs that equip children to succeed.

I hope you will draw inspiration from the successes detailed on the following pages. They were achieved by concerned citizens who – with your support – gained the skills and acquired the power to make a profound difference in the lives of children. We are deeply grateful for your involvement.

Thank you for standing with us for children,

Jonah Edelman, Executive Director
Stand for Children & Stand for Children Leadership Center



Stand for Children Leadership Center

A Tax-Deductible 501(c)(3) Organization

Stand for Children Leadership Center provides everyday people with the structure and support they need to achieve lasting changes for children. The Leadership Center works jointly with Stand for Children to teach citizen leaders to do three critical things: recruit people with similar values; identify effective, achievable solutions to deeply and broadly felt concerns; and educate decision makers and voters to win important victories for children, within allowable limits placed on lobbying activity.

In Oregon, Stand for Children Leadership Center recognized that **significant improvements in public education require more than increased funding.** We convened a Task Force on School Finance and Improvement that developed a comprehensive, 10-year policy agenda aimed at moving Oregon's schools into the top 10 nationally in student achievement, high school graduation, and college preparedness while narrowing the achievement gap.

“In my 45 years as a teacher, principal, assistant State Superintendent, and educational consultant, I have never seen a grassroots education advocacy group as effective as Stand for Children. The policy agenda developed by the Stand for Children Leadership Center is ambitious, research-based, and fundamentally pragmatic. My involvement with Stand for Children gives me hope for the future of public education in America.”

— Tom Olson, Canby Team Leader

Oregon

Oregon's elementary classes are the second largest in the nation and our school year is among the shortest. Despite having dedicated educators, the state ranks in the bottom third on many key education indicators. In 2006, Stand for Children members shaped a policy agenda that will help more of Oregon's schoolchildren succeed.

During the election season, Stand for Children and the Leadership Center joined with several other organizations to sponsor the state's first-ever nonpartisan gubernatorial debate on issues affecting the lives of children and families in Oregon, which aired statewide on public television and radio. Members of Stand for Children contributed to the defeat of four harmful statewide ballot measures and to the passage of a measure that extends prescription drug coverage to the state's 117,000 uninsured children.

Stand for Children's membership grew to include new local organizations on the Central and Southern Oregon Coast, in Hillsboro, and in Bethel. With active members in Central Oregon, Stand for Children has significantly broadened its geographic reach and diversified community representation.

Stand for Children's members achieved 13 statewide and local ballot-measure victories in Oregon in 2006. Benefiting more than 150,000 children, the \$753 million we helped raise for schools and other children's programs represents a return on investment of \$684 for every \$1 the organizations spent.



2006 Highlights

- ▶ **Alleviated school overcrowding** for more than 48,000 students in Medford, North Clackamas, and Hillsboro by helping pass three school construction bonds.
- ▶ **Preserved class sizes and educational programs** and enabled the purchase of up-to-date textbooks for 47,000 students in Portland Public Schools by helping pass a 5-year, \$33 million per year local funding levy.
- ▶ **Improved school nutrition policies** in Eugene and Salem, including the removal of soda and candy from all district vending machines.
- ▶ **Saved three school-based mental health specialist positions** slated for elimination by securing \$231,000 in funding from Marion County.
- ▶ **Helped create a high-quality, after-school program** serving 160 students annually at Lot Whitcomb Elementary School through a 5-year \$740,000 federal grant obtained in collaboration with Metropolitan Family Service.

Nearly 200 Stand for Children members received in-depth training on effectively advocating for our policy agenda at our 2nd Annual Statewide Summit in November.

What's Next

On the state level, Stand for Children and Stand for Children Leadership Center will work with allied organizations to persuade the legislature to:

- ▶ **Rebuild the state's investment in Oregon's classrooms**, enabling most districts to reduce class sizes and/or restore art, music, PE, and other basic programs.
- ▶ **Increase teacher and principal quality** by establishing a research-based, cost-effective statewide mentor program for new teachers and principals.
- ▶ **Win full funding for Oregon's Head Start program** to enable all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds to attend quality preschool.
- ▶ **Improve learning environments** by making it easier for local school districts to fund capital improvements to schools.
- ▶ **Improve student health** by establishing statewide school nutrition standards.
- ▶ **Secure health insurance** for the 117,000 uninsured children in Oregon.
- ▶ **Stabilize school funding** by creating a Rainy Day Fund, raising the \$10 corporate minimum tax, and eliminating tax giveaways with no broad public benefit.



Stand for Children

An Independent, Non-Partisan 501(c)(4) Organization

Stand for Children's mission is to win concrete, long-lasting improvements for children at state and local levels through organized and effective grassroots political action. Our members lobby, help pass ballot measures, and help elect pro-child candidates to improve children's educational opportunities and well-being.

