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# First Things First 2010 Early Childhood Summit

*From Passion to Strategies, to Making a  
Difference for Children: A Philanthropic  
Perspective.*

# Workshop Purpose

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- Brief background on philanthropy and history of Virginia Galvin Piper and the Trust.
- Our investment strategy – how we translate our broad mission into an achievable strategic direction.
- How we choose what to invest in and why.
- How we hold ourselves and our grantees accountable for the intended outcomes.
- Transferable lessons-learned for the First Things First board and regional councils.
- What else???

# Background on Philanthropy and Virginia Galvin Piper

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Philanthropy is the donation of money or labor toward the production of social good.

Source: Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society



# Piper Trust's Mission

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The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust seeks to enhance and strengthen the quality of life for the people in Maricopa County through its support of healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education and religious organizations.

# Defining Strategic Direction

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- **What are the communities' strengths and needs for our areas of interest (aka asset/needs assessment)?**
- **What resources do we have (capital and human)?**
- **How do we want to approach our work?**

# Defining Areas of Need

## Maricopa County

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Increase in children 6 and under living in single parent households and living with grandparents.

Higher percentage of mothers who give birth who did not complete high school than state and U.S. averages.

Higher percentage of families living in poverty than state and U.S. averages.

More mothers who get little or no prenatal care.

Increase in number of young children who are uninsured.

Higher percentage of children in Head Start with moderate developmental delays and speech and language impairments.

More families with young children seeking emergency food, housing and other assistance.

Increase in percentage of children 0 to 5 who are homeless.

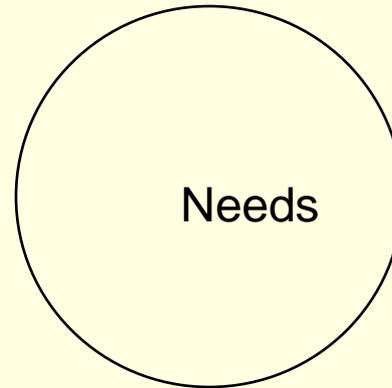
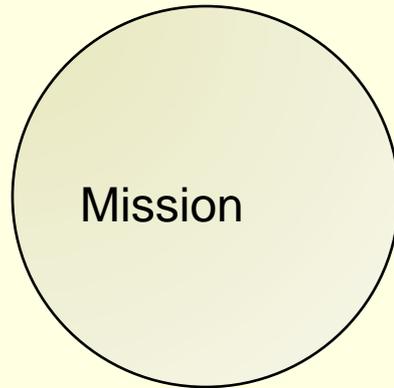
# Community Needs

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# Aligning Mission and Needs

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# Organizational Capacity

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Definition:

An organization's ability to successfully apply its skills and resources to accomplish its goals and satisfy its stakeholders' expectations.

## ◆ Resources

- ◆ Financial capital
- ◆ Staff
- ◆ Infrastructure
- ◆ Technology

## ◆ Management

- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Project/Program management skill
- ◆ Networks & linkages

# Piper Trust Resources

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- \$20 to 24 million annually across six core areas (\$254,944,183) since inception
- 15 staff – 3 program staff
- Ph.D. Researcher and Associate
- Access to local and national experts

# Core Areas

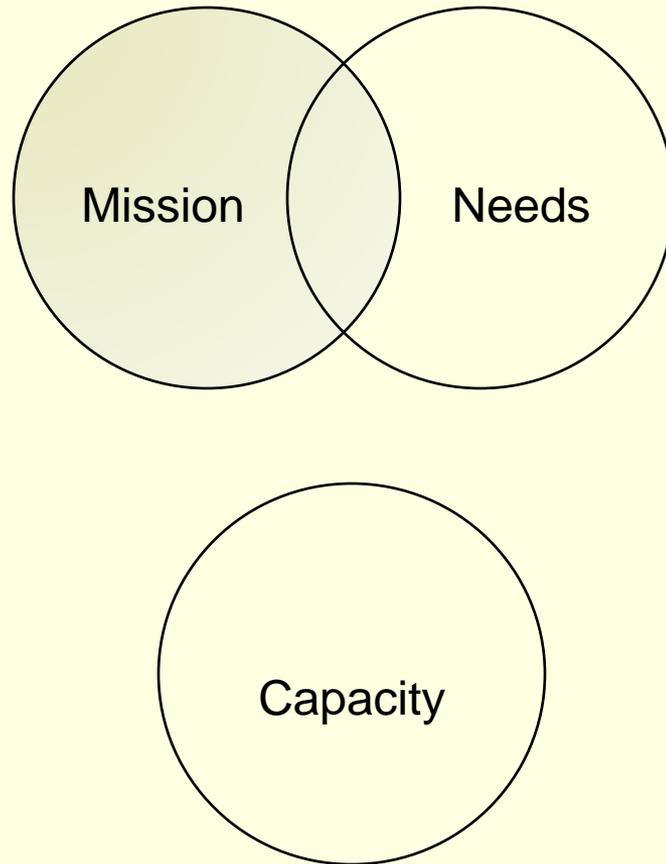
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- Healthcare and Medical Research
- Children
- Older Adults
- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Religious Organizations

