

## **Jerry Stermer**

*Newly Appointed Chief of Staff to Governor Pat Quinn*

### **Past successes for Illinois:**

- Helped opinion leaders and policymakers understand the issues facing children and families, and built support for positive changes in policies and programs that have made a real difference.
- Ensured earlier public investments in children and improved education, health care and healthy child development.
- Promoted a comprehensive plan of access to health insurance for uninsured children, tax-credits for low-income, working families; secured a dramatic expansion of preschool and other early childhood programs; and championed the development of Healthy Families Illinois and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership.
- Published Voices for Children's annual "Illinois Kids Count" data report on child well-being.
- Encouraged Illinoisans to invest more in quality early childhood programs.

### **Experience:**

- Founding President, Voices for Illinois Children (1987 to present)
- Adjunct professor, Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy (2002 to present )
- Supervisor of Government Affairs, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (1985 to 1987)
- Executive Director, Legislative Advisory Committee on Public Aid (1979 to 1985)
- Assistant to the Director and other positions, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (1973 to 1979)
- Volunteer, Peace Corps in Ecuador (1968 to 1970)

### **Board Positions:**

- Member, Executive Committee of the Illinois Early Learning Council
- Chair, Illinois Child Support Advisory Committee
- Commissioner, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission of the City of Chicago
- Coordination Committee, A+ Illinois campaign
- Board Member, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
- Board Member, Voices for America's Children
- Board Member, United Way
- Board Member, Governor's Task Force on Human Services Reform

### **Education:**

- University of Illinois, MA in Political Science (1982)
- Divine Word Seminary in Epworth, Iowa, BA in English (1966)

### **Awards:**

- 2008 Benjamin Gingiss Service Award for Advocacy for vulnerable children from the Illinois Humane Society
- Chicago Center for Cultural Connections Founders Award
- The Blue Bow Award from the Children's Home and Aid Society

### **Personal Information:**

- Age: 65
- Wife: Nancy
- Children: Rachel and Daniel
- Hometown: Elmhurst, IL