

## True Up steps up for Kentucky's kids

FRANKFORT – More than 30 True Up youth added their voices to the hundreds of young people and child advocates at Children's Advocacy Day on Feb. 8 at the State Capitol in Frankfort.

With True Up Champions at their side, youth visited with some of the state's top elected leaders and lawmakers to talk about the needs of at-risk youth. The event was sponsored by Kentucky Youth Advocates.

"It was a tremendous experience to watch our youth and champions navigate the halls of Frankfort," said Lacey McNary, Chief Operating Officer of True Up. "The youth were so impressive with strong talking points, great presence, firm handshakes, and sense of determination."

Chelsea Hoover and Shane Kendall were among the featured youth speakers at the rally on the Capitol steps.

True Up team fanned out and met with nearly a dozen key legislators, attended a legislative committee meeting, posed for a picture with Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes and toured the Capitol to see the Senate and House chambers.

True Up Founder and Chairman Frank Harshaw attended a legislative reception, where he talked with key leaders about the needs of at-risk and foster youth. Harshaw spoke with Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear; Audrey Haynes, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Joe Meyer, Secretary of the Education and Workforce Cabinet; and Teresa James, Commissioner for the Department for Community Based Services.

Attending Children's Advocacy Day provided the kind of experiential learning that's the core of True Up's mission, McNary said. "It was a great experience to learn how government works, how citizens can get involved and how to act in a professional setting," she said.