# SMART LOVE® FAMILY SERVICES





#### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of Smart Love Family Services is to help children, parents and adults achieve greater inner well-being, sustain closer relationships, and lead more pleasurable and productive lives. We do this by providing counseling services, early childhood education, and parenting programs.

#### **SMART LOVE**

The principles of Smart Love®, an approach to parenting and child development developed by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., and William J. Pieper, M.D., guide all of our programs. Endorsed by scholars and child development experts around the world and supported by the latest child development research, the Smart Love approach focuses parents' attention on maximizing parent's positive influence on the child by understanding their child's mind and emotions at every age and stage.

One of the cornerstones of the Smart Love approach is that every young child copies the care she receives but cannot evaluate it. For this reason, informed accurate parenting, teaching and caregiving are crucial if children are to grow up treating themselves and others with compassion and if they are to develop the ability to care for their bodies, work productively, have stable inner happiness, and sustain enjoyable relationships.

Programs and interventions based on Smart Love principles promote closer, more enjoyable caregiver and child relationships and increase success and confidence for both caregiver and child. *Smart Love* (1999) describes the application of the Pieper's approach to parenting. The underlying psychological theory is described in *Intrapsychic Humanism* (1990), the Piepers' book for professionals.







**Dear Friends:** 

We have had another positive year of growth and service at Smart Love Family Services. The number of children, parents and adults who participated in our programs this past year reached 2,800!

We held our second Scholarship Benefit Gala in April. The event, attended by 170 guests took place at The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and raised \$45,000. All proceeds from the gala are providing financial aid for eligible families seeking our services and programs. This support is vital to the families we serve and has the potential to change the trajectory of their lives.

Our counseling program continued to grow, serving over 600 clients out of our three locations. We were able to offer a total of \$174,273 in charity care including fee reductions and scholarships to many of our families. This year, we launched a new Autism Treatment Program that grew out of a study funded by the Westlake Health Foundation. We also piloted a program to help newly arriving refugee children and teens from around the world adjust to their new lives in the U.S.

At The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool two morning classes and a smaller afternoon class served a total of 44 children, more than double from the year prior. The outdoor gardening curriculum provided a rich addition to the preschool curriculum where children learned how to make soil blocks, sow seeds, nurture seedlings, transplant, water and harvest the wonderful produce. With a greenhouse on site, children were able to garden year round and learn about photosynthesis, solar power, and the like.

I would like to thank our extraordinary board of directors and staff for their care and leadership. Additionally, we could not have attained this kind of success without a generous and growing group of donors committed to helping children and families in our community. Thank you all for making a difference.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stolper Friedman Carolyn Stolper Friedman, M.A.

**Executive Director** 









#### WHERE WE ARE TODAY

#### **Early Childhood Education Programs**

The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool completed its third school year offering half-day preschool programs for 3-5 year olds out of two classrooms, as well as continuing our successful parent and toddler program for children 12-36 months. We added a new program this year called toddler transitions for children 30-36 months, where the children primarily engage with the teachers while the parents or caregivers relax in the family waiting room across from the classroom. Our summer camp preschool program also expanded to 20 children.

#### **Counseling Services**

We served over 500 clients this past year, with over 60% of them children and adolescents. We provide play therapy, individual therapy, parent counseling, couples therapy, and a range of testing services out of three locations in the Chicago area: Oak Brook, Oak Park and Chicago, in the north side Buena Park neighborhood. We also launched a new Autism Treatment Program providing specialized supports for children and their parents, including individual sessions, group sessions and a Parent Support Coordinator to meet with parents to track child progress.

#### **Research and Evaluation Program**

With a second year of funding from the Westlake Health Foundation, we operationalized our outcome evaluation program and completed a retrospective study on outcomes of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder who were treated at Smart Love. The positive findings of the study were the catalyst for the creation of the Smart Love Autism Treatment Program.

#### **Community Programs**

Through our community programs we partner with other non-profits to help them serve the needs of their populations. We piloted a new program with Refugee One, a resettlement agency in Uptown that receives families from wartorn countries throughout the world. We are providing mental health counseling and psycho-social groups to refugee children and adolescents newly arriving in Chicago after having endured atrocious living conditions and severe losses.

