



Annual Report 2012

Promoting Economic Security Through Research and Advocacy

100 years of making a difference

In 2012, the League looked to the past and to the future – marking its 100th anniversary and putting plans in place to keep the group’s mission alive for the next century.



Celebration Sign—Photo by David Trumpie.

The Grand Rapids-based Nokomis Foundation gave its first legacy grant to the League, a \$1 million endowment with the promise to match it with another \$1 million when the League reaches its fundraising challenge goal of \$250,000. In all, it will be a \$2.25 million endowment that will help the League continue its work well into the future.

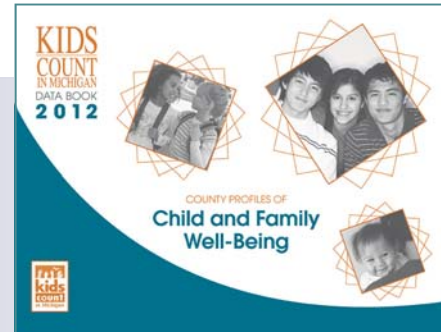
The League also changed its name from the Michigan League for Human Services to the Michigan League for Public Policy, a name designed to more accurately reflect the work of the League and to end confusion with the Department of Human Services. And it continued to build the Prosperity Coalition, with 200 organizations joining as members.

Among other accomplishments, the League:

- Led statewide child advocacy efforts with the Kids Count project, producing county-level data on child well-being and highlighting the Michigan impact found in national KIDS COUNT reports.
- Battled a harmful anti-tax proposal by taking a leading role in the successful fight against the so-called supermajority tax proposal.
- Offered a consumer voice in healthcare policy through its partnership with Michigan Consumers for Healthcare as the Affordable Care Act continued to progress.
- Collaborated with local, state and national networks for economic opportunity with regular outreach to more than 60 other organizations.
- Led a broad coalition approving recommendations to improve adult learning in Michigan.
- Welcomed back Pat Sorenson, a well-known and respected child and family advocate, to the budget and tax policy staff.



Mary Alice Williams & Anne Hagen of The Nokomis Foundation. Photo by David Trumpie.



Reports & Comments

In 2012, the League rebranded with a new name, new colors, an updated website and a fresh look. It produced more than 200 reports, fact sheets, letters to policymakers, written testimony, e-newsletters, alerts and news releases.

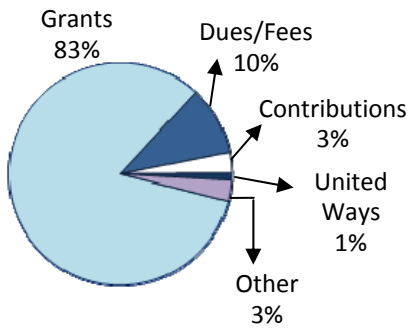
Among key communications:

- Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion: A Win for the State and Its Low-Income Residents
- Got Skin in the Game?
- Recession Scars Linger
- Keeping it Affordable in Michigan
- A Strategy for Restoring Good Jobs and Economic Security in Michigan
- Advocacy Toolkit
- How the Budget Can Create Economic Opportunity
- Tax Changes Hit Low-Income People the Hardest
- Plus fact sheets on heating assistance, tax credits, budget and tax policy
- A video and online history and photo gallery were created to mark the League’s 100-year history

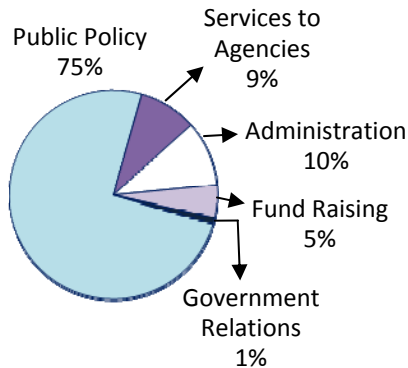
The League also tracked more than 700 media hits citing the League’s work, and addressed an estimated 3,200 people in 77 presentations, policy forums and webinars. Social media presence grew with more than 3,000 page “likes” and follows on Facebook and Twitter and blog subscribers.

Sources of Funds and Expenditures — FY 2011– 2012
(audited)

Sources of Funds — \$2,703,394



Expenditures — \$2,529,127



The League marked 100 years in 2012. Here, Gov. George Romney presents League Board Member Lena Bivens a souvenir pen after signing legislation in 1966 to lift arbitrary caps on "old age assistance."

