A Message from our Founders

Dear Friends,

The Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse was established in October 2012 with a vision that still guides us today: a world without child sexual abuse. We believed then, as we do now, that child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable, which is why our work revolves around developing strong prevention strategies. We believe that everyone shares the responsibility for prevention, and everyone benefits when children remain safe from sexual abuse.

Today, with our network of researchers, supporters and partners, we are succeeding. Under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau, Moore Center director, 2019 was a remarkable year. We were excited to see the Moore Center move forward on the development and evaluation of novel prevention programs, attract new funders, and disseminate. We were especially pleased to see the Center’s advocacy and government affairs outreach result in first-of-its-kind federal funding for child sexual abuse prevention research. In addition, the team hosted another successful symposium on “Child Sexual Abuse: A Public Health Perspective.”

The public health approach to abuse prevention relies on identifying the scope of perpetration and victimization, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and evaluating prevention programs that address those factors, and then supporting efforts for the dissemination and uptake of effective programs. The Moore Center is leading the way in bringing this proven public health approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

We invite you to read more about the Center and its successes in this year’s annual report and join us in our pursuit. We look forward to accomplishing even more together in 2020.

Sincerely,

Julia Moore, RN, MBA and Stephen G. Moore, MD, MPH ’93
Founding Donors, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Julia Moore, RN, MBA and Stephen G. Moore, MD, MPH ’93
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“Child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable.”
A Message from the Director

Since launching in 2012, the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse has made incredible progress toward the prevention of child sexual abuse. We work to create change through our efforts in research, education, communication, advocacy, and policy. We work to change the way the world thinks about child sexual abuse, from inevitable to preventable. We work to change the way world thinks about prevention, to understand that perpetration prevention is a necessary element of a comprehensive approach to child sexual abuse. We work to grow the human and the capital resources necessary to continue and expand these efforts.

Our work is now more important than ever. Twelve percent of the world’s children are affected by sexual abuse. Children are the fastest-growing demographic group getting connected to the internet, and while online connectivity brings a wealth of resources, so too does it increase the risk of child sexual exploitation and abuse. This may be why, after declining for decades, the rates of child sexual abuse appear to be increasing.

In 2019, we partnered with dozens of individual collaborators and organizations to promote the development of child safe spaces both on- and offline. Our efforts focused on youth serving organizations, in partnership with the Y, 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America; on improving school prevention policy and physical layouts to improve safety, in partnership with MD State Delegate C. T. Wilson and the MD State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect; and improving how we communicate about child sexual abuse, in partnership with the Frameworks Institute, the National Children's Alliance, and Prevent Child Abuse America among others.

One of our most notable wins came when, at our urging and with the support of 25 youth serving organizations, Congress added a $1,000,000 line item to the FY 2020 budget specifically to fund child sexual abuse prevention research. This funding went to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will help grow the field. We are deeply grateful to the congressional champions who made this happen.

Our 2019 symposium centered on groundbreaking policy and prevention strategies targeting child sexual abuse. Presentations highlighted the need for state and federal policies and resources, and how child sexual abuse contributes to broader issues of child maltreatment such the opioid crisis. In addition, we heard about promising prevention programs from colleagues at Stop It Now! Scotland/Lucy Faithful Foundation, Thorn, and our own Moore Center.

2019 also marked the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and I had the privilege to go to Geneva, on behalf of the Center, to present to the United Nations about the importance of shifting attention from post-incident responses to prevention and share best practices and preventive measures.

In retrospect, 2019, was a very good year! We remain ever thankful for our friends, family, partners and donors. We are so grateful for those who believe in our mission and give to the Center to ensure that we have what we need to keeping moving the needle towards the prevention of child sexual abuse. We are especially grateful for the vision and continuous, generous financial support from Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Julia Moore. Together with our allies, we will continue to work towards our vision of childhoods free from sexual abuse.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth
About The Moore Center

Our Mission
The Mission of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse is to prevent sexual abuse against children from happening in the first place. Through robust research, education, communication, advocacy, and policy efforts, we create change.

