



Michigan League FOR Human Services

Annual Report 2011

Using data-driven advocacy to improve the lives of low-income citizens

1912 - 2012: Celebrating 100 years of research and advocacy

Connecting the dots in Michigan

After a nationwide search, Gilda Z. Jacobs took over as President & CEO of the League in January 2011, bringing a broad background in public policy, fundraising and political strategy to the job.

Michigan families struggled as the tough economy continued and Lansing leaders focused on cutting business taxes. The League responded to reductions in programs that make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people, working tirelessly to connect the dots from people to programs to policymakers.

Among its accomplishments, the League:

- Convened a coalition of organizations and concerned citizens across the state to fight to save the state Earned Income Tax Credit, targeted for elimination. Though it was cut dramatically, the spirit of the EITC was preserved at 6 percent of the credit instead of 20 percent.
- Raised awareness of the harsh new asset test for food assistance through timely reports, fact sheets, media outreach and discussions with policymakers. The asset test was softened as a result.
- Created a new Prosperity Coalition with a \$1 million, three-year grant from the Kellogg Foundation, which will also fund the ongoing tax and budget work. The coalition will provide an infrastructure to coordinate policy and messaging in support of vulnerable families, children and people of color.
- Helped launch the Michigan Consumers for Healthcare.
- Added Renell Weathers as League's first Outreach Coordinator.
- Provided in-depth analysis of significant changes to the state budget and tax structure.
- Adopted a new strategic plan and broadened its board of directors to include two former state budget directors, two business leaders, a former legislator and two economists.
- Created and convened a statewide Workforce Development Coalition to develop policy recommendations around workforce development.
- Participated in other key coalitions on Medicaid, heating assistance, homelessness, adult education, unemployment, low-wage work, juvenile justice, child care, early childhood education and a creation of a progressive narrative.



Reports & Comments

In 2011, League staff produced nearly 200 written communications in the form of reports, fact sheets, letters to policymakers, written testimony, e-newsletters, press releases and updates.

Among key publications:

- Ties That Bind: Poverty and Michigan's Economic Recovery
- Falling Short: Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Compares Poorly with Other Midwestern States
- Understanding Medicaid — Complex, Compassionate, Cost Effective
- Bucking the Trend: Michigan to Add an Asset Test for Food Benefits
- Good for Business: Rolling Out the Welcome Mat in Michigan
- Executive Budget Cuts Will Hurt Families
- Big Tax Shift
- Plus fact sheets on Internet Sales Tax, Energy Assistance, Charitable Donations, Cash Assistance and other timely subjects.

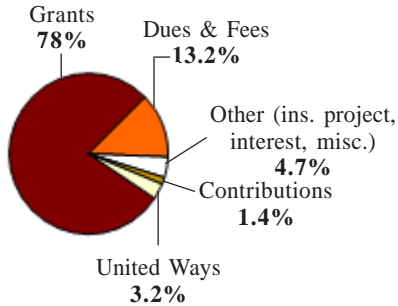
The League also tracked 900 media hits citing the League's work, including local, state and national outlets, and addressed an estimated 4,200 people in 68 staff presentations and two policy forums.



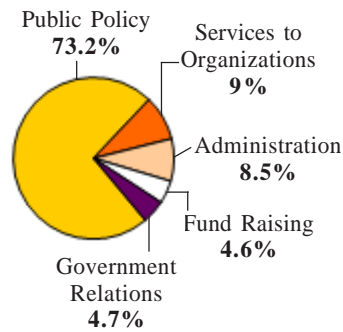
Affordable Care Act Birthday Party

Sources of Funds and Expenditures—FY 2010-2011 (audited)

Sources of Funds – \$2,249,166



Expenditures – \$1,472,232



The League led a Sept. 28, 2011, Capitol press conference protesting new asset limits that especially hurt the newly unemployed. Photo by Judy Putnam.

How to Join the League Efforts

Click on www.milhs.org to:

- ✓ Sign up for e-news and alerts
- ✓ Become a member
- ✓ Donate
- ✓ Tax-deductible donations may also be mailed to Michigan League for Human Services, 1223 Turner Street, Suite G-1, Lansing, MI 48906

Praise for the League

“I want to thank you for all the work you and your staff do for all Michigan families.”— State lawmaker

“Thanks to you and your competent staff, we have scored a ‘win’ for children and families this year.”
— Advocacy leader

“The Michigan League for Human Services has consistently provided excellent information that helps us present facts and statistics in our lobbying efforts.” — Faith-based group

“Your group never ceases to amaze and show us all how to systematically approach issues through policy change and advocacy efforts.” — Association executive director

“I also want to commend you on your work to get the administration to reconsider the vehicle asset limit for SNAP eligibility. The exemption of the first vehicle shows you helped them to see the counter-productiveness of such a rule.” — Nonprofit leader

“You equipped and armed us with enough information to bring awareness, clarity and movement to this issue. Many parent left feeling informed, valued and ready for action.” — Parent network director

“I love doing stories with the League because you’re the only group really researching how these changes in the Legislature impact people.” — Capital reporter



The League joined the AARP's March 15, 2011 rally protesting tax cuts to businesses while increasing taxes on seniors and the working poor. Photo by Judy Putnam.