In addition to primarily working with Stand for Children Leadership Center on many of the activities described in this report, Stand for Children in Oregon works on its own to help elect pro-child candidates. In 2006:

- ▶ More than 750 Stand members volunteered 3,275 hours and contacted 55,000 voters.
- ▶ We played a decisive role in electing two challengers whose victories created the **first pro-schools majority in the Oregon House of Representatives in 16 years.**
- ▶ We helped elect four State Representatives and a Multnomah County Commissioner, and lent timely support to the re-election of Governor Ted Kulongoski.
- ▶ Members personally distributed nearly 15,000 pieces of voter education literature, featuring statewide ballot measure and local campaign information.

“Traditionally, schools advocates have brought people to the Capitol during the legislative session but have been absent during elections. Stand for Children developed a legislative campaign strategy with specific voter outreach goals in key districts – and you delivered. With your help, we now have a pro-schools majority in the state legislature.”

– Jeff Merkley, Speaker of the Oregon House

These activities in support of candidates were conducted solely by Stand for Children. Stand for Children Leadership Center does not engage in partisan electoral work and does not support Stand for Children's political campaign activities.



Gloucester Mayor John Bell, State Senator Bruce Tarr, and Gloucester State member Janice Bell at our 2006 School Funding Rally and Lobby Day.

Massachusetts

Between 2002 and 2006, Massachusetts suffered some of the largest education budget cuts in the nation. In spring 2006, Stand for Children brought more than 1,000 public education supporters to the State Capitol for a School Funding Rally and Lobby Day, where its members said “Enough is enough – no more cuts!” That same day, more than 350 of Stand for Children’s members met individually with 74 legislators to convey the devastating effects of cuts to their community schools.

Lawmakers listened. The State Legislature agreed to boost aid to schools by \$216.6 million, the first increase in four years. This was a significant step in the right direction, but funding remains almost \$500 million short of 2002 levels after adjusting for inflation.

On the local level, members in **Arlington** won unanimous support from the Arlington School Committee for a child-centered health and nutrition policy. **Lexington** members secured a \$30,000 federal grant to implement a comprehensive preventive maintenance program to address increased incidences of asthma and dangerous mold levels in school buildings.



“Stand for Children played an instrumental role in showing strong citizen support for education. Your voice matters, and makes a tremendous difference for our children.”

— State Representative Robert DeLeo, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman

What’s Next

- ▶ Members in more than 60 Massachusetts communities are participating in our 2007 campaign to win **immediate financial relief for schools** and a commitment to **systemic education reform** in 2007 through in-district meetings with legislators and a major Rally and Lobby Day on Beacon Hill.
- ▶ Generous support from members and donors is supporting the growth of new Community Teams in **Worcester, Winchester, Plymouth**, and other Massachusetts communities.
- ▶ **Newton** members are continuing their campaign to improve the energy efficiency of school buildings.

2006 Highlights

- ▶ **Improved educational opportunities** for more than one million public school students by helping win a state school funding increase of \$216.6 million.
- ▶ **Improved nutrition and health** for 4,500 students in Arlington with an effective school Wellness Policy.
- ▶ **Improved the learning environment** for Lexington’s 6,200 students by winning funding for an indoor air quality maintenance program.
- ▶ **Stand for Children’s membership grew by 28 percent** to more than 800 members organized into Chapters in Lowell and Newton, and Community Teams in Arlington, Gloucester, Lexington, Norfolk, Plymouth, Temple Israel, Winchester, Winthrop, and Worcester.



“Stand for Children gives parents a chance to have a powerful, collective effect on local and state decisions that affect their children – where they might otherwise have none.”

— Kurt Kusiak, Newton Chapter Leader

Tennessee

For the second year in a row, Stand for Children members in Tennessee helped move the state closer to offering quality pre-K education to all 4-year-olds in the state. Working with the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, which is co-chaired by Stand for Children, members helped convince the legislature to provide \$20 million to open another 250 pre-K classrooms serving 5,000 additional at-risk students.

Locally, members in **Hamilton County/Chattanooga** did non-partisan “get out the vote” outreach targeting parents of school-aged children, a group that is consistently under-represented. Members in **Memphis** collaborated with Memphis City Public Schools administrators on a Stand for Children-created parent engagement pilot project in six schools. And in **Nashville**, members co-sponsored two public forums to educate voters about school board candidates’ views.

A Memphis family at a parent-child pizza night, organized through our parent engagement pilot project.



State Representative John DeBerry, Jr. with Memphis members during a Stand for Children legislative visit.

What's Next

- ▶ Statewide, Stand for Children members are continuing to work to open **additional pre-K classrooms** for low-income 4-year-olds by securing at least \$25 million in additional funding from the legislature.
- ▶ Members in **Nashville** are addressing school safety and the dropout rate by persuading the Metro School District to expand a highly effective discipline program from one to eight high schools.
- ▶ In **Memphis**, members are helping ensure the effective implementation of the Hold My Hand parent engagement pilot project while advocating for full funding for Memphis City Public Schools.

