# COUNCIL FOR Relationships

Annual Report FY 2016













#### Dear Supporters,

Since our founding 85 years ago, Council for Relationships has grown and changed, while at the same time providing critical counseling services, education and research. In Fiscal Year 2016, we continued this work, while considering many substantive changes to help shape and strengthen our future. Looking back over the year, Council accomplished a great deal, reaching more than 5,500 people through services and education/training programs, with our core service continuing to be high quality counseling to individuals, couples and families throughout the region.

Council celebrated some key staff transitions this year. April Westfall finished 24 years of service in her role to become Director of Clinical Services Emerita and continue as a part-time therapist. After an interim position, Bill Coffey was named Director of Clinical and Business Operations. Bea Hollander-Goldfein, who ran our almost 70-year-old Post Graduate Certificate Program for more than a decade, handed off that role to Michele Southworth.

We celebrated some accomplishments during FY2016 that supported our counseling, education/training and research work. In the spring we successfully completed a major gifts fundraising initiative, raising more than \$350,000 to support our programs with vulnerable populations including Veterans and their loved ones, families participating in the Community Partnerships Initiative, and low-fee counseling clients. In June, we held the inaugural Dr. Emily Hartshorne Mudd Award Reception, at WHYY, honoring our friend and colleague Dr. Dan Gottlieb.

As the fiscal year was ending, we completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan that was developed over many months with Philadelphia-based Fairmount Ventures and a committee of Board and senior staff members. With this new roadmap in hand, we are working to strengthen and sustain Council so that we will continue to thrive for another 85 years and longer. The overall goal of the Strategic Plan is to reestablish Council as a national leader in couple and family therapy so that we can have the greatest impact possible. Specific initiatives include:

- expanding and improving upon our work with vulnerable populations;
- strengthening and attracting more students to our educational programs;
- expanding our role in workforce development and increasing our contributions to research by building on our work with the Transcending Trauma Project;
- exploring opportunities to use technology both to provide counseling services to people unable to get to one of our offices and to supervise and share knowledge efficiently with other professionals in the region;
- streamlining and updating our infrastructure including information technologies, regulatory review processes and human resources – in order to better serve our clients and the community.

We thank you – our supporters, clients, volunteers (especially the Board of Directors), staff, partners and members of the community – for making our work possible. We look forward to sharing updates as we continue to implement the strategic plan in the months ahead, reestablishing Council's leadership role and celebrating 85 years of serving the greater Philadelphia region.

Many thanks, again, for your continued support,

Reid Blynn Board Chair Deb D'Arcangelo
Chief Executive Officer

# About Council for Relationships

Council for Relationships is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help people from all walks of life improve their important relationships by providing exemplary therapy, educating and training clinicians in the family systems approach, and advancing the behavioral health field through research. Through all of its programs, Council serves more than 5,500 people in the Greater Philadelphia area each year.

Counseling Professional
Services Education
Research



# Services for Vulnerable Populations

We are committed to providing quality service to all those in need, regardless of ability to pay.

#### Low Fee Counseling

Council's therapy services are provided on a sliding fee scale which allows access to most of its services regardless of the client's ability to pay. More than 50 highly supervised clinical interns from our academic programs provide low fee counseling services. These low fee services are based on income and no one is ever turned away due to financial limitations.

# Community Partnerships Initiative

The Community Partnerships Initiative increases access to counseling services for at-risk populations. Council provides services on site to individuals, couples and families living in transitional housing, as well as in schools for families with children at risk of abuse or neglect. In 2016, Council provided free therapy at 12 partner locations throughout Greater Philadelphia.

## Operation Home and Healing

Operation Home and Healing provides special counseling services for active service members, Veterans and their families. Specially-trained therapists work with military families to help heal the invisible wounds on their individual, couple, and family relationships. Services include therapeutic group programs as well as appointments within 24-48 hours, with or without the service member present.

### Our Work in 2016

28

Students graduated from

our Master's and

Post-Graduate

Certificate

**Programs** 

free group therapy sessions

10 year anniversary of the Master's Program in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University 1,608 clients who received free or low-fee counseling

5,308 clients who benefited from individual, couple and family therapy

1,200 audio tapes from the Transcending Trauma Project digitized



1,130
hours
of training,
counseling,
and workshops
for Veterans and
military families
provided through
Operation Home and Healing

held through the
Community
Partnerships Initiative

Research on the
7 Stages of Marriage presented to

Stages of Marriage presented to the Pennsylvania Association of Marriage and Family Therapy

#### Our Work in 2016

When I don't know where to turn, I can come here and talk about my feelings. My therapist doesn't force me to tell her things, I can tell her when I feel ready.

- Individual Counseling Client Attending an Operation Home and Healing workshop was definitely worth my time. I found some of the information to be a great refresher; some of information was new and topical, and some information was an opening to a great group conversation that I think should warrant further discussion.

 Veteran, Operation Home and Healing Workshop Participant

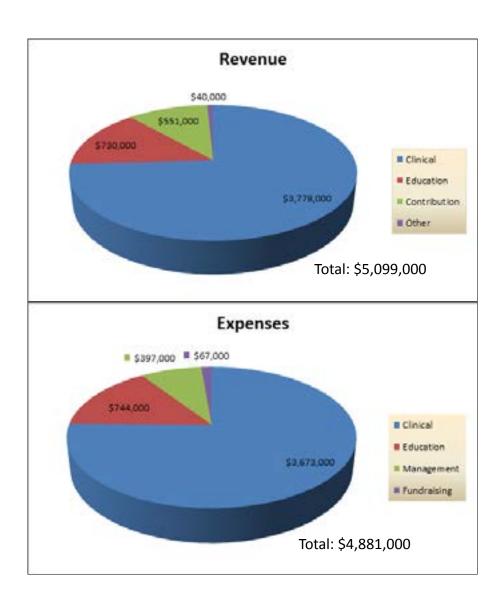
It's stress relief. You can tell them what is going on and they'll actually listen to you. I think it helps a lot and it makes you want to do better.

- Group Therapy Participant, Community Partnerships Initiative

Council for Relationships is an organization that really makes a difference in this community and I don't know that it's as well known as it should be. Council actually makes it possible to work with and help people who have not been able to access help in other ways.

- Scott Albergate Post-Graduate Program Alumnus 2016

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