



PROFILE IN COMPASSION #11

Volunteer Leaders Cheryl Gelfond and Leslie McLeod



Cheryl Gelfond and Leslie McLeod embody the qualities of true champions for vulnerable children. For nearly 20 years these friends have dedicated their time and energy towards helping Children's Place Association change the future for sick and impoverished children.

Both began contributing to Children's Place in the late 1990s and soon joined our Junior Board (then called Professional Partners). They helped engage other young professionals and built a solid foundation of support from the Chicago business community.

After many years leading the charge with the Junior Board, they shifted their focus towards a new challenge – the launch of our overseas initiative, Children's Place International.

Leslie joined the Board of Children's Place International in 2010 and has served as Board Chair since 2012, helping us expand services in the Caribbean and Africa. Last year, she and other supporters visited our program sites in Haiti, meeting several client families and assessing the impact Children's Place is having on vulnerable children.

Cheryl has also played a significant leadership role, stepping up to chair the inaugural fundraising event for Children's Place International, Place the Hope, in 2011. Cheryl has served as Chair for each subsequent fundraiser through 2015. The event, which has grown steadily each year, now raises more than \$100,000 to fill the funding gap for overseas programming.

As a result of these women's volunteerism and personal commitment, thousands of vulnerable children have received vital care, enabling them to overcome health and economic challenges so they can lead their best lives. Thank you Cheryl and Leslie for your enormous compassion!

*Volunteer leaders Cheryl Gelfond (left) and Leslie McLeod at a Children's Place International fundraiser. Cheryl is Vice President of Operations at Synthesis and Leslie is Managing Director of Employee Benefits at Mesirow Financial.