

## **Role Playing: Advocacy Scenarios**

*Sometimes just knowing where to begin to advocate for issues that touch your life and that you care about is tough. The following are some lead-ins to help you start putting your skills into practice and role play advocacy scenarios with friends or colleagues about important children's issues.*

### **A Healthy Start**

Your sister recently got laid off from work. Your niece and nephew will be without health insurance effective March 1, 2012.

### **A Head Start**

You are going back to work part-time and your three-year old will need childcare. Every recommendation you have received is out of your price range.

### **A Fair Start**

You recently learned that several of the parents at your child's school lost their job and are now living in a local shelter.

### **A Safe Start**

An elementary student was recently shot in a drive-by shooting.

### **A Moral Start**

Your congregation was invited to join a local coalition addressing high rates of child abuse in the local community.

## Sample Conversation Starters

*Sometimes just finding the right words to start talking to someone about the issues you care about is tough. The following are some lead-ins to help you start putting your skills into practice and role play casual conversations with friends or colleagues about important children's issues.*

***I was at the PTA meeting at my child's school and the principal said that there are several struggling students who need mentors. Do you think we know some people who might want to volunteer? Maybe our sorority could help?***

*My daughter's best friend is being teased a lot on Facebook. The situation has gotten out of hand and now the local authorities are involved. Do you know if your child was ever teased or bullied on Facebook?*

***I read this article about the high number of uninsured children in Texas that really got me thinking about some of the children in our congregation. What could our church do to make sure these children know about health insurance programs like CHIP?***

*It seems like there are so many negative reports in the media. I want to write a letter or something but I'm a little nervous. Would you consider working with me to write a letter to the local newspaper about two of my students who won a state math award after our math department budget increased?*

***I know that you belong to the local chamber of commerce. Would your group be interested in having a speaker come discuss the connection between early childhood education and employee preparation for the job market?***

*I didn't realize you raise funds for local charities in your spare time! Have you ever considered supporting new groups? I volunteer for a local nonprofit that is always looking for new donors. I would love to introduce you to the Executive Director.*

***I heard on the news that next week the school board is going to vote on closing the local elementary school my kids attended. This is the first I've heard about this. Do you think our civic club president can call the school's principal and see if we can help?***