

## Social Work Training Opportunities at The Lourie Center-

The Lourie Center for Social & Emotional Wellness offers training opportunities in clinical psychology to advanced students seeking experience and training in parent-child clinical work. The Lourie Center is affiliated with Adventist Healthcare. We accept exceptional first year social work interns, second year social work interns and third and fourth year (pre-internship) psychology externs. Applicants with some clinical child experience and testing (PhD/PsyD) are preferred. We seek diversity in our applicants and encourage students with multilingual skills to apply for placement.

**Therapeutic Nursery Program:** Our Therapeutic Nursery Programs (TNP) include two specialized preschool classrooms that address the needs of young children age three to five who are not succeeding in a traditional preschool setting due to social, emotional, or developmental difficulties. The TNP provides a therapeutic milieu that focuses on social-emotional development in addition to early childhood education. Children learn to regulate the expression of their feelings, improve behavior within the classroom, and improve self-esteem by experiencing success in the group program. The program emphasizes building trusting relationships based on the philosophy that healthy relationships are the context for learning, growth, and change. Our program also provides family-focused services to address the needs of families and caregivers.

*Students placed in the TNP will utilize attachment theory as the framework for supporting children's development. With the support of the TNP staff, students will learn how to support children who may have histories of trauma, anxiety, depression, selective mutism, or a range of other challenges. Students will help children learn to express their feelings appropriately, practice personal safety skills, strengthen positive relationships with safe adults and caregivers, and build their self-esteem and self-concept. Students will join weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings and group supervision to process the experiences in the classroom and discuss case histories, family dynamics, and treatment goals of the children. They will also assist in clinical documentation for the program.*

**Parent-Child Clinical Services:** The Parent-Child Clinical Services Program is a licensed outpatient mental health clinic that offers a comprehensive approach to the early identification, treatment and prevention of emotional, behavioral and developmental problems in children ages birth through age 12. Using a family-centered, developmental approach, the multidisciplinary staff members provide a wide range of assessment, treatment, consultation and training services to promote children's healthy development, enhance parenting capacities and foster positive parent-child relationships. Most of the families served in this program are low-income and are referred by parents themselves, pediatricians, other mental health service providers, local Child Welfare agencies, schools and other community agencies. A psychiatrist is on-site twice per week for collaboration and medication-based treatment.

*Students placed in this program would be assigned cases based on client need, time availability and student interest. The student serves as the primary therapist for the child under the supervision of a licensed staff member. Therapy begins with a comprehensive evaluation (at minimum five sessions), providing diagnostic feedback to caregivers, co-creating a treatment plan with appropriate interventions, executing this treatment plan (individual therapy, dyadic therapy, parent guidance, etc), collaboration with*



*professionals working with the family and treatment plan reviews. The student is responsible for all clinical documentation for their clients.*

## Core Training Experience

All students will gain experience in interventions with young children and their families from a relational, psychodynamic perspective with emphasis on understanding the child within an intergenerational family context. Clinical application of attachment theory is a central focus. Student caseloads vary based on discipline, experience, and schedule. All students participate in a student seminar, which offers a thoughtful integration of theory and ongoing clinical practice. All students receive reflective supervision based on their program/degree needs.

**First Year Social Work Student:** Training opportunities for first year social work student include being placed in the TNP for most of the internship experience and, when possible, the opportunity to have one case in the parent-child clinical services program. First year social work students have one hour of group TNP supervision per week and one hour of individual supervision per week.

**Second Year Social Work Student:** Training opportunities for second year social work students include being in the TNP and/or carrying a caseload of clients in the parent-child clinical services program. Depending on interest and amount of time in the TNP, a second year social work student will have up to 5 clients in the parent-child clinical services program. Opportunities to participate in forensic evaluations on the Child Placement Consultation Team using attachment theory and methodology in consultation with courts and social services in permanency planning for children may be available as well. Second year social work students have at a minimum of one hour of individual supervision per week. If they receive training in the TNP, they will also receive one hour of TNP group supervision per week.

## Time and Scheduling Expectations

A minimum commitment of 16 hours per week from September through May of the calendar year is expected (or as scheduled by the student's academic program). Ideally, students would be able to be at the Lourie Center three days per week. Attendance at Student Seminar, typically held Thursday mornings is mandatory. Students involved in the TNP will attend staff meetings either Thursday from 1:30-2:30 or Wednesday from 2-3; TNP group supervision is Wednesday 3-4pm. Students who are involved in the parent-child clinical services program will have mandatory meetings mid-day on most Wednesdays including staff meetings and monthly trainings.

The center is open 5 days a week 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday thru Thursday, and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Fridays. Students who are seeing clients in the parent-child clinical services program are expected to commit to one late evening (until 8pm) per week. Students who are in the Therapeutic Nursery Program may be expected to arrive at early to participate in team meetings before children arrive for the day. The TNP school day is from 8am-12pm or 8am-3pm, depending on the classroom.





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## Application Process

The application process is currently open. Applicants may apply through their school program's online application procedures, if available, or send a letter of intent, CV, two references and examples of writing, (e.g. test reports, evaluations etc.) to Jessica Rotem at [jrotem@louriecenter.org](mailto:jrotem@louriecenter.org) Please call Jessica Rotem at 301-761- 2758 or Julia Wessel at 301-761-2754 with any questions.

