



News From the Field

National child welfare policy, practice and research

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



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 read **Facts-of-the-Day** tweets, and to learn more:

[@fieldcenter](https://twitter.com/fieldcenter)

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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, 95% 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](#).

Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Events

AFCC 55th Annual Conference
Compassionate Family Court Systems: The Role of Trauma-Informed Jurisprudence
Jun 6-9, 2018
Washington, DC
[More information](#)

APSAC's 25th Annual Colloquium
June 13-16, 2018
New Orleans, LA
[More information](#)

2018 NASW National Conference - Shaping Tomorrow Together
June 20-23, 2018
Washington, DC
[More information](#)

FFTA 32nd Annual Conference
July 8-11, 2018
Atlanta, GA
[More information](#)

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 81st Annual Conference
July 22-25, 2018
Denver, CO
[More information](#)

NACAC's 2018 Conference
Aug 7-10, 2018
Saint Paul, MN

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 reform to her work, both in Alaska, and nationally. To learn more about Ms. Rieger, click [here](#).





Visiting Scholar: Mi Hyang Do, PhD

Dr. Mi Hyang Do has joined the Field Center and the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice as a Visiting Scholar from Namseoul University in South Korea. She will be spending the year studying the U.S. child welfare system and how child abuse is addressed in the United States. Dr. Do has an extensive career in the field of child welfare and has focused on research and practice to guarantee children's rights and prevent child abuse. She received a master's degree in social welfare and a doctorate in child welfare from Sookmyung Women's University. Dr. Do has been a professor at the Department of Child Welfare at Namseoul University for 17 years and established the first child welfare center in South Korea. To learn more about Dr. Do, click [here](#).

[More Information](#)

30th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference
Aug 13-16, 2018
Dallas, TX
[More information](#)

JuST 2018 Conference
Oct 16-18, 2018
San Diego, CA
[More information](#)

2018 Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement
Oct 16-19, 2018
Vail, CO
[More information](#)

ADVISORY BOARD CELEBRATES ELECTED OFFICERS AND FOUNDING MEMBER



Newly elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Field Center's Advisory Board were sworn in early January 2018.

Flora Barth Wolf was elected Chair of the Field Center Advisory Board. She joined the board following her retirement from the Philadelphia Family Court dependency bench. Judge Wolf earned her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. **Adam Landau** was elected as Advisory Board Vice Chair. He is the CEO & CIO of Permit Capital Advisors, LLC in Philadelphia. Mr. Landau is committed to causes serving vulnerable youth in the greater Philadelphia area.

Pam Schreiber served as Chair of the Field Center's Advisory Board from 2012-2017 and has contributed immensely to the growth of the center and the Advisory Board itself. Mrs. Schreiber'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.



The Field Center Advisory Board recently honored founding board member **Sonia Treister** for her continued commitment and service. Mrs. Treister earned her MSW from Penn's School of Social Work in 1955 and was invited to join the founding Advisory Board for the "Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research", later renamed the Field Center in honor of its founding benefactors. She has and continues to champion the work of the center, advance inclusion by providing scholarships for social workers to attend the Field Center's national conference and continuing to inspire young professionals.

(Left Photo: A. Landau, P. Schreiber, F. Barth Wolf; Right Photo: S. Treister, D. Schilling Wolfe)

Help advance the work of the Field Center

The **Field Center** is pioneering innovative and critical work in child welfare.

All gifts made to the Field Center will be generously matched by the **Joseph and Marie Field Foundation** through June 30th 2018.

DONATE NOW

To learn more about how you can support our work, please contact Director of Development **Hannah Rawdin** at hrawdin@upenn.edu or (215) 573-9724.

For more information [click here](#).

FIELD CENTER RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Director **Dr. Cindy Connolly** is the author of a new book, *Children and Drug Safety: Balancing Risk and Protection in Twentieth-Century America*. This important publication traces the development, use, and marketing of drugs for children, illuminating the historical dimension of a clinical and policy issue with great contemporary significance: that many of the drugs administered to children today have never been tested for safety and efficacy in the pediatric population.

Executive Director **Debra Schilling Wolfe**, Faculty Director **Dr. Johanna Greeson**, and Program Manager **Sarah Wasch** presented on "Findings from a Multi-City Study on Child Sex Trafficking: Homelessness, Child Maltreatment, and Resilience Factors" at Shared Hope International's JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in New Orleans.

Faculty Director **Dr. Antonio Garcia** recently published "I am more than my past": Parents' attitudes and perceptions of the Positive Parenting Program in Child Welfare in Children and Youth Services Review (Vol. 88). Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Sarah Wasch and Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow **Seth Morones** presented on "Fostering the Future: Making College a Reality for Foster Youth" at the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education.

Debra Schilling Wolfe testified before the Pennsylvania Judiciary Committee at a hearing on *Senate Bill 554: Safe Harbor in Human Trafficking* to support decriminalization of juvenile sex trafficking.

STONELEIGH EMERGING LEADER FELLOW JOINS FIELD CENTER TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOSTER YOUTH



The Stoneleigh Foundation is supporting the Field Center's work to increase capacity for youth who have experienced foster care to attend and succeed in college with a new Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow. Seth Morones, MSEd, joined the Field Center in the fall of 2017 and will spend the next two years 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. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Seth focused on college access and mentor support for homeless and foster youth as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. He holds a BA in sociology from the University of Northern Colorado and an MSEd in education policy from the University of Pennsylvania.

To learn more about the Field Center's Foster Care to College initiative, click [here](#).

The Field Center in the Media:



95 Percent of Homeless Youth Who Experienced Sex Trafficking Say They Were Maltreated as Children
The Chronicle of Social Change

Little rigorous research has focused on the correlation between child welfare experience and sex trafficking, yet estimates have been cited that the majority of victims of child sex trafficking have experienced the child welfare system.



How to Keep Children Safe From Abuse at the Doctor's Office
The New York Times

How can parents know if a doctor is touching a child in an inappropriate way? After scores of young women testified about being sexually molested by Dr. Lawrence G. Nassar, the former doctor of the American gymnastics team who was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison on



Advocates: Support Vital for Students From Foster Care System
Diverse Issues in Higher Education

When it comes to accessing college, students who have experienced the foster care system have a steep hill to climb. Data about their college-going rates is scant, but existing studies indicate that while the majority of foster youth say that they want to go to college, few will ever attain a degree.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

Wednesday, their parents wondered how they could have missed the signs.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

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Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

The Field Center is a collaboration of



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Founding Benefactors: Joseph and Marie Field

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](#).