

## Press Release: 14 Top National Childhood Nutrition/Health Nonprofits Identified by 103 Experts

*1 out of 5 children between the ages of 6-11 years are obese -Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2008*

Over the last few years, high obesity rates have been making news headlines. The childhood obesity statistics are alarming--one third of children in the US are considered overweight, and childhood obesity has tripled in the last 30 years (From CBS News.) This year, First Lady, Michelle Obama announced her Let's Move childhood obesity initiative. The goal of this campaign is to reverse the trend of childhood obesity in one generation so kids today can grown up healthy and well. In addition, the Childhood Nutrition Act (a federal program that that addresses the food served in schools) is up for reauthorization this year, so childhood nutrition/health is a timely and important topic in the US.

Many Americans support nonprofits working in the *health* field. In fact, in 2009, Americans gave \$22.46 billion to the cause in general, **representing 7% of the total annual giving** (total is about \$300 billion). (From Giving USA 2010 report.)

Given the importance of childhood nutrition and all the momentum at the federal level, we decided to learn more about the nonprofits that were doing the best work. Therefore, **Philanthropedia surveyed 103 national childhood nutrition/health experts** (with an average of 13 years of work experience in the field) to identify those organizations that were making the biggest impact in the field.

Philanthropedia's experts (funders, researchers, nonprofit senior staff, government officials, etc.) **identified 14 top childhood nutrition/health nonprofits (out of 207 total reviewed nonprofits)** making an impact at the national level. We asked experts to recommend nonprofits focused on access to healthy foods and drinks in schools, nutrition education, physical activity programs and policies in or out of schools, access to safe play spaces for kids in their communities, access to healthy and fresh foods for kids in their neighborhoods, and/or media campaigns to promote health and nutrition for kids. These nonprofits should be primarily focused on impacting the lives of children. And these nonprofits might focus on different kinds of activities: policy, research, advocacy, direct services, education, etc. The primary focus of this research was not on food deserts, public transit, or helping local farmers or other for-profit organizations.

The following is the list of the top-recommended high-impact nonprofits working on childhood nutrition/health at the national level. "Agree" is the number of experts who agree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in the field. "Disagree" is the number of experts who disagree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in the field.

<b>14 Top High-Impact Nonprofits</b>	<b># of Experts who Agree</b>	<b># of Experts who Disagree</b>	<b>Year Founded</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*</i>	75	3	1971	Princeton, NJ
Center for Science in the Public Interest	61	4	1971	Washington, DC
<i>W.K. Kellogg Foundation*</i>	57	5	1930	Battle Creek, MI
Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)	49	3	1970	Washington, DC
The Food Trust	48	3	1992	Philadelphia, PA
Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity	49	5	2005	New Haven, CT
Prevention Institute	45	3	1997	Oakland, CA
National Farm to School Network	45	7	1996	Los Angeles, CA
American Academy of Pediatrics	39	5	1930	Elk Grove Village, IL
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	43	12	2005	New York, NY
Action for Healthy Kids	37	11	2002	Skokie, IL
School Food FOCUS	28	7	2006	New York, NY
Community Food Security Coalition	29	9	1994	Portland, OR
Share Our Strength	21	7	1984	Washington, DC

*\*Philanthropedia enables donors to donate to all top-recommended nonprofits, however Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation, top-recommended nonprofits, do not accept donations from individuals.*

We invite you to visit the profiles of each of these top organizations on our website to read the expert reviews here: <http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/top-nonprofits/national/childhood-nutrition-health>. Experts commented on the impact each nonprofit has had, what the nonprofit's other organizational strengths are, and how each organization could further improve.

We also invite your feedback. Please tell us what you think and what experiences you've had with these great organizations! We can be reached at [feedback@myphilanthropedia.org](mailto:feedback@myphilanthropedia.org).

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<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/>

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