

# The Children's Campaign Fund

Helping elect champions for children in Washington State for 20 years!



## Founding the Children's Campaign Fund

The Children's Campaign Fund (CCF) was established in 1990 as a statewide, non-partisan political action committee in Washington State. It grew out of the defeat of the Children's Initiative, a 1989 ballot measure that would have created a tax to ensure funding to support programs and policies for the well-being of children in Washington. Children's advocates recognized that the Initiative failed, in part, because children lacked an effective voice in the electoral process.

The founders of CCF agreed that it was essential for that to change. CCF was created to endorse and provide financial support to candidates for the Washington State Legislature who will be Champions for Children.

## Key Accomplishments

**More champions for children.** Since CCF's founding, there has been an increasing number of legislators who make children their priority. Past co-chair of CCF, Rep. Ruth Kagi, is among many Fund-supported candidates who successfully ran for and now serve in the legislature. She was joined in the House in 2005 by former CCF Chair Mary Helen Roberts, who was elected in 2004 to represent the 21st Legislative District.

*"CCF was born out of the resounding defeat of the Children's Initiative in the late '80s. The founding Board members decided they needed an effective, unified voice for children. They tried to maintain a balance between health, social welfare and education among Board members."*

—Cecile Lindquist, founding board member

**More state investment in children and families.** The state continues to invest more money in programs that have an impact on children, based on leadership and advocacy from legislative champions. Examples include Early Childhood Education Achievement Program (ECEAP), which is an expansion beyond Head Start, providing health care coverage for all children in our state, increasing funding in child welfare including foster care and an economic assistance program, early learning efforts, and support for children of incarcerated parents.

**More money to candidates.** In the first election cycle in 1990, a total of \$1,850 was donated to four candidates. In the 2008 election cycle, over \$37,000 was given to support candidates in critical legislative races throughout the state. Each year, CCF carefully analyzes which candidates to endorse, based on voting records and views on key issues.

*"The Children's Campaign Fund has had a positive impact on the commitment of the state legislature to address the needs of children, and as a result, the lives of countless children in Washington have been improved."*

—Representative Mary Helen Roberts, founding board member

## Hopes for the Future

When interviewed, former board members expressed the following hopes for the future of CCF.

- ◆ The number of Washington State voters who will make children a political priority will continue to grow.
- ◆ Donations to candidates will increase as child advocates invest more in elections and public policy.
- ◆ CCF will continue to help elect Governors and increase the number of legislators that champion children.
- ◆ CCF will further expand its reach—with supporters in every corner of the state.



## Celebrating 20 Years of Board Service

The Children's Campaign Fund would like to acknowledge and thank the hard work of our volunteer board members over the years.

*"The Children's Campaign Fund has championed the presence of a strong voice for kids and I have appreciated their commitment over two decades. On behalf of thousands of kids and families—thank you CCF for all that you have done."*  
—Kip Tokuda, former board member



Founding Members = Blue

Current Members = Bold

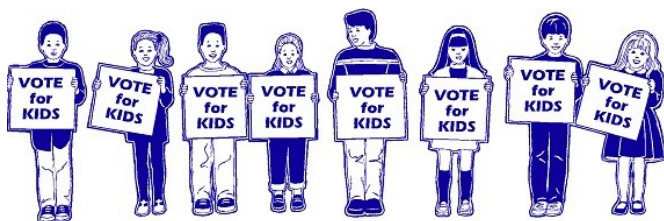
Lewis Andrews, Idalia Apodaca, Sadikifu Akina-James, Nancy Bagley, Melinda Baird, David Beard, **Ana Beltran**, **Paul Benz**, Peter Berliner, Kim Blakeley, **Sean Bleck**, **Kathy Burgoyne**, Susan Brown, Sandy Brown, Maura Brueger, **Sheila Capestany**, Jennifer Cargal, Zach Carstensen, Tom Carr, Sarah Cherin, Maura Clevenger, Marianna Conner, Theresa Conner, Jeffrey Coopersmith, Adam Cornell, Jeri Costa, Barbara Cothorn, Bob Craven, Rob Credle, Diane Crow, Omar Crowder, Susan Crowley, **Joe Cunningham**, Suzanne Dale Estey, Bill Daly, Julie Davidson, Seth Dawson, Brewster Denny, Louise Dix, Suzanne DuRard, **Paul Elliott**, Cheryl Ellsworth, John Engber, **Ginny English**, Mary Fears, Mimi Feuerberg, Pat Franklin, Dorothy Gibson, Florine Gingerich, Gail Gosney Wrede, **Erica Hallock**, **Linda Hanson**, Jerry Hopkins, Di Irons, **Marty Jacobs**, **Carol Jenkins**, Linda Johnson, Representative Ruth Kagi, **Mike Kasprzak**, **Rachael Katz**, Susie Kaylor, Anne Keeney, Karen Kershaw, Leslie Koch, Sharon Kophs, Ruthann Kurose, Regina LaBelle, Jeffrey Ladd, **Tony Lee**, Eunice Letzing, **Jon LeVeque**, Carol Lewis, **Hannah Lidman**, Mary Ann Liebert, **Cecile Lindquist**, Hubert Locke, **Linda Loft**, Lynn Maier, Barbara Marney, Lisa McCrummens, Diane McDaniel, Piper McGregor-Thornburgh, Jill McKinnie, Lynn McKinnon, Tess McShane, Mary Meagher, **Leah Medway**, Liz Mendizabal, Teresa Mosqueda, Jeannie Nist, Joanne Noel, Mari Offenbecher, Mary Ellen O'Keefe, Anne O'Leary, Leslie Owen, Gary Owens, Robin Pasquarella, **Christie Perkins**, Walter Pfahl, Alice K. Probert, Renee Radcliff Sinclair, Sarah Rafton, **Rod Regan**, **Representative Mary Helen Roberts**, Kristen Rogers, Phoebe Sade Anderson, Bonnie Sandahl, Cassie Sauer, Joan Sharp, **Cynthia Shurtleff**, Suzanne Skinner, Ilene Stark, Christine Stickler, Mary Ellen Stone, Delores Teutsch, **Jack Thompson**, Kip Tokuda, Bergitta Trelstad, Nailla VanderKolk, Jessica Wallace, **Susan A. Weiss**, Laura Wells, Carmela Welte, **William Womack, MD**.

*"It's been gratifying to watch Children's Campaign Fund grow, develop and become a statewide presence over the years, as well as to see board members take on leadership roles in the legislature and the community. CCF has become a major force in assuring that we elect legislators who care about kids in our state."*  
—Jack Thompson, founding board member

Thanks also to Gayle Thompson, the "keeper of data" since the beginning.

*"The Children's Campaign Fund burst into being at just the right time. Advocates for children and families were passionate and persistent but were not seen as having real political clout—certainly not in terms of whether people would get elected. The results, however, speak for themselves. The Fund demonstrated that a little money, carefully deployed, can go a long way. Endorsement by the Campaign Fund became important to both incumbents and challengers; and most impressively, many of the people who were there at the beginning and have supported the Fund over the years, are now our chief legislative leaders—and among the best we have."*

*What a difference two decades makes!"* —Peter Berliner, former board member



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