ROOTING FOR KIDS!

News for The Children's Hospital's Grassroots Advocates

The Children's Hospital

Supporting Savings Account for Education (SAFE)!

The Children's Hospital has signed on as a supporter of Savings Account for Education (SAFE), which is a ballot initiative that creates a permanent source of funding for public education, preserves the right of citizens to vote on taxes, and untangles the fiscal knot in Colorado's constitution. While this initiative does not directly earmark funds for healthcare, a benefit of passing it is that it will free up significant state general fund dollars, some of which could be directed into healthcare.

Speaker of the House, Andrew Romanoff, provided a comprehensive overview of the SAFE initiative at the August 20 Advocacy Lunch and Learn at The Children's Hospital. Over 60 advocates were in attendance, asked questions, and learned how they can take action in their own communities. For more information on SAFE, please visit http://coloradosafe.org/.

The Children's Hospital and Every Child Matters Partner to Make Kids a Priority

The Children's Hospital is pleased to partner with Every Child Matters, a non-partisan 501c3 organization focused on making the needs of children and youth a national political priority and promoting the adoption of smart policies for children, youth, and families – including stopping child abuse, helping working families with child care, expanding pre-school education and after-school programs and ensuring that children receive good health care.

In an effort to celebrate children and raise awareness about children's issues this election year, The Childrens Hospital participated in the **Tykes on Trikes (and Other Wheels Too!) Parade** on August 16th 2008! Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and his son Teddy, and Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien led the parade which began in front of the Denver City & County Building and concluded at the Capitol.

The Children's Hospital will also partner with ECM on the **Step Up for Kids Day** on September 16th which will draw public attention to issues affecting America's children such as poverty, health care, early care and education, child abuse, and after school programs. The event will take place on the West Steps of the State Capitol at 11:30am. Featured speakers will include

Dr. Steve Berman, Pediatrician at The Children's Hospital and former President of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Stay tuned to www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy and/or http://www.everychildmatters.org/ for more information and election resources.

Be a Voice for Kids in the 2008 Election!

As the days of summer come to an end and the school year gets into full swing, the 2008 Election is right around the corner! Colorado voters will head to the polls in just two months to elect, or re-elect, officials, including one third of the Senate seats and all seats in the House of Representatives.

While the presidential election is taking center stage, don't forget to vote for your Colorado officials who will represent you on issues that directly affect our state's young residents. In preparation, make sure that you have all of the tools needed to make an informed decision and serve as an advocate for children.

How can you get involved and be informed?

- There are lots of ways that the public can access information about candidates including local newspapers, campaign internet sites, and public debates. For more information on candidates, visit www.capwiz.com/tchden/home/.
- Participate: Candidates are not shy about mailing you information, knocking on doors, holding community meetings, and many other tactics to capture your attention and earn your vote. Take advantage of these opportunities to meet them and learn more about their views.
- Many organizations focused on healthcare and children conduct candidate surveys to find out where candidates stand on various issues. The Children's Hospital will publish a candidate survey related to children's health in October. Visit www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy to review the responses.

Register to Vote!

- Have you registered to vote? In November, Colorado voters will elect 19 Senate members as well as all 65 House of Representatives members. Be a part of this historic occasion! You must register to vote by **Mon., Oct. 6**. If you want to avoid busy Election Day polls, apply for a mail-in ballot – both the voter registration form and mail-in ballot application are available online via www.sos.state.co.us. You can also visit the voter registration table in the TCH Atrium on October 1st!

One of the easiest ways we can partner to advocate on behalf of children is to make informed choices about who we elect to represent the interests of Colorado children and families. Remember to visit www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy for updates on advocacy events and issues supported by The Children's Hospital.

Legislator Bio: Senator Ken Kester (R-CO 2nd District)

Legislative Committees: Business, Labor and Technology, Local Government
Previous Occupation: Formerly county Commissioner for Bent County (four terms). General Motors and auto dealer for 30 years.
Political Experience: Elected to Colorado House of Representatives 1998, 2000. Member of Colorado State Senate 2002-present.
Personal: Born March 16, 1936 in Lamar, CO and resides in Las Animas, CO. He has three children and is a member of the Bent County Development Foundation, Member of the Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of Enterprise Zone, Elks Member and Lions Member.

Senator Kester sponsored a successful legislative effort in 2008 that will require most private insurance plans to cover hearing aids for children.

Advocacy Happenings…

SAVE THE DATE!

- Don't forget to join The Children's Hospital and Every Child Matters on September 16, for ECM's National *Step Up for Kids Day*, which will draw public attention to issues affecting America's children such as poverty, health care, child abuse, and after school programs. The event will take place on the West Steps of the State Capitol at 11:30am. Featured speakers will include Dr. Steve Berman, Pediatrician at The Children's Hospital and former President of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- On October 1, Children's will hold *ElectionFest,* an event held every election year which provides a fun way to engage employees, advocates, patient families, visitors, and volunteers in the upcoming elections. Voter registration, election/candidate information, and grassroots advocacy information is offered in this fun, patriotic setting that includes music, food, crafts, and educational games! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at advocacy@tchden.org or call 720.777.6253.
- *Be a Champ for Children!* This annual basic advocacy training will take place on October 23 and 24 at TCH. All are welcome to attend this event led by famed advocacy leader Nancy Amidei. Please visit http://capwiz.com/tchden/home/ and click on "Advocacy Events" for registration details!
- On November 4, The Children's Hospital will hold our annual *Kids Voting* event to educate kids about voting and elections. Activities include hosting a hospital-wide election just for kids! In addition to a kids voting booth in the atrium, we engage volunteers to deliver "absentee ballots" to patient rooms so that all interested children can participate. Additionally, we offer fun activities for the kids in the hospital atrium. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact advocacy@tchden.org or call 720.777.6253.

News from the GAN…

- Congratulations to Leslie Feuerborn who won our annual Grassroots Advocacy Network Membership Challenge! Thank you to all of our advocates for participating in this year's Challenge. We look forward to welcoming all of our new members.
- Remember to visit www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy for event announcements and advocacy tips and tools.

Rooting for Kids! is published 5 times annually by the Office of External Affairs located at:
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