

## KEY CONTACTS.



**GARY BRUNK**  
President and CEO  
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Gary focuses on asset development issues and KAC's federal policy interests, including child poverty, SCHIP reauthorization, and food stamps.



**SHANNON COTSORADIS**  
Executive Vice President and COO  
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Shannon's areas of expertise include child care quality and accessibility, early childhood education and the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF).



**APRIL HOLMAN**  
Director of Economic Policy  
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April specializes in tax, budget and economic issues such as the KIDS college savings program, Child Care Assistance program, child support enforcement and consumer protection on predatory lending.



**SUZANNE WIKLE**  
Director of Health Policy  
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Suzanne focuses on children's health issues, including uninsured children, graduated drivers licensing, child nutrition, child obesity and the autism waiver.



**RYAN WRIGHT**  
Director of Development  
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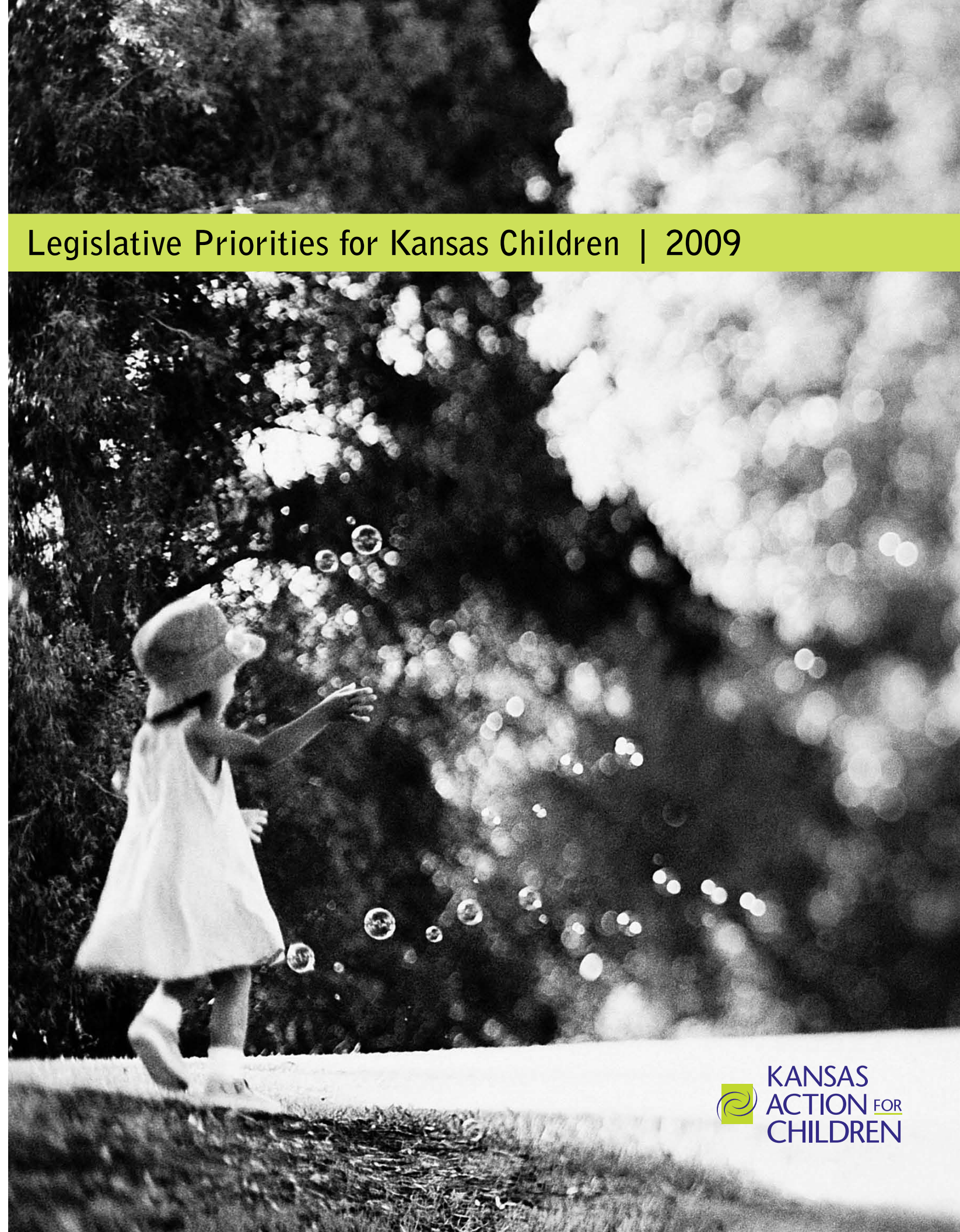
Ryan focuses on fundraising, donor relations and resource development efforts, and assists with the development and implementation of communications strategies related to KAC's legislative priorities.

