

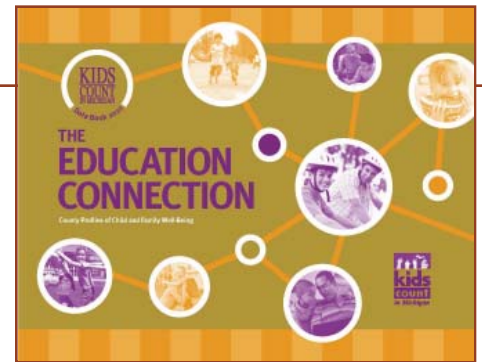


Using data-driven advocacy to improve the lives of low-income citizens

League advocacy never sleeps

In 2010, the Michigan League for Human Services worked to preserve lifeline programs in the face of continuing budget deficits. Working with other organizations and concerned citizens across the state, the League provided key information, analysis and leadership on issues affecting low-income children, their families and individuals. Among its accomplishments, the League:

- Advocated successfully for the restoration of Medicaid optional services, including leading a coalition protesting the end of dental and other services.
- Created an educational package for gubernatorial and legislative candidates.
- Served as leader and convener for an emerging consumer coalition on implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- Joined a statewide campaign against homelessness.
- Raised awareness of child well-being through release of Kids Count reports.
- Welcomed Anika Fassia, one of five policy analysts in the first class of Policy Fellows, a program that uses two-year appointments to diversify the voices of expertise in budget and tax areas.
- Offered timely policy forums featuring high-profile speakers on the state budget and the Affordable Care Act.
- Advocated successfully, in conjunction with national partners, for the continuation of key federal tax credits and state deficit relief.
- Modernized office operations with a redesigned website and a move to a more centrally located office in Lansing's Old Town neighborhood.
- Developed a staff blog, Factually Speaking, which offers timely advocacy commentary, and tracked more than 600 media hits citing the League's work.
- Participated in key state coalitions working on health care, revenues, adult education, unemployment, low-wage work, juvenile justice, child care, and early childhood education.
- Addressed an estimated 2,400 people in 49 staff presentations.



Reports & Comments

The League produced 160 reports, analyses, press releases, statements, letters, e-alerts and updates throughout the year. Among key publications:

- Kids Count in Michigan Data Book
- From Poodle Cuts to Pedicures: Why We Need a Sales Tax on Services
- Hardest to Count, Most to Lose
- Silent and Stealthy: Michigan Gives Away \$35 Billion a Year
- Good Ideas are not Enough: Michigan's Adult Learning System Needs More State Funding
- Déjà Vu: Michigan Struggles to Fund Medicaid Program
- Why Federal Health Care Reform is Good Medicine for Michigan
- Pulling the Plug on Michigan's Future: Why Draining Resources Hurts Tomorrow's Workforce
- Recovery Act Tax Credits for Families
- Long-Term Unemployment is at a Crisis Level
- Michigan's Economy Continues to Cause Pain: Communities of Color Take a Harder Hit
- Numerous analyses, updates, letters, testimonies and alerts regarding budgets
- Forty press releases and statements on budget, tax, unemployment and other issues



Families USA Director Ron Pollack addressed 250 at a health care policy forum co-sponsored by the League and held just days after the March 2010 historic passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The League's Program Staff

Policy Analyst Jacqui Broughton was named one of the nation's top 30 social workers under the age of 30 at the 2010 Social Work Congress in Washington D.C. She joined the League in 2006 after working as a research assistant at the University of Michigan. Jacqui's work focuses on poverty, workforce development, higher education and financial aid. She holds a bachelor's of science in psychology and a master's of social work, both from Michigan State University. She is a licensed master's social worker.



Policy Director Karen Holcomb-Merrill joined the League in 2009. She directs the League's public policy work. Prior to coming to the League, Karen was the Public Policy Consultant for Tobacco-Free Michigan, working for smoke-free laws, and she served as the executive director of Common Cause in Michigan for 14 years. Karen is a graduate of Albion College, with a degree in political science and an emphasis in public policy. She has been studying to become a Commissioned Minister for Social Justice in the United Church of Christ.



Senior Policy Analyst Joanne Bump first joined the League in 2005, then again in July 2010, after working in state government for more than 30 years as an analyst and economist. Her responsibilities at the League include tax, economic and budget policy. She earned a master's degree from Michigan State University in public sector economics with an emphasis in taxation, expenditures and revenues. She advocated for improving women's economic and employment policies as a former President of Women in State Government and Women's Assembly.

Data Manager Paul Diefenbach has been with the League since March 2005. He obtains and analyzes data across state government for the Kids Count in Michigan project. From 1975 to 2002 he was a statistician for the Michigan Department of Human Services. He holds bachelor's degrees in sociology and statistics from Michigan State University.



Policy Analyst Anika Fassia joined the League as a class of 2010-2012 State Policy Fellow from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Her work focuses on tax policy, budget, immigration, and racial inequities. Prior to joining the League, Anika worked with local and state government in Michigan on civil rights, nonprofit management, and housing development. She has also done community organizing work in India and Costa Rica. Anika holds a bachelor's of science in psychology from the University of Utah, and a master's of social work from the University of Michigan with an emphasis in social policy.



