



Billie Osborne-Fears Education Center

Starting Point is establishing the **Billie Osborne-Fears Education Center** in recognition of Billie's ground-breaking work on behalf of Northeast Ohio children and families.

As the leader of Starting Point since its founding in 1990, Billie was the driving force behind the transformation of child care, early childhood education and out-of-school programming in Northeast Ohio, which created a system of services to address challenges faced by families, child care and out-of-school-time providers and the community.



The **Billie Osborne-Fears Education Center** will build on her work, providing a needed space for initiatives to educate families, providers and the community on the importance of quality child care and the essentials of providing such care. Specifically, the Education Center will:

- Provide **comprehensive training on all aspects of child and youth development and business practices** to early educators, out-of-school time professionals and child care administrators
- Serve as a **convening space for community collaborations** addressing child and youth development and well-being
- **Educate families and the community** on child and youth development practices and the important role of Starting Point in the region.

Starting Point has been an incubator of innovative interventions; many of them emulated throughout Ohio, others reaching beyond its borders. These include the Special Needs Project, T.E.A.C.H, The Resilience Project and the Boys' Project, which led to the publication of *Wired to Move: Facts and Strategies for Nurturing Boys in an Early Childhood Setting*.