

# KATHERINE GEHL

Katherine Gehl is an American business leader and policy activist.

Katherine was the fourth-generation President and CEO of her family owned company, Gehl Foods, Inc. where she led the company's aggressive growth strategy. Gehl Foods, founded in 1896, is a food manufacturing company producing low-acid aseptic, shelf-stable dairy products such as cheese sauces, puddings, and dairy-based beverages. During Katherine's tenure, Gehl Foods was included in "The Wisconsin 75," an annual ranking of the largest closely held companies headquartered in Wisconsin, and was #64 in Dairy Foods listing of the Top 100 dairy companies. In 2013, Gehl Foods was acknowledged as one of the SE Wisconsin "Fast Growing Firms" by the Milwaukee Business Journal, and in 2015, Gehl Foods was named Small Business of the Year by the BizTimes. Katherine oversaw the acquisition of Gehl Foods by Wind Point Partners in March of 2015, and she continues to serve on the company's Board of Directors. At the time of the sale, Gehl Foods had almost \$250 Million in sales and 350 employees.

In 2010, Katherine was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC (an agency of the United States government that mobilizes private capital to solve critical world challenges through economic development), and was confirmed by the US Senate in October 2011.

Katherine is a board member of the Marcus Corporation, The Centrist Project, The Water Council, The La Follette Board of Visitors, The HistoryMakers, Gehl Foods, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company and The Milwaukee Repertory Theater. She is a former board member of The Joffrey Ballet, Public Allies, the Faye Gehl Conservation Foundation and the Golden Apple Foundation. She is currently a member of The Greater Milwaukee Committee, The Economic Club of Chicago and The University Club of Milwaukee.

Katherine was named to Who's Who in Chicago Business, was honored with the prestigious Crain's Chicago Business "40 under 40, Chicago's Rising Stars" designation and was a 2001 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow. In 2013, Katherine was honored by the BizTimes, a Wisconsin publication, with the Bravo Entrepreneur Award and was included in the Business Journal's listing of Influential Milwaukee business leaders. She received The Sacagawea Award in 2016.

After her departure from Gehl Foods in 2015, Katherine turned her focus to her long held beliefs on how best to bring transformational change to her community, state and country primarily through non-partisan political and electoral innovation and reform. The Milwaukee Business Journal featured her efforts working with other prominent Milwaukee business leaders to help increase awareness of No-Labels, a national organization working to break the political gridlock in Washington. Katherine also serves on the CEO Fiscal Leadership Council of the Campaign to Fix the Debt, and is a board member of The Centrist Project.

Katherine graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1988 and holds an MA in education from the Catholic University of America and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.