



Linda A. Mason

International

Linda Mason is Chair of Mercy Corps, a \$300 million international relief and development agency headquartered in the US. Mercy Corps operates in 37 countries serving 17 million people, with major programs in some of the most difficult environments in the world including Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, Somalia, and North Korea, among others. Ms. Mason is engaged with the strategy and development of the agency, serves a representational role abroad with foreign governments and at home, and develops support, visibility, and funding. In her capacity as Chair, Ms. Mason has traveled frequently to the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Balkans. During a recent trip to Darfur, Ms. Mason was posted with the African Union military on their patrols, giving her an unusual opportunity to see and report on the problems and issues from the inside.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Mason managed large-scale refugee relief operations overseas. She served as Co-Country Director of Save the Children's emergency program in Sudan during the African famine of 1984-85, creating a national program that served 400,000 Sudanese famine victims. She also was responsible for the operation of emergency services for two refugee camps serving over 40,000 Eritrean refugees. Ms. Mason also directed a large feeding program for malnourished children in Cambodian refugee camps along the Thai border after the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia of 1979. She co-authored the book, *Rice, Rivalry, and Politics* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1983), which looked at the politics and the challenges of the Cambodian relief operation, based on her experiences there.

Entrepreneurial/Education

Linda Mason has spent a large part of her career creating and building Bright Horizons Family Solutions, now a \$1.3 billion education company. Ms. Mason, and co-founder Roger Brown, created the company in 1986, and took the company public in November 1997. The company traded on NASDAQ and operated as a public company until spring 2008 when management and Bain Capital took the company private. Ms. Mason has continued as Chair of Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

As the largest world-wide provider of worksite child care and early education, Bright Horizons operates more than 650 high quality child development centers for employers in 40 states and Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada. Clients include the US General Services Administration, United Nations, European Commission, Time Warner, Cisco Systems, IBM, Yale University, MIT, Universal Studios, and Paramount Pictures, among others. Bright Horizons also operates eight elementary schools, private and charter. The company employs

19,000 people and serves more than 80,000 families.

Bright Horizons was selected by *Fortune* magazine in January 2009 for the 10th time as one of the “100 Best Companies to Work For in America”. Linda Mason was one of five corporate recipients of the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership presented by President Bill Clinton. She was the 1996 recipient of the Ernst & Young/*USA Today* "National Entrepreneur of the Year", one of *Business Week's* 1997 "Best Entrepreneurs," and one of *Working Mother Magazine's* 1998 “25 most influential working mothers in America.”

Ms. Mason is the author of *The Working Mother's Guide to Life*, published in November 2002 by Random House. She has written and spoken broadly on early education and the issues of corporate work/life policies and challenges, including participating on White House work/life panels and initiatives during the Clinton administration.

Ms. Mason also co-founded Horizons for Homeless Children, a Boston-based organization that serves the needs of homeless children throughout New England. HHC has trained over 9,500 volunteers to work in 150 playspaces established by HHC in homeless shelters. In addition, HHC operates 3 full-service childcare centers for homeless children, also providing assistance to mothers to reach self-sufficiency. HHC is a national model for the care and early education of homeless children.

Linda Mason served as a founding member of the board of directors for the new Massachusetts State Department of Early Education and Care. She was also a member of the Governor's Education Transition team in 2003.

Additional Background

Ms. Mason spent the late-seventies in France. She studied French language and literature at the Sorbonne and classical piano at the Rachmaninoff Conservatory. She worked for both Booz, Allen & Hamilton and Shell Francaise in Paris.

Ms. Mason has a BA from Cornell University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. She has held leadership positions on the boards of several important non-profit institutions, serving as: Chair of Mercy Corps; Co-Founder of Horizons for Homeless Children; Chair of the Africa Committee, Human Rights Watch; Trustee of Yale University; and Chair of the Yale School of Management Advisory Board. Ms. Mason is married with three children, ages 20, 17, and 12.