Our Vision
Our vision is a world without child sexual abuse. At the Moore Center, we know this kind of abuse is preventable, not inevitable, which is why our work centers on developing strong prevention strategies. We believe that everyone shares the responsibility for prevention, and everyone benefits when children remain safe from abuse.

Our Strategy
The RECAP Framework: Five fundamental and universal steps applied to public health challenges across the US and around the world:

- **Research** to advance the primary prevention of child sexual abuse, including the development and rigorous evaluation of prevention interventions;
- **Educate** policymakers, funders, advocates, educators, health and social service practitioners, media, parents and other stakeholders, to deliver the message that child sexual abuse prevention is both essential and achievable;
- **Communicate** clear, unbiased, objective information on all aspects of child sexual abuse, including victimization, perpetration and prevention;
- **Advocate** for resources and support for evidence-based policies and practices that prevent child sexual abuse;
- **Policy** efforts that support a public health approach to child sexual abuse prevention.
From The Moore Center Team

What does the Moore Center do and what do you want the general public to know?

“How committed we are to the prevention of child sexual abuse; not only does our work entail efforts to prevent child sexual abuse, but we are working on development of effective messaging strategies to use with the public to encourage quicker and more widespread acknowledgment that child sexual abuse IS a preventable public health problem.”

— Rebecca Fix, PhD, Assistant Scientist and Assistant Professor

“We are a research center positioned within the #1 School of Public Health in the country. We look at ways to prevent child sexual abuse and we do that by developing and testing interventions that work with folks that have expressed an attraction to young children. Many have not acted out on this urge.”

— Meghan Napolitano, MSW, Associate Director of Development

“I want people to know that we are trying to create effective, accessible resources and programs for friends and family members of people struggling with atypical sexual attractions. It is important for those people experiencing these challenges to get the therapeutic care they need. There are now data-based prevention interventions to help and support. There is no need for them to live in isolation.”

— Reshmi Nair, PhD, Assistant Scientist and Lead Statistician
Growth

Our vision is a world without child sexual abuse.

Grants Awarded or Ongoing in 2019

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant for the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy. **Evaluating child sexual abuse prevention strategies within youth serving organizations.** Awarded in July, the main goal of this project is to evaluate the effects of youth serving organizations’ modern child sexual abuse prevention efforts on youth safety. Specifically, the Center aims to develop and validate a novel survey to assess the impact of YSO CSA prevention efforts.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Injury Center award CE002947, 2018-2022: **A National Evaluation of Medicaid Expansion on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Youth Violence, and Intimate Partner Violence.** This project, in collaboration with CDC, looks at the role of Medicaid Expansion Policy on the prevention on multiple forms of violence: Child abuse and Neglect, Youth Violence, and Intimate Partner Violence. We are using administrative data including the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to source outcome data on reports of child abuse and neglect, state juvenile justice data sets to source outcome data on youth violence, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to source outcome data on youth violence and intimate partner violence. The study results will advance understanding of what works to prevent violence in low-income communities and will be particularly relevant to policymakers’ decisions on this program. We have finished compiling the NCANDS data and are currently analyzing them. We have also received most of the state juvenile justice data and are currently compiling the data. We are also starting to gather and prepare the NIBRS data.

- Awarded in February 2019, a grant from Together for Girls was awarded to evaluate factors associated with the perpetration of sexual violence against children. Using Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) data,
this project leverages and builds on our partnership with DC-based Together for Girls. In collaboration with CDC, TfG have conducted surveys in a dozen low-and-middle income countries to estimate prevalence incidence and circumstances surrounding child sexual, physical, and emotional violence. In this study, the Moore Center will examine perpetrator characteristics from victim reports and self-perpetration reports, and identify macrosystem factors associated with abuse, including factors measured at individual, family, and community level.

- **The US Center for SafeSport** project focuses on understanding who is listed on the US Center for SafeSport’s centralized disciplinary database for sexual misconduct (by gender, sport, geographic location) and how users and stakeholders perceive the US Center for SafeSport’s centralized disciplinary database. The team garnered the first round of data and is moving into Phase II. The Moore Center team is collaborating with the IRB to interview people about their experiences with the US Center for SafeSport and their sexual misconduct registry database.

