



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

Mission Matters

Stark County Traumatized Child Task Force

Revealing the rest of the iceberg



Judge Michael Howard

The vision of the Stark County Traumatized Child task force is that one day there will be no traumatized children in Stark County. That’s a sizeable goal that will take time to achieve. But until then, this singularly dedicated group is working to prevent trauma, identify it early, and treat children affected by it.

the tip of the iceberg.” Many times, trauma has played a hidden but significant role.

What is Trauma?

A traumatic experience is an event that threatens someone’s life, safety, or well-being. Potentially traumatic events in a child’s life can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; abandonment or neglect; domestic violence; mental illness; or substance abuse. These events leave a lasting legacy, as is made plain in the article: “...It is highly unlikely that children will, on their own, recover from the terrible things that happen in childhood. It is more likely that they will grow up self medicating and engaging in risky behavior.” Engaging in that risky behavior makes it far more likely that a child will end up in Judge Howard’s courtroom.

Many juvenile cases aren’t at all simple or straightforward, and addressing and appropriately treating trauma is really the key to ensuring that disadvantaged youth are set on the right path. The trauma screenings help to uncover the life circumstances that ultimately resulted in the bad behaviors.

Judge Howard Leads the Way

Judge Michael Howard presides over juvenile and domestic relations cases in the Family Court Division of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas. He was instrumental in developing the Task Force and serves as its chair. He has incorporated trauma screening into the standard procedures of Stark County’s juvenile court. *Children Who Have Been Traumatized: One Court’s Response* is a 2008 article that appeared in *The Juvenile and Family Court Journal*. Judge Howard co-wrote the article with local clinical psychologist Dr. Robin Tener. It profiles some of the cases seen in Stark County Family Court, noting that “the behavior that landed the juvenile in trouble is typically just

How the Task Force Came About—and Where it’s Going

In 2001, the Family Court hosted a presentation on the effects of trauma and post-traumatic stress. About 25 of the attendees felt strongly enough about addressing the subject that they created the Task Force.

Foundation representatives have been involved with the Task Force since its inception. The Foundation has also supported the hiring of a part-time director and funded efforts to identify and appropriately treat traumatized

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

Every three years, the Boards and Staff of the Sisters of Charity Foundations of Cleveland, Canton, and South Carolina come together for the Sisters of Charity Foundations Ministry conference. It's a time to step back from our daily work and reflect on our mission, our progress, and the inevitable challenges. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate our successes and reenergizes us in our efforts. And that helps us remember why we do what we do. The conference is also a wonderful opportunity to brainstorm and learn from our sister foundations about new strategies for helping our communities.

One of the things that is readily apparent when all three organizations come together is their diversity – diversity in programs, in people, and in approaches. This is no accident. The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine clearly understand that to make an impact on the problems in a diverse community, it's necessary to have a variety of perspectives.

While each foundation addresses a wide range of community needs, each foundation also has its own specialized focus areas (Canton: early childhood and oral health; Cleveland: homelessness and a promise neighborhood; South Carolina: fatherhood and capacity building). Regardless of the focus, each foundation ultimately has the same broad goal: to address the root causes of poverty. That unity of purpose is channeled into a myriad of different efforts. The conference is a way for us to celebrate our differences, learn from one another, and then continue our work in our very different communities.

It was fun to be able to show off all that Canton has to offer, too! Special thanks to Walsh University for hosting the conference; Goodwill Industries, the Prescription Assistance Network, the Early Childhood Resource Center, and the Mercy Medical Center Dental Clinic for hosting wonderful and informative site visits, and also to Gervasi Vineyard, who did a stellar job with our Monday evening gathering. Everything about the conference—from the venues to the speakers to the networking—was excellent. We were sad to see our colleagues go, but happy to know that three communities will benefit greatly from the experience.

God Bless,

Joni T. Close
President



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

As a faith-based organization, We Believe in ...

...approaching all that we do with deliberation, compassion, charity, integrity, prudence, inclusiveness, and humility.

...respecting and valuing cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity by operating in a manner that supports and enhances the dignity of individuals and communities.