# Aligning Mission and Needs

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# Children

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## Areas of Focus:

- Improve Parent and Caregiver Abilities to Nurture Children.
- Support Essential Services for Special Populations of Children.
- Improve Child Care Practices and Afterschool Care.

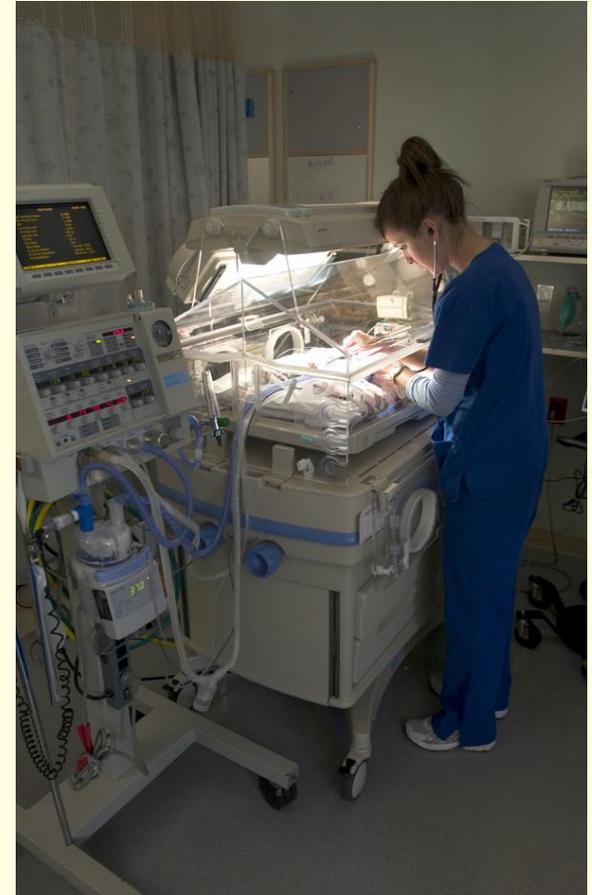


# Healthcare and Medical Research

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## Areas of Focus:

- Improve the Quality of Healthcare for Children and Older Adults.
- Support Healthcare Services for Underserved Children and Older Adults.
- Support Research in Personalized Medical Science and Technology.



# Education

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## Areas of Focus:

- Strengthen Early Learning Environments.
- Strengthen Academic Enhancements for Youth.
- Engage Older Adults in Life-Long Learning.



