RFK really changed my life. They made me feel safe and helped me get back home with my family.
Senator Edward M. Kennedy

In 2009, we mourned together over the loss of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, one of the most passionate and articulate advocates for children, health and social justice. At our 2006 Embracing the Legacy event, he quoted from the words of Nobel Laureate Gabriela Mistral, telling us, "We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. To him we cannot answer "Tomorrow." His name is "Today."

"There has been no more faithful champion of the poor, of working families, of all those who depend on essential government services and the positive role that the government can and should play, than Senator Edward Kennedy."
- Ed McElroy, American Federation of Teachers Convention, Boston July 21, 2006

"For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die."

"There is a new wave of change all around us, and if we set our compass true, we will reach our destination."

President Obama has described his breathtaking span of accomplishment: "For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health, and economic well being of the American people bore his name and resulted from his efforts."

"He has proven himself, time and again, to be a fighter for children and educators," said Reg Weaver, the immediate past President of the National Education Association.

"We know the future will outlast all of us, but I believe that all of us will live on in the future we make."
Dear Friends,

“All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don’t. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.” In my 28 years at Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps never have Robert Kennedy’s words rung more poignant and true.

This 2009 report is our opportunity to celebrate with you the phenomenal successes that your investment has made possible for the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable children. Below is a snapshot of the accomplishments that our children and families achieved with the encouragement of our staff:

- 171 boys and girls, ages 6-18, were reunified with their families
- 82% of students from our Springfield program passed the MCAS 10th grade requirement
- 16 students across the agency received their high school diploma or GED equivalency
- Our Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (DDAP) had an 85% success rate in diverting high-risk teenagers from detention, keeping them safely in the community

With your support we made advances in our advocacy, fundraising and public relations efforts. We are proud to collaborate with the RFK Center for Justice and Human Rights in advocating for juvenile justice and child welfare systems nation-wide. Our Embracing the Legacy event raised the most philanthropic support in its history. My Op-Ed calling for the state to rescind its devastating cuts to the Department of Youth Services budget was published in several newspapers across the state, as was another one calling for a White House Conference on Children (see reverse side).

We had much to be proud of this year. Nevertheless, the economy has taken its toll. We have never experienced such financial challenges. We have been forced to cut both programs and staff. And when we cut programs and staff, our children get less than they deserve.

We know that like us, your shared compassion and concern for the kids we care for far outweigh society’s capacity to ignore them. Our children deserve better. They deserve the time, talents and tools we have to give them. They deserve a safe, nurturing and consistently reliable environment that we can provide. Our children deserve child care workers and teachers who are respected, appreciated, and compensated as such.

Unfortunately the truth is the staff at our agency, particularly child care workers, are underappreciated and undervalued by society’s standards. It is unconscionable that the starting salary for a child care worker is $25,865 and that 70% of our staff earn a salary below $40,000 annually. I have never signed a contract that has adequately compensated a child care worker. This societal “norm” of undervaluing the staff in the child welfare and juvenile justice field should not be passed onto another generation.

It is time for not for profit leadership to unite and stand up for these children by supporting the men and women who care for them. If we do not take advantage of this opportunity today, all of us face far harsher challenges and consequences in the future.

Due to the economic downturn and state budget cuts, many non-profit agencies are closing their doors. That cannot happen here. That will not happen here. We will continue to work closely with the state agencies that contract with us, the community, and our supporters to provide for our children. While we continue to manage the financial health of the organization, our child care workers come to work with the same dedication and compassion they always have and our children continue to grow.

The need has never been more urgent, and neither has our resolve. In the coming months, I will be asking for your continued support, both financially and as an advocate for our children and our staff. Now is the time for change - not despite of but in the face of this unprecedented economy. Our kids deserve better. Our staff deserve better. Our future demands better. We cannot survive, let alone thrive, without you.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Kelley
President & CEO
Delayed action is child abuse
By Edward P. Kelley | Saturday, December 19, 2009 | Op-Ed

At the turn of the century, President Theodore Roosevelt had the wisdom to convene the first White House Conference on Youth and Children, stressing the importance of family and home life and improving foster care. A national Children’s Bureau was created. Dismal foster homes were inspected, and foster children received more adequate education and medical care.

