25+ FACTS ABOUT

The University of San Francisco Center for Child & Family Development

- USF President Fr. John Schlegel once referred to the Center as “the jewel in the crown of the university.”

- The Center for Child & Family Development (CCFD) was created in 1984 and pioneered School-Based Family Counseling in California.

- It is the largest longest running university-schools partnership of its type in the USA.

- More than 20,000 at-risk children and families have been provided with counseling in over 70 participating Bay area public, Catholic and private schools.

- Since 1984 the Center has had a strong social justice mission evidenced in its commitment to serving the poorest schools in San Francisco. Many of the Center’s clients live in the Mission District – one of the more difficult neighborhoods in which to live in San Francisco. The violent crime rate in the Mission is among the highest in San Francisco and gang activity is a constant concern for the residents. It has the highest concentration of children and is one of the poorest San Francisco neighborhoods.

- Because our clients are predominantly low-income—the annual average household income is $13,000— the fees for our services (which are paid by schools) are very low, approximately $212 per family for an entire year of counseling. By comparison, private practice family counseling would cost $700 per year. Each child or family typically receives fourteen counseling sessions. In order to charge schools such low fees, the Center needs to obtain additional grants through the university’s development office.

- 70% of the students served by the Center are minority.

- The Center has generated more than $1.5 million in grants, donations and fees. In 2003 the Center received a grant of $195K from the Langendorf Foundation to develop a community counseling center. Other foundations supporting the Center have been: The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, The Koret Foundation, The Sharper Image, The Stulsaft Foundation, and Trust Funds incorporated.

- Since 1984 every USF president has been a keynote speaker at the Center’s Award Celebration dinners.

- Fr. John Lo Schiavo S.J., President, and later Chancellor of USF, was Chair of the Honorary Board of the Center from 1990-2001 and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Center from 2002-2012.

- San Francisco mayors Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom have been Center Award Celebration keynote speakers.
In 1991 the Center opened its **Alternative Family Project** which served LGBTQ families.

More than 300 USF graduate students in Counseling Psychology have benefitted from being trainees in the Center.

Half of the schools that had a Center trainee later hired that trainee as their school mental health professional.

The Center provides Parent Education seminars and workshops for the wider community, as well as workshops on *How to Become a Trauma-Sensitive School*.

Between 2004-2010, the Center provided international student internships in School-Based Family Counseling to six interns from the Department of Psychology, University of Innsbruck, Austria.

In 2013 the Center sponsored Dr. Ernesto Gonzalez as a visiting scholar from Columbia. Dr. Gonzalez coordinated the Center’s **Latino Family Outreach Program**.

The Center is co-sponsor of the *Oxford Symposium in School-Based Family Counseling*, an international conference held yearly at Brasenose College, Oxford University.

The Center’s book *Disastershock: How to Cope with the Emotional Stress of a Major Disaster* has been distributed free of charge to communities worldwide affected by disaster: the Parkland, Florida school shootings, Houston flood, Santa Rosa fires, Puerto Rico hurricane, and Paris, Brussels, San Bernardino, Lahore, Manchester, and Egypt terrorist attacks; la Puerta, Mexico earthquake, Guatemala volcano disaster, Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and Chad, and mosque shootings in New Zealand.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Center staff and trainees worked in teams to distribute free copies of *Disastershock* to counseling centers, school districts, and other organizations in all 50 states.

Following the San Francisco LomaPrieta earthquake that was responsible for 63 deaths and 3,757 injuries, Center trainees provided extensive counseling for persons affected.

Distinguished family therapist Cloe Madanes (author of *Strategic Family Therapy*, *Behind the One-Way Mirror*, *Sex, Love and Violence*, *The Secret Meaning of Money*, and *The Violence of Men* which have been translated into more than twenty languages) was director of the Center’s **Council for the Human Rights of Children** from 2002-2012.

Dr. William Glasser, the world-famous psychiatrist, author of *Schools without Failure* and creator of Reality Therapy and Choice Theory Psychology gave a community workshop for the Center in 2003. In 2005 The Center, together with the Institute for School-Based family Counseling, presented Dr. Glasser with the **Award for Outstanding Contribution to School-based Family Counseling**.
At the center’s Awards Dinner in 2000, Fr. John P. Schlegel, S.J., President, University of San Francisco was awarded the Life Achievement Award for Contributions to Children and Families. Linda F. Davis, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District received the award for Outstanding Contribution to Children and Families.

In 2014, USF and Center alum, Maryellen Mullin, LMFT, partnered with Dr. Brian Gerrard, the Center and the School of Education, to create a unique event, a half day of speakers and workshops, for parents struggling to navigate issues around technology and kids. The USF Center’s Parenting Symposium launched: Supporting Families in the Digital Age, at the University of San Francisco. Speakers included: Dr. Rajan Bahl, MD (UCSF), Sandra Bryson, LMFT, Ellen Dodge, SLP (Kimochis®), Daniel Emina, MD (Amen Clinic), Judy French (Girls Leadership Institute), Judy Giampaoli, LMFT (USF Center for Child and Family Development), Jon Herzenberg (The Boys Project), Maryellen Mullin, LMFT (Messy Parenting: Progress Not Perfection).

In 2015, the Center and School of Education partnered again for the 2nd half-day Parenting Symposium: Connecting with Kids in the Digital Age. Presenters included: Creating Brain Healthy Families: Tips for Frazzled Parents (Amen Clinic), Kids: Getting to the Root of Learning Challenges (Arrowsmith Program), Inside/Outside Parenting for our KIDZ off the GRIDZ (LeadLifeNow), Emotions & Devices in the Digital Age (Messy Parenting: Progress Not Perfection), Supporting Healthy Body Esteem in the Digital Age (L. Fraser, LCSW: B.Whitlow, LMFT), Taking Off the Mask (Ever Forward Club) and Tools for Communication in the Digital Age (Girls Leadership Institute).

In 2016, the Center and School of Education partnered to host the documentary screening of Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age - screenagersmovie.com. The event highlighted a panelist of family clinicians and educators after the movie, to answer questions from the audience about coping with challenges for families. This Center event included families (teens!), students, clinicians and educators, drawing over 200 people!

In 2017, the Center and School of Education partnered with Dr. Daniel Emina, MD, a family psychiatrist and Center Board Member, to present: Brain Connections, educating families, students, clinicians and educators on the neurobiology of the brain. This event drew many teens with parents, to educate and empower them with research to ignite family conversations about lifestyle and better habits for healthier and happier brains.

In 2019 the Center became the first organization in San Francisco to receive Title 1 federal funding ($118K) to provide counseling services to poor, at-risk children in Catholic and private schools.