- **Changing the Paradigm: CSA as a Preventable Public Health Problem**, is a 5-year collaborative project (2018-2023) focused on developing effective communication strategies to convey that child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable. We are collaborating with several partners, including the Frameworks Institute, National Children’s Alliance, Prevent Child Abuse America, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, CARES Institute, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and individual collaborators with expertise in child sexual abuse, journalism and government policy.
Team Expansion

In 2019, the Moore Center welcomed several new talented members to the team:

Robert Durr, MS, MPH  
*Research Data Manager*

Cynthia Gutierrez-White, MS  
*Director of Communications*

Ilona Laurinaityte, PhD  
*Visiting Associate Professor*

Ericka Muempfer, MA  
*Research Associate*

Sharing Our Mission

In 2019, the Moore Center team had the privilege of traveling around the world to share the importance of research and prevention strategies to keep children safe from harm.

Noteworthy speaking engagements include:

**Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau** was invited to speak on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. There she delivered her “Child sexual abuse perpetration can be prevented: The time has come to enact effective prevention efforts” talk to high praise.
Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau and Amanda Ruzicka presented preliminary outcomes of the RBYC pilot study at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers annual conference in Atlanta, GA.

Ms. Amanda Ruzicka presented the RBYC prevention intervention at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s annual conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Luciana Assini-Meytin presented her research on the long-term consequences of child sexual abuse on socioeconomic outcomes at the Society for Prevention Research 27th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Luciana Assini-Meytin was invited to present Abuso Sexual infantil: Estratégias de Prevenção [Child sexual abuse: Prevention strategies] at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil.

Impact

Child Sexual Abuse: A Public Health Perspective
Annual Symposium

The 2019 symposium centered on groundbreaking policy and prevention strategies targeting child sexual abuse. Our speakers highlighted current policy and prevention strategies that are being used in the US and beyond to shift the landscape toward the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Speakers included:
- Detective Robert A. Shilling, Retired – Head of Crimes Against Children – INTERPOL
- Detective Sergeant John Linton, Assistant Commander, MD State Police, Criminal Enforcement Division, Technical Investigation Section
- Stuart Allardyce, StopItNow! Scotland/Lucy Faithful Foundation
- Melissa Stroebel, Senior Program Manager, Thorn
Research

School-based prevention – With funding from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, we have created a middle-school prevention program designed to teach students how to interact responsibly with younger children and their peers. The results of a small pilot study to test the initial outcomes of this curriculum are promising. Relative to before receiving the curriculum, 6th and 7th grades students self-reported increased levels of knowledge and skills that may help keep them safe from engaging younger children in inappropriate, harmful, and/or illegal sexual behaviors. We are currently working on designing a larger randomized controlled trial to further test this curriculum.

Online prevention – Our Help Wanted Prevention Intervention, development of which was funded in part by RALIANCE and The HAND Foundation, is an online prevention intervention for individuals with an attraction to younger children. We are currently developing additional content for family and friends of individuals with a sexual interest in younger children and for professionals who work with these individuals. The goal of this intervention is to provide people with the tools to live happy and healthy lives free of offending.

Prevention within Youth-Serving Organizations – Bloomberg American Health Initiative: Preventing child sexual abuse in the context of national youth serving organizations. This initiative, in collaboration with four national youth serving organizations (4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA), consisted of a study to index existing practice and compare it with best-practice guidelines to prevent and address child sexual abuse in organizational settings. In 2019, the Center finalized the in-depth qualitative analysis of 74 policies, codes of conduct, trainings, and other documents that guide our partner organizations’ child sexual abuse prevention and intervention efforts. Best practice recommendations were summarized and compared with current recommendations. It was found that our partner organizations collectively implement hundreds of distinct policies, practices, and strategies aimed at preventing, detecting, and responding to child sexual abuse. Likewise, the Center identified hundreds of distinct recommendations developed to guide these efforts. Organizational practice overlapped considerably with existing recommendations; nevertheless, the team identified opportunities to strengthen practices.
Moore Center Impact

“It was a great, positive experience,” is how Ms. Allegra Thomas, Baltimore City, middle school teacher, described the Moore Center’s Responsible Behavior with Young Children curriculum.

