



# 2014 Current & Planned Activities

## A Report to the Board of Directors

May 21, 2014

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## Summary

Our greatest challenge continues to be our financial stability and sustainability. We will bring a renewed focus on development and fundraising in 2014 by hiring a full or part-time development officer. This focus will align with and support the efforts of the board as a whole and the Development Committee in meeting our funding challenges. These challenges are currently precluding Joint Council from capitalizing on our well established position as a preeminent leader in our field and change agent for children in need. Our financial stability and sustainability is our most serious and urgent issue.

Here are just a few of our major accomplishments in 2013 and 2014 which clearly demonstrate our opportunities to advance our mission and serve children and families.

In 2013 and continuing in 2014, Joint Council is at its pinnacle of influence, prestige and impact. We now have a seat at the table on 3 major coalitions which influence programs and spending representing billions of dollars for children living outside of family care and children adopted both domestically and internationally. In 2013 and '14 we became key influencers with Members of Congress, informed 3 major pieces of legislation, 2 appropriations bills and have contributed to educating over 120 Congressional offices and committees.

In 2014, Joint Council convened its most successful Symposium with 200 attendees from 8 countries and presenters from former 'oppositional organizations' such as Catholic Relief Services and Save The Children. We also advanced the long-term by launching our Emerging Leaders Program with 5 participants and 2 funders.

This year we will once again expand our Make Change for Children Campaign and raise the awareness and engagement of key short and long term constituents; children and their families. And later this year, as a founding board member of Hopeland, we will help launch a large scale, global awareness, education and advocacy campaign designed to bring change to public perception, governmental policy and funding and ultimately to at risk families and children living outside of family care.

The following pages detail the majority of our activities, programs and services.

## 2014 - Activities

- **Staff**
- Rebecca Harris will separate from Joint Council on July 10, 2014.
- Rachel Kennon separated from Joint Council in April, 2014.
- Marie's replacement, Marie Blum-Capizzi started with Joint Council in April as the Administrative Assistant - Programs and Services.
- We will most likely restructure to the following staff structure.
  - Hire a full or part-time Director of Development
  - Shift Marie to Programs and Services Manager with primary responsibility for the Symposium, Distance Learning and Partnership Programs
  - Hire a part-time administrative assistant.
  
- **Development & Fundraising**
- Funding continues to be a challenge and will be discussed during the Finance Report during the board meeting.
- Development plans include the hiring of a full or part-time Director of Development and the expansion of Make Change for Children.
  
- **Advocacy**
- Joint Council is working on the following advocacy issues.
  - Adoption Tax Credit - Ensuring the Adoption Tax Credit remains a permanent part of the tax code and refundability is added to the code.
    - As part of our role on the ATC Working Group, we just wrapped up a two-month long awareness and engagement campaign which resulted in over 5 new co-sponsors for the bill to ensure refundability.
  - Children in Families First Act of 2013 - Passage of the Children in Families First Act of 2013.
    - Along with other groups, we presented a webinar with Senator Landrieu and Representative Franks on CHIFF on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - We have achieved over 70 co-sponsors for the bill.
    - As Joint Council we continue to advise Senator Landrieu and Representative Franks on their negotiations with the Department of State and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the NGO community and those opposed to CHIFF.
  - Action Plan for Children in Adversity - Secure Congressional authorization and funding of the US Government's Action Plan for Children in Adversity Children.
    - Secured \$9.5 million in government funding for USAID permanency programs. \$5 million was appropriated in 2013. Over \$25,000 in 'new' funding is proposed for FY2015.

- CAPP – as co-chair of the Children in Adversity Policy Partnership we are presenting a CAPP General Membership meeting on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We have also met with Senator Landrieu’s office and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a number of times to incorporate the Action Plan goals into the CHIFF legislation.
- In June we are meeting with the Department of State’s Task Force for Children in Adversity to discuss ways in which the Department and CAPP can work together to advance the Action Plan.
- In June we are meeting with the Lumos Foundation (as part of the Global Alliance for Children’s mirror plan for the Action Plan) to discuss Lumos’ new office and presence in Washington. CAPP and Lumos will be working together specifically to advance the Action Plan in Congress and the Obama administration.
- NGO Advocacy – we continue to advocate for additional programming and funding resources for children living outside of family care with our colleagues with a focus on the following NGOs. This work is not directly quantifiable yet is a true multiplier of services and funding for children outside of family care.
  - Save The Children – STC is exploring internal dialogue around the issue of subsidiarity and amending it to replacing “exhaust all local options” before intercountry adoption is utilized. As part of their work with the Action Plan and CAPP, STC is also exploring and conducting additional deinstitutionalization programs in Africa and Haiti.
  - World Vision – WV is exploring internal dialogue around the issue of subsidiarity and amending it to replacing “exhaust all local options” before intercountry adoption is utilized.
  - Alliance To End Hunger
  - Christian Connection for International Health
  - InterAction
  - Operation Smile – Op Smile is now working with orphanages in India (a first!) and providing cleft pallet surgery to institutionalized children.
- **Global Awareness**
  - Hopeland – Tom has officially been nominated and elected to the founding board of directors.
    - The public launch of Hopeland will occur either in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2014 or 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter in 2015.
    - The Hopeland board continues to attract high profile members and funders.