...respecting and valuing each person's strengths and abilities by including in the decision-making process those affected by our decisions.

...addressing the root causes of poverty by focusing our efforts on nurturing healthy communities, especially with respect to the poor and underserved.

...supporting and enhancing the well-being of children and families.

...collaborating with foundations, organizations, and other systems to leverage assets and resources whenever possible.

...striving for actions that are strategic, timely, outcome-oriented, and directed toward long-term systemic change.



Carol Risaliti is Honored



We congratulate

Carol Risaliti, the recipient of the Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Pharmacy Dean's Leadership Award. Carol is the executive director of the Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, and she received the award for her dedication to ensuring that the poor and underserved receive the best pharmaceutical services possible. In 2002, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and the Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation led the formation and development of the Network. Under Carol's direction, the Network has served thousands of Stark County clients who might otherwise not have had access to crucial medications.



All of Our Children

Canton – and the nation – mourns along with Newtown, Connecticut, at the recent massacre of 26 people, including 20 children. We're unable to make sense of loss of life when it occurs on that sort of scale. It's unthinkable, unfathomable.

Here in Canton, we lost 12 individuals to homicide in 2012. *Twelve individuals.* This number, too, should be unthinkable, unfathomable.

Each of those victims was a small child once, with a bright smile, huge aspirations, and deep wells of untapped potential. Somewhere along the way, they—and their assailants—became broken people, with lives derailed by poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, hopelessness. The truth is that each of those twelve losses is an unfathomable tragedy.

It's heartening to know that Canton has a Traumatized Child Task Force helping to keep the focus on the underlying causes – but it's simply not enough. It's crucial to prevent the trauma that leads to broken lives, communities, and hearts. We stand united with our partners, grantees, and fellow citizens in the struggle to heal our community.



A New Year's Blessing



May God bless you in the New Year.
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and
by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.



Revealing the rest of the iceberg
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children. The Foundation also provides staff support, funds, and in-kind support, and hosts many Task Force meetings. At the Foundation's board meeting in August, Judge Howard was invited to give a presentation on the Task Force and its work. In addition to Foundation and court participation, representatives from many local agencies and organizations have participated, including the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, local schools, the Juvenile Attention System, United Way, Stark County Children Services, and many others determined to make a difference.

The Task Force has worked to raise awareness about child trauma and surveyed how trauma was being addressed in Stark County. They found that in many cases, severe trauma was not being treated, even when affected children were receiving counseling. There was a need for specialized child trauma treatment training for local mental health providers. The Task Force brought that training to Stark County. In some cases, Judge Howard and Dr. Tener found that the training was a major influencing factor: In *One Court's Response*, they state:

Some agencies have integrated trauma awareness into their entire culture. These agencies have begun trauma screening and referral to appropriately trained providers literally at the front desk of the organization. The receptionist is trained to ask the right questions and to immediately set up appointments with an appropriately trained therapist.

Trauma: By the Numbers

1. Trauma is the single greatest preventable cause of mental illness.
2. At least half of all maltreated children will experience serious school problems, especially conduct issues.
3. Maltreated children have three times the high school dropout rate of the general population.

To refine and enhance clinicians' skills, the Task Force also established a learning collaborative that meets monthly, and an online mailing list to disseminate articles and information. The results so far are promising, but it will be some time before all Stark County clinicians are as aware as those participating in the learning collaborative.

In addition to building capacity to treat trauma, the Task Force works to increase community awareness about trauma and its effects on behavior. Their goal is to ensure that all those who serve children, including child welfare, juvenile justice, schools, and medical providers, understand trauma, screen for it, and address it appropriately.

While it's still true that in many cases only the tip of the iceberg will ever be seen, the Traumatized Child Task Force is working to understand—and address—the rest of the iceberg, to give our youth their best chance at healthy, productive lives.



SPARK Races to Expand



As part of its Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant competition, the U. S. Department of Education awarded a grant of almost \$70 million to the State of Ohio, to improve programs

serving high-need young children and to carefully measure the results of these programs.