Developed in 2016 by the Moore Center, in collaboration with Dr. Cindy Schaeffer, associate professor, University of Maryland, and Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, professor and associate dean for research and faculty development, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia, RBYC is a classroom-based prevention program designed to prevent the onset of child sexual abuse perpetration in adolescents. The ten-session program was designed to be engaging, fun and teach adolescents the information and tools they need to avoid making mistakes when interacting with younger children.

“We had just completed our sex-ed curriculum when we embarked on the RBYC course,” explained Ms. Thomas. “Over the series of sessions, Marcus Nole and Christina Knepper (group leaders from the Moore Center) would engage in activities to our students. The kids looked forward to it.”

When asked if she would recommend the RBYC curriculum to other middle-school educators, Ms. Thomas said, “They should go for it! It was engaging and informative, an asset and supplement to any curriculum. It is very important for children to know the difference between healthy and unhealthy behavior toward younger children and peers. I whole heartedly encourage other teachers to do it.”

– Allegra Thomas
Middle School Teacher, Baltimore City
Dedicated Team

What to do you enjoy about working at the Moore Center?

“I love the people I work with. I really like our team and the mission of the Center. I know my work contributes to that mission.” — Luciana Assini Meytin, PhD, Assistant Scientist

“Everyone is so thoughtful and kind, and I feel hopeful about the work we are doing with the team that we have. It is really hard to make people imagine that prevention is possible, but we’re making huge strides in that area because of the genuine kindness from the Moore Center team.” — Amanda Ruzicka, MA, Director of Research Operations and Senior Research Associate

“I enjoy the relationships within the team and the fact that I am able to explore interventions with schools, be innovative, do my best work and feel valued. Also, working at the Moore Center has made me more empathetic and a better therapist.” — Christina Knepper, LCSW-C, Research Assistant

“I enjoy the various responsibilities my position offers and the research projects we do. One of my favorite projects is the RBYC because of the impact it has on the community and its diverse populations. These projects open the doors of conversation to talk about the prevention of child sexual abuse.” — Ericka Muempfer, MA, Research Associate

Advocacy and Government Affairs Milestones

In collaboration with CRD Associates, Dr. Letourneau and the Moore Center successfully advocated for the federal government to include $1,000,000 for child sexual abuse prevention research, beginning in fiscal year 2020. This funding is historic – there has never before been a line item dedicated to child sexual prevention research. Dozens of individuals and organizations collaborated in this effort, advocating for $10,000,000. While we started out with much less, we were thrilled to see this new funding – to go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division on Violence Prevention – and we will continue to advocate for the full $10,000,000.

This funding is historic.
Media Visibility

In 2019, the Moore Center staff was interviewed, and research was cited in a variety of media outlets.

January 2019
*The Economist Intelligence Unit: Out of the Shadows – Shining Light on the Response to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation*

*Psychology Today: Can improved health care access reduce sexual violence?*

February 2019
*The Sentinel: Kids in Cuffs: Reaching back in time to charge adults for youth offenses*

Spring 2019
*Hopkins Bloomberg Public Health Magazine: Preventable Harm – 3 Questions for Elizabeth Letourneau, PhD, MA*

June 2019
*Rolling Stone Magazine: Alabama Sex Offender Bill: What is Chemical Castration and Why is it so Controversial?*

August 2019
*Vice News: The men who call themselves non-offending pedophiles*

*Ms.Magazine.com Beyond the Breakthrough: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in the Classroom*

September 2019
*The Hill: We spend billions after child sexual abuse happens and nothing to prevent it.* This online opinion editorial was shared over 1,900 times.

