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News and Updates from The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants & Young Children

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The Lourie Center ... a perspective

Why? Such a small word; yet it is the first word that comes to my mind when I think about the children and families we see in the Parent-Child Clinical Services Program at the Lourie Center. Why are *these* children the victims of domestic violence and abuse, or struggling to cope with constitutional issues that interfere with social relationships?

After working with these children and their families for awhile, the stories can become overwhelming; the

magnitude of suffering can drain even the most dedicated clinician and staff member. How can we possibly be helping when the struggling seems never-ending, immense?

Why? I asked myself that word over and over again after visiting an orphanage in Roysambu, Kenya last winter. Why were *these* babies and toddlers left without family to care for them and now find themselves in an orphanage with 30 other innocent young lives,

*From the desk of Tracye Polson,
Executive Director*

abandoned and helpless, dependent on the care of strangers?

Before I visited, they were *just* children in some distant country, not really connected to me in any way, part of the incalculable number of nameless, vulnerable, suffering children. But, now, they are Gloria, David, and Momboy.

Gloria was only hours old when she was found on the side of a dusty road. During my visit, I

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Embassy Event a big success

The Lourie Center's 2008 Benefit Reception was held on May 13, 2008, at the Embassy of Austria. The Ambassador, Dr. Eva Nowotny, and Professor Thomas Nowotny were gracious hosts, and we were delighted to see new and old friends come together in support of the important work of the Lourie Center.

A record-breaking amount was raised by the Benefit, grossing over \$80,000! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a success.

We are grateful for the

tremendous support of Honorary Committee Co-Chairs Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Mrs. Catherine Leggett, and Benefit Co-Chairs Marjorie Sonnenfeldt, Lawrence Rosenblum, and William Schlossenberg.



Catherine Leggett, Adventist HealthCare CEO Bill Robertson, County Executive Isiah (Ike) Leggett, Paula Widerlite, Ambassador Eva Nowotny



Lawrence Rosenblum, Awardee Michael L. Subin, Tracye Polson



Marjorie Sonnenfeldt, Awardee Colbert I. King

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Tracye A. Polson
Executive Director

Did you know?

Since 1998, over 80% of TNP graduates have entered into mainstream kindergartens!



Paula S. Widerlite
Lourie Center Board Chair

Did you know?

The Lourie Center's Early Head Start Program works with 109 0-3 year olds and their families.

Continued from page 1 ... **Lourie Center Perspective**

held her and felt her breath upon my cheek. David, 2 ½, climbed on my lap and we began singing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,” until he fell asleep, nestled and snug in my arms. Momboy, a stunning little girl of 3, kept turning my head between her hands so that she could stare deeply into my eyes as if saying to me, “see me, and remember me.”

I will never be able to answer my main question

– why were *these* children born into a situation of suffering? But my trip to Africa has illuminated for me the reason the Lourie Center staff is committed to our mission. *All* children near and far have names and faces, hopes and fears, and should *matter* to someone. Lourie Center staff members are in the privileged position to truly show these children and families that they can and do matter to others.

Through the generous support and strong partnerships with so many generous individuals, organizations, and government agencies, the Lourie Center will continue to provide crucial support for the children right here in our metropolitan area. We can help young children and their families cope, thrive, and even triumph. Thank you!

Strategic Planning and a Fresh New Look

As the Lourie Center approaches its 25th anniversary, the senior management team is developing a 5-year strategic plan, the first since we affiliated with Adventist HealthCare. The Board kicked off the plan in April, and expects to approve it this fall. We will be pleased to share it with our partners and supporters then. But I’d like to give you some sense now of a major objective that is emerging, based on the vision stories that we created to show the headlines we

hope will be written about the Lourie Center in 2030.

While the Lourie Center will remain committed to delivering excellent direct services to young children and their families, we also expect to look actively for opportunities to expand our efforts in evaluation and research. In this way, we plan to contribute to the literature of best practices in the fields of child psychology, social work, education, etc.

At the same time, we are exploring the possibility of a new logo

and fresh look for the Lourie Center’s informational materials. While the infants and toddlers of our current logo are familiar to many, we are looking for a symbol that encompasses the older children some of our programs serve as well as the relationship-building aspect that all of our programs share.

Exciting things are happening at the Lourie Center, and I’m proud to be a part of it. Stay tuned!

