



Make a Difference Monthly Alert

November 2009

Thankful for You

As Thanksgiving draws near, we want to thank all of our Captains4Kids for their support this past year. We are particularly grateful for all of your hard work and the many successes you achieved, just some of which include:

- hundreds of direct contacts with legislators helping to save pre-k from cuts in a tough budget climate
- great recruitment numbers in new areas
- numerous national and state media stories highlighting older adult support for pre-k
- moving profiles of older adults voicing their support of early education
- well-attended events garnering legislative attention to pre-k

We truly appreciate your involvement in Seniors4Kids.

ACTION ALERT: GET YOUR U.S. SENATOR TO SUPPORT THE EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE FUND

The Early Learning Challenge Fund, federal legislation intended to provide competitive grants to states to improve their early education programs, passed the House and is pending in the Senate. You can improve early education by sending a letter of support to your U.S. Senator. A sample letter from Pre-k Now is available [here](#). You may also find the contact information for your Senator [here](#).

SENIORS4KIDS “TEAS OFF” IN ASHLAND, KY

Kentucky Seniors4Kids kicked off our recent expansion into Ashland, Kentucky with a tea party at the home of Captain4Kids Judy Fannin on November 15. More than 30 people came to find out how they can raise awareness about the importance of early education as Captain4Kids advocates. In addition to signing up more than 20 new Captains4Kids, the Ashland Independent published a feature on Seniors4Kids over the Thanksgiving weekend. “We have a really tight-knit network and a strong desire to give back through all kinds of service organizations. What better cause than to be an advocate for future generations,” asks Ashland Lead Captain Norma Meek. You can read the full article [here](#). In particular,

Generations United would like to thank Judy Fannin, Norma Meek, and Mary Musgrave for all their hard work in making our entry into Ashland so successful. Welcome aboard Ashland!

NEW YORK CAPTAINS4KIDS: TELL GOVERNOR PATTERSON NO CUTS TO PRE-K

Last Friday, Governor Paterson made a shocking announcement. He told reporters: "Twenty-six states shut down their early childhood education and prekindergarten programs, and that's what we're going to have to do..." New York State needs to balance its budget, but not by cutting pre-k. Decades of rigorous research demonstrate that pre-k programs produce a more capable workforce, promote long-term fiscal stability, and ensure New York's future economic competitiveness. In this tight fiscal climate, it is imperative that early care and learning programs are supported so that our children and families can succeed. Urge the Governor to NOT cut pre-k by visiting Winning Beginning, our state partner's website, [here](#). You can read Paterson's full comments [here](#).

RED BANK SCHOOLS CHIEF INVITES CHRISTIE TO VISIT PRE-K IN SENIORS4KIDS TARGET AREA

Last week, New Jersey Seniors4Kids State Coordinator Lise St. Amant went to Freehold to speak with Monmouth County Senior Centers about Seniors4Kids. Her visit coincided with a request by Red Bank's top educator who wants to prove to Gov.-elect Chris Christie that the district's preschool program isn't just taxpayer financed baby-sitting by inviting him to see it in action and to review academic data. Superintendent of Schools Laura Morana wrote to Christie on Thursday asking that funding for the pilot program be maintained and invited him to have a first hand look at the district's preschool classrooms. You can read more [here](#).

PA SENIORS4KIDS WANT TO DOUBLE THEIR RANKS

After our successful training in October, Pennsylvania Seniors4Kids decided to double our Captains4Kids in November and December activity. Our network across the state now includes 42 Captains4Kids. A recent story in the [Lewistown Sentinel](#) on November 14 chronicles our latest efforts to expand into Central Pennsylvania. We will update you on the results of their efforts in the near future.

A CORNUCOPIA OF SENIORS4KIDS MEDIA STORIES

Because of your hard work, we can barely fit all of our media stories into the newsletter this month! Many thanks to Captain4Kids Major General James Baylor for his moving opinion-editorial that raises awareness about pre-k for military families published in [Stars and Stripes](#) on November 10. Special Advisor Tom Taylor highlighted how Captains4Kids pay it forward in [Life After 50](#) on November 5. Pennsylvania Seniors4Kids State Coordinator Yvonne Thompson-Friend appeared on WIP for an interview with Peter Solomon. Keep up the great work!