Senior Policy Analyst Jan Hudson joined the League in October 2003 after working 30 years for the Department of Human Services. Jan's major responsibilities at the League include policy analysis and advocacy, and Community Health budget monitoring as well as serving on numerous health-related boards, councils, and coalitions. She has chaired the Medical Care Advisory Council since January 2005 and worked during 2010 to help create a consumer coalition. Jan has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Michigan State University.

Communications Director Judy Putnam has been with the League since 2007. In addition to media relations and writing duties, she directs the League's social media and external communications. She previously worked in the capital bureau of Booth Newspapers as a state government and enterprise reporter and as a reporter for four other daily newspapers in Michigan, Mississippi and Texas. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University. She is treasurer of the Mid-Michigan chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



HOW TO HELP

Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Michigan League for Human Services. Mail to 1223 Turner Street, Suite G-1, Lansing, MI 48906. For information on membership, go to www.milhs.org.





Senior Policy Analyst Peter Ruark joined the League in 2001. He writes analyses and gives presentations on workforce development, public assistance, family self-sufficiency, wage mobility and low-income tax credits. Prior to joining the League in 2001, he directed an educational after-school program for at-risk children in Grand Rapids, taught English at the university

and primary school level in the People's Republic of China, and worked in the mental health field. Peter has a bachelor's of philosophy from Calvin College and a master's in social work with a concentration in policy, planning and administration from Western Michigan University.

Chief Operating Officer Lawrence (Lary) O. Wells has been with the League since January 1990. His primary duties center on services to other nonprofit agencies, in addition to legal, budget, payroll, personnel and technology issues, and he is CEO of the League's wholly owned insurance agency, the Michigan League Insurance Project for Nonprofits. Prior to coming to the League, Lary held various positions in Legal Services programs in Michigan and, for a short time, was in private practice. He has a B.A. in business from Michigan State University, a law degree (J.D.) from Wayne State University Law School, and a master's of business administration – accounting and tax from Western Michigan University.



Kids Count in Michigan Project Director Jane Zehnder-Merrell joined the League in 1994. She manages the Kids Count in Michigan project, which produces an annual data book on child well-being and conducts an ongoing public information campaign around children's issues. Jane serves as co-chair to the Child Care Task Force and chair of the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families. Before joining the League, Jane managed the Survey Research Facility at the Project for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Michigan-Flint. She has a B.A. with distinction, a secondary education teacher certificate, and a master's in public administration from the University of Michigan.



In honor of Sharon Parks, who retired in December after 34 years, the Board of Directors created the Leadership/Advocacy/Research to Advance the Well-Being of Michigan's Vulnerable Residents Award.



In May, the League moved into new offices in Lansing's vibrant Old Town neighborhood. As part of the effort to make greater use of electronic records, the staff recycled thousands of pounds of papers and books and filing cabinets. An open house in July celebrated the move.

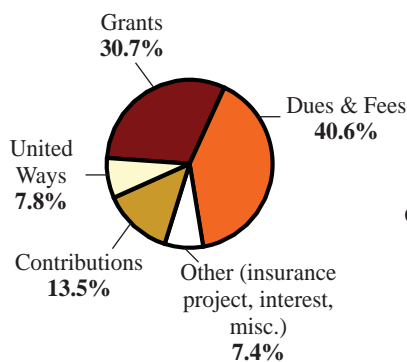
Transition of League Leaders

At a retirement reception for Sharon Parks, right, Gilda Z. Jacobs, left, joins former League leaders Beverley McDonald (1986 to 1993) and Ann Marston (1993 to 2008). Sharon worked for the League for 34 years, serving as president and CEO from 2008 to 2010. Sharon retired in December 2010, and Gilda became president in January 2011.

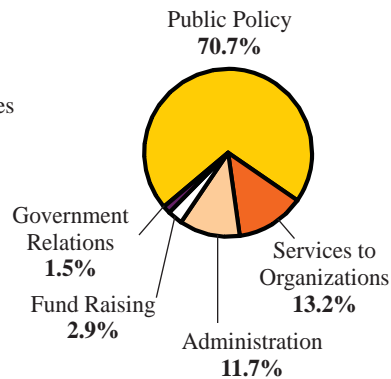


Sources of Funds and Expenditures—FY 2009-2010 (audited)

Sources of Funds – \$983,097



Expenditures – \$1,164,140



OUR MISSION—To help low-income people achieve economic security.

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 1,500 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.”

OUR SUPPORTERS—Annie E. Casey Foundation, Battle Creek Community Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, Center for Civil Justice, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Council of Michigan Foundations, Early Childhood Investment Corporation, the Economic Policy Institute, Ford Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, McGregor Fund, Michigan Poverty Law Program, Michigan Public Health Institute, The Skillman Foundation, United Ways and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

League Staff - 2010

Jackie Benson, Receptionist/Membership Associate
Jacqui Broughton, Policy Analyst
Joanne Bump, Senior Policy Analyst
Paul Diefenbach, Data Analyst
Audrey Dowell, Intern
Anika Fassia, Policy Analyst
Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Policy Director
Jan Hudson, Senior Policy Analyst
Phyllis Killips, Administrative Assistant
Tillie Kucharek, Graphic Designer
Mary Logan, Administrative Support Staff
Sharon Parks, President and CEO
Judy Putnam, Communications Director
Peter Ruark, Senior Policy Analyst
Ben Wells, Insurance COO
Lawrence Wells, Chief Operating Officer
Jane Zehnder-Merrell, Kids Count in Michigan Project Director

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*as of December 31, 2010
 **member of the Executive Committee