“Stand for Children’s grassroots advocacy for Governor Bredesen’s ‘Voluntary Pre-K for Tennessee’ program was instrumental in helping pass the legislation and in securing funds for expansion. Stand continues to work with stakeholders at the local level to grow more pre-K classrooms.”

– Patrick Smith, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor



2006 Highlights

- ▶ Moved Tennessee’s children closer to universal access to quality pre-K education by helping secure \$20 million in state funding to provide **250 new pre-K classrooms for 5,000 at-risk 4-year-olds**.
- ▶ Tennessee Stand for Children shared the honor, as the co-chair of the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, of becoming one of just four nationwide recipients of the first “**Pre-K Champion Awards**” from the national advocacy organization Pre-K Now.



“Stand for Children brought to our collaborative effort a strong voice of advocacy, tremendous credibility, and leadership. The relationships that Stand developed with community groups, elected officials, and children’s advocates alike has made expansion of pre-K possible.”

– Barbara Holden, Executive Director of the First Years Institute, Memphis

“Stand for Children is helping to improve public education and other programs that enhance children’s lives. We are making a significant impact at this time of unprecedented need. Just as important, we are developing effective civic leaders for the future.

We are deeply grateful for your support.”

— Danny Grossman

Stand for Children Leadership Center Board Chair

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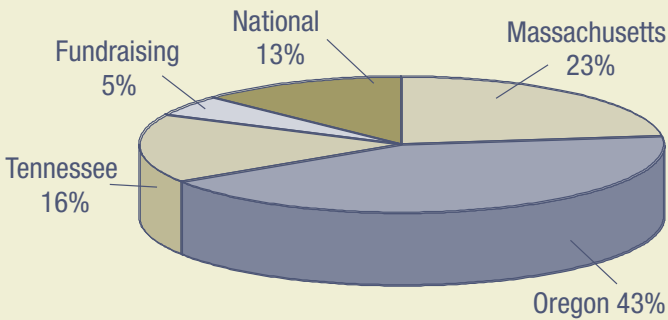
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Stand for Children Leadership Center is a 501(c)(3) public charity which provides everyday people with the structure and support they need to achieve lasting changes for children.

We are pleased to report that in 2006 the organization increased its major donor base by 5%, raising \$962,091 from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Thanks to the continued generosity of foundations, Stand for Children Leadership Center received \$958,266 in grant funds during 2006.

The chart below shows how our 2006 expenses totaling \$1,991,160 were spent:

Stand for Children Leadership Center Expenses 2006

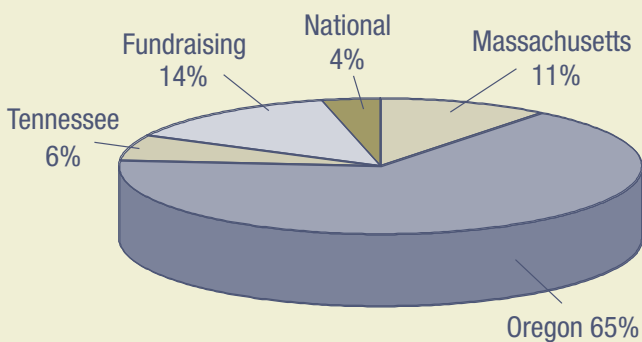


Stand for Children, a 501(c)(4) membership organization, wins concrete, long-lasting improvements for children at state and local levels through effective grassroots action.

Because donations to Stand for Children are not tax deductible, it is more challenging to support this organization. In 2006, we met and exceeded our expenses by raising a record \$504,350 in total revenue, a 57% increase from the prior year. Membership comprised \$247,622 of total Stand for Children revenue during 2006.

The chart below shows how our 2006 expenses totaling \$365,620 were spent:

Stand for Children Expenses 2006



We thank our leadership for their dedicated service.

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stand@stand.org
www.standleadershipcenter.org

Stand for Children – Massachusetts

26 Smith Place 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

Laurie Bennett
State Director
617.547.3800
MAInfo@stand.org
www.stand.org/ma

Stand for Children – Oregon

516 SE Morrison St., Suite 410
Portland, OR 97214

Jonah Edelman
Executive Director
503.235.2305
stand@stand.org
www.stand.org/or

Stand for Children – Tennessee

209 10th Ave., South, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37203

615.726.1414
TNInfo@stand.org
www.stand.org/tn

“Stand for Children’s members and supporters are an incredible force for change. I’m so proud of the impact we had in 2006, and so grateful for your involvement.”

— Gun Denhart
Stand for Children Board Chair

Pledge to Our Donors

In fulfilling our mission, we promise to use our resources in the most efficient way possible and to maintain the highest financial and ethical standards. We appreciate your participation and support and take seriously the responsibility that comes with it. We could not do our work without you.