- Academia – later this year a text book, *The Intercountry Adoption Debate: Dialogues Across Disciplines*, will be published. Joint Council contributed a chapter on the continuum of care as related to intercountry adoption. Our involvement seeks to strengthen intercountry adoption's position among academics and child welfare professionals by promoting our work on permanency.
- Make Change for Children – Joint Council's 2014 signature event is in the planning stages and will be launch in August.
- Social Media – we continue to aggressively use our social media platforms to promote our work and the need for permanency for all children.
- **Orphan Care**
  - A Child's Best Start - Our partnership with Mead Johnson Nutrition continues to be challenging. The program has been downsized from over \$600,000 in 2012 to less than \$80,000 in 2014.
    - This year we are promoting OrphanNutrition.org, a tri-lingual nutrition website designed to bring training resources to caregivers as the ongoing stage of A Child's Best Start.
    - We are also working with SPOON Foundation to add Cleft Pallet training sections to OrphanNutrition.org
- **Partners**
  - Our goal for 2014 was 150 partners. To date we have achieved 132 formal Partners.
  - Our Country Caucus Program continues to be active and of great benefit to all. Thru April 2014 we are averaging over 60 postings per month by Joint Council and our Partners.
- **Education & Research**
  - In April, Joint Council convened our Annual International Symposium on Child Welfare. By all accounts this was our most successful (venue, attendees, content, energy, presenters, buzz) Symposium ever.
    - This was confirmed by a 100% satisfaction rating by attendees. This is the first time we have ever achieved a 100% rating.
  - The Emerging Leaders Program was very successful and brought 5 emerging leaders in the field of international child welfare to our Symposium. This program educated them on the need for permanent family care and connected them to Joint Council.
- **International Relations Initiative**
  - India
    - Hosted Judge Devendra Kumar Behera as part of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Fund
  - Ethiopia

- Advocacy and strategic planning trip to Ethiopia for summer 2014
- Host Desalegn Berhe as part of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Fund
- Haiti
  - Hosted Nelson Georges as part of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Fund
  - Conducted an exploratory trip to Haiti as part of our collaboration on a family preservation and reunification program with Children's Home Society / Lutheran Family Services, Caminos Consultancy Group, the Haitian Government and 16 Haitian NGOs. The program may be funded through USAID.

### **Collaborations – A Force Multiplier**

Given that our work is largely done through leveraging collaborative ventures, the following list of external partners is provided, some of which are noted above.

7 Formal External Collaborations represent our direct work with over 41 organizations and over 290 organizations via various coalitions.

- Children in Adversity Policy Partnership (CAPP)
  - Cofounded CAPP in 2012.
  - Serving as Co-Chair in 2014. (Served on the Steering Committee in 2012 and 2013.)
- Adoption Tax Credit Working Group
  - Cofounded in 2010.
  - Continue to serve on the Executive Committee.
- Hopeland
  - Cofounded Hopeland in 2013.
  - Appointed to Board of Directors (Treasurer)
- Children in Families First Working Group
  - Cofounded the Working Group in 2013
  - Continue to serve on the Executive Committee
- Pepperdine University Adoption
  - Contributed a chapter on systems that protect children to *The Intercountry Adoption Debate: Dialogues Across Disciplines*, a text book to be published in 2014.
- Operation Smile
  - Launched a pilot partnership in India with Operation Smile to bring medical care to children living in orphanages.
- Mead Johnson Nutrition
  - Continue to develop and promote specific aspects of Mead Johnson's corporate responsibility program; A Child's Best Start
- Global Alliance for Children

- An international public-private partnership that mirrors the goals and objectives of the US Government's Action Plan for Children in Adversity.

Joint Council is also a member of the following coalitions providing exposure and influence to over 300 International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs).

- InterAction
- Alliance To End Hunger
- Christian Connections for International Health

Joint Council also serves on the Advisory Council for the Council on Accreditation