



Partners

Oklahoma City Educare was created through a partnership between Inasmuch Foundation, Sunbeam Family Services, Inc., Community Action Agency of Oklahoma and Canadian Counties and Oklahoma City Public Schools. Each of the partners is represented on the Educare Board of Directors, along with other contributors and early childhood advocates.

Partners

The partners contribute significantly to Educare as follows:

Inasmuch Foundation staff have provided leadership in the development of the private-public collaboration necessary to bring Educare to Oklahoma City. Inasmuch Foundation staff members are also securing funds to construct the center and provide an endowment for future building maintenance.

Sunbeam Family Services, Inc. is the managing partner and the grantee agency for Early Head Start program, which serves children birth to age three. Educare will have 64 Early Head Start eligible children, and Sunbeam will contribute annually to support these children. After the center opens, Sunbeam staff will be the operating manager responsible for day-to-day administration.

Community Action Agency is the grantee for Head Start, which serves children ages three to four. Educare will serve 136 Head Start eligible children, and Community Action Agency will provide the funds to support these children.

Oklahoma City Public Schools has collaborated with Educare on the overall space planning required for the Educare property to be adjacent to a planned new elementary school, Cesar Chavez Elementary. The two buildings will comprise an attractive campus, birth through sixth grade. The 68 four-year-old children at Educare will be enrolled in Oklahoma's Pre-K Program, and Oklahoma City Public Schools will pass on the applicable funding to Educare.

United Way of Oklahoma City makes a contribution to Sunbeam, who makes that money available to Educare.

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Board Members

Chairman

Bob Ross, Inasmuch Foundation

President (ex-officio)

Ray Bitsche, Sunbeam Family Services, Inc.

Treasurer

Bob Harbison, Consultant to Inasmuch Foundation

Members

Cathy Blevins, Bank of America

Mike Burke, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Liz Eickman, Kirkpatrick Family Fund

Annie Koppel Van Hanken, George Kaiser Family Foundation

Pat Potts, Potts Family Foundation

Lisa Price, Community Volunteer

Scott Randall (ex-officio), Oklahoma City Public Schools

Berta Faye Rex, Community Volunteer

William J. Ross, Inasmuch Foundation

Ira Schlesinger, Latino Community Development Agency

Jim Sconzo, Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City

We must pay tribute to John Rex, who dedicated himself to improving education in Oklahoma. Rex brought Smart Start to our state and inspired Inasmuch Foundation leaders to invest their funds in education. Educare Oklahoma City is an example of his legacy.



National Facts

About Educare

Founded by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago in 2000, Educare Centers are committed to helping young children grow up safe, healthy and eager to learn. Through a consortium of partners, Educare supporters create, provide and promote the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for families and their children (ages prenatal to five years) who are at-risk for school failure. Educare principles and practices are based on continual research and implementation within the field of early childhood education. The success of the children who enter this program will demonstrate the societal and economic value of investing in the earliest years in order to prevent the need for costly interventions later.

Nationwide centers include:

- Chicago – opened 2000
- Omaha (North), Neb. – opened 2003
- Milwaukee – opened 2005
- Tulsa – opened 2006
- Denver – opened 2007
- Oklahoma City – groundbreaking 2007
- Omaha (South), Neb. – groundbreaking 2008

Educare centers in the pipeline:

- Arizona
- Chicago (west)
- Portland
- Miami
- Seattle
- Yakima, Wash.

Goals

Nationally, Educare supporters hope to create 12 to 15 Educare Centers in a network reaching across 10 to 12 states that will provide a robust national research sample of nearly 2,000 children and families (A national research project is being conducted by the Frank Porter Graham Institute at the University of North Carolina. Early indications are positive but the sample sizes are still quite small.)

By the time the network is fully built, the private sector will have invested more than \$100 million in capital construction, sending a strong statement about leveling the playing field for very young children growing up in low-income families.

Each Educare Center also serves as a platform for policy change.

- In Illinois, Educare of Chicago helped to lead to historic expansions in early education funding from birth through age five.
- In Nebraska, Educare of Omaha helped to lead to the creation of a new \$60 million Nebraska Endowment, a public-private partnership supporting the early care and education of very young children.
- In Oklahoma, Educare efforts have helped to lead to the creation of the \$25 million state pilot, a public-private partnership supporting services for children from birth to age three.

Lead Educare Funders

Lead Educare Funders coordinate all fundraising efforts for Educare capital campaigns. The anchor funder takes a leading role in organizing the Educare governance committee, which incorporates representatives from the public and private sectors (private sector, local public schools, Head Start/Early Head Start, etc.) to oversee the actual governance of Educare.

- Irving Harris Foundation in Chicago
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund in Omaha and Milwaukee
- George Kaiser Family Foundation in Tulsa
- Chambers Family Fund in Denver
- Inasmuch Foundation in Oklahoma City
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle and Yakima
- United Way of Miami-Dade in Miami

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Funders

Inasmuch Foundation (Lead Educare Funder)

George Kaiser Family Foundation

Aubrey and Katie McClendon

Tom and Sch'ree Ward

Susan A. Buffett Foundation

E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation

Potts Family Foundation

The Garrett Family through Garrett and Company, LLC

George and Nancy Records

Dick and Jeannette Sias

David and Lezlie Hudiburg

OGE Energy Corporation

Norick Investments

Devon Energy

Kirkpatrick Family Fund



Bob Ross Biography

Bob Ross currently serves as chairman of Oklahoma City Educare.

Ross is also president, CEO and member of the Board of Directors of Inasmuch Foundation and Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. The Foundations were founded by Edith Kinney Gaylord in 1982.

For the past year, Inasmuch Foundation has been leading the funding and partnering efforts to bring an Educare Center to Oklahoma City.

Ross was previously employed as an Attorney with the Oklahoma City law firm McAfee & Taft.

He is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School and Washington and Lee University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He received his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Ross is a member of the following Board of Directors: Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, Smart Start for Central Oklahoma, St. Anthony Hospital Foundation, Sunbeam Family Services, Oklahoma City Educare, Tulsa Educare. Bob is married to Heather Ross and has a daughter, Lilly.

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Ray Bitsche Biography

Ray Bitsche is the president (ex officio) of Oklahoma City Educare.

Bitsche has been executive director of Sunbeam Family Services, Inc. since September 1999. Sunbeam Family Services Inc. will manage the Oklahoma City Educare's day-to-day operations upon completion.

Bitsche previously worked in the Oklahoma juvenile justice system, serving as Director of the Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center for 12 years.

He has a Bachelor of Science in criminology from Sam Houston State University and his master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma.

Bitsche is a board member of the Homeless Alliance and United Methodist Church of the Servant; Chairman of Oklahoma City Citizen's Committee for Community Development; and involved with Leadership OKC, Arts Council of OKC and Rotary Club of OKC. Ray is married to Cris Bitsche and has a daughter, Melissa, and a son, Michael.

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