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## **Founder, President and CEO of AYS, Inc., Ellen Clippinger, Retires After 34 Years of Service, Guidance & Leadership**

**Indianapolis, IN**—After 34 years of service, guidance and leadership, Ellen Clippinger, Founder, President and CEO of AYS, Inc., has officially retired. In 1980, Clippinger, a former teacher and working mother, realized a need many working families face—not having a place for their children during the critical out-of-school hours. Beginning with just one program at IPS #70 serving less than 10 children, Clippinger founded AYS, Inc., formerly At-Your-School Child Services, and has overseen the growth of the non-profit organization over the last 34 years to now more than 40 programs serving nearly 2,000 children operating in five counties. Several AYS, Inc. programs have achieved accreditation through the National Afterschool Association (NAA), the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council on Accreditation.

At the state level throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Clippinger was active in establishing Indiana legislation to ensure children and youth had access to safe and enriching programs. She assisted legislators in establishing the School Age Child Care fund and testified for Step Ahead legislation. Clippinger has served on the Indiana Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation and previously chaired the Marion County Step Ahead Council.

Last year Clippinger was recognized by the NAA as a leader in the out-of-school time programming movement at the local, state, and national level and was awarded the 2013 Flame of Inspiration Award. Clippinger is also a training associate for the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College, travelling across the country to lead specialized training sessions for educators and practitioners.

Beyond Clippinger's service to AYS, Inc., she co-chairs the out-of-school time committee for the Talent Alliance and is actively involved with several state and local organizations, including the Indiana YouthPRO Association, Indiana Afterschool Network and Afterschool Coalition of Indianapolis. She has been an avid proponent for the Indiana Youth Development Credential, a credentialing process for professionals working with children and youth.

Clippinger was long-time board member of the National School-Age Care Alliance (NSACA), which is now NAA, and is a past president. During her term as president in the late 1990s, she oversaw the introduction of national standards and an accreditation process for after-school programs and attended the White House Conference on Child Care in 1998. She is also a former board member of the Children's Coalition of Indiana.

Board Chair of AYS, Inc., Tim Witmer, expressed his appreciation for Clippinger and admiration for her work. "Ellen founded AYS, Inc. 34 years ago to address a critical need in our community and during her tenure has led this organization to true success with her strong leadership and commitment. We are all grateful to her and know she has prepared this organization to continue its impact for years to come."

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**Founder, President and CEO of AYS, Inc., Ellen Clippinger, Retires After 34 Years of  
Service, Guidance & Leadership  
(CONTINUED)**

AYS' Board of Directors is continuing the interview process to find a new President and CEO and has hired Ervin J. Picha, Principal of PichaSolutions LLC and former President/CEO of Noble of Indiana and Noble Foundation consultant, to serve as Interim CEO and assist with the leadership transition. Interested candidates need apply with resume and cover letter to [hr@ayskids.org](mailto:hr@ayskids.org).

Clippinger and her legacy will be honored at an upcoming celebration. To find out more about the celebration and attend, please contact Leslie Hankins at [lhankins@ayskids.org](mailto:lhankins@ayskids.org) or 317-283-3817 x 118.

Contributions to honor Clippinger may be made to AYS' Endowment Fund at [www.ayskids.org/donate](http://www.ayskids.org/donate).

**About AYS, Inc.**

Founded in 1980, AYS, Inc. is a local grassroots non-profit agency providing before- and after-school, early childhood and summer programs in eight school districts throughout Marion, Hamilton, Hendricks, Shelby and Montgomery counties. Encompassing all aspects of child development, from early childhood to intermediate school, AYS, Inc.'s programs offer a variety of activities, including arts, science, health and multicultural enrichment in a safe environment during the out-of-school hours. Learn more about AYS, Inc. at [AYSkids.org](http://AYSkids.org).

To find out more or schedule an interview with AYS, Inc. Founder, President and CEO Ellen Clippinger or AYS, Inc. Board Chair Tim Witmer, please contact Leslie L. Cannon-Grosz at 317-828-3417 or [Leslie@SometimesMarketing.com](mailto:Leslie@SometimesMarketing.com).

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