

the Ounce

William H. Gates Sr. underscored the Gates Foundation's commitment to investing in early childhood education at the Ounce's 6th Annual "It's Good Business to Invest in Young Children" Luncheon.

Over 400 business and philanthropic leaders joined Corporate Chair Terrence A. Duffy and Luncheon Co-Chairs Diana Mendley Rauner and Bill Friend to hear William H. Gates Sr., Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, talk about the importance of early childhood education at the Ounce's Luncheon on April 17th at The Standard Club.



Keynote speaker William H. Gates Sr. at the Ounce's 6th Annual Luncheon



Corporate Chair Terrence A. Duffy

Mr. Gates made a compelling case for bridging the education gap in the United States, noting that early childhood education "is one of the smartest investments we can make in the future; that it is good business to invest in kids."

Talking about how children too often start school behind their peers, Mr. Gates went on to say: **"Imagine what it must be like for a child who isn't ready for the first day of kindergarten. On one side of her is a girl writing her ABCs. On the other side is a boy who can tell time. And yet she doesn't recognize a single letter. Right away, school is a place where she feels like a failure, where she feels overwhelmed."**

The good news, remarked Mr. Gates, is that it is possible to deliver high-quality early childhood education to those most in need. Noting the promise of the Ounce's Educare model, the Gates Foundation, along with other key leaders, is working to transform "high-quality early learning from something a few states are trying into a national movement."

Acknowledging that it will "take a lot of time, money, and political will to do the

job right," Mr. Gates concluded by saying, "if we make sure all children are ready to learn when they get to school, then every child can have the same hope for the future."

After a successful career in law and many years of public service, Mr. Gates now serves as a Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helping to guide the vision and strategic direction of the Foundation, serving as an advocate for the Foundation's key issues, including education.

The Luncheon's first-ever Corporate Chair, Terrence A. Duffy, Executive Chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), introduced Mr. Gates and praised his vision and leadership. Prior to the introduction, Mr. Duffy spoke about the CME Trust's recent grant of \$1 million to the Ounce's programs: "We are all here together because we share the same commitment – we believe in the importance of investing in young children."

Jesse Ruiz, Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education, offered remarks on the state's leadership and investment in early childhood education.

Wrapping up the Luncheon, Ounce President Harriet Meyer emphasized the increasing prominence of early childhood in discussions at all levels of government. Yet, she went on to say, there remains the opportunity to do more together to improve the lives of very young children and, in particular, those who are at risk for school failure. "Getting involved now means becoming part of the country's growing awareness of early childhood. Increasingly, leaders agree – very young children need to be raised to the top of policy agendas."

The Luncheon was planned by the Ounce's Development Committee of the Board, chaired by Keith Goldstein and Kate Siegel, along with the Luncheon Co-Chairs.

This year's event was made possible by generous corporate contributions and individual Luncheon sponsorships from Ounce Board members, friends and partners.

To view excerpts of Mr. Gates' remarks, please visit the Ounce's website, www.ounceofprevention.org. To receive a copy of Mr. Gates' remarks, please email the Ounce at pubs@ounceofprevention.org or call 312.922.3863 and speak with Diana Sharpe.



Joan Harris and William H. Gates Sr.



M.K. and J.B. Pritzker

“It’s Good Business to Invest in Young Children” Luncheon (continued)



Mary Krey, Bob Heaton and Donald Suter

“It is another major milestone for the Ounce to have someone of the stature of Mr. Gates to speak of both our issue and our organization as he did at the Luncheon.”
Bob Heaton
M3 Capital Partners



Over 400 people attended the Ounce’s Luncheon at The Standard Club.



Joyce Skoog, Ron Lally, Joan Lombardi, Elliot Regenstein and Harriet Meyer



Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg and Luncheon Co-Chair Bill Friend



Illinois State Board of Education Chair Jesse Ruiz



Terrence A. Duffy, Regan Rohde, Howard and Kate Siegel



David Blowers, Portia Kennel, Kelly King Dibble and Sandy Matthews

“Mr. Gates articulated the importance of investing in early childhood education, not just to ensure that children arrive at kindergarten with skill and confidence, but as the most viable way to influence the future health and growth of our economy and society as a whole.”
Kelly King Dibble
Northern Trust



