Early Heroes
Individuals and Organizations Who Made World Forum Happen

Founding Sponsors

When the World Forum was nothing more than a dream in the heads of Bonnie and Roger Neugebauer, three risk-taking organizations stepped forward to sponsor the first World Forum in 1999 and have remained as sponsors ever since:

- Community Playthings
- KinderCare Education
- Lakeshore Learning Materials

Other Early Sponsors

As World Forums were held in Singapore in 2000, Athens in 2001, Auckland in 2002 and Acapulco in 2003, these sponsors became an ongoing part of the World Forum team:

- Bright Horizons Family Solutions
- High Scope Educational Research Foundation
- New Zealand Tertiary College
- Pademellon Press
- Stepping Stones Children’s Centers
- International Child Resource Institute
- Teaching Strategies

Early Supporters

Many individuals volunteered to support the World Forum Foundation in its formative years. Foremost among these was David Gleason, the first major donor to the World Forum and its first President. And of course, no World Forum would have been possible without the marketing, conference planning and logistical genius of Bruce Schon.

In addition, the great support provided by Ken Jaffe, Dana Friedman, Gwen Morgan, Rodney and Carmel Kenner, Diane and Bert Adams, David Weikart, Barnabas Otaala, Amelia Gambetti, Margaret Kabiru, Allen Pence, Jacqueline Hayden, Leiw Sau Pheng, Selena Fox, and Roberto Barocio Quijano contributed directly to the success of the early World Forums.

The following individuals served on the International Organizing Committee, the team that advised the World Forum on locations, topics and presenters, in the early years:

- Bander Al-Swailen, Saudi Arabia
- Sandra Beckham, Canada
- Zenija Berzina, Latvia
- Caius Brandao, Brazil
- Mary Eming Young, USA
- Sunita Gandhi, USA
Mark Ginsberg, USA
Magela Guimeraes, Uruguay
Judith Loh, Malaysia
Olga Melnick, Russia
Peter Moss, United Kingdom
Vijaya Murthy, India
Trudy Norton, Canada
Judy Radich, Australia
Lily Rodrigo-Canlas, Philippines
Leonard Saul, South Africa
Susan Whitaker, Australia
Lily Wong, Singapore