

Newsmakers

NONPROFITS

It's been a summer of transition at Kids Voting USA, which provides youth with education about civic issues and the importance of voting, and holds a simulated election each year. That work is done at the local level by a network of affiliates in 23 states and Washington, D.C.

In May, the organization forged a business partnership with the Kansas Press Association (KPA), which had already been its partner for the Kids Voting Kansas affiliate. KPA, which is based in Topeka, will now oversee the day-to-day operations of the national organization.

The move presumably will add some stability to KVUSA, which was founded in 1988 in Tempe, Ariz. Management of the organization bounced to Silver Spring, Md., when Kids Voting DC's Jack Barse was hired as CEO.

Now, KPA's Rachel Willis will serve as the executive director. Willis ran the state affiliate for KPA. Board leadership also has shifted to the Midwest. Diana Carlin, a professor of communications at the University of Kansas, succeeds Geoff Gonella, founder of the prominent D.C. lobbying firm Cornerstone Government Affairs. Contact: (785) 271-6350, www.kidsvotingusa.org.



Rachel Willis

New York nonprofit Children's Aid Society (CAS), which provides a range of programs for 150,000 New York City youth each year, has hired Richard Buery Jr., a veteran of the youth development field, to be its next CEO.

Buery will take command of CAS in October as its third leader since 1980. He replaces C. Warren Moses, who has overseen the organization since Philip Coltoff



Richard Buery, Jr.

retired in 2005. Moses has worked at CAS for 40 years and will retire in September.

Buery is the co-founder and executive director of Groundwork Inc., a Brooklyn nonprofit that helps children who live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty achieve educational and professional success. It is his third startup.

While an undergraduate at Harvard University, Buery co-founded the Mission Hill Summer Program, and more recently, he co-founded and

served as executive director of iMentor, a technology education and mentoring program that began in New York and is in the process of a national expansion.

Like scores of other New York-based charities, Children's Aid Society has struggled financially recently. CAS posted \$13 million in deficits for both 2007 and 2008, and since then has been plagued by state budget cuts and a drop in philanthropic dollars that followed Wall Street's collapse.

It suffered a major setback in late 2008 when the Picower Foundation closed its doors. The foundation, involved in the Bernie Madoff scam, gave Children's Aid Society \$3 million over the past 10 years, most recently to help replicate its pregnancy prevention and early childhood obesity prevention programs. Contact: (212) 949-4800, www.childrensaidso-ciety.org.

Sheila Zelenski is the new vice president in charge of member relations and knowledge management for the Milwaukee-based Alliance for Children and Families. Zelenski joined the organization, which counts some 350 members with 53,000 full-time employees among its flock, from the American Society for Quality, another Milwaukee-based nonprofit, where she was director of member services. Contact: (414) 359-1040, www.alliance1.org.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a Washington, D.C.-based organization that provides legal assistance to immigrant children in the United States who do not live with family members, has hired a director of national legal services: Abigail Price, who was the global adviser on the prevention of abuse and exploitation for the New York-based International Rescue Committee.

KIND was formed in 2008 by actress Angelina Jolie, and is led by Executive Director Wendy Young. The organization has partnered with nearly 40 large law firms that have agreed to provide pro bono services. Contact: (202) 824-8680, www.support-kind.org.

The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) and its founder, Geoffrey Canada, have received myriad accolades throughout the years for its effort to start working with youth at birth and stay in their lives until they head off to college. Now, the Obama administration has decided to use Canada's model as the basis for a 20-city program called Promise Neighborhoods.

President Barack Obama has set aside \$10 million for planning grants in 2010 to the cities, which will even-

tually have to rely on a wide range of organizations and funding streams to make something like HCZ's model happen. Canada relies on more than just great ideas; his \$70 million annual budget comes mostly from private funding, made possible by his powerful connections and, at least in part, by the fact that he operates in Manhattan (all recent indicators to the contrary, there are still a lot of donor dollars to pull there). Contact: (212) 360-3255, www.hcz.org.

Rush Russell, the former chief operating officer of the New York-based National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, heads down the Turnpike to serve as executive director of Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey in New Brunswick.

Russell moves away from CASA just months after a major shake-up at the research organization, which is housed at Columbia University. In May, CASA merged with Join Together, a well-known disseminator of research in the field of substance abuse and drug treatment.

CASA is now overseen by David Rosenbloom, who was president of Join Together. CASA's former leader, Joe Califano, former U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, is listed on its website as "Founder and Chairman."

Prevent Child Abuse NJ, which focuses mostly on training and technical assistance, was started in 1979, and serves as one of the 38 state affiliates of Prevent Child Abuse America. Contact: Prevent Child Abuse NJ (732) 246-8060, www.preventchildabusenj.org; CASA (212) 841-5200, www.casacolumbia.org.

Everybody Wins USA elected Matthew Broder, vice president of communications firm Pitney Bowes, to be chairman of the board. Everybody Wins, which is based in Boston, provides literacy and mentoring programs for low-income elementary school students by taking volunteers into the classroom.

The organization hired a new executive director, Richard Greif, late last year. Contact: (617) 517-9747, http://www.everybodywins.org.

In *Youth Today* news, Publisher Bill Treanor has been appointed to serve on the seven-member board of the DC Children & Youth Investment Trust Corp. The trust, which was established in 1999, is the major youth-serving intermediary for Washington, D.C., and is headed by Millicent Williams. Its funding comes from a combination of corporations, city agencies and national foundations, including The Atlantic Philanthropies and The Wallace Foundation.

Contact: (202) 347-4441, www.cyitc.org.

After only a few months on the job, the CEO of the National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR), Dan Schneider, left the organization over the summer to work for the Senate Republican leadership.

Schneider's sudden departure was another blow for what increasingly appears to be an organization in trouble. He had served since 2007 as acting assistant secretary of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, before joining the mentoring partnership in March.

Later that month, Schneider mentioned in an e-mail to *Youth Today* "how fortunate I am to be a part of an organization I believe in so much."

Schneider is credited with leading the effort to match 100,000 children with mentors through ACF's Mentoring Children of Prisoners initiative, for which MENTOR certifies mentoring groups to receive vouchers.

His arrival was heralded as a new beginning for the decade-old organization, which in recent years has struggled to maintain its network of state partnerships; there were 22 in 20 states last year, compared with 32 in 25 states in 2006. And it has been operating at a deficit, dipping into its endowment for operating funds.

Executive Vice President Tonya Wiley is serving as the interim chairman while Board Chairman Willem Kooyker (pronounced Quaker) heads the search for a permanent CEO, said Ellen Christman, spokeswoman for the Alexandria, Va.-based partnership. Contact: (703) 224-2200, www.mentoring.org.

FOUNDATIONS

Add the Battle Creek, Mich.-based W.K. Kellogg Foundation (assets: \$6.3 billion as of May) to the group of youth-focused grant makers looking to entice some of their staff members into leaving. Kellogg, which is led by CEO Sterling Speirn, offered voluntary retirement packages to 68 of its 167 employees, or 40 percent of its staff. The foundation has lost \$1.7 billion in assets since August 2008.

Two of Kellogg's peers in national youth grant-making – the New York-based Ford Foundation and the Princeton, N.J.-based Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – offered buy-outs to scores of their employees over the summer (see "Newsmakers," July-August). Contact Kellogg: (269) 968-1611, www.wkcf.org.

The Los Angeles-based California Endowment (assets: \$4.6 billion as of February 2008), which is led by CEO Robert Ross, has brought on two