

25 Women You Need To Know: Sally Butzin finds purpose in helping children learn

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Sally Butzin has made education reform the purpose of her life's work. Butzin developed an innovative instructional program called Project CHILD (Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered). "If we're going to make change we have to start with child education," Butzin said.

Since it started in 1988, Project CHILD has fundamentally changed the way children learn in classrooms in Florida and across the U.S. The instructional method focuses on technology and active learning. It is used locally at the Imagine Charter School at Evening Rose, and in some classrooms at Buck Lake Elementary School. She was board chairwoman for the new Imagine School at Evening Rose, which opened in 2008.

Butzin also founded the Institute for School Innovation (ISI) in 1995. ISI is a nonprofit that disseminates project CHILD to schools. In 2008 she received the distinguished educator of the year award from Florida State University. Butzin also served as chair for the Florida Center for Children and Youth.

Butzin was the president of the Zonta Club of Tallahassee from 1999-2000. The mission of the club is to advance the status of women through advocacy and service. Butzin has spearheaded several projects to cater to the needs of women.

Her most recent project, "The Key is in her Hands," assists women who are the head of the household with economic self-sufficiency. That's the reason Pam Ridley, Zonta president, nominated Butzin to be one of the *Tallahassee Democrat's* 25 Women You Need to Know. "She's dedicated to her beliefs," Ridley said. "She is reserved but efficient and proficient. If she sees something wrong she tries to change it."

Butzin has served as a consultant for IBM. She is also a member of the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association and the Hilaman Women's Golf Association.

"My driving force is that I hope to make a difference," Butzin said. "I want to leave the world better than I found it — especially for children."