Conferences were held every 10 years and brought landmark changes for children - who so often are voiceless in the political process - improving health care for mothers and children, extending aid to special needs children and bettering child-labor standards. By 1970, the conferences faded out. Despite laws to hold them in 1980 and 1990, no action was taken.

Re-establishing the White House Conference on Children and Youth is long overdue. With two champions for children, Barack and Michelle Obama, living at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., the time to set a 2011 conference in motion is now.

Massachusetts, once a national leader on juvenile justice and child welfare, should take the lead. And the planning process must begin. We need a White House Conference to get the nation talking about what ails our most vulnerable young people and their families.

We are at a critical juncture for challenged youth. In 2006, there were more than 3 million reports of child abuse and neglect nationwide. Each year, abuse and neglect cases cost the country more than $104 billion. In 2006, more than 800,000 children spent time in foster care. Annually, 51,000 children are adopted out of foster care, but 125,000 are left waiting for that golden moment that will likely never come - a disproportionate number of whom are Latino, African-American and Native American.

Two bills are pending in the House and Senate, urging President Obama to call a national conference. It would be a dialogue in many dialects, from varying vantage points, to address the challenges that our country’s neediest families and children face daily.

When these conferences were held earlier in the last century, there were results. A Children’s Charter was created in 1930 that set requirements for education, health, welfare and protection. The largest medical care program ever instituted by the U.S. at the time - Emergency, Maternity and Infant Care - launched in 1940. The Children’s Bureau was elevated in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare by 1960. Ten years later, then-Sen. Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) chaired a new Senate subcommittee on Children and Youth, and President Richard Nixon followed up with a $300,000 request to carry out national mandates from the conference to the states.

A 2011 conference could bring together citizens, parents, youth workers, political leaders, foster families, judges, advocates and mental health workers from all facets of our diverse country to guide us into the next decade with solid reform.

Critical talking points would be: children’s physical and mental health, education, substance abuse, housing, juvenile justice, child welfare, work force issues, strategies to help families and methods to stop abuse.

The words of Robert F. Kennedy still ring true: “Justice, dignity, equality. These are words which are often used loosely, with little appreciation for their meaning. Their meaning can be distilled into one goal: That every child in this country live as we would want our own children to live.”

Edward P. Kelley is president and CEO of Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps in Boston and chairman of the Child Welfare League of America’s juvenile justice committee.

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About RFK Children’s Action Corps

Founded: June 25, 1969, as a memorial to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Type of Organization: Private non-profit 501(c)(3) licensed child welfare agency, approved private schools, foster care & adoption
Annual Budget: $24.3 million (FY09)
Employees: 370

Locations: 7 across Massachusetts including Boston, Holyoke, Lancaster, South Hadley, Cape Cod, Springfield and Westborough
Community-Based Programs: 19 – including residential treatment, secure treatment, special education schools, group home, adoption services, community-based and adventure education
Children Served Annually: More than 800 children & families

Our Programs in Action

ADOPTION SERVICES
16 students across the agency received their high school diploma or GED equivalency

EDUCATION
Our Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (DDAP) had an 85% success rate in diverting high-risk teenagers from detention, keeping them safely in the community
We worked with 90 sets of expectant parents through our Bright Futures Adoption Center

THERAPEUTIC OUTDOOR EDUCATION
87% of every dollar raised goes directly to children

CLINICAL COUNSELING
82% of students from our Springfield program passed the MCAS 10th grade requirement

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT
171 boys and girls, ages 6-18, were reunified with their families

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS
Our Kids in Action

Throughout 2009 the boys and girls in our programs have helped carry the legacy forward to those in need.

Baby Announcement! Our Bright Futures Adoption Center welcomed baby Claire. Proud parents Fern and Marc said “She has brought us more joy and pleasure than we can put into words.”

Our Fay A. Rotenberg School raised $2,000 by making and selling bracelets to benefit an orphanage in Naivasha, Kenya.

The Student Council at our Springfield program created over 100 origami ornaments to help raise money for World Vision, a humanitarian charity organization. They collected over $250!

