

# 2013 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Children First has accomplished many goals during this year's legislative session despite facing many challenges. Our state was dealing with another year of budget shortfalls and the legislature saw the Children First Trust Fund as a source of revenue to help prop up an ailing General Fund Budget. Because of this, it was of dire importance to inform legislative leadership and others about the importance of the Children First Trust Fund and the programs it provides for children and families. Combine these factors with a desire to un earmark budgets in order to "streamline" government and Children First had some real challenges, as well as, opportunities.

**In this political climate, we have accomplished the following:**

- **Kept the Children First Trust Fund intact (over \$40 million in funding for children's services).** *This trust fund is the backbone of support that allows many state agencies to provide programs and services for over 350,000 Alabama children.*
- **Passed a bill strengthening Alabama's Mandatory Reporting Law.** *This bill will help prevent child abuse and neglect by expanding the list of mandatory reporters to include: physical therapists; all public and private K-12 employees; employees of public and private postsecondary institutions; and higher education employees.*
- **Advocated for continued funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (ALL KIDS).** *As the state budget continued to tighten the already underfunded ALL KIDS program was in peril of being cut again which would have impacted the health care benefits of over 80,000 children.*
- **Continued to establish meaningful relationships with legislators in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.** *Children First has continued to be recognized as the leading advocacy organization for children in the halls of Alabama's Legislature.*
- **Strengthened relationships with press members so that Children First can be the "go to" source for children's issues in the legislature.** *So we can "spread the word" about the plight of children and families more effectively.*
- **Tracked over 87 bills during the legislative session that would have impacted children and families.**

*"Children First faced many challenges during the 2013 session. However, because of our efforts, and with your help, we were able to positively impact the future of Alabama's smallest citizens."*

*Christy Mehaffey  
Executive Director*