

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

I AM YOUR
FUTURE
PRESIDENT



**ARKANSAS
ADVOCATES
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

2018 AACF PUBLICATIONS

Arkansas Works 2.0:
Proposed Changes Will Affect Progress

What Do Our Littlest Learners Need
to Be School-Ready?

2018 Voters' Guide

Winning the Race to Coverage: Two Decades
of Progress on Kids' Health in Arkansas

Clearing Barriers to Success
by Redirecting Poverty Funding

Health and Wealth in Arkansas:
How Public Policy Connected Them
and What We Can Do About It

Breaking Down the Barriers for Arkansas's
Black Men and Boys: Parts I, II (Health)
and III (Education)

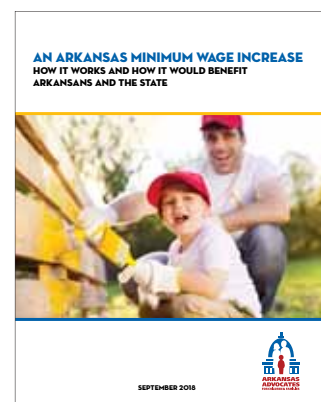
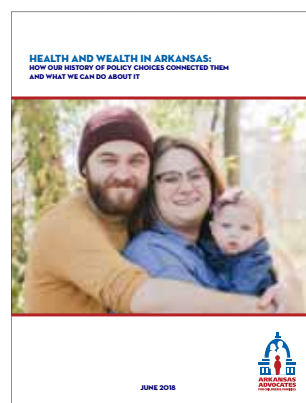
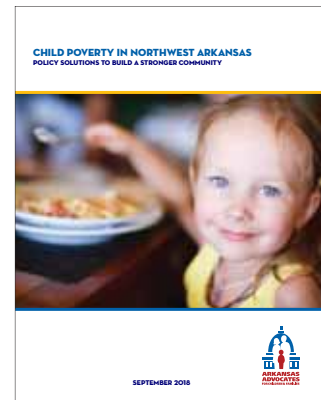
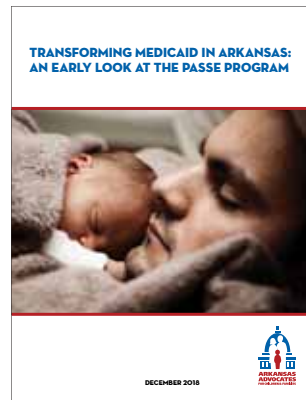
Child Poverty in Northwest Arkansas:
Policy Solutions to Build
a Stronger Community

Reducing Chronic Absenteeism
for Children in Foster Care and FINS

An Early Look at the Impact:
New Medicaid Work Requirement
Hurts Health Coverage in Arkansas

Transforming Medicaid in Arkansas:
An Early Look at the PASSE Program

An Arkansas Minimum Wage Increase:
How it Works and How it Would Benefit
Arkansans and the State



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2018 was one of forward-thinking for AACF. A major focus for our organization was developing a new five-year strategic plan to guide our work in the future.

Among the priorities in our new plan are a greater focus on race equity: what policies are disproportionately harmful to Arkansans of color, and what can be done to correct them; enhancing our capacity to do ballot-initiative work to pass major policy changes for children and families; and increased electoral advocacy work to elevate children's issues with both voters and candidates for public office.

In preparation for the 2019 regular legislative session, we also developed new policy priorities for our work in the following issue areas: early childhood and K-12 education; tax, budget and family economic security; health care; child welfare and juvenile justice; and supporting children in immigrant families.

We rolled up our sleeves on several initiatives during 2018. We fought back against new work reporting requirements for the Arkansas Works program, as we anticipated thousands of Arkansas adults would lose health care coverage under the policy.

During the November midterm election, we worked closely with our partners to support the ballot initiative that would gradually increase the Arkansas hourly minimum wage level of \$8.50 to \$11 by 2021. The initiative passed with 68 percent voter approval. By 2021, the average cumulative increase in annual pay for the 300,000 workers directly and indirectly impacted by the wage increase is expected to be \$1,520.

In juvenile justice, we worked with judges, state agency officials, providers and other advocates to develop a unified juvenile justice reform agenda for the 2019 session.

We also worked to educate the governor's legislative tax task force on policies critical to the well-being of children and families, as the task force developed its recommendations for the 2019 session.