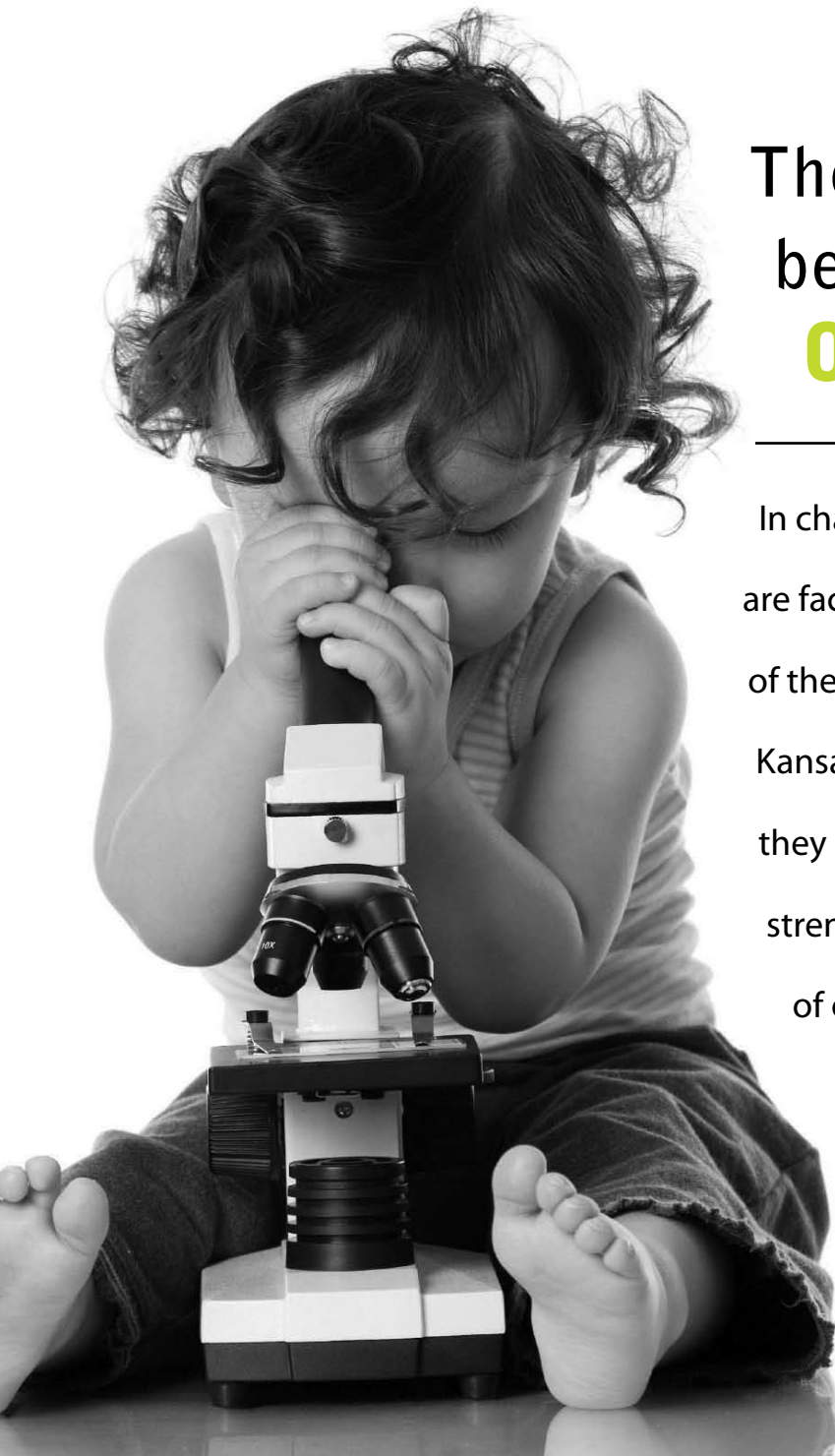


**STEPHANIE MULLHOLLAND**  
Director of Communications  
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Stephanie develops and implements communications strategies related to KAC's legislative priorities, and serves as a resource for journalists covering policy issues that affect Kansas children.

## Legislative Priorities for Kansas Children | 2009





# There's never been a better time to **FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE.**

In challenging economic times, our state leaders are faced with making some difficult choices. One of the most critical decisions is how to provide Kansas families and communities with the tools they need to weather tough financial times and strengthen our economy. By keeping the needs of our youngest citizens in focus this Session, we can ensure the long-term stability of our state through an **educated workforce, a healthy next generation** and a **thriving economy**.

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BRIGHT FUTURE.



**AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE.** Eighty-five percent of our brain architecture is formed by age 5. That's why learning and social interactions during the first few years play such a critical role in determining whether Kansas children are ready to succeed in school and in life. With strategic investments in programs like Preschool and Child Care Assistance, we can provide our next generation with the tools to be productive in tomorrow's workforce.



**A HEALTHY NEXT GENERATION.** More than 50,000 Kansas children — enough to fill K-State's Snyder Stadium to capacity — do not have health coverage. But, unlike many health problems facing our nation, this is one we can solve. When children have access to preventive care, they have a greater capacity to learn and are more likely to be healthy as adults. By focusing now on the health of Kansas children, we'll reap the rewards of a healthier next generation and reduced medical costs for all of us.



**A THRIVING ECONOMY.