# Investments

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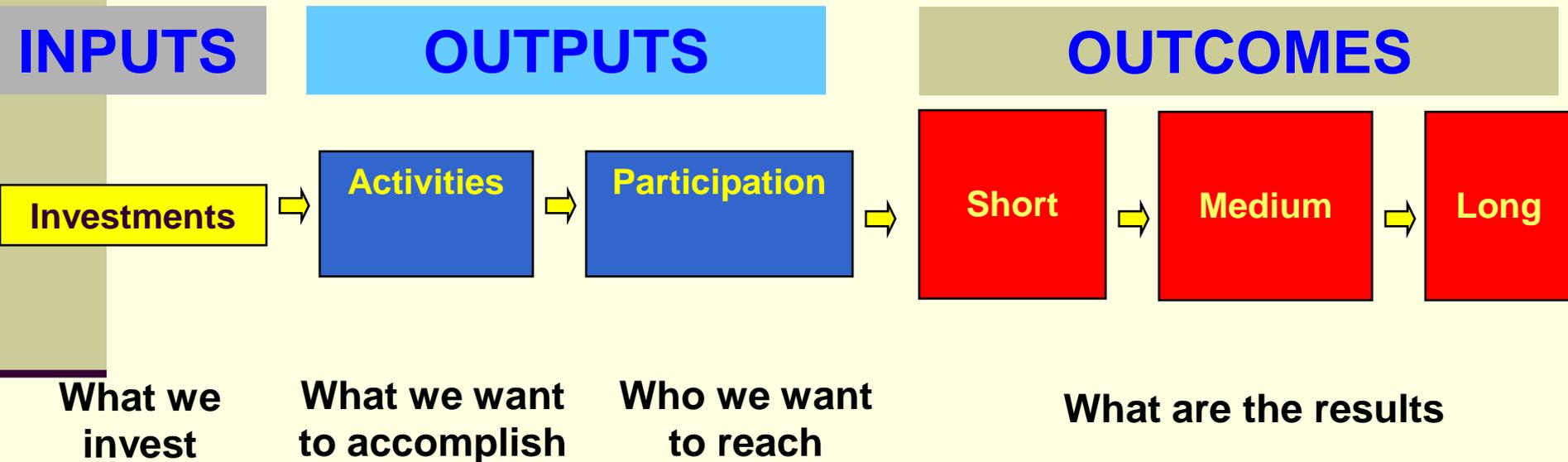


## Decision Points:

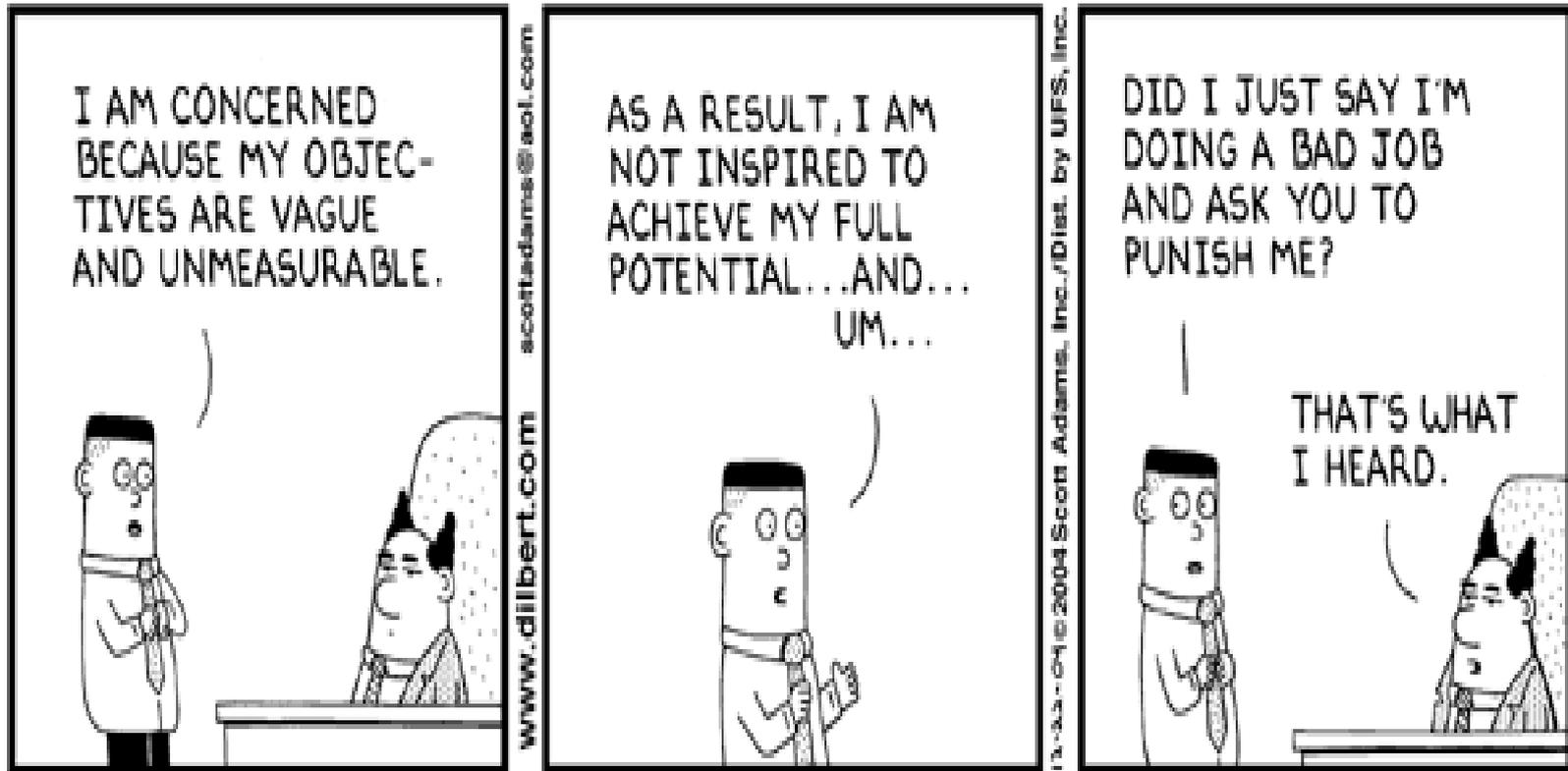
- Impact
- Effectiveness
- Feasibility
- Sustainability