#### **Parenting Programs**

This past year, we presented to parents and professionals on topics such as sibling rivalry, healthy sleep habits, self-esteem, positive discipline strategies and bullying. We also provided over 1000 individualized sessions for parents to help them better understand their children's behavior and how best to respond. This year, *Mommy, Daddy, I Had a Bad Dream!*, the children's storybook by Dr. Martha Heineman Pieper author of *Smart Love*, won over 13 book awards, including the prestigious Ben Franklin award. Over 120 families sought out Smart Love publications to continue to deepen their knowledge of how best to nurture their children.



#### IN OUR FUTURE

#### **Developing Online Program Offerings for Parents**

We will continue to bring Smart Love to a broader audience through new online program offerings, presentations at national conferences and through radio, television and print media.

#### **Expanding Smart Love Preschools**

We are looking for opportunities to open additional Smart Love Preschools in Chicago and nationally.

### Partnering to Improve the Well-Being of Children and Families in Chicago

We continue to seek opportunities to partner with other non-profits to help meet the mental health needs of Chicago's diverse populations. With funding from foundations and other sources, our expertise in child and adolescent therapy as well as parenting can be tapped to improve the well-being of children and families in Chicago.

#### **Smart Love Training for Early Childhood Educators and Clinicians**

We continue to seek new relationships with universities and professional schools to train early childhood teachers in using Smart Love principles in their classrooms and offer more opportunities for social workers, clinical psychologists and professional counselors to learn and practice our approach.



### CARING

## GIVING

#### **CHARITABLE GIFTS (FY 2013, JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013)**

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Katie Bruno and Mark Whitmore Maria and Markus Wimmer

Molly Geiger and Grant Winship

Diana Zenteno

Stephanie Zimmerman

- ± Gifts to Research Program.
- $\infty$  Deceased.

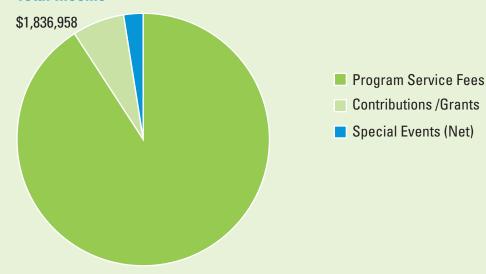


<sup>\*</sup> Gifts to Smart Love Scholarship Gala/Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D. and William J. Pieper, M.D. Scholarship Fund.

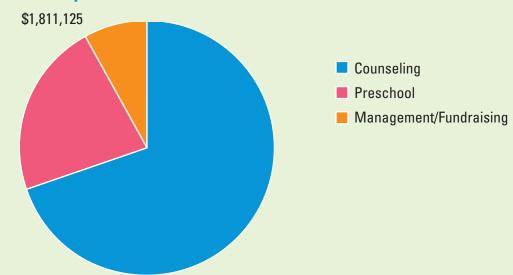
<sup>#</sup> Gifts to The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool Fund.

### 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT (JULY 2012 - JUNE 2013)

#### **Total Income**



#### **Total Expenses**







# INVESTING

### SERVING

#### **OUR BOARD, ADVISORS AND STAFF**

#### **Board of Directors**

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Anne Rowley, M.D.

Professor, Pediatrics – Infectious Diseases and Microbiology-Immunology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

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Mark L. Steinberg, Ph. D.

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#### **Clinic Staff**

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Director of Clinical Services

Amanda Beedy, LCSW

Stephen Budde, Ph.D., LCSW

Tamara Garrity, Psy. D.

Carol Johnson, LCSW

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#### **Preschool Staff**

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#### **Support Staff**

Erica Lenhart

Assistant to Executive Director

Hope Short

Preschool Office Assistant

Shannon Weber Office Manager

#### **Clinical Trainees:**

Stephanie Bagwell, Psy. D.

Corina Morris, M.A. Candidate

Jessica Plonka, M.A.





#### **Executive Offices**

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www.smartlovefamily.org www.smartlovepreschool.org



#### The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool

800 W. Buena Avenue Chicago, IL 60613

#### **Counseling**

800 W. Buena Avenue Chicago, IL 60613

Rush Medical Office Building 610 South Maple Avenue Oak Park, IL 60304

Oakbrook Professional Building Oakbrook Center Oak Brook, IL 60523



Financial information represents fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). For a copy of the audited financial statement, please write to David Friedman, Treasurer, Smart Love Family Services, 800 W. Buena Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613. We wish to thank Steve Ewert Photography for contributing images to this report.