Happy Spring!! Among the many things “blooming” and growing like weeds this springtime are not only our kids, but amazing and unified efforts to improve the lives of young children, to promote their optimal health and development and to ensure that all children have access to high quality care and early education.

On May 8th, in San Jose, CA, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), teamed up with NBC and hosted the California Gubernatorial Debate entitled, Decision 2018: The Race for Governor. This was likely to be the final debate before the June primary. First 5 San Bernardino, in partnership with SVCF’s Choose Children campaign, and along with other partners such as Children Now, was able to represent our mission to support young children and to promote their needs across the State. Choose Children 2018 was created to push the next Governor whoever she or he may be regardless of their party, to invest in the 0-5 community. Educating candidates in this upcoming election is the strategy for ensuring they understand the current status of our children, especially prenatal through age 5 and what it will take to ensure our children (and subsequently our State), reach full potential. Six candidates participated in the debate and several of them confirmed their knowledge of brain science and the importance of quality, early learning and early intervention where needed. One candidate summed up something we hear frequently, “our budget is about our values”. A unified message that is being adopted across the State by First 5 Commissions is to prioritize funding for early childhood, so all of California’s kids can thrive. Let’s put California’s money where our heart is.

On May 2nd, under the brilliant leadership and guidance of the First 5 Association and First 5 CA, nearly 75% of all First 5 Commissions statewide, along with many of their staff, their community partners and their grantees, converged upon the Capitol in Sacramento to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of First 5! California voters passed Proposition 10 twenty years ago, creating First 5 Commissions in all 58 counties to support the healthy development of children from birth to age 5 and to strengthen families.
Updates

Fiscal Update

First 5 San Bernardino and our partners were a strong presence at this 20th Anniversary event. Partner logos were displayed on a huge banner recognizing the contributions of our many government, school, non-profit, faith and community based organizations from San Bernardino County. We had 16 people contribute to the success of the day, including representation from San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino County Preschool Services, San Bernardino County Child Care Resource Center, the nationally-acclaimed Footsteps 2 Brilliance Collaborative, Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, Children’s Network, Center for Oral Health, Quality Start San Bernardino, First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee and dedicated First 5 San Bernardino staff. It was a wonderful event where we had the opportunity to hang out with Potter the Otter, Sesame Street’s Rosita and to meet with dozens upon dozens of legislators, as we celebrated with scores of kids, families, lawmakers and partners!! As the First 5 Association proclaimed, “a good time was had by all!” First 5 San Bernardino is proud to recognize and call our own, amazing legislative supporters of young children and their families including Assemblymember Chad Mayes, Senator Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Eloise Gomez-Reyes.

I would like to thank Leslie Fountain, Media Specialist for her work in creating a fantastic, one-page “fact-sheet” along with other publications to distribute to our legislators at our visits. We were able to share that First 5 San Bernardino Supports Families Through Programs and Systems like:

- **Home Visiting**, utilizing AmeriCorps Volunteers who provide support to young parents and their children.
- **High Quality Care** through Quality Start San Bernardino, Nurturing Parenting Programs, and soon to launch Help Me Grow, which identifies kids at risk for developmental concerns and helps families connect to services.

The First 5 San Bernardino Commission should be very proud to share that in 2017, we invested more than $20 million in services and systems for 190,000+ children ages 0 to 5 and their families countywide.

With our partners, we are seeing results. Advocacy Day was about informing that at First 5 San Bernardino, we support kids to be healthy, active learners who grow up in families and communities that nurture them!
First 5 Hosts Town Hall with American Academy of Pediatrics CA-2 for Week of the Young Child

Week of the Young Child is an annual observation created by National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) that celebrates early learning. First 5 San Bernardino and American Academy of Pediatrics California, Chapter 2 took a deeper dive into early learning to focus on a discussion of developmental screenings, examining the milestones and quality health of children to thrive in early education stages and beyond. Several practitioners, pediatricians, and passionate advocates for children across the field came together to share their findings on April 19, 2018. The town hall meeting focused on an array of subjects including perspectives on screenings, the Autism Center, Help Me Grow Program, Take A Minute Campaign, Lanterman Act for Children Ages 3 and Up, and current state policy proposals. Thank you to our partners American Academy of Pediatrics CA-2 and our attendees for an insightful discussion on developmental screenings for children in the Inland Empire.

Karen E. Scott Reads Across the County for Read Across America Day

The National Education Association launched the Read Across America campaign 20 years ago to spread the celebration of reading across the country and First 5 San Bernardino’s Executive Director, Karen E. Scott took the charge to local classrooms on March 2, 2018. Pictured are photos from Karen’s stops at several classrooms as she read book titles from Lee the Bee and Dr. Seuss to kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 5th grade students. See video from her day on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/first5sb
For many years, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has observed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is recognized across the country. This year, the state Office of Child Abuse Prevention developed a Children’s Memorial Flag and provided one to each county with a request to fly it on Friday, April 27. A wonderful memorial service was held in front of the Government Center that day with Chairman Lovingood, Supervisor Gonzales, Dr. Ohikhaure, Child and Families Services Director Marlene Hagen, and District Attorney Mike Ramos proudly honoring our children and committing to do what it takes to keep them safe and thriving.

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center’s (ARMC) Breathmobile travels to school locations as an “asthma clinic on wheels” to help children ages 0-14 identify and manage asthma condition with partial funding by First 5 San Bernardino. At ARMC’s 11th Annual 5K Walk/Run Health Fair on March 17, ARMC recognized Breathmobile’s 10 years of service with an additional funding award of $75,000.

The Breathmobile® provides coordinated case identification, structured mobile office visits, diagnostic testing, physical exam, pharmacological therapy and patient/family education in asthma management. All services are provided at no cost to the patient. The Breathmobile® staff consists of a pediatric specialty practitioner, a licensed vocational nurse and a respiratory therapist who are specially trained in asthma case management. ARMC currently operates two Breathmobiles, one visiting schools in the Inland Valley and the other in the High Desert area of the county. The average visit requires less than 30 minutes of the child’s day.