** Employers cite a skilled workforce as a key factor in determining where to locate their businesses. With an educated and healthy workforce in place, Kansas will be well-positioned to attract new industries to our state and provide existing companies with the resources they need to meet the demands of a competitive and global economy.

***There's never been a better time to focus on the future of Kansas.***



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[WWW.KAC.ORG](http://WWW.KAC.ORG)

## Legislative Priorities for Kansas Children | 2009

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE**  
Keep our promise to address the growing number of uninsured children in Kansas by implementing the Legislature's expansion of HealthWave from 200 to 250% of poverty.

**TEEN DRIVERS LICENSING SYSTEM**  
Update our drivers licensing system to ensure that Kansas teens are properly prepared for the lifelong responsibility of driving.

**AUTISM**  
Lessen the number of Kansas children that lack access to early autism intervention services by extending capacity of the state's Autism Waiver from 45 children to 205 children.

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**  
Ensure that Kansas parents have access to affordable child care and can remain in the workforce by maintaining eligibility levels of the Child Care Assistance program.

**K.I.D.S. COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM**  
Renew the KIDS College Savings Program, which provides low-income Kansas families with the opportunity to save for their children's education.

**PREDATORY LENDING**  
Stabilize the financial health of Kansas families and communities by providing consumer protection from predatory car title lending practices.

**PRESCHOOL**  
Streamline Pre-K efforts by consolidating the state's preschool programs — Pre-K Pilot and Four-Year-Old-At-Risk — into one seamless program that maintains the best elements of both.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT**  
Strengthen the state's long-standing commitment to early childhood education by continuing to fund the Early Childhood Block Grant.