Social-Emotional Learning Builds Brighter Futures

Committee for Children Report to the Community 2013–14
Committee for Children spent 2013–14 working toward the future of social-emotional learning (SEL) and child safety. We took bold new steps, widened our reach to children both nationally and globally, and embraced innovative approaches to achieve our mission.

Take, for example, our brand-new department, New Mission Ventures, dedicated to sourcing and developing completely new initiatives and programs that promote the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of children. You can read more about this exciting new work on page 3.

In our constant efforts to serve more children with evidence-based SEL programs, we joined forces with an Australian partner, with whom we’ll bring the Second Step program to schools Down Under. We’ve also been highly engaged with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) in their Collaborative Districts Initiative, which develops and documents eight district-wide SEL implementations—five of which are Second Step districts! We’ve featured one of them, Austin (TX) Independent School District, inside.

We have redoubled our advocacy efforts, too, in the interest of passing SEL policies and child protection laws at the state and federal levels. Page 3 will tell you about a few of the ways in which we are building awareness among policy makers and effecting exciting policy change.

Lastly, we released grades 4 and 5 of our Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit. That means we are able to offer research-based bullying prevention programming to schools from kindergarten through grade 8.

As we anticipate the future, we look forward to our continued relationship with you. Your commitment to the safety and well-being of children makes our work possible.

Sincerely,

Joan Cole Duffell
Executive Director

Stanton Reed Koch
Board President 2013–14

Committee for Children’s vision:
Safe children thriving in a peaceful world
Social-Emotional Learning Across the Globe

- Our partner in Denmark, Special-paedagogisk forlag, published the Danish, Estonian, Swedish, and Norwegian versions of the Second Step early learning program.

- Our partner organization in Australia, Positive Pieces, will launch the Australian Second Step program in early 2015.

- SES, our partner in Turkey, published the Turkish version of the Second Step early learning program and will publish the kindergarten program in early 2015.

- We developed Spanish-language music CDs and lesson videos to support US bilingual schools and our expansion into Spanish-speaking countries.

- Feasibility studies of the Second Step program are to be conducted this coming year in Brazil, Chile, England, and Mexico.

“Educators and researchers from around the world confirm that all students benefit from SEL, especially when taught with cultural relevance in their own language.”

—Joan Cole Duffell

A Commitment to Research and Evaluation

Dr. Dorothy Espelage (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and colleagues have been evaluating the Second Step middle school program in a randomized control trial. They have found reductions in bullying perpetration among students with disabilities who received the program. In addition, students in Second Step schools were less likely to report being victims of homophobic name-calling and perpetrators of sexual violence. Both of these findings will be published soon in peer-reviewed journals.
As with most large school districts, Austin Independent School District’s 87,000 students are culturally and economically diverse and, in some cases, working to thrive despite difficult circumstances. As part of their effort to help all their students thrive, AISD is implementing a five-year initiative to implement social-emotional learning—including the Second Step program—in every school. And their efforts are already paying off. For example, O. Henry Middle School tells us that in the three years since they began implementing SEL, discipline referrals in the first six weeks of school have dropped by 87 percent. The educators and students of AISD alike love the program. Says third-grader Arianna, “Some schools probably don’t do ‘Second Step’ or social-emotional learning, and their school’s probably not as fun as ours.”
New Mission Ventures: Up, Up, and Away

We have a brand-new department to introduce to you! New Mission Ventures is dedicated to developing new and original ideas, initiatives, products, and services that can help us carry out our mission. How do they do this? By...

- Imagining new products and services that expand our reach beyond the classroom
- Leveraging new technologies to create innovative solutions and broaden mission impact
- Developing partnerships with individuals and organizations that can make a difference for children

New Mission Ventures looks for unique solutions that can be piloted, iteratively developed, and brought to market quickly to create positive social change. Projects may originate in schools and expand outward to families and communities, or they may be delivered directly to children, parents, or community service providers. Regardless, the basic tenets remain the same: projects must be bound by our mission of fostering the social and emotional development, safety, and well-being of children. They should also meet unmet needs, be scalable, future-oriented, financially viable, and tied to effective practice.

Advocating for SEL in Both Washingtons

“I have long believed that social-emotional learning is an essential part of the educational process”

—Timothy Shriver, Ph.D. CEO of Special Olympics (speaking at Committee for Children’s Congressional briefing in Washington, DC)

In February 2014, we hosted our first-ever Washington State SEL Lobby Day. Committee for Children staff, board members, and even a local teacher met with over a third of the Washington Legislature in person and did outreach to all of them about the importance of SEL in the classroom. The day concluded with a reception at the Governor’s Mansion. The event, hosted by First Lady Trudi Inslee, brought together leaders in the field of child sexual abuse prevention to learn more about each other’s work and talk about continued next steps to keep kids safe. April found us in Washington, DC, where special guest Tim Shriver was joined by other leaders in the SEL field to educate Congress members and their staff. Co-hosted with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, our Congressional briefing was titled “Social and Emotional Learning: Essential Skills for Success in School and Life.” The standing-room only crowd included two members of Congress, who announced SEL legislation they were introducing.
Second Step Program by the Numbers

26,000 SCHOOLS teach the Second Step Program

COUNTLESS CHILDREN with BRIGHTER FUTURES
Financials for 2013–2014

Support and Revenue

Sales of Educational Materials
96% | $10,571,340

Contributions, Investments, and Other Income
3%  | $481,101

Training Fees
1%  | $391,862

Program and Supporting Expenses

Community Education
29% | $3,100,536

Production of Educational Materials
20% | $2,205,601

Program Development
17% | $1,819,812

Administration and Fundraising
15% | $1,582,827

Research and Evaluation
10% | $1,076,228

Training and Implementation Support
9%  | $1,018,029
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A nonprofit creating research-based social-emotional learning programs since 1979