

Rita J. Canning and John A. Canning, Jr. – Distinguished Philanthropists 2013

Rita and John Canning are well known for their passionate support of inner-city education and abused women and their children. The Cannings provide over 100 scholarships a year to inner-city students. They also are deeply committed to WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) which provides over 40,000 nights of shelter and other comprehensive services to abused women and their children.

John Canning is a Co-Founder and Chairman of Madison Dearborn Partners, one of the most experienced and successful private equity investment firms in the United States. John graduated from Denison University in 1966 and Duke University School of Law in 1969. After graduation he joined the law department at The First National Bank of Chicago. In 1980, he was promoted from Assistant General Counsel to President and Chief Executive Officer of First Chicago Venture Capital, a sister subsidiary to the bank. In 1992, he and 13 associates left the firm and founded Madison Dearborn Partners, with Mr. Canning serving as Chief Executive Officer - a position he held until 2007, at which time he became Chairman.

John currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Corning Incorporated, Exelon Corporation, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Sage Products, LLC and Children's Inner City Educational Fund and on the Boards of Trustees of the Museum of Science and Industry and Northwestern University. He is a Trustee and former Chairman of The Field Museum, Chairman of The Economic Club of Chicago, a former Director and Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and a Director and Co-Chairman of the Big Shoulders Fund. As Co-Chairman of the Big Shoulders Fund, John has helped raise over \$100 million for Chicago's inner-city parochial schools which serve 24,000 students, 80 percent minority and 62 percent from families that are living at or below the poverty level.

Rita Canning is Chairman of WINGS, which offers transitional housing and support services for abused and homeless women and their children. Rita opened WINGS Safe House, the first domestic violence shelter in Chicago's northwest suburbs which currently serves 45 women and children. Through their own personal giving and solicitation of others, the Cannings have raised over \$10 million to support WINGS. Rita serves as Vice President of The Canning Foundation which also funds a scholarship program for students in the Harper College Women's Program. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree from the College of Commerce and Business Administration.

Rita is an active volunteer and serves as a member of the Women's Board of Northwestern University, a Sustaining Member of the Women's Board of The Field Museum, Member of the Buehler YMCA Advisory Board, and a Trustee at Harper College and Ex-Officio member of the Harper Foundation. She has received the Children's Home and Aid Society's "For the Love of Children Award", the Sears "Distinguished Leader Award" for exemplary volunteer contributions, the "Woman to Woman Making a Difference Award" from the Illinois state Treasurer's office, the Business Ledger's "Influential Women in Business" award, the "Vision to Action Award" from the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention and the WINGS "Shining Light" Award.

John and Rita have 6 children, 9 grandchildren and a pampered black Labrador retriever named "Smokey."