Highlights of 2015 Benefit

The Lourie Center’s 2015 annual benefit paid tribute to the Honorable Christopher Murphy and former Lourie Center employee Dr. Betty Ann Kaplan. The annual fundraiser was held on September 17 at the Congressional Country Club. The Honorable Christopher Murphy was recognized for his leadership and advocacy on mental health care reform with the Outstanding Public Service Award. Dr. Kaplan was presented with the prestigious Reginald S. Lourie Award for more than 20 years of service to the field of early childhood intervention and education.

Maryland State Senator Nancy J. King and U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen served as honorary co-chairs of the benefit. The event raised more than $55,000 to benefit the Lourie Center’s programs.

University Affiliations

The Lourie Center trains social work, education, psychology and psychiatry graduate interns and externs from local and national universities such as:

- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- University of Maryland
- University of Notre Dame (IN)
- Smith College (MA)

Programs

**Early Head Start Program**

Federally funded program for early intervention with at-risk children 0-3 and pregnant mothers. Serves more than 260 children and family members per year.

**Parent-Child Clinical Services Program**

More than 350 children and family members served per year in individual, dyadic and group therapy.

**Therapeutic Nursery Programs**

Pre-school program serving more than 24 children in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. Eighty percent of those graduating enrolled in mainstream kindergarten.

**The Lourie Center School**

Elementary school serving more than 46 children. Eighty percent of those graduating went to less restrictive therapeutic settings.

**Partnership with Montgomery County Infant and Toddlers Program**

The Lourie Center partners with the MCITP, which serves 5,000 children and families each year. MCITP offers early intervention services to assist families with their efforts to address their children’s developmental and special needs.
The Lourie Center for Children’s Social & Emotional Wellness
Board of Directors and Executive Leadership

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Executive Director

James F. Herrera, M.D.  
Medical Director

James Venza, Ph.D.  
Senior Director, Clinical Operations and Research, Lourie Center

Melanie Jewell  
Administrative Director

Theresa Petrungaro, MS, MBA  
Director, The Lourie Center School

Sheryl Dickerson, MA  
Director, Early Head Start Program

Deborah Weinberger  
Director, Therapeutic Nursery Program, Prince George’s County

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2015 Financials & Donor Recognition

**Total 2015 Operating Revenue ........ $9,677,894**

**Note that the Lourie Center is a sub-contractor for a Montgomery County contract which solely supports Lourie Center staff and supplies for this private-public partnership.**

**Note that the Lourie Center is a recipient of a federal grant to operate an Early Head Start program. These funds are solely used in support of this effort.**

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2015 Operating Revenue

- **9%** Prof. Fees
- **5%** Donations
- **4%** Gifts-In-Kind Revenue
- **30%** School Tuition & Fees
- **52%** Grants & Contracts
2015 Donors

More Than $15,000
The Alexander & Margaret Stewart Trust

$10,000–$14,999
Bank of America—Global Compensation Delivery
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Robert & Arlene Kogod Family Foundation

$5,000–$9,999
Adventist HealthCare
King & Spalding
M&T Charitable Foundation
H. Marcel & Stacia Wright

$2,500–$4,999
Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore
Cerner Corporation
JM Zell Partners, Ltd.
Lawrence N. Rosenblum
The Walker Group

$1,000–$2,499
Anonymous (3)
The Baruch Fund
Mr. John F. Bedard and Ms. Joan M. Kenney
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Bensinger
Ms. Zemina Divecha
Diana & Larry Eisenstat
Mr. David J. Farber

$500–$999
Ms. Nana Yaa Agyemang
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Akerson
Dr. Neil J. Barkin and Dr. Joan W. Barkin
Celeste Scott
Mr. Charles M. Berk and Ms. Debra R. Berk
Michelle & Greg Brennan
Ms. Sheryl Dickerson
Mr. Joseph Dorn
Dr. Edward and Mildred Cafritz Family Foundation

Maureen and Joe Dymond
Bob & Kendel Ehrlich
Energy Federal Credit Union
Evergreen Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Mr. Stephen A. Jones and Ms. Sara Dougherty-Jones
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Sudi & Fred Press
RFI Foundation
Bill & Della Robertson
Dr. Harvey A. Rubenstein and Ms. Lisa J. Stark
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Mr. Thomas J. Spulak
Mona & Drew Tavss
United Jewish Endowment Fund
Paula & Larry Widerlite
Ms. Sherri Woodring
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin G. Young
Aydan was just 1 and already the physical trauma and neglect he suffered during his early life left him unable to emotionally connect with others and caused him to react aggressively to touch. At 16 months, Aydan was removed from his home and placed in foster care in Silver Spring with Jenni Milton and her husband, Ben. Milton recalls Aydan having two moods: quiet and unresponsive, and irritable. “He would either avoid eye contact or show no interest in play,” Milton says, “or he would become easily agitated if I talked to him or held him.”

