

First Steps Business Alliance

TESTIMONIALS

An investment in early childhood development is an investment in both your business and our community's economic future. Many local business leaders are already getting involved.



"A strategic investment in early childhood development is not only the right thing to do it's the smart thing to do. Business recognizes that developing a strong and capable workforce begins in the earliest stages of childhood development. The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce looks forward to a vital partnership with the First Steps Business Alliance to help ensure that our community's greatest assets, our children, are prepared for a lifetime of learning."

**JOHN WADE, PRESIDENT
ROCHESTER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



"Home Federal supports the First Steps Business Alliance because we believe that our continued business success depends on the availability of an educated workforce, which can only be created through community-wide efforts to provide quality early education to our children."

**MIKE MCNEIL, PRESIDENT
HOME FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK**



"Work force demographics continue to change and we know that as current workers age, there are fewer numbers to replace them and more will be required of them just to keep pace. To achieve that goal will require employees who are good learners, who are easily adaptable, and who are intellectually nimble. Mayo's investment in First Steps will help demonstrate that success in the early years of grade school is a critical indicator of future academic achievement and lifetime success. We are pleased to join with our community partners in the formation of the First Steps Business Alliance."

**JEFFREY O. KORSMO, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER**



"The kids entering schools today are our future workers of tomorrow. If we don't make the investment now in early education—and our kids enter school unprepared to learn—that doesn't bode well for us 20 years from now."

**DAVID OETH, MANAGING DIRECTOR
RSM MCGLADREY**



"A lesson I learned in business is that by spending more time focusing on the early stages of development, the probability of a successful and rewarding result increases. Likewise, early attention to the issues and needs of children will increase the probability that they will become productive adults. As employers, it is our responsibility to support the First Steps Business Alliance to ensure a quality future workforce and socially responsible citizens."

**NANCY DOMAILLE, PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD
DOMAILLE ENGINEERING LLC**



"Caring for the families of your employees creates an environment that people want to work in, which is especially important for small businesses. Providing programs on early childhood development is a low-cost way to provide high-value benefits."

**JON ECKHOFF, PRESIDENT
VENTURE COMPUTER SYSTEMS**



"It's critical that our team members have a healthy balance between their work and family. Being part of the First Steps Business Alliance connects my business with a multitude of tips, ideas, and resources—both from the staff at First Steps and from other First Steps Business Alliance members—that help our staff successfully raise their families. Team members that have that healthy balance are productive—everyone wins!"

**DAVID J. STENHAUG, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL
MANAGER FOR WELLS FARGO PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES**



"IBM parents have been very receptive to the First Steps SEEDS sessions held on site earlier this year. There is a major push for work/life balance these days for employees with young children—this is always a struggle in any workplace. When IBM helps make the "life" part of the equation more meaningful and manageable, employees are more able to give to the "work" part of the equation. In the long-term, the benefits of higher quality developmental opportunities for our children are even greater—we're helping to prepare our future leaders very early in their development!"

**WALT LING, VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNICAL SALES SUPPORT
IBM ROCHESTER**