AACF reached an exciting milestone in 2018: Our satellite office in Northwest Arkansas, directed by Laura Kellams, celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

The future is looking brighter than ever for AACF. Our strategies, hard work and staff position us to be even more effective advocates in the coming years. To do that, of course, we will need your help and continued support.

Sincerely,



Rich Huddleston



2018 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HEALTH

This year brought many changes to health care in Arkansas. We became the first state to implement work reporting requirements in our Medicaid expansion program - a move that AACF opposed. In January, we released a publication analyzing the potential impacts of the proposed changes to the program, known as Arkansas Works. Through public comments, blogs and other outreach and awareness-building activities, we were able to convince the state to modify its proposal to the federal government. While we did not manage to stop the implementation of work reporting requirements, the state maintained retroactive eligibility in our Medicaid programs, which it had originally intended to eliminate.



We also worked with community groups and health organizations to highlight some of the challenges beneficiaries face in attempting to report their work activities. Due in part to our advocacy, the state expanded the ability for recipients to challenge their coverage losses by allowing the application of “good cause” exemptions. In addition, homelessness was added as a criterion to qualify for a good cause exemption.



Our staff met with all members of the Arkansas congressional delegation on the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and provided data on the impact of the Medicaid and CHIP programs. Around 110,000 Arkansas children benefitted when Congress voted to extend CHIP funding, ensuring that the ARKids First health insurance program would continue.



Photos from top, left to right: Executive Director Rich Huddleston with 2018 Friends of Children Award recipients, Skip Rutherford, Dr. Sherece Y. West-Scantlebury and Dr. Eduardo R. Ochoa; Health Policy Director Marquita Little discussing health policy on KABF; Development Director Kerri Michael and Rich Huddleston with AACF board member and Arkansas Business 40 Under 40 nominee, Ryan Davis (center); Education Policy Director Ginny Blankenship with U.S. Senator John Boozman.

EDUCATION AND AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

AACF stayed busy advocating for educational opportunities for all students — even between legislative sessions. We relaunched the Invest Early Coalition to advocate for a broader agenda for children ages 0-5. As part of our public awareness campaign, we released a new report, “What Do Our Littlest Learners Need to Be School-Ready?” We also hosted our first screening of “The Raising of America” at the Bentonville Film Festival, followed by a panel discussion with business leaders from Arkansas and across the nation.

AACF continued our work with the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading on reducing chronic school absenteeism for vulnerable students, such as those in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, to make sure that all kids attend school every day, ready to learn. AACF also served as a member the Arkansas Department of Education’s School Discipline Task Force, which adopted our recommendations for improving school discipline policies and practices. AACF will continue to push for greater investment in quality early childhood education; afterschool and summer programs; and adequate, equitable, and effective school funding in the 2019 legislative session and beyond.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

We continued our efforts to reform the Arkansas juvenile justice system by reducing juvenile incarceration and increasing use of more effective community-based programs. AACF served on the joint legislative committee of the Arkansas Supreme Court Commission for Children, Youth, and Families and the Youth Justice Reform Board. That work paid off in two major ways in 2018. First, it helped create momentum for Governor Hutchinson’s decision to close two juvenile



Photos from top, left to right: Development Director Kerri Michael and Education Policy Director Ginny Blankenship at the screening of “The Raising of America;” Northwest Arkansas Director Laura Kellams speaking on the panel following “The Raising of America;” Business leaders participating in the panel discussion following “The Raising of America.”



AACF staff, board members, supporters, volunteers and friends enjoying Little Rock Soup Sunday. Photos from top, left to right: AACF Board Member Dr. Gary Wheeler and Alan Cochran; Health Policy Director Marquita Little and Governmental Affairs Director Tamika Edwards; AACF Board Members Shannon Collier-Tenison and Ryan Davis; Geania Dickey, Executive Director Rich Huddleston and Jackie Govan; Stephen Fussell and Nikki Edge; Little Rock Soup Sunday 2018 co-chair Jill Fogleman, Amanda Richardson and Adam Fogleman. Soup Sunday featured Chef Capi Peck of Trio's Restaurant; Dave's Place is the longest-participating Soup Sunday restaurant.



lock-up facilities. More importantly, it led to the development of a legislative agenda that was to form the basis for a consensus, comprehensive juvenile justice reform bill for the 2019 legislative session. The proposal would continue system reform by reducing juvenile incarceration for nonviolent and low-risk juveniles; requiring more consistent risk assessments; promoting greater accountability for the sentencing decisions by juvenile judges; requiring the use of evidence-based programs; requiring greater accountability for the Division of Youth Services (DYS) for youth in their custody; and requiring that DHS develop a reinvestment plan for redirecting savings from reduced juvenile incarceration into community-based programs.

