



BUILDING BETTER LIVES

Voices Leadership Committees

Local communities and local citizens are the heart of Voices for Illinois Children. Key to bringing a local perspective to Illinois lawmakers and policymakers are Voices Leadership Committees (VLCs). The committees are based on Senatorial districts, and are made up of local volunteers who build political will to improve the lives of children of all ages throughout the state so they grow up healthy, happy, safe, loved and well educated.

In helping to make children a top priority for Illinois policymakers, VLCs:

- Provide a valuable voice on issues that are important to their respective communities
- Play a vital role in identifying potential issues for Voices to adopt
- Supply local views to help determine how policy and advocacy can be tailored to address the problems of communities
- Offer forums for individuals to learn about and become engaged in advocacy efforts
- Present opportunities for people to connect with diverse civic, business, faith, parent and community leaders

Participation

Any resident of a district can participate in the local VLC. Voices for Illinois Children recognizes the importance of achieving a balance between individuals from the grassroots level and those in leadership positions. Other than residency in the district, there are no set criteria for VLC participation. Current VLC advocates include individuals working in social services, civic leaders, elected officials, and stay-at-home parents.

Activities

VLCs are encouraged to host three events a year. These typically include a community forum, a legislative breakfast and a Kids Count report release. Other activities can be scheduled according to each VLC's preference and can include local VLC meetings, engagements with local legislators, and letters to the editor of the local newspaper.

DuPage Voices Leadership Committee

A DuPage based Voices Leadership Committee was launched in December of 2007. We are actively recruiting members to participate in this important advocacy work, already there are 55 professionals and community members committed to this effort. The Committee is chaired by Jeanna Capito of Positive Parenting DuPage. Please contact us at the following email or phone number if you are interested in learning more about or joining the DuPage VLC:

877 411 PARENT (7273)

voices@positiveparentingdupage.org