Tim O’Neil, Tim Landon and Nigel Telman



David Grange and Dan Pedersen



Ken Levit and Harriet Meyer



Dan Reisner, Stephen Baird and Austin Hirsch



Patti Gustafson, Kris Blouin and Nancy Azzaro



Sokoni Karanja, Eloise Cornelius and Kandace Thomas

Book donations benefit children at the Ounce's Educare Center



Jackie Bucksbaum and Jean Schlemmer

“I was excited to hear Mr. Gates talk about the Foundation’s efforts to replicate the Ounce’s Educare model in Washington State. Believing that early childhood education is key to improving opportunities for all young children, it’s great to know that our investment in the Ounce is leveraging impact on a national scale.”
Jackie Bucksbaum
Ounce Board Member



Rick and Susan Mayer



Roz Spellman, Barbara Gorovsky, Donna Weichselbaum, Hart and Suzanne Weichselbaum



Rusty and Sam Hellman, Lindy Bergman and Carol Sadow

Books have the power to spark a child’s imagination and peak his curiosity about the world around him. Research points to the importance of surrounding children with books and reading with them frequently to promote language development.

We are pleased to highlight the generosity of several friends who, this year, helped enrich the lives of children in our program through donations of books.

Most recently, General Growth Properties donated over 700 books from the *Franklin the Turtle* series to Educare children and their families.

Of the recent book donation, General Growth Properties’ Group Vice President Patty Hirt said, “Since we know that the first five years of a child’s life has so much to do with how the next 70 turn out, this reinforced our belief – invest in what works. By supporting the Ounce with our book donation, we are helping to build a strong foundation for children to succeed in school and in life.”

This wonderful contribution followed an in-kind donation from Borders of several hundred books through the Ounce’s April 17th luncheon. Classic favorites like *Good Night Gorilla* and modern selections like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, were part of the centerpieces at each luncheon table. The books served as a tangible reminder for luncheon attendees of why language-rich environments are so critical to later school success.

Jill Thompson, the Ounce’s Family Literacy Specialist, always gets great joy from distributing the donated books to the children. Displaying her talent for engaging children, Jill recently dressed up as the Cat in the Hat and visited each room at the



Jill Thompson passes out books to Educare students.



Books from the Ounce's Luncheon centerpieces were donated to children at Educare.

Educare Center one by one, describing books and handing them out while eager children gathered around her.

All of the book donations support the Ounce’s emphasis on literacy and pre-literacy skills in our programs, encouraging an early love of reading in order to help children develop the language skills they need to enter school ready to learn.

Thank you to this year’s Corporate and Foundation Sponsors



*CME Trust’s sponsorship gift is part of a \$1 million contribution to support the Ounce’s continued innovation and reach in birth-to-three programs and policies.

The Ounce Welcomes Diana Mendley Rauner, Ph.D.

Coming Soon! New Ounce Website



We are pleased to announce that Diana Mendley Rauner, Ph.D. has joined the Ounce as our new Senior Vice President, Partnership Advancement. In her new capacity, Diana will be one of the Ounce's primary spokespeople, communicating early childhood issues and our mission to private sector audiences, funders and partners.

Diana holds an M.B.A. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Chicago. After a decade in investment banking and private equity investing, Diana became a Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. There, she worked with public agencies and private foundations on the evaluation of programs that support early childhood development. Diana joined the Ounce's Board of Directors in 2002 and has been Co-Chair of the Program, Training and Evaluation Committee. She also co-chaired the Ounce's most recent Annual Luncheon, which garnered an unprecedented level of sponsorship from the corporate community.

Diana is uniquely equipped to fill this vital role not only because of her educational and professional experience, but also because of her deep institutional knowledge of the Ounce and shared core values. Please join us in welcoming Diana.



We are excited to announce the coming launch of the Ounce's new website. Scheduled to go live this fall, the new site will help visitors understand the Ounce work, the rationale for focusing on the first years of life and our impact. At the same time, our new website will serve as an information resource, providing access to a range of documents and publications related to early childhood development.

Our new website will be more dynamic, filled with images of many of the children and families whose lives we impact as well as video clips that allow visitors to hear from program participants and staff members about the value and power of early intervention. Though our look is changing, our commitment to at-risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers remains as strong as ever.

Be on the lookout for more information about our new site as the launch approaches.

the Ounce

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