TAX AND BUDGET + ECONOMIC SECURITY

The Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force, created by the Tax Reform and Relief Act of 2017, met throughout 2018 to analyze state tax policies and determine what recommendations to make to the full legislature in 2019. AACF has been front and center in this discussion since the beginning. While a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit did not make it into the task force's final recommendations, AACF continues to advocate for this targeted tax relief to low-income working families.

To this end, and in conjunction with Children's HealthWatch and Pew Charitable Trusts, we have been gathering data and holding focus groups to conduct a Health Impact Assessment of a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit in Arkansas. The preliminary results of this analysis will be available in 2019. These efforts have strengthened our relationships with our health partners and helped deepen their understanding of the connection between health and family economic security.

OUTREACH

This year the main goal of ACF outreach efforts was focusing the 2018 midterm elections on children through outreach events and a revamped Voters' Guide. Our new Voters' Guide included more detailed descriptions of the issues and tips for talking with legislators and candidates. We distributed 1,000 copies around the state to ACF supporters, grassroots organizations, legislators and candidates, and more.

ACF also hosted Policy Cafés and advocacy trainings around the state, based on the Voters' Guide, to increase awareness of policies affecting kids and encourage advocates to ask candidates about those policies. We hosted and co-hosted several candidate forums asking questions found in the Voters' Guide.

To help our partners and fellow advocates prepare for the 2019 general legislative session, ACF hosted well-attended Children's Policy Summits in Jonesboro, Springdale and Little Rock.



Photos from top, left to right: Rep. Carlton Wing, Sen. Joyce Elliott, Senate President Pro-Tempore-elect Jim Hendren participating in the Little Rock Children's Policy Summit legislative panel; Northwest Arkansas Director Laura Kellams moderating the Springdale Children's Policy Summit legislative panel with participants Rep. Rebecca Petty, Rep. Dan Douglas, Rep.-elect Nicole Clowney and Sen.-elect Greg Leding; Senior Policy Analyst Bruno Showers and Education Policy Director Ginny Blankenship presenting ACF's goals for the 2019 Arkansas legislative session to Springdale Children's Policy Summit attendees; Executive Director Rich Huddleston delivering his State of Arkansas's Children address to Little Rock Children's Policy Summit attendees; Rich Huddleston speaking to the Springdale Children's Policy Summit attendees; Attendees of the Springdale Children's Policy Summit sharing why they support an Arkansas Earned Income Tax Credit.

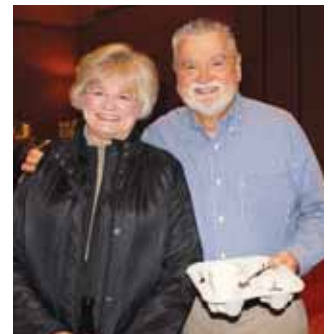




PROGRESS IN NWA

In 2018, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our Northwest Arkansas office. As ACF's only office location outside of Little Rock, the Springdale office continues to stand up for the children and families who've been left out of the economic boom in the fastest-growing region of the state. Our 10th anniversary "Child Poverty in Northwest Arkansas" report, published in September, underscored that poverty remains quite high in many communities in the region. The report also revealed that children of color are twice as likely to live in poverty in Northwest Arkansas — a statistic that matches the racial and ethnic disparity statewide.

While our work in Northwest Arkansas covers the whole range of ACF's issues, the Springdale-based office continues to place a special emphasis on addressing the unique challenges and obstacles faced by children in immigrant families. From early childhood education to a better foster care system, we're working to show decision makers in the region how sound public policy can create opportunities for all children.