Recognizing that Aydan’s emotional and social challenges could limit his development, Jenni sought help from the Lourie Center. She enrolled Aydan in the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program, a program which is coordinated by Montgomery County Public Schools and staffed by Lourie Center therapists. While in the program, Aydan received the individualized care he needed as a toddler and began to show signs of progress.

At 4-years-old, Aydan was accepted into the Lourie Center’s Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP). “The TNP is a specialized preschool for children with emotional, social and behavioral challenges,” says Jimmy Venza, PhD, of the Lourie Center for Children’s Social & Emotional Wellness. The staff at the TNP is experienced in caring for children like Aydan with posttraumatic stress disorder and attachment disorders. After six months in the TNP, Jenni noticed that Aydan was becoming less fearful of others, initiating play and beginning to establish trust.

Today, Aydan is a happy and energetic 8-year-old boy who is enrolled at the Lourie Center School and working to transition to a mainstream classroom environment. Jenni and her husband have now adopted Aydan and made him a permanent part of their family. “He is a loving, caring and funny young boy,” Jenni says. “He says ‘Mommy, I love you’ all the time and enjoys reading books.”

“I am so grateful for the Lourie Center staff for their continued dedication to helping my son progress and live to his fullest potential,” Jenni says.

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Giving to the Lourie Center

Your gift to the Lourie Center will help at-risk infants, young children and their families get a healthy emotional start in life. All contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with federal law. There are three simple ways to make a contribution:

1. Visit our website at louriecenter.org and click on the ‘donate now’ link
2. Email us at givingtothelc@louriecenter.org
Lourie Center’s Childhood Mental Health Experts Return to Lesotho, Africa

Jimmy Venza, Ph.D., Senior Director of Clinical Operations and Research at the Lourie Center, and Stephanie Nti, MSW, Child Development Specialist at the Lourie Center, returned to Lesotho in December 2015 to support the nation’s efforts to provide effective therapeutic intervention for orphans and other vulnerable children. In partnership with Social Worker’s Beyond Borders, the Lourie Center is completing a national need’s assessment for early childhood development and intervention.

Located in southern Africa, Lesotho is a small country with a population of 1.8 million. Thirty percent of Lesotho’s one million children have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Lourie Center was first invited to Lesotho in 2014 as participants in the first annual conference to help children and caregivers affected by trauma.

Lourie Center Receives Donation

Melanie Katsur and Lissa Percopo from Gibson Dunn, a global law firm with more than 1,200 lawyers, visited the Lourie Center on Wednesday, April 6, to deliver a $2,500 donation. Melanie Katsur learned of the Lourie Center several years ago when she collaborated with the organization regarding an attachment assessment for one of her cases.

Gibson Dunn’s strong commitment to pro bono, diversity and community service allows them to recognize their employees’ inspiring work. The firm takes the time to honor their employees and their great work through awards such as the Frank Wheat Award. According to Gibson Dunn, the Frank Wheat Award is an annual recognition given to its lawyers who obtain significant results for their pro bono clients, and demonstrate pro bono leadership and initiative that serve as an inspiration to others.
The Lourie Center will once again sponsor a Circle of Security Parenting video training from May 16-19, 2016 at The Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Maryland.

The Circle of Security program is a relationship-based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between children and their parents or caregivers. Decades of university-based research have confirmed that secure children exhibit increased empathy, greater self-esteem, better relationships with parents or caregivers and peers, enhanced school readiness and an increased capacity to handle emotions more effectively when compared with children who are not secure.

This four-day video-based seminar trains professionals to educate parents and caregivers. The program presents video examples of secure and problematic parent/child interaction, healthy options in care giving and animated graphics designed to clarify principles central to Circle of Security. Circle of Security Parenting implements decades of attachment research in an accessible step-by-step process for use in group settings, home visitation or individual counseling. Call 509-462-2024 to register or get more information.