



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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William H. Gates, Sr. to Receive the 2009 Children's Champion Award from Parent Trust for Washington Children

SEATTLE, WA - September 24, 2009 -

William H. Gates, Sr. will be the 2009 recipient of Parent Trust for Washington Children's Laura Smith Brown Children's Champion Award. William H. Gates, Sr. will be honored on behalf of his early childhood learning initiatives and work.

A Washington State native, William H. Gates is a retired lawyer, philanthropist, and author. He is currently the co-chair of the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** where he has made early childhood learning a funding priority. He is also the co-chair of **Thrive by Five Washington**, an organization that creates early learning partnerships, services, and systems for families throughout Washington State with children ages birth to five.

"If we make sure all children are ready to learn when they get to school, then every child can have the same hope for the future," William H. Gates, Sr.

Each year Parent Trust presents the Children's Champion Award to an individual or organization that has shown **outstanding leadership in supporting parents and children** in the state of Washington. Some past recipients of the award have included Governor Christine Gregoire, Senator Patty Murray, Representative Ruth Kagi, and the Northwest Children's Fund.

William H. Gates, Sr. will personally receive the 2009 Children's Champion Award at Parent Trust's annual fundraiser and community event, the **Mad Hatter Tea Party**. This year's tenth annual Mad Hatter Tea Party will be held Saturday, November 7, 2009 at the downtown Renaissance Hotel from 11am-1pm. For more information about this year's Mad Hatter Tea Party or to purchase tickets, visit www.madhatterteaparty.org or call 206.233.0156 x231.

Founded in 1978, Parent Trust for Washington Children is dedicated to teaching families skills to promote early learning, improve family bonding, develop new family and life management skills for both parents and children, and prevent child abuse and neglect. For more information about Parent Trust and its life-changing parent education and family support programs, visit www.parenttrust.org.

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