# Define Success

## Logic Model



# Measuring Results



# Investing in Evidence-Based Practices

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Definition:

Exemplary programs  
grounded in research.

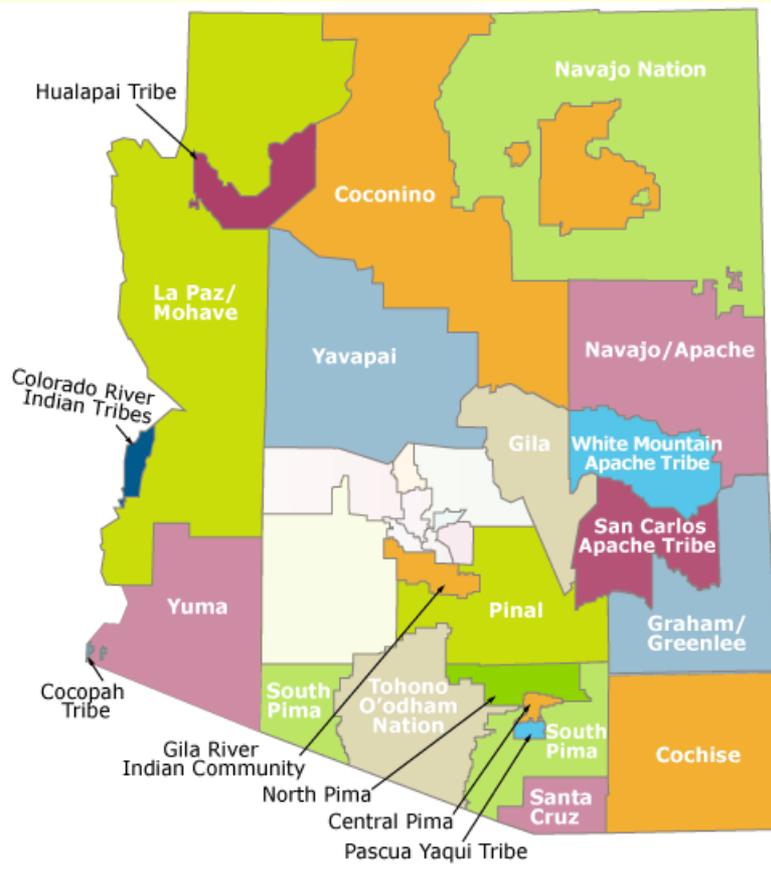
- Many programs, despite their good intentions, are either ineffective or actually do more harm than good.
- Ineffective or harmful programs are a waste of scarce resources.

# Best Practice Resources

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- What Works Clearinghouse: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>
- Child Trends: [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)
- Harvard Center on the Developing Child: <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center: [www.nectac.org](http://www.nectac.org)
- CONNECT: The Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge:  
<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect>
- National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education:  
<http://www.ncrece.org/wordpress/>
- National Institute for Literacy – Birth to Early Childhood:  
<http://www.nifl.gov/earlychildhood/earlyresearch.htm>
- Center for Early Literacy Learning: <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/>
- US Dept of Education: <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/best-practices.html>

# Relevance to FIRST THINGS FIRST



- First Things First has broad mission with six objective areas.
- Significant variability of resources within Regional Partnership Councils.
- Strenuous accountability requirements and challenging political pressures.

# Contact Information

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**Marilee Dal Pra, Program Director**

**Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust**

**Telephone: 480-556-7138**

**Email: [mdalpra@pipertrust.org](mailto:mdalpra@pipertrust.org)**

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**Questions?**

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