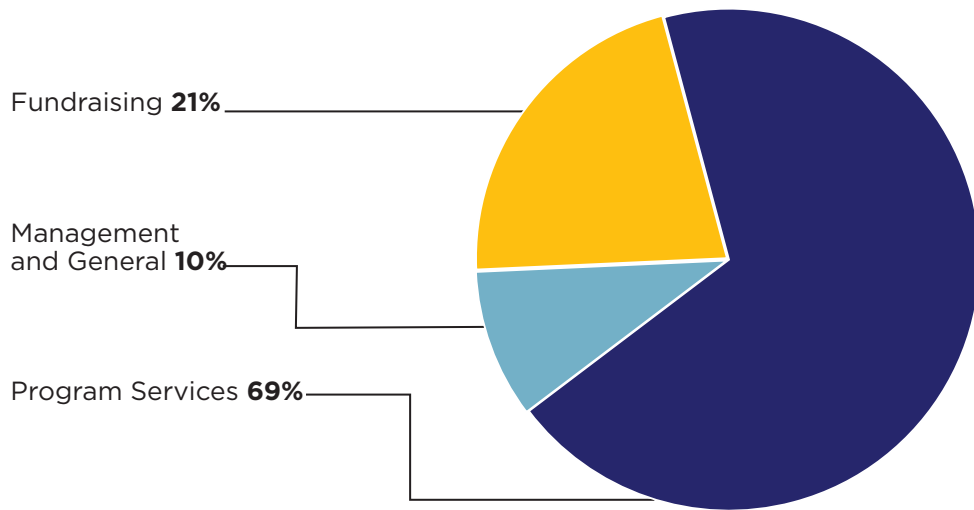
Northwest Arkansas Soup Sunday in Rogers was a great success. Photos from top, left to right: Candice Kellogg and her children; Matt Cooper, of the Preacher's Son restaurant, and his daughter; Board President Hank Bates and Barbara Miles; representatives of the Flying Fish Bentonville restaurant; youth volunteers from the Springdale High School Law Academy; ACF board members Sheldon Riklon and Bill Schwab; and Kathy and Rev. Lowell Grisham.

2018 AACF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

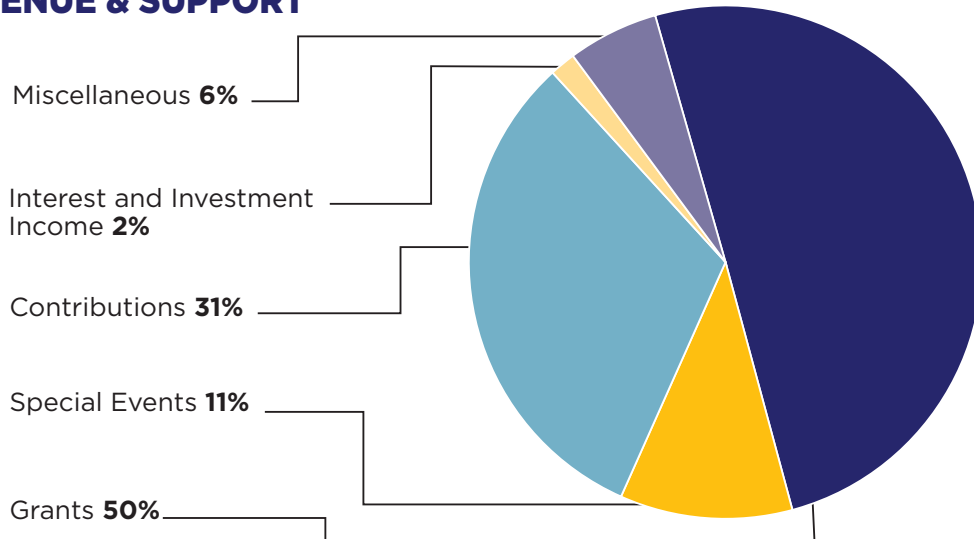
Total Revenue & Support	1,746,960
Total Expenses	1,560,060
Increase in Net Assets without Donor Restriction	186,900
Increase in Net Assets with Donor Restriction	37,244
Change in Net Assets	224,144
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,483,869
Net Assets, End of Year	1,708,013

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2018
From audited financials prepared by Landmark PLC*

EXPENSES



TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT



2018 FUNDERS

Grant Funders (\$5,000+)

Alliance for Early Success
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Earned Income Tax Credit Policy Development Fund
Fred Darragh Foundation
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
Nathan Dalton Whetstone Endowment for Arkansas/ACF

Schott Foundation for Public Education
Solidarity Giving
The New World Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

