From the Desk of the Executive Director

We welcome you to the inaugural issue of our newly designed News From the Field. With each issue, we look forward to bringing you what you became accustomed to reading in our former print version, but with so much more.

As we conclude Child Abuse Prevention Month, I am struck by the breadth and scope of our work, including both our accomplishments and what we have before us. This issue coincides with the publication of the Field Center’s groundbreaking research on the nexus of child trafficking and child welfare. What we have learned can truly set the stage for stemming the pipeline to predators.

I also want to mark this inaugural issue by acknowledging and thanking each member of our interdisciplinary team, including our faculty directors and affiliates, professional staff, fellows and scholars, graduate students, and members of our board, for their exemplary contributions to improving the lives of victims of child maltreatment and those involved in the child welfare system.

Enjoy reading and be sure to visit our website to learn even more.

Debra Schilling Wolfe
Executive Director
The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research

FIELD CENTER PUBLISHES GROUNDBREAKING NATIONAL RESEARCH ON CHILD TRAFFICKING

The Field Center announces the publication of its groundbreaking multi-site research study on the prevalence of human trafficking among homeless youth, examining the history of child maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and other child welfare risk factors among those who were sex trafficked or engaged in the sex trade to survive.

As part of a larger initiative by Covenant House International to research human trafficking among homeless youth that encompassed nearly 1,000 young people across 13 cities, the Field Center conducted in-depth interviews of 270 homeless youth in Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Washington, DC to not only identify the frequency of trafficking, but to learn about specific risk factors for victimization in the first study of its kind.

Of those interviewed, 20% were found to be victims of human trafficking, including 17% who were victims of sex trafficking and 14% engaged in “survival sex” to meet their basic needs. Of those who were sex trafficked, 90% reported a history of child maltreatment, including 49% having been sexually abused. Findings suggest specific policy and practice reforms to target those at risk of being trafficked and stem the child welfare pipeline to predators.

To read the full report click here.

CHILD WELFARE SCHOLARS JOIN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

The Field Center expands its reach and welcomes two child welfare scholars to join our interdisciplinary team for the year.

Visiting Fellow: Lisa Rieger, Esq.

Ms. Rieger joined the Field Center as a Visiting Fellow and will be initiating a study to examine how child welfare legal, policy and practice frameworks can be translatable and scalable across differing insular and isolated communities. She is the Chief Legal Officer of Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) in Anchorage, Alaska, a tribal social service not-for-profit organization providing services to Alaska Natives and American Indians. Ms. Rieger plans to apply her learning about utilizing research to inform policy and practice reforms to her work, both in Alaska, and nationally. To learn more about Ms. Rieger, click here.

The Field Center Celebrates Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. With close to 700,000 children abused or neglected in the United States each year, awareness of the issue is critical.

For the month of April, Field Center experts published Child Abuse Facts-of-the-Day on Twitter, with a different theme each week.

Follow the Field Center to re-tweet our Facts-of-the-Day tweets, and to learn more: @fieldcenter
The Field Center Advisory Board recently honored founding board member Sonia Treister for her continued commitment and support in promoting the center and the Advisory Board itself. Mrs. Treister’s experience in, and passion for, the child welfare mission served as a tremendous asset to the Field Center and all its endeavors. The Advisory Board looks forward to her continued support and involvement with the Field Center’s current and future initiatives.

Newly elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Field Center’s Advisory Board were sworn in early January 2018. Seth Morones, MSEd, joined the Field Center in the fall of 2017 and will spend the next two years focused on college access and mentor support for homeless and foster youth as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. He is working closely with the Field Center’s national conference and continuing to inspire young professionals.

Debra Schilling Wolfe, Faculty Director of the Field Center and School of Social Policy and Practice, became the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Field Center’s Advisory Board. She joined the board following her retirement from the School of Social Policy and Practice and has committed herself to expanding the center’s Foster Care to College initiative by supporting the development of new campus-based support programs for foster youth across Pennsylvania while encouraging stakeholders to view college as a viable and important option for these young people. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Seth focused on expanding the center’s Foster Care to College initiative by supporting the development of new campus-based support programs for foster youth across Pennsylvania while encouraging stakeholders to view college as a viable and important option for these young people.
Wednesday, their parents wondered how they could have missed the signs.

Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

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Click the link below to learn more about The Field Center
www.fieldcenteratpenn.org

To receive more information about Field Center work, trainings, and events please click HERE.