

Children First

2014 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

»» *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.

»» *Protected Funding for Agencies that Serve Children through the General Fund and Education Trust Fund*

The twelve state agencies that benefit from the Children First Trust Fund are also funded by either the General Fund or the Education Trust Fund. As budgets in Alabama became tighter, it was important to continue to educate lawmakers on what proposed cuts could do to the well-being of Alabama's children.

»» *Advocated for continued funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (ALL KIDS)*

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. We helped to protect the program and successfully advocated for a \$10.5 million increase for the Alabama Department of Public Health to be used for ALL KIDS.

»» *Assisted with Pre-K Expansion by Helping Secure Additional Funding*

The highly-debated Education Trust Fund Budget included a \$10 million increase for First Class Pre-K funding. Which will enable more than 1,800 children to receive this important early education experience.

»» *Worked with the Department of Human Resources to Facilitate the Training of Mandatory Reporters*

In Alabama a select group of individuals are required to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Children First worked closely with the Department of Human Resources to streamline the formal training process for mandatory reporters and formulated a delivery plan for those needing training.

»» *Called Together Key Child Advocates for Bi-weekly Meetings During the Session*

»» *Tracked over 70 bills during the legislative session that would have impacted children and families*

"Children First faced many challenges during the 2014 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*