In its grant application, the state proposed that by 2015, it would increase access to high-quality early learning experiences for more than 37,000 children and improve kindergarten readiness test results by five percent. The goal is to ensure that high-need children are academically, physically, and socio-emotionally ready for kindergarten.

Among other things, the state is seeking to increase the number of high-need children with access to high-quality early learning and development programming, and to help educators improve their credentials, knowledge, and skills. To that end, the state has allocated \$1.1 million from the grant award to expand SPARK Ohio programming and the Ready Schools model into three high-need rural Ohio communities from 2013 through December 2015.

This funding will allow 300 additional four-year-old children to get ready for kindergarten by participating in SPARK.





Lighting the Way

The 2012 Foundation Ministry Conference



Sue Krey, Ron Clark and Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA

It happens

only once every three years: the three Sisters of Charity Foundations (Cleveland, Canton, and South Carolina) come together to reaffirm their commitment to the mission of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

Venues revolve among the three communities; the latest gathering was held in Canton in late October. The focus was on *Lighting the Way* out of poverty for youth, families, and communities.

The keynote address was delivered by Ron Clark, also known as *America's Educator*. In 2000, he was named Disney's American Teacher of the Year; he is also a New York Times bestselling author. Ron was energetic and animated—he literally jumped onto the stage, and spoke at times from the tops of chairs and tables. His innovative teaching methods transformed a chaotic inner-city classroom full of challenging children into a group of well-behaved students accustomed to excelling. He went on to establish the Ron Clark Academy, a high-achieving middle school in Georgia. Academy students come from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. The Ron Clark Academy may be the only school in America—or the world—with a two-story bungee jump in its library and a huge, bright blue tube slide leading from the second floor to the first. Ron believes that fun and hard work are both essential to success in learning, but he's also quite serious about ensuring engagement with the learning process. One of the requirements of admission is that parents sign a contract pledging to demonstrate their commitment to their

child's education.

The group also heard from Handy Lindsey, Jr., the board chair of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, who addressed the unique role of philanthropy in creating sustainable community change and discussed lessons learned during his thirty-year career in philanthropy.

Attendees visited the Early Childhood Resource Center, the Community Campus at Goodwill, the Prescription Assistance Network, and the Mercy Medical Center Dental Clinic to gain insight into the Canton Foundation's community partnerships and to see first-hand the results of the unique collaborative and philanthropic environment in Canton.



Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA, Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA and Sr. Judy Weirick, IHM

Dennis Beatrice, senior adviser at SRI International, was on hand to sum up just a few of the achievements of the three foundations.

Dennis has worked as an adviser to the Sisters of Charity foundations for many years. He noted that what sets the foundations apart is the impact each has had in its community: grantmaking tends to be the sole work of many foundations, but the Sisters of Charity foundations see grantmaking as just one tool in a spectrum of strategies to effect change and create impact far larger than the actual financial outlay. Combined, the foundations' strategic operation and commitment to mission have leveraged almost \$90 million dollars from outside sources.



Robert Belden, Board Chair of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, makes closing remarks.

The conference closed after a very powerful three days of fellowship, with staff and board members returning to light the way out of poverty in their communities.



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Our Mission

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton supports and furthers the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The principal components of their ministry are health, education, and social services. The Foundation's focus is on issues of social justice relating to the poor and underserved in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

Visit www.scfcanton.org for a listing of recent grant awards. Workshops on our grant process are held twice a year; all prospective grant seekers are welcome. The next one will be held on April 9, 2013 from 9:00 -10:30 a.m. To register, please call 330-454-5800.

Good Samaritan Cycle

- November 1, 2012 | Concept forms are due
- December 1, 2012 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- March 1, 2013 | Awards are announced
- May 1, 2013 | Concept forms are due
- June 1, 2013 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- September 1, 2013 | Awards are announced

Responsive Cycle

- February 1, 2013 | Concept forms are due
- March 1, 2013 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- June 1, 2013 | Awards are announced
- August 1, 2013 | Concept forms are due
- September 1, 2013 | If concept is approved, proposal is due
- December 1, 2013 | Awards are announced

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