



## Making Small Moments Big for Children's Early Brain Development: The Clinton Foundation & Too Small to Fail

A CGLR Funder to Funder Conversation

November 17, 2020 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

*Presenter Bios*

### PRESENTERS



**Chelsea Clinton**  
**Vice Chair**  
**The Clinton Foundation**  
**@ClintonFdn**

As vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, Chelsea Clinton works alongside the Foundation's leadership and partners to help create economic opportunity, improve public health, and inspire civic engagement and service across the United States and around the world. In particular, Chelsea focuses on promoting early brain and language development through the Too Small to Fail initiative, and uplifting and empowering female entrepreneurs and women-led businesses around the world through initiatives like the Caribbean-focused Women in Renewable Energy (WIRE) Network. She also serves on the boards of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

In addition to her Foundation work, Chelsea also teaches at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and has written several books for young readers, including the #1 New York Times bestselling "She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World" as well as "She Persisted Around the World," "She Persisted in Sports," "Start Now! You Can Make a Difference;" "Don't Let Them Disappear;" and "It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going." She is also the co-author of "The Book of Gutsy Women" and "Grandma's Gardens" with her mom Hillary Clinton and of "Governing Global Health: Who Runs the World and Why?" with Devi Sridhar.

Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford, a Master of Public Health from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, and both a Master of Philosophy and a Doctorate in international relations from Oxford University.



**Patti Miller**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Too Small to Fail**  
**The Clinton Foundation**  
**@2SmalltoFail**

Patti Miller is the CEO of Too Small to Fail, the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation. Too Small to Fail is leading a public awareness and action campaign to promote the importance of early brain and language development and support parents with tools to talk, read and sing with their young children. Miller spent five years as Vice President of Public Policy for Sesame Workshop and also served as Vice President of the Children & the Media Program at Children Now. She holds an MA in Education from Stanford University and a BA in Mass Communications from the University of California at Berkeley.



**Jane Park Woo**  
**Director**  
**Too Small to Fail**  
**The Clinton Foundation**  
**@2SmalltoFail**

Jane Park Woo is the Director of *Too Small to Fail*, the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation, where she leads national partnerships with corporations, nonprofit organizations, and associations to promote children's early brain and language development. Prior to her role with *Too Small to Fail*, Jane served as an early childhood education consultant, working with various nonprofits and media organizations to develop research-based programs and content for young children and families in the U.S. and the U.K. Jane was previously the Associate Director of Content in the Education, Research, and Outreach department at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*. In that role, she helped develop the whole child curriculum on which the television series is based and integrate *Sesame Street's* educational content across media platforms—including print, video, online, social media, and licensed products. Jane holds an MA in developmental psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University and a BA in communications from the University of California at San Diego.



**Shannon Riley-Ayers, Ph.D.**  
**Senior Program Officer**  
**The Nicholson Foundation**  
**@riley\_ayers**

Shannon Riley-Ayers, PhD, Senior Program Officer at The Nicholson Foundation, has worked in early childhood for her entire career, spanning nearly 25 years. Her diverse experience as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, state education systems co-director, pre-service teacher educator, professional development instructor, researcher, and funder makes her a well-rounded expert in the field. She has extensive experience identifying, developing and implementing transformative programs and strategies that have improved the health, education and well-being of young children.



**Akshara Vivekananthan**  
**Assistant Director, Education**  
**United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley**  
**@aksharaahalya**

Akshara Vivekananthan is Assistant Director of Education at United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, where she oversees Early Childhood Education and Summer Learning, and supports Policy & Advocacy work across their organization's impact goal areas. Prior to joining United Way, Akshara worked on social-emotional programming and evaluation strategies for a nonprofit in Illinois. Akshara holds a Master's of Science in International Public Service from DePaul University and a Bachelor's in Communication Studies and Psychology from Austin College.



**Brian Wallace**  
**Executive Director**  
**LaundryCares Foundation**  
**@brian\_wallace**

A leader in the industry for more than 28 years, Coin Laundry Association's President/CEO Brian Wallace is a popular presenter, author and advocate for laundromat owners in the U.S. He has led more than 750 educational seminars and penned numerous articles on all things related to laundromat management.

Brian is also a passionate supporter of the LaundryCares Foundation and serves as its Executive Director. Among the LaundryCares Foundation programs are its series of Free Laundry & Literacy Days in under-resourced neighborhoods and its founding role in Laundry Literacy Coalition – an initiative to promote early childhood literacy through America's laundromats.