*The Appeal: Alabama Sex Offender Registry is Cruel and Unusual Punishment for Teenagers, Lawsuit Argues*

November 2019
*Psychology Today: Child sexual abuse perpetration can be prevented*
Thanking Our Generous Supporters

Donors & Funding

In an increasingly competitive funding environment, private philanthropy remains critical to the mission of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. Our donors are a crucial component in allowing the Center to move our research forward. In addition to the generous financial gift by Dr. and Mrs. Moore and the numerous grants received, we raised $106,225 in private contributions. This is our most successful fundraising year to date and would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. We are grateful for the support of our donors who support our cutting-edge research and appreciate our public health approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Moore Center Benefactors
Dr. Stephen Moore MD, MPH and Mrs. Julia Moore*

Moore Center Donors
Alexander T. Daignault, Jr.*
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Michael Klag MD, MPH and Lucy Meoni*
Sara C. Woodward
Sara Fulton and Michael Roberts
Scott L. Schneider
The Daignault Family Foundation*
The HAND Foundation*
*Indicates gifts of $1,000 or more
Why I Donate To The Moore Center

Her name is Sara and she works as a staff member at the Johns Hopkins University’s Homewood campus. One of the things the Baltimore native enjoys doing is attending the various events across campus to learn more about what the university is doing and to connect with students, staff, faculty and alumni. It was at one of these events in 2019 that she heard Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau present and learned about the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

“I was impressed with Elizabeth and how she spoke,” said Sara. “She was charismatic, and direct in stating the issues regarding the sensitive topic of child sexual abuse. She challenged us to look at the topic from a different perspective. I learned so much that day; I knew I had to attend the upcoming Moore Center’s symposium to learn more.”

But it was also Sara’s interest in public health and her own family’s trauma with sexual abuse that led her to want to learn more about how to regard the prevention of child sexual abuse from a public health perspective.

“My grandfather was abused as a child by a clergy member. At the time, no one talked about sexual abuse, and when it was spoken, the conversation was around shame,” explained Sara. “But what makes the Moore Center so unique, is that they address the topic, one that is normally regarded as taboo, in a respectful way. The Center creates a safe space based on respect and allows people to dialogue openly.”

And it’s important because Sara knows that child sexual abuse is prevalent: “Everyone knows someone with a relevant experience of trauma and the affects it has on a whole person’s health – the physical ramifications and mental health. This is why conversation around sexual abuse prevention is a significant step forward in the right direction. Especially preventive measures and interventions for those that have inclinations toward children and have not acted on them.”

Sara agrees that this topic will never be an easy one to discuss, but communication is key because so much can be done, especially in the field of prevention.

“I wanted to be part of the Moore Center story and decided to give what I could,” said the first-time donor. “This topic needs more leaders, more support to help the conversation and that is something all donors can do.”

Sara W. -First-Time Donor 2019
Additional Sources of Financial Support

Grant Awards

We regularly apply for grants from the federal government and national and international foundations that support our mission and research. Below are grants awarded in 2019 or continuing into 2020.

- Oak Foundation Planning Grant – Feb. 2020
- Bloomberg American Health Initiative and the Urban Health Institute – January 2020
- Bunting Neighborhood Leadership Program – January 2020
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – August 2019
- HAND Foundation – March 2019
- Together for Girls – March 2019
Moore Center Leadership

Scientific Advisory Board

Our Scientific Advisory Board members are charged with helping to identify knowledge gaps and prioritize areas where Center resources can achieve the greatest impact. We are so grateful for their service.

- **Karen Baker**, director of the National Violence Resource Center. Ms. Baker currently serves as the director for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and as a board member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

- **Esther Deblinger**, co-director, Child Abuse Research Education and Service Institute (CARES), and professor, School of Osteopathic Medicine, Rowan University. Dr. Deblinger obtained her PhD from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and has conducted extensive clinical research examining the impact and treatment of childhood PTSD and related difficulties.

- **David Finkelhor**, director, Crimes Against Children Research Center, co-director, Family Research Laboratory, and professor of Sociology, University of New Hampshire. Dr. Finkelhor has studied the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977.

- **Andrea Gielen**, director, Center for Injury Research and Policy, and professor in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Gielen’s research interests are in the development and evaluation of community- and clinic-based programs that address health behavior problems affecting women and children, primarily among low-income families in urban areas.

- **James A. Mercy**, acting director, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Dr. Mercy’s current position, he is responsible for Division of Violence Prevention research and outreach programs addressing violence globally.

- **Michael Seto**, director, Forensic Research Unit, Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research, director of Forensic Rehabilitation Research, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, and adjunct professor, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Carleton University, University of Ottawa.