The girls at our South Hadley Girls Treatment program crocheted 26 blankets to help welcome newborns at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.
Our Supporters in Action

Thank you for investing in our children and our programs so that every child can live as we would want our own children to live.
Keynote speaker John Seigenthaler and Board Member Joe Kennedy, III

Joseph D’Arrigo, Joe Albanese, Board Member Jim Blue and Advisory Council Member Don Rodman

Honoree Bob Watson with John Seigenthaler, Joe Kennedy, III, Honoree Daren Chentow, RFK’s Ed Kelley, Honoree Josh Dohan with Youth Advocacy Project and Honoree Mel King

Embracing the Legacy Awards June, 2009

New playground at Lancaster campus thanks to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Roxbury Latin School

State Street participants

Winchester Brownie Troop

Winter Wish Gift Drive December, 2008
Thank you Volunteers!

- St. Sebastian’s School Volunteers
  November, 2008

- Roxbury Latin School Volunteers
  October, 2008

- Newton Country Day School Volunteers
  April, 2009

- Children’s Author Matt Tavares
  September, 2008

- Caroline Loughlin, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage,
  reads “Joey Pigza swallowed the key” by Jack Gantos

- Tim Leahy, New York Life Insurance Company,
  reads “Crash” by Jerry Spinelli

- Community Reading Day
  April, 2009
We are pleased to acknowledge those who made contributions to RFK Children’s Action Corps in FY 2009. (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

We have done our best to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have changes, please let us know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000+</td>
<td>Bank of America Global Corporate Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Celebration for Kids, Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation, Nathan R. Miller Properties, Rodman Ride For Kids, State Street Corporation, Laurie and Bob Watson/ The LPM Charitable Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000-9,999</td>
<td>Beatrice and Peter Nessen, Betsy and John Munzer, McGladrey &amp; Pullen, Cydney and David Martel, Agency, Inc., Lurie &amp; Krup, LLP, David Lindahl, Lazard Asset Management LLC, Patricia and Joseph Kennedy, Beverly and Phil Johnston, Ivy Asset Management Corp., Jane and Keith Carroll, Michael J. Cheverie, Robert Cecchini, Silverio Basile, 500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500-4,999</td>
<td>ACT Leasing, Avalon Bay Communities, Maureen and Richard Bolger, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Monica and Michael Connolly, Marilyn and Dennis Pedra, Marilyn and Raymond Ruddy, Symmes, Main &amp; McKee Associates, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Golden Noodle Car Wash
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Christopher Gradziel
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Haidic Hedvart
Bryan Hefner
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Highland Cafe of Malden
Andy Hill
Holy Cross Church
Joan Hopfe
Letitia L. Howland
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Tonia and George Hutt
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Indigo Coffee Roasters
Intelectual Styles
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IRA Motor Group
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Kevin James
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We thank our generous supporters to the Lancaster Project which began in 2005.

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Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2009  
(July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>537,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>2,940,904</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,478,146</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Assets</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land &amp; Buildings</td>
<td>8,093,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Investments</td>
<td>1,546,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>762,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>10,402,654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets**  13,880,800

**Liabilities**

| Current Liabilities                | 2,081,190 |
| Other Liabilities (Long Term Debt) | 5,837,739 |

**Total Liabilities**  7,918,929

**Total Net Assets**  5,961,871

A copy of the complete audited financial statements prepared by McGladrey & Pullen is available upon request.

**Revenue**  $24,343,555

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Youth Services (DYS)</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Children and Families (DCF)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities, Towns and Department of Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Gifts and Grants</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Investments, Miscellaneous)</td>
<td>2%</td>
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**Expenses**  $24,813,350

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administration</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year 2009 Deficit**  ($469,795)

* $19M or 77% of all expenses are for employee compensation and related items  
** The FY'09 deficit represents 2% of the annual budget
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Nichelle D. Sadler, Boston Area Director
Cindy G. Schofield, Director of Operations & Administration, Lancaster Campus
David N. Strong, Director, Juvenile Justice Programs
Adrienne E. Williams, Director of Child Welfare Services
WE BELIEVE...

...that every child has the right to reach his or her full potential

...that all children have the right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment

...that we must respect the dignity and individuality of every child

...in the legacy of Robert F. Kennedy – that society has a responsibility to the poor and disadvantaged