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1.7 Million More Children Live in Low-Income Working Families Today Than in Midst of Great Recession

Rising Tide of Economic Recovery Did Not Life All Boats- It Left Millions Shipwrecked,
According to New *KIDS COUNT Data Book*
Children in high poverty neighborhoods at highest rate in at least a quarter century

Wilmington, DE (July 21, 2015) – A new KIDS COUNT[®] report ranks Delaware 25th in the nation for overall child well-being. This state-by-state report on children’s well-being, issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, focuses on key trends in child well-being in the post-recession years, measures child well-being in four domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. Today, the Casey Foundation reveals that the rising tide of recovery in the form of increasing employment and concentrated wealth has left stagnant pockets of low-income, struggling communities and families, where a child’s future is anchored in scarcity and hardship.

About 1.7 million more children nationwide live in low-income working families today than during the Great Recession, according to the newly released 2015 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* from the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#). More than 35,000 children in Delaware live poverty, or more than 1 out of 6. Nearly a third of children are living in families where no parent has full-time employment. And even when parents are working full time, wages and benefits are often not sufficient to adequately support a family.

“The uptick we’re seeing in child poverty reflects the weak labor market for workers without a college degree, particularly those lacking a high school diploma,” said Janice Barlow, director of KIDS COUNT in Delaware. “Although unemployment is slowly declining, job growth has been concentrated in low-wage sectors and in nonstandard employment that tends to be less stable and offer few or no benefits. A stronger labor market and an increase in job quality, along with continued efforts to boost the education and training levels of low-income parents would help to reduce child poverty.”

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals the stark reality that the economic recovery of the past five years has bypassed many children of color. African-American children are twice as likely as the average child to live in high-poverty neighborhoods and to live in single-parent families. Latino children are the most likely to live with a household head who lacks a high school diploma. As the economy recovers, we see a widening gap between the living standards of many children of color and other kids.

While the 2015 *Data Book* shows thousands of children continue to struggle, there are bright spots. The rate of Delaware's children without health insurance has been cut in half, down to 4 percent from 8 percent in 2008. Additionally, the number of teens not in school and not working has improved to 6 percent from 9 percent in 2008.

The Casey Foundation offers a number of recommendations to make good on the American promise of opportunity for all children. The Foundation promotes a two-generation strategy that simultaneously addresses the needs of children directly while providing tools and resources to their parents. Three critical strategies include:

- Provide parents with multiple pathways to get family-supporting jobs and achieve financial stability.
- Ensure access to high-quality early childhood education and enriching elementary school experiences.
- Equip parents to better support their children socially and emotionally and to advocate for their kids' education.

The Casey Foundation recommends policies that result in higher pay, paid sick leave, flexible scheduling and expanded unemployment benefits that will result in higher family income, reduced parental stress and an increased capacity of parents to invest in their kids. Detailed recommendations can be found in the 2014 report, [Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach](#).

The 2015 *Data Book* will be available July 21 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at <http://databook.kidscount.org>, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices.

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing strategies to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

About KIDS COUNT in Delaware

As one of fifty-three similar projects throughout the United States and the U.S. territories funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT in Delaware is housed in the Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware and is led by a board of child and family advocates from the public and private sectors. Since 1995, KIDS COUNT in

Delaware has reported on the status of children in Delaware and, in partnership with the State of Delaware since 1998, has been monitoring the health and well-being of children and their families. Please visit our website www.dekidscount.org to learn more about our important work. Follow KIDS COUNT in Delaware and this issue on Twitter @dekidscount and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dekidscount>.

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