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Retired Director
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Lansing
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Former State Legislator
Okemos
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SEIU Healthcare Michigan
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Disability Claims Specialists
Lansing
- **Kim E. Sibilsky**
Executive Director
Michigan Primary Care Association
Lansing
- **Margaret A. Talburtt, Ph.D.**
Chief Executive
The Lovelight Foundation
Ann Arbor



Message from the President & CEO

Although 2011 was another difficult and challenging year for our state, I am happy to report to you that the Michigan League for Human Services is well positioned to tackle the ongoing hurdles facing low-income families and individuals in Michigan. The League worked hard in 2011 and emerged stronger with a broader base of support, an expanded staff and increased outreach efforts around the state. Most importantly, we offered common sense solutions to many of these problems and expanded our footprint statewide.

It's no secret that hard times continue with high unemployment, the weakening of the public structures that help households get through difficult times, and growing poverty despite the economic upturn. As I took over the reins as President & CEO in January 2011, it would have been difficult to foresee the many attacks on programs and budgets that affect children, their families and vulnerable individuals in Michigan. While we were successful in battling back a few of the reductions, we know we have much work ahead to repair the damage done to public structures that allow us to invest in our future.

During the year, we built on our strengths. The League was a "go-to" source in 2011 during debates on budget and tax changes, heating assistance, food assistance, health care, unemployment and cash assistance. We were effective in calling attention to the tax impact on seniors and working families (an 83% cut for business taxes but a 23% increase

for individuals). We worked with national groups to release important papers on building the middle class and livable wages, and we partnered with a broad array of state and local advocacy groups and individuals. Our child well-being work through the Kids Count project was used to inform all of these efforts statewide.

It became clear, however, that these challenges required a more formal infrastructure to respond. At the end of 2011, thanks to the Kellogg Foundation, we were able to announce the emergence of a new Prosperity Coalition. This one-of-a-kind coalition in Michigan will provide an ongoing infrastructure to coordinate policy and messaging in support of vulnerable families, children and people of color in Michigan. Along with creating a collective voice in the legislative process, the coalition will promote greater civic engagement across the state around the issues of vulnerable children and families and race equity. The ultimate goals will be to effectuate policy changes that support economically vulnerable children, families and individuals.

We are grateful for the support of so many who recognize the importance of our work in creating a Michigan where everyone has the opportunity to prosper and grow to their fullest potential.



Gilda Z. Jacobs,
President/CEO

OUR MISSION—To foster economic opportunity, independence and security of Michigan's economically vulnerable population by shaping public policy through objective data-driven research, education and advocacy.

OUR WORK—The League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit statewide policy group that uses data-driven advocacy to improve the lives of low-income citizens. It has a network of 1,800 representing business, labor, human service professionals and faith-based organizations as well as concerned citizens.

OUR HISTORY—The League began in 1912 as an "independent association of citizens interested in the health and welfare of Michigan." The League is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2012.

League Staff

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Renell Weathers, Outreach Coordinator
Ben Wells, Insurance Associate
Lawrence Wells, Chief Operating Officer
Jane Zehnder-Merrell, Kids Count Project Director





Michigan League FOR Human Services

2011 Contributors

Platinum

\$300,000+

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Gold

\$100,000 - \$300,000

Annie E. Casey Foundation
The Kresge Foundation

Silver

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Ford Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Nokomis Foundation
The Skillman Foundation
United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Bronze

\$10,000 - \$50,000

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Early Childhood Investment Corp.
Greater Kalamazoo United Way
McGregor Fund
Michigan Consumers for Healthcare
Michigan Poverty Law Program
The Rhodes Foundation
Working Poor Families Project

Copper

\$1,000 - \$10,000

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Delois Whitaker Caldwell
Doug Drake
Gilda Z. Jacobs
Marjorie and Maxwell Jospey Foundation
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Pewter

\$200 - \$1,000

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Capital Area Community Services
Capital Area United Way
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Council of Michigan Foundations
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Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Methodist Children's Home Society
Michigan Association of United Ways
Michigan Catholic Conference
Michigan Community Action Agency Association
Michigan Community Dental Clinics, Inc.
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
Michigan Health & Hospital Assn.
Michigan Literacy, Inc.
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service
Michigan State AFL-CIO
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Pewter (cont.)

\$200 - \$1,000

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United Way of St. Clair County
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Vista Maria
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Action Agency
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Amy Winans

Titanium

Up to \$200

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