

# KIDS COALITION

*Jacksonville Works for Kids*

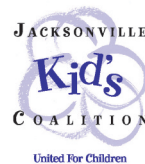
The primary work of the Jacksonville Kids Coalition is making children's issues a top political priority by educating elected officials, candidates and voters.

### Activities include:

- ❖ Conducting candidate forums to educate candidates on needs of children and community strategies to meet those needs.
- ❖ Providing background papers for elected officials and candidates on issues affecting Jacksonville's children.
- ❖ Meeting regularly with community leaders to help identify gaps in services and underscore the need for continued public investment.
- ❖ Making an annual trip to Tallahassee to meet with state legislators.
- ❖ Conducting research on issues affecting children.
- ❖ Regular meetings among members.

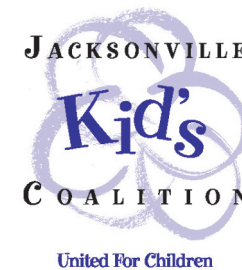
### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Baptist Health Foundation                                       | Jacksonville Marine Institute              |
| BEAM  | Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center     |
| Best Buddies  | JASMYN                                     |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida                   | Jewish Community Alliance                  |
| Boy Scouts of America, North Florida Council                    | Jewish Family & Community Services, Inc.   |
| Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida                       | Junior Achievement                         |
| Cathedral Arts Project  | Kesler Mentoring Connection                |
| Child Guidance Center   | Leadership Jacksonville                    |
| Children's Home Society   | MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation         |
| Communities in Schools  | Mental Health America of Northeast Florida |
| Community Connections of Jacksonville                           | Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition  |
| Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville                        | Nemours                                    |
| daniel  | Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida      |
| DLC Nurse and Learn   | Northwest Behavioral Health Services       |
| Dreams Come True  | PACE Center for Girls                      |
| Duval County Public Schools                                     | Project SOS                                |
| Early Learning Coalition  | Salvation Army                             |
| Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville, Inc. | St. Vincent's                              |
| Empowerment Resources   | The Bridge of Northeast Florida            |
| Family Foundations  | UF Pediatrics at Shands                    |
| Family Support Services   | United Way of Northeast Florida            |
| Girls, Inc.   | Upright Public Relations                   |
| HEAL  | Wolfson Children's Hospital                |
| Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center                  | YMCA of Florida's First Coast              |
| Hubbard House   | Youth Crisis Center                        |
| ICARE   |  |
| Jacksonville Children's Commission                              |  |



### JACKSONVILLE KIDS COALITION

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# JACKSONVILLE

*Working Together so*

Founded in late 2001 with the financial support of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Jacksonville Kids Coalition has become a leading voice for the children of Northeast Florida.

Its mission is to improve the lives of children in Jacksonville by advocating for public policies that encourage and support effective programming for children.

The Jacksonville Kids Coalition includes representatives of more than 40 area nonprofits, as well as interested individuals committed to working on behalf of children.

## About Our Children

Almost a quarter of a million people in Duval County — 26% of the population — are under the age of 18.

Children make up a larger proportion of the population in Duval County than in any other county on the First Coast. This population is expected to grow by more than 13% by 2020.

### Children's Welfare

39% live in low-income families.

17% live at or below the poverty level.

8% live in "extreme" poverty.

### Children's Learning

42% of low-income children receive no subsidy for day care.

67% of children entering school are not prepared for learning.

9% of all public school first graders are retained.

34% of public school third graders cannot read at grade level.

35% of public high school students will not graduate in four years.

### Children's Health

14.5% of children attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

9.9% of children have no health insurance.

49.5 out of every 1,000 children born in Jacksonville are born to teens ages 15-19.

## Caring for Children

Children in Duval County receive support from scores of nonprofit organizations.

### Nonprofit organizations:

Provide the bulk of child protective services (foster care) in Duval County;

Provide the bulk of prevention and intervention programs for young juvenile offenders in this judicial circuit;

Provide most after-school programming;

Provide virtually all youth athletic and recreational programs;

Provide a vast array of arts and cultural activities;

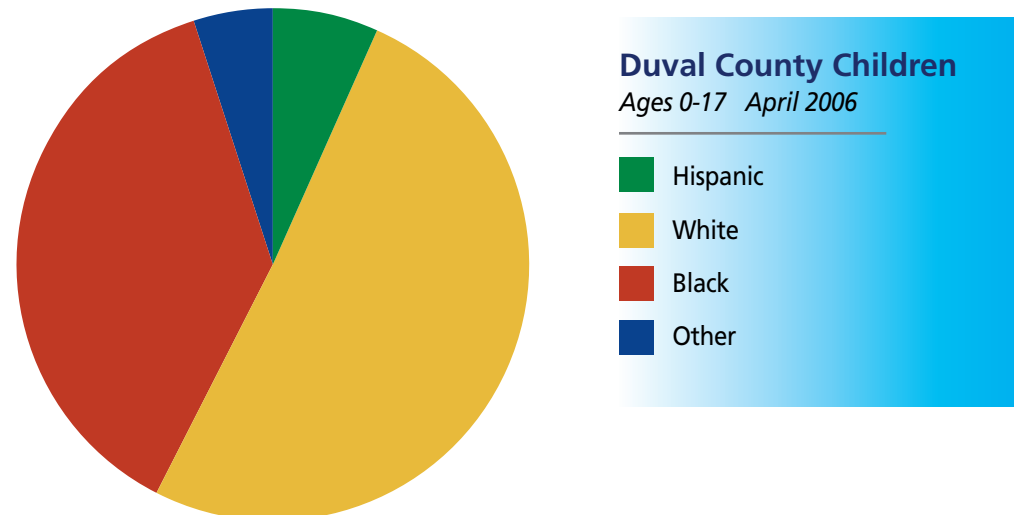
Provide mentors and tutors, big brothers and big sisters;

Provide a variety of health care services;

And more.



Many of these nonprofits — particularly those providing essential services such as foster care, emergency services and services to juvenile offenders — rely heavily on government funding. Private contributions, while always welcome, are insufficient to meet the demands and expectations of the community.



## What the Voters Say

Voters say providing services to children and families is second only to improving public education as a dominant community issue.

In particular, voters care about:

Preventing child abuse and teen pregnancy

Intervening with troubled kids

Promoting childhood literacy

Preparing children for college and/or work

Proving quality child care

Providing resources for parents who are in crisis

92% of voters agree with the statement: Lack of attention to the needs of children has a serious impact on the rate of crime in our neighborhoods.

91% of voters agree with the statement: Jacksonville should do everything it can to ensure that every child enters school ready to learn.



Source: Survey conducted by Bruce E. Barcelo, Barcelo&Company, January 9-11, 2006. Based on interviews with 420 self-described likely voters in Duval County.