Preparing tomorrow’s mental health leaders

Robert Friedman

Dr. Robert Friedman served as Director of the federally-funded Research & Training Center for Children’s Mental Health for 25 years, CFS Department Chair for 22 years, and Interim Dean of FMHI for one year. In each of these roles, he was dedicated to increasing the understanding of the mental health needs of young people, and developing systems of care to help address these problems.

Dr. Friedman is co-author with Beth Stroul of *A System of Care for Children and Youth with Severe Emotional Disturbances*, a monograph widely used across the country to plan service delivery systems. He served on many national committees including the Planning Board for the Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health, chaired task forces and review panels for the federal government, and provided Congressional testimony on several occasions. In 2000, he served as Principal Author for the Children’s Workgroup report of the Florida Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. He gave expert testimony to the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in 2002, and helped author the Children’s Sub-Committee report of the Commission. He also organized the Alliance for the Safe, Therapeutic, and Appropriate Use of Residential Treatment (A-START), a committee ensuring that residential care is provided safely and only when needed to young people.

Approximately one in five children have a diagnosable mental health disorder. These mental health disorders can often lead to such problems as substance abuse, school failure, violence, delinquency and suicide. No other illnesses damage so many children so seriously.

A Note From the Chair

I want to express my appreciation for your interest in support of the newly formed Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we can continue the important work of improving outcomes for children and youth who need special attention and support to resolve issues of mental health, disability, education and healthy development.

Your contribution will ensure that the unyielding talents, vision and knowledge garnered by Dr. Friedman throughout his career will be shared with the next generation of inspired advocates and researchers for children.

Mario Hernandez
Chair, Department of Child & Family Studies

ROBERT FRIEDMAN

Endowed Professorship
IN CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES

The Department of Child & Family Studies at USF has been a national leader in serving family and children for many years through its Research and Training Center for Children’s Mental Health, spearheaded by the efforts of Dr. Robert Friedman.

For the past 25 years, the wonderful work of the Center has been sustained through grant support. In order to sustain the amazing efforts that make it a success, additional sources of support must be made available. This year marks Dr. Friedman’s official retirement from the University of South Florida. The time has come to begin a new chapter for the Center and all of Dr. Friedman’s work.

Imagine Dr. Friedman sharing experiences with the next generation of advocates and researchers for children!
On the eve of Dr. Friedman’s retirement, the University of South Florida is proud to honor him by establishing the Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies. This endowed position recognizes Dr. Friedman’s remarkable career.

Funds raised will be used to create an endowed professorship in the Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS), Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), of USF’s College of Behavioral and Community Sciences. The professorship will focus on policy and research related to children’s mental health.

As competition for world-class faculty continues to intensify among leading universities, endowed chairs and professorships have become the most effective tool available to recruit and retain eminent scholars, clinicians and teachers from across the globe – who, in turn, attract other exceptional faculty and students. With that in mind, the Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship has been established by his family, friends and colleagues to bring the world's foremost experts to join an already outstanding child and adolescent services faculty.

Gifts to the Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies fund may be made on-line at http://giving.usf.edu, or by completing the form below.

Continuing Dr. Friedman’s Legacy

In order to effectively address the mental health needs of children, youth, and their families, it is essential to have policies and systems in place that will support effective practice. This endowed professorship will focus on research, policy analysis, and consultation designed to promote the development of policies and systems that will contribute to positive outcomes for young people.

The Friedman professorship will be the catalyst behind what shapes and defines USF’s impact on children’s mental health over the next decades. As the only endowed professorship in Child & Family Studies, the impact of your involvement will make a huge impact on the department’s ability to realize its mission.

Funding

Gift and pledge commitments totaling $600,000 will be required to fund the Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies in perpetuity. Gifts and pledges toward this amount can be paid over a period of five years and may be eligible for up to a 70% match from the State of Florida upon completion of the fund goal.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this proposal and the promise that such a gift will bring to the lives of countless young people.

Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies is intended to be an endowed fund. Should the amount collected for this fund be below the minimum of $25,000 that is required to establish a named endowed fund, or $100,000 making it eligible for state matching, the University will use the gifts given to this fund in a manner that is most consistent with its original purpose.

For additional information about the fund, please contact Beth Bosserman Curts, Director of Development, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, University of South Florida, 813-974-9139, bbosscurts@bcs.usf.edu.

Please mail to:
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Thank you for your support!