



ASHOKA INNOVATORS FOR THE PUBLIC

NEWS

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Terrie Rose to be Inducted Into International Ashoka Fellowship

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public recognizes founder of Baby's Space for transforming child care centers in low-income neighborhoods into creative learning environments

December 1, 2008 (Arlington, Virginia) – As a leader in the early child development field, **Terrie Rose** saw that children born into communities of high poverty were at high-risk of toxic stress, limited learning opportunities, abuse and neglect – factors that often lead to significant developmental delays, social and emotional difficulties, school failure and dropout. She founded ***Baby's Space: A Place to Grow*** with an environment created – literally – from the ground up using a baby's perspective. The first facility was in a converted school across the street from an American Indian housing development, one of the financially challenged communities in Minneapolis.

For her pioneering work in creating a high-impact early intervention to provide at-risk babies and toddlers a strong start in life, Rose is one of 21 leading social entrepreneurs from across the United States to be elected an Ashoka Fellow this year. ***Ashoka: Innovators for the Public*** recognizes social entrepreneurs for their system-changing solutions to the world's most urgent social problems. Rose and the other new Fellows will be inducted, along with newly-elected Fellows from Mexico and Central America, at a ceremony on Los Angeles on December 9, 2008. They will join the ranks of some 2,200 Fellows in over 60 countries around the world who are working for social change to improve society.

Early childhood is a critical time for children's development and can strongly influence their chances for self-sufficiency and life success. As a child psychologist, Terrie has spent her entire adult life working with people struggling to get through life. She saw that children living in extreme poverty were the least likely to get quality day care, and that the subsidized facilities available to the poor were not much more than babysitting services staffed by low-paid, under-trained workers.

At the same time, as the mother of three, she marveled at the emergence of children's museums – high quality learning environments developed to the scale and needs of small children. **Baby's Space** combines the best of developmental design with the best practices of high quality childcare to create an effective model for babies to learn and grow.

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The quality of attachment is the single most reliable predictor of children's developmental outcomes, so Baby's Space provides relationship-based programs to promote healthy attachments between parents/guardians and their children, teachers and children, and parents and teachers. The center is a neighborhood space – a haven for the babies and their parents. Even if a child is taken into foster care, Baby's Space is still the parent's partner and the baby's daytime home, providing consistency and stability in an otherwise tumultuous time in the child's life.

Rose is justifiably proud of the measurable results of Baby's Space. "We test the children individually on a regular basis," she says. "Every one of them is academically on-target by age five. Even though 75% of the children have substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, teenage parenting or other difficult issues in family, they are on the same measure as children from more economically privileged areas." And the families take great pride in the progress of their children. "They say to me, 'Test our kids and show people they are smart.' We do!" Rose says.

Baby's Space not only served the needs of disadvantaged children, but it also reaches out to the whole family through multiple channels. All-day kindergarten, family nights, parent education courses, even an on-site mental health care profession, all give the staff of Baby's Space an opportunity to get to know the families and to help intervene when challenges arise. The program has grown to three centers in Minneapolis and others in two additional cities, plus the Tatonka Academy, a new initiative that will educate children in kindergarten through third grade. Additional models of replication at other Indian reservations and communities of poverty are being considered, as well.

Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, Ashoka gives leading social entrepreneurs a global network, an international association of their peers. Fellows become lifetime members, receiving initial support that enables them to focus full-time on their work and access to professional and strategic services to help them achieve pattern-changing impact in their fields. Each Fellow is also eligible to apply for supplemental funding for collaborative projects, and to receive training and technical assistance through Ashoka and its partners.

"Ashoka Fellows create original solutions for the most pressing social problems of our day," says Ashoka's U.S. Director Barbara Kazdan. "Although Ashoka U.S. is only eight years old, we have identified the most inventive and dedicated social entrepreneurs to join with their peers to elevate and strengthen the 'citizen sector' here and around the world. We now have close to 300 Fellows from North America, more than 100 of whom are from the United States, where they are bringing their innovative programs to all 50 states and the developing world."

Ashoka Fellows work in six broad fields: learning/youth development, the environment, health, human rights, economic development and civic engagement. Selection criteria include the newness and potential social impact of the idea, as well as the candidate's entrepreneurial qualities.

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public is a global community of social entrepreneurs who deliver innovative solutions to social problems. To build this citizen sector community, Ashoka identifies and supports leading social entrepreneurs, creates opportunities for collaboration, and builds systems and institutions that facilitate high impact social solutions. Over the past 27 years since Bill Drayton founded Ashoka, the organization has invested in over 2,200 Ashoka Fellows in more than 60 countries.

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