Welcome New Board Member

The Lourie Center is pleased to announce the election of Christopher L. Snead as a new Board member this year. Mr. Snead is currently vice president of consulting for Leon Snead & Company, P.C., a CPA accounting and management

consulting firm based in Rockville, MD. Prior to joining his family business, Mr. Snead served in senior sales management roles for companies such as Pitney Bowes, Milliken & Company, Inc., and Pizza Hut, Inc.



Christopher Snead and son James

Continued from page 1 ... **Embassy Event**

We were thrilled to have two very special awardees: Colbert I. King and the Honorable Michael L. Subin.

The Reginald S. Lourie Award went to Colbert I. King, Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist, in recognition of his long-time and significant efforts to raise awareness about the needs of children and families, and the importance of strengthening families to create a healthy community.

The Honorable Michael L. Subin was presented with the Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his past service on the Board of



Clockwise from top left: Lucy Keker and Catherine Leggett; Ike Leggett and Paula Widerlite greet Bill Schlossberg; Arlene and Harold Finger with Marjorie Sonnenfeldt; Tracye Polson and Lillian Mones; Mike Subin; Chuck Short, Catherine Leggett and Ike Leggett.

Directors of the Lourie Center and as a strong advocate for children during his five terms as a member of the Montgomery County Council. Congratulations and thank you all!

The Generosity of our Donors

The Lourie Center gratefully appreciates all the generous donations from individuals, foundations, and other organizations. Please look for a full listing which will be included in our Fall/Winter Annual Report. Here, we would like to highlight a couple of very significant recent contributors.

In the fall of 2006, Diana and Stephen Goldberg offered us a challenge. If the Lourie Center raised \$200,000, they would make a very generous donation of \$100,000. In the fall of

2007, we met that challenge! Thanks so much to the Goldbergs and to all the contributing Lourie Center supporters who helped us meet our goal!

In 2007, the Lourie Center received its largest one-time donation to date, in the form of a bequest upon the death of long-time donor Rose Kramer. Rose Kramer served for two terms on the Montgomery County school board, and for one term as a Montgomery County Council member.

She believed strongly in the mission of the

Lourie Center, and intended her donation to support the Rose and Harold Kramer Endowed Fund for Research and Training. We look forward to fulfilling Mrs. Kramer's vision (see *Strategic Planning* on page 2).

We were thrilled to announce at the May 13th event that Colbert and Gwendolyn King have pledged \$100,000 to benefit the Lourie Center.

Thank you so much for your generous commitment to helping us serve young children and families into the future!



Tracye Polson with Colbert and Gwendolyn King

Did you know?

The Lourie Center's Parent-Child Clinical Services Program served 208 children in 2008.

5% Day at Whole Foods Market



Dr. James Herrera
Medical Director

Whole Foods Market in Congressional Plaza donated 5% of its proceeds on April 16 to the Lourie Center. A total of \$4,770.85 was raised for the uninsured and underinsured clients in the Clinic and Therapeutic Nursery Program. We are grateful to both Whole Foods Market and participating Lourie staff,

board members, and supporters for making this event a success – and fun, too!



Tracye Polson packs groceries at Whole Foods Market on 5% Day



Board member Connie Lierman

Book Buddies



Elizabeth Franzino
Director of Development

The Lourie Center was one of the recipients for the Montgomery Alliance for Community Giving's Book Buddies "Sweets & Treats" celebration on May 21, held in honor of late County Councilwoman Marilyn J. Praisner. Book Buddies is a campaign to increase literacy in young children.

The "price" of admission for the May 21 celebration included donations and new books for preschoolers. We are grateful to have been recipients of the Montgomery Alliance for Community Giving's efforts for this exciting campaign.



EHS parent Ah Chew and daughter Katherine won the door prize - a gift certificate from Booktopia!

New Staff and New Roles

Pictured along the left are the Lourie Center staff members mentioned here.

Dr. James Herrera recently joined the Lourie Center staff as the new Medical Director. A child psychiatrist, Dr. Herrera earned his medical degree from Howard University's College of Medicine, and trained and was Chief Resident at both the Harvard University Brigham and Women's Hospital and Children's National Medical Center.

Tracye Polson says,

"Dr. Herrera's psychiatric expertise, particularly as it relates to women and young children, will be reflected in the programs and services offered to families and patients in the community."

Dr. James Venza has been appointed as the new associate executive director. After he joined the Center in 2004, Dr. Venza has served as the Director of the Therapeutic Nursery Program. Dr. Venza's clinical expertise with

children and families coupled with his strong administration skills will benefit our entire organization.

Elizabeth Franzino, the Center's new Director of Development, comes to the Lourie Center from development positions at Georgetown University and The Lab School of Washington. She manages the Center's efforts to raise funds from individuals, foundations, and corporations.



