Save the Children®

U.S. PROGRAMS

Investing in Childhood: Kentucky

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation's most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure American children's voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children began working with Kentucky communities in 1932, providing support to school children during the Great Depression. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we currently partner with 33 schools in 8 counties to deliver our education and health programs to 12,265 children. In addition, we partner with five schools in two counties serving 2,750 children with a VISTA program.

EVERY DAY

Save the Children's Early Steps to School Success program assists young children with language, social and emotional development; equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child's growth; and develops strong home-school connections.

Through our Literacy program, we provide children in kindergarten through sixth grade with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers.

And our Healthy Choices program increases children's access to regular physical activity and healthy snacks, as well as nutrition education to increase children's knowledge of healthy living.

In addition, Save the Children partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to operate a Foster Grandparent Program and a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program in the following counties: Breathitt, Clay, Jackson, Knox, Knott, McCreary, Owsley, Perry, Whitley. Our Foster Grandparent Program recruits low-income senior citizens from the local community and pairs them with elementary children who are struggling readers. Our VISTA work equips local young adults to become leaders in their community, now and in the future. The participants help us increase family and community engagement in children's learning, while they gain valuable skills and experience, such as public speaking, teamwork, educational content/theory, community capacity building and project management.

Results: In 2014-2015 in Kentucky, 89 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition. Children in our Literacy program read an average of 93 books during the school year, and more than 80 percent of participants showed significant reading improvement. On average, literacy improvement was equivalent to an additional 7.4 months of schooling. Children in our Healthy Choices program participated in an average of 28 minutes of physical activity per day and were introduced to nutritious snack options. In 2014, more than 10,000 Kentucky children participated in our early education, literacy and health programs.
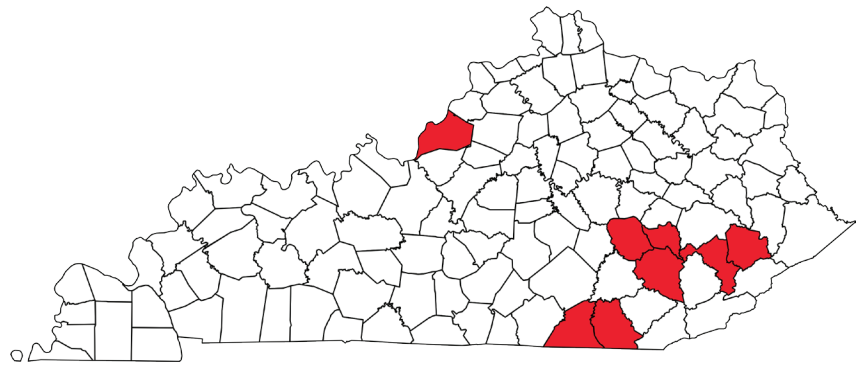
IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children's Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during

Ian, almost age 2, plays with blocks provided by Save the Children's early learning expert. Thanks to you, children like Ian are getting the care and support they need to build a bright future.

WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps	Literacy	Healthy Choices
CLAY COUNTY	2,083			
Big Creek Elementary		●	●	●
Burning Springs Elementary		●	●	●
Goose Rock Elementary		●	●	●
Hacker Elementary		●	●	●
Manchester Elementary		●	●	●
Paces Creek Elementary		●	●	●
JACKSON COUNTY	1,303			
McKee Elementary		●	●	●
Sand Gap Elementary		●	●	●
Tyner Elementary		●	●	●
JEFFERSON COUNTY (LOUISVILLE)	100			
Young Elementary		●		
Hazelwood Elementary		●		
KNOTT COUNTY	1,768			
Beaver Creek Elementary			●	
Carr Creek Elementary		●	●	
Cordia Elementary			●	
Hindman Elementary			●	
Emmalena Elementary			●	
Jones Fork Elementary			●	
MCCREARY COUNTY	922			
Pine Knot Intermediate			●	
Pine Knot Primary		●	●	●
OWSLEY COUNTY	485			
Owsley Elementary		●	●	●
PERRY COUNTY	2,851			
A.B. Combs Elementary		●	●	
Buckhorn Elementary			●	
Chavies Elementary			●	
East Perry Elementary			●	
Leatherwood Elementary			●	
R.W. Combs Elementary			●	
Viper Elementary			●	
Willard Elementary		●	●	
WHITLEY COUNTY	2,753			
Oak Grove Elementary		●	●	●
Pleasant View Elementary		●	●	●
Whitley Central Intermediate			●	●
Whitley Central Primary		●	●	●
Whitley North Elementary			●	

and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster-affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

Results: Since 2005, we've helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs.

FOR OUR FUTURE

We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children's well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness. In Kentucky, Save the Children is part of numerous statewide coalitions that advocate for increased early childhood development funding and afterschool funding for low-resource communities.

Results: Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

SPONSORSHIP

Save the Children's Sponsorship program gives children living in poverty the opportunity for a brighter future. Monthly contributions by individual donors directly benefit a sponsored child's community, ensuring access to a quality education, healthy foods and opportunities to grow in a nurturing environment. Through regular written correspondence with their sponsored child, sponsors are able to personally witness the positive change they are making, not only in the life of a young girl or boy, but in the child's entire community.

Results: Currently, nearly 12,000 children in Kentucky benefit from Save the Children sponsorship. More than 7,800 sponsors support early childhood and school-age education and health programs in Kentucky.

CHILD POVERTY IN KENTUCKY

- *26% of children live in poverty.[1]*
- *64% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.[2]*
- *56% of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in public or private preschool/nursery school programs.[3]*
- *64% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.[4]*
- *24% of children in rural communities do not graduate high school.[5]*
- *16% of children are obese.[6]*

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[1] 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).
[2] 2015. Kentucky Department of Education.
[3] 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).
[4] 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).
[5] 2012. 2008-2012 US Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service.
[6] 2012. 2011/12 National Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health.