

Morey Mechlin



Morey Mechlin's philosophy most aligns with the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead who said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Mechlin moved to Springfield with her husband and infant son in 1985. She knew they had found their home when she joined the Junior League of Springfield, a group committed to the community through the effective action of trained volunteers. The personal and professional development gained through the League served as a springboard to other volunteer opportunities including board service with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, United Way of the Ozarks, the Rotary Club of Springfield, the Springfield-Greene County Library, the Friends of the Garden, Leadership Springfield, Discovery Center of Springfield, Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield and the Ronald McDonald House.

This diverse volunteer experience led to her accepting the Executive Director position with the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools from 1998-2007. There, she was able to engage with the public school system in a unique way and quickly learned that the schools are much more than a center of education for our children. Mechlin realized that the wrap-around services provided through the schools make the difference for more than 50% of our children who are living close to or below the national poverty line.

Her fate was sealed when she met local businessman and philanthropist Doug Pitt. When Pitt founded Care to Learn, Mechlin knew that every experience and relationship she had nurtured while in Springfield could be leveraged to help the children of our community. As Executive Director of Care to Learn from 2009 - 2015, she and Pitt worked closely to meet the emergent needs of school children in the areas of health, hunger and hygiene and to replicate the unique business model in 30 school districts across the State.

Mechlin recently received the Athena Award from the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. She is also the recipient of the Humanitarian Award, Kenworthy Leadership Award, the Women's Justice Award in Citizenship, the Volunteer of the Year from the City of Springfield and an Outstanding Woman in Business from SBJ.