Dr. James Venza
Associate Executive Director

Lourie Center *PROGRAM UPDATES*

Licensed by MSDE's Office of Child Care, the Lourie Center's **Before and After School and Summer Camp** program opened in August 2007 to integrate the Lourie Center's longstanding expertise in promoting the social-emotional development of young children with a childcare program emphasizing creative self-expression through the arts. This program was developed in response to the January 2007 report by the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families and the Montgomery County Out of School Time System Building Task force on the "Status of Out-of-School Time in Montgomery County, Maryland. Led by Director Karen Day, the Program provides essential childcare for 30 local K-5 students during work hours.



We are grateful for support from the Jim and Carol Trawick Family Foundation, the Rockville Rotary Foundation, and Montgomery County Council.

At the end of May, the **Lourie Center School (LCS)** underwent its triennial Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on-site monitoring and accreditation review. The review went extremely well. Many aspects of the school were praised, including the environment, the great displays of the students' work, and the fact that the LCS staff all dealt with the students and their behaviors in a calm, nurturing and consistent manner. All the school staff should feel very proud of themselves and their terrific efforts on behalf of the school and students.

On June 12, the LCS celebrated the graduation of eight students this year. All of the students are going on to schools that have less restrictive therapeutic components. In other words, the LCS program has succeeded in helping the students be available to learn.

The LCS is grateful for support from the Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust, the ACS Philanthropic Foundation and the Business Objects Foundation.

The Therapeutic Nursery Program has been reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Michelle Brennan, lead teacher of the Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP), was recognized at The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) Annual Youth Achievement Awards Banquet as one of only 12 nominees across the state of Maryland for the 2008 MARFY Achievement Award for Child Care Worker of the Year.

The TNP graduation is on August 8!

The Parent Child Clinical Services Program has expanded its contract with the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP), which offers a home-based early intervention program for children age 0-3. This dramatically increases the Lourie Center's reach into the surrounding community. This expanded contract adds 19 new Lourie Center positions and makes the Lourie Center the main provider for mental health and early intervention services in the County's Infants and Toddlers program. The Lourie Center family development specialists are at each of the four MCITP sites throughout Montgomery County. The specialists address the children's social and emotional issues as part of interdisciplinary teams, which also include speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and parent educators.

We are proud to expand our services in the community and we welcome our new employees!

The Early Head Start Program (EHS) successfully completed their week-long triennial federal review!

EHS held its annual Family Picnic at the Lourie Center playground on June 21. Over 32 Early Head Start families came out on the beautiful day to enjoy the children's activities, including a moon bounce, water play, and a sing along for the children and their family members, and a catered lunch. For many of the families, this annual picnic is a rare opportunity to come together in a big group outing.

The next day, June 22, over 80 family members attended a DC United soccer game. This event was specially designed as a tribute to our EHS dads and as a special thank you to our child care partners. Thank you, DC United!



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**Please remember to
designate The Lourie Center!
United Way # 8259;
CFC # 26069**

Visit us on the Web!

www.louriecenter.org

Tracye Polson in the media

Tracye Polson was recently quoted as an expert in an online feature called "Taming of the Potty Mouth" on SheKnows.com. Tracye offered tips on how to curtail the use of bad language in children, advising parents to minimize their reactions when children use bad words.

To read the article,

please visit:
www.sheknows.com/articles/804167.htm.

Tracye was also featured last month as an expert in an Oregon paper, *The Bulletin*, in the article "Taming the monsters: How to help relieve your child's fears." Tracye said that many fears children experience stem from displaced separation anxiety,

offering advice on how to lessen fears associated with separation. Tracye also gave the advice that professional help may be necessary if the child's fears cannot be soothed.

To read the article, please visit:
<http://www.bendbulletin.com/>. Search for "Taming the monsters."

About The Lourie Center

The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children is a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping at-risk children and their families achieve a healthy emotional start in life through early intervention programs, consultation, research and training.

The Center was founded in 1983 by the

late Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, a world-wide leader in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental health, and his colleagues, including Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and Dr. Stanley Greenspan, as an outgrowth of their six-year clinical research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

In July 2006, the Center affiliated with Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

Serving more than 4,200 children and caregivers in the Washington Metropolitan area, regardless of ability to pay, the Center is a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health.

This newsletter is a publication of the Lourie Center's Development Office. Please address any questions or comments to Elizabeth Franzino at efranzin@louriecenter.org, or 301-984-4444 ext. 315.



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