



## MISSISSIPPI KIDS COUNT

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### **Mississippi KIDS COUNT 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit** Economic Well-Being

(Mississippi State, MS., January 23, 2013) The sixth annual Mississippi KIDS COUNT Summit will be held at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi on Friday, February 22, 2013 from 8am to 4pm. Registration is open to individuals interested in learning about new resources and proven strategies that can make an impact in your community and across the state.

The theme of this year's summit is economic well-being and its' impact upon children, youth, families and communities. New to this year's Summit, will be a morning economic panel discussion focused on *Making Mississippi's Children a Priority in Challenging Economic Times*. This is a unique opportunity to hear experienced state and national philanthropic leaders discuss current best practices for investing in Mississippi children and families. Guest panelists include Marcie Skelton, Director, The Walker Foundation; Anne Travis, CEO, The Bower Foundation; Tom Pittman, President of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi; William Buster, Director of Programs New Orleans and Mississippi, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and Lisa Hamilton, Vice President External Affairs, The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Designed to spark conversation and inspire action, the morning session includes plenary speaker, Wes Moore, author of the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller *The Other Wes Moore*. He is a youth advocate, military combat veteran, social entrepreneur, and host of the Beyond Belief on the Oprah Winfrey Network. Moore will share his personal experiences and professional passions about the importance of community-based leadership in reaching out and empowering youth.

"The future prosperity of Mississippi depends on our ability to promote the health and well-being of the next generation," said Dr. Linda H. Southward, Director of Mississippi KIDS COUNT. "By coming together at the KIDS COUNT Summit, we can identify challenges and begin to pursue solutions for a better, stronger, healthier Mississippi."

Mississippi KIDS COUNT will also recognize and highlight the work of the 2013 Success Story recipients: The Moore Community House, Biloxi, MS; Jackson Medical Mall Foundation's Obesity Prevention Project, Jackson, MS; and Starkville School District's Emerson Family School, Starkville, MS. Summit participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops in the afternoon to learn more about the successes of these programs. Additional workshops include Mississippi Department of Human Services' Identifying and Reporting Child Maltreatment; Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) School Safety Division- Building Safe School Environments for a Thriving Community; MDE's Office of Healthy

Schools- Move to Learn: Better Grades, Better Health; MDE's Office of Federal Programs- Homeless in Mississippi.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT's data team will also host hands-on technical workshops sharing step by step training that will provide participants with the tools needed to make the KIDS COUNT online data center beneficial for everyday use in the office or organization, for grant writing, presentations, reports, and policy briefs.

The diverse summit workshops will offer a toolkit for success by providing attendees with useful resources to build a personal "next steps" action plan. The conference will also include a Showcase of Success area highlighting the community impact of 2013 Program of Promise recipient, the Mississippi Children's Museum as well as organizations and programs from around the state.

In its second successful year, Mississippi KIDS COUNT will offer a Youth Track during the Summit. Designed for grades 9-12, students have the opportunity to connect with peers from across the state who share a common goal to build leadership skills and make a difference in their communities. Limited to the first 200 registered, students will have special sessions with speakers Wes Moore, Lisa Hamilton, and C.J. Stewart, U.S. Military Veteran and founder of The C.J. Stewart Foundation.

The Summit registration fee is \$55 for adults and \$25 for students. Register by February 15, 2013 and Mississippi KIDS COUNT will waive one youth registration for each paid adult registration. The youth program is limited to the first 200 participants. If paying by invoice or purchase order, you may contact Dorris Baggett at [dorris.baggett@ssrc.msstate.edu](mailto:dorris.baggett@ssrc.msstate.edu) or 662-325-8079, or you may register online at [www.ssrc.msstate.edu/mkidscount/](http://www.ssrc.msstate.edu/mkidscount/). Continuing Education Unit applications will be available at the Summit registration table.

The registration fee includes a complimentary continental breakfast, networking luncheon, a copy of the 2013 Mississippi KIDS COUNT Data Book, and toolkit resources from successful Mississippi programs from across the state.

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Mississippi KIDS COUNT is housed within the Family & Children Research Unit (FCRU) at Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center. The program is funded in part by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. MS KIDS COUNT provides data on the health, education, safety and well-being of children to policymakers, educators, program administrators, parents, caregivers, advocates and the general public. MS KIDS COUNT also provides an annual forum for interested stakeholders to share challenges and solutions to the problems facing Mississippi's children and communities. For more information, visit [www.ssrc.msstate.edu/mkidscount](http://www.ssrc.msstate.edu/mkidscount), Twitter: @mkidscount, and Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MississippiKidsCount>.