Organization Donors (\$1,000+)

Ambetter of Arkansas
Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield
Arkansas Children's
Arkansas Community Foundation
Arkansas Family Dental
Arkansas Foundation
for Medical Care
Arkansas Hospital Association
Arkansas Minority Health
Commission
Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association
C. Louis & Mary C. Cabe Foundation
Catlett Law Firm
Clinton School of Public Service
Center on Community
Philanthropy
City of Little Rock
Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon
& Galchus, P.C.
Delta Dental of Arkansas

Endeavor Foundation
Gill Ragon Owen. P.A.
Greater Bentonville Area
Chamber of Commerce
Harps Food Stores, Inc.
Kamps & Stotts, PLLC
Kutak Rock, LLP
Legacy Termite & Pest Control
Little Rock Pediatric Group
McDonalds Restaurants
of Northwest Arkansas, Inc.
McMath Woods, P.A.
Mercy Health System
Katie Mihalevich, REALTOR
Munro Foundation
Nabholz Construction Services
Olds Foundation
Pulaski County Title, LLC
RE501 Partners, LLC

Roger and Patty Harness Family
Foundation
Schmieding Foundation
Second Presbyterian Church
Simmons Bank
Southern Bancorp Community
Partners
Sysco Arkansas, Inc.
The Walmart Foundation, Inc.
University of Arkansas Clinton
School of Public Service
United Methodist Foundation
of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Office
of Diversity and Inclusion
Vanguard Charitable Foundation
Willard & Pat Walker Charitable
Foundation
William H. Bowen Family
Foundation

Individual Donors (\$1,000+)

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Lynn & Dr. Joel Carver
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Priscilla & Keith Harvey
Sharon K. Heflin
Janie & Rich Huddleston

Jeanne & Pulaski County Judge
Barry Hyde
Laura & Kyle Kellams
Drs. Eleanor Kennedy & Lee Abel
Dee & John Lea
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Jana & Mac Mayfield
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Brenda Mize
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& Wayne Oudekerk

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Billie & Skip Rutherford
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& Joe Scantlebury
Judy & Dr. Bill Schwab
Sara & Frank Sharp
Anita Southard
Anna & Dr. Aaron Strong
Sue & David Van Bebbler
Mary Ellen Vogler
Bernadette & Gene Vogler
Danyelle Walker
Drs. Rebecca & Gary Wheeler
Kirk Wilson
Emily & Jeremiah Wood

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We were saddened by the loss of former State Senator Jim Argue, Jr., (right) in May. Jim was a remarkable leader and a steadfast advocate for educating Arkansas's children. He was a longtime AACF supporter, board member and past board president. His dedication to his family and community is missed by many.



PRESIDENT

Joseph (Hank) Bates, III, J.D.

VICE PRESIDENT

Gary Wheeler, M.D.

SECRETARY

Martine Downs Pollard

TREASURER

Shannon Collier-Tenison, Ph.D.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jay Barth, Ph.D.

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Danyelle Walker, J.D.

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Kyle James

Susan Sullivan Miller, M.D.

Rev. Natasha Murray-Norman

Sandra Prater, R.N.

Sheldon Riklon, M.D.

Chad Rodgers, M.D.

William (Bill) Schwab, Ph.D.

Aaron Strong, M.D.

Pastor Dwight Townsend

AACF 2018 STAFF

Rich Huddleston, *Executive Director*

Jennifer Ferguson, *Deputy Director*

Loretta Alexander, *Health Policy Director*

Ginny Blankenship, *Education Policy Director*

Brooke Edwards, *Communications Director*

Christine Hartman, *Northwest Arkansas Office Coordinator*

Laura Kellams, *Northwest Arkansas Director*

Lindsey Lamb, *Little Rock Office Coordinator*

Stephanie Malone, *Director of Governmental Affairs*

Kerri Michael, *Director of Development and Major Gifts*

Bruno Showers, *Health Care Policy Analyst*

Jose Vazquez, *Administrative Director*

Rebecca Zimmermann, *Outreach Director*



Photos from top, left to right: Rebecca Zimmermann, Jennifer Ferguson, Rich Huddleston, Ginny Blankenship, Stephanie Malone; Christine Hartman, Laura Kellams; Brooke Edwards, Jose Vazquez, Loretta Alexander, Bruno Showers, Kerri Michael



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