Praise for the League

"I just have to say to you 'JOB WELL DONE.' ...The fact that this proposal went down with the largest margin is a testament to your leadership!! Thanks so much." — *Advocacy leader on the defeat of Proposal 5*

"It is a pleasure to be associated with the League. You and your colleagues do terrific work!" — *Family foundation executive*

"Your expertise and passion for the topic was infectious to everyone in attendance... thank you for helping inspire our community." — *Great Start leader*

"Very powerful panel and incredible work. Thank all of you for your sharing and witness – and for the amazing work you are doing on behalf of vulnerable communities and children..." — *National foundation official*

"We were thrilled with your presentation. You did a masterful job and we have heard rave reviews about how informative and important this event was for participants." — *Outreach manager of Lansing nonprofit*

"You are doing a wonderful job spreading the message and advocating for social justice, especially for our most vulnerable populations." — *Nursing school professor*

How to Join the League Efforts:

Go to www.mlpp.org

- ◆ To sign up for e-news and action alerts
- ◆ Become a member
- ◆ Subscribe to our blog
- ◆ Donate
- ◆ Give to the Nokomis Legacy Challenge

Tax-deductible donations may also be mailed to Michigan League for Public Policy, 1223 Turner Street, Suite G-1, Lansing, MI 48906



From the history files: The 64th Annual Conference "Meeting Human Needs in Urban Centers" was held at Detroit's Cobo Hall Nov. 10, 1976.

Contributors



Nokomis Foundation Legacy Challenge - As of December 31, 2012

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(Donation/Pledges of \$15,000 or more)

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IN MEMORY

The League was saddened by the passing of former Board Member Gary Olson in 2012. Gary spent his career in state government and the Senate Fiscal Agency. His service on the board was short, but his contributions were valuable and greatly appreciated.

Message from the President & CEO

In 1912, the League began as an independent association of citizens interested in the health and welfare of Michigan. In the days before cell phones, e-mail, overnight mail, fax machines and even widespread use of the telephone and automobiles, imagine the effort it took for the group (then called the Michigan Conference of Charities and Corrections) to pull together an annual meeting of concerned citizens across the state to discuss pressing issues – wages, mental illness, orphans, unemployment and rehabilitation of the incarcerated.

Later it was renamed the Michigan Conference of Social Work, then the Michigan Welfare League, and then the Michigan League for Human Services. On Oct. 10, 2012, the League's name again changed to the Michigan League for Public Policy.

But we are still "the League" and, while our name has changed, our mission remains the same – making Michigan a place of economic opportunity for all.

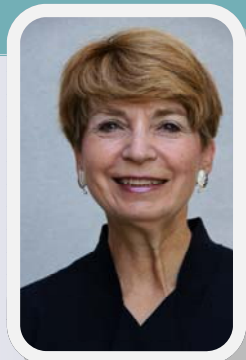
A century later, we remember our roots and work to continue to lift up the voices of children and families, those with

disabilities, the elderly poor and others who are often overlooked in the public policy arena.

In 2012, the League worked hard to defeat Proposal 5, a dangerous effort to require a two-thirds vote on all taxes. We also grew the Prosperity Coalition to more than 200 members. This group will work collectively to increase economic opportunity in our state. And we were thrilled to receive a \$1 million gift from the Nokomis Foundation.

The challenges are many. Poverty and inequality are growing in our state, and Michigan's tax system is outdated. Reductions in business taxes that continued in 2012 make it harder to produce the workforce that businesses need. This must change.

As we enter our second 100 years, we're well-positioned to fight to make a difference in the lives of all in Michigan.



Gilda Z. Jacobs
President/CEO

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Gov. William Milliken, pictured here at the League's 1982 legislative forum, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award at the League's 100th celebration. Other honorees were U.S. Rep. John Dingell, also for Lifetime Achievement; state Reps. Phil Cavanagh and Jud Gilbert as Legislative Champions; the Center for Civil Justice, which received the Sharon Parks Award; and the Detroit Free Press as a Champion of the People.



Our Mission — To foster economic opportunity, independence and security of Michigan's economically vulnerable population by shaping public policy through objective data-driven research, education and advocacy.

Vision — To be a highly recognized and effective voice for Michigan's economically vulnerable populations.

Values

- Honesty, Integrity and Nonpartisanship
- Social and Economic Justice, Fairness and Opportunity
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Democratic Process and the Dignity of All