

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Seniors Are “All Aboard” for Quality Pre-Kindergarten in Pennsylvania**

*“The Little Engine That Could” inspires older adults backing early childhood education*

Drawing inspiration from “The Little Engine That Could,” seniors and other early education advocates will rally in Harrisburg on May 12 to demonstrate that Pennsylvania adults age 50 and older are dedicated to ensuring that every child starts off on the right track. Generations United, along with their state partner Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and in collaboration with *Coming of Age*, a national age 50+ civic engagement initiative based at the Center for Intergenerational Learning at Temple University, is officially launching the state’s Seniors4Kids program as part of Early Childhood Action Day and Older Americans Month. A highlight of the event will be the release of a new report, “Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: Pennsylvania,” showing that investment in pre-kindergarten education reaps significant benefits for all Pennsylvanians and helps position Pennsylvania for greater economic success in the future.

- WHAT:**           **Kick-Off of Seniors4Kids in Pennsylvania**  
Inauguration of Seniors4Kids program and release of new report on early childhood education in Pennsylvania demonstrate that older adults have banded together in an unlikely alliance to support quality pre-kindergartens for Pennsylvania’s children.
- WHEN:**           **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**  
**2:30 – 3:30 PM**
- WHERE:**           **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Hildebrandt Learning Center**  
**1200 N. 7th Street, Second Floor**  
**Harrisburg, PA**
- WHO:**           **Yvonne Thompson-Friend**, Pennsylvania State Coordinator for Seniors4Kids  
**Donna Butts**, Executive Director, Generations United  
**David Callahan**, Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
**Mady Prowler**, Assistant Director, *Coming of Age*, Center for Intergenerational Learning, Temple University  
**Judy Witmer**, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Curriculum & Program Development, Hildebrandt Learning Centers, LLC
- VISUALS:**       Preschool children and Captains4Kids will break into small groups to read “The Little Engine That Could.”
- CONTACT:**      **June Conti**, Generations United, phone (202)289-3979, [jconti@gu.org](mailto:jconti@gu.org)

*Generations United works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all. For more information about Generations United and Seniors4Kids, please visit [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) and [www.seniors4kids.org](http://www.seniors4kids.org).*