Fall conference to focus on Child Abuse, Neglect and Sex Trafficking

Child abuse, neglect and commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of young people domestically and abroad robs them of basic liberties, the utmost being a carefree childhood. The Center is on the heels of a very important study being released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center (MSAHC) is hosting a two-day conference to release and address the findings of The Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Minors study.

The study will examine current approaches of addressing the problem at the local, state and federal levels and investigate the cause and consequences of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors for both victims and offenders.

The reports on this study will provide vital information for discussion on policy, research and the need for effective practice in working with adolescents impacted by abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation.

The goal of the conference is to bring attention to the reports findings, as well as, awareness, education and practical strategies, opportunities for collaboration and resources for those working with youth.

“I can’t begin to stress the importance of such a lengthy and in-depth study and why it matters. My staff deals with these issues daily and with the prevalence of abuse, neglect and exploitation of our young people the time to address this problem is now. Our conference is a must attend for any professional working with children and teens. These heinous acts against the most innocent have got to be stopped and the only way to do so is to educate and empower ourselves,” said Dr. Diaz, Director of the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center.

The conference will be held on October 3 & 4, 2013 at The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

For conference updates and for more information, please visit the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center website.

Dr. Diaz receives awards from ACS and Citizen’s Union

In May, Dr. Diaz was honored for her dedication to working and keeping the city’s youngest and most vulnerable healthy and fit.

She received the Child Advocacy Award from Administration for Children’s Service (ACS) Commissioner Ronald Richter. The award honors New Yorkers who work to keep children safe.

“I am extremely proud and happy to be honored, but my efforts to forge new business partnerships and ensure the highest level of care for the children and teens doesn’t stop, “said Diaz.

Dr. Diaz also received an award from Citizen’s Union, an organization the works to ensure democracy is working for all New Yorkers. She was honored at the Spring for Reform reception.

These awards come at a momentous time as Dr. Diaz celebrates her 25th anniversary at the Center.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Half way into this eventful year and we at the Center are making great strides with fantastic programming and fundraising to benefit our young people and the community at large. What makes this year eventful is the 45th anniversary of the Center, 10 years of the annual breakfast fundraiser and personally, celebrating 25 years of managing the Center and growing the brand and our services.

Additionally, our staff is busy planning and finalizing details for the Breakfast of Legends, the conference focused on child abuse and neglect and sexual exploitation of youth and preparing for the NYC marathon following a hiatus after last year’s deadly superstorm. Also, in the fall we will welcome several social work and psychology graduate interns to the Center, a first in years.

In my twenty-five years, I’ve seen a lot, experienced a lot and learned a lot. I don’t think we all understand the difficulties of being a young person in New York City. But, I do know that the Center has saved quite a few teens from what would have been their demise. And, it saved me. Picture this, a young girl immigrating to the States from the Dominican Republic and finding refuge in a two story building and a doctor many called a miracle worker—the late Dr. Joan Morgenthau, founder of the Center. She gave me hope and vision and as director, I am picking up where she left off. I have been giving the honor to serve the children and share the same message of hope Dr. Morgenthau told me. I aspire to lead and grow the Center for another quarter-century. We all joke around, giving very little significance to numbers such as 45, 25 and 10, but when you consider the number of patients served and lives saved it becomes a testament to your unyielding support in our mission, efforts and Mount Sinai’s commitment to providing outstanding care and personalization. Throughout the summer we encourage you to schedule a tour and get to know our staff and the services we offer. And, please bring a friend or friends during your visit. Help us spread the message and our commitment to keeping young people “healthy, happy and safe.”

Please join and support us in what is sure to be a memorable 45th anniversary.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angela Diaz

A message from Dr. Angela Diaz

Being a child only comes once in a lifetime, but being a healthy child sets him/her up to see the rest of life.

Please contribute...

https://philanthropy.mountsinai.org/ahc
FREE eyeglasses on site!

If you are a caregiver and your child has been told he or she needs glasses, it can be a costly affair. An average family can spend thousands of dollars a year on vision care, especially when glasses are constantly broken, lost, or stolen.

After a waiting period of three years, the Center has received the last certification necessary to be able to provide optical services onsite.

Cohen’s Fashion Optical will provide free eye exams and glasses in the Center’s newly built optical center just in time for summer and the coming school year.

For more information including the official open date of the eye center, check out the website or call 212.423.3000.

UPCOMING

Breakfast of Legends turns 10!

Center staff are in the midst of planning the annual Breakfast of Legends. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the fundraiser.

The Breakfast is Tuesday, October 15 from 7:30 am to 9 am at the Plaza Hotel.

WABC-TV Channel 7’s Health Reporter Dr. Sapna Parikh will emcee for the second time. Funds raised at the Breakfast will help the Center meet its goal to serve 15,000 patients annually by 2015, while sustaining and enhancing our services.

This year the Center will honor the following legends: Malva Rabinowitz, Steve Abrams and Family; Michael A. Rothschild, MD; Truda Cleeves Jewett and the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center Security Team.

“We are elated to celebrate 10 years of the annual Breakfast and hope to see another 10 years of supporting such a critical resource [MSAHC] in our community for our young people,” said Tamara Ehlin, Development Manager and Breakfast Organizer.

Tickets and tables are on sale now and can be purchased at https://philanthropy.mountsinai.org/breakfastoflegends

Young Professionals host cocktail fundraiser

Support for young people in need is coming from the generation in front of them—The Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center Young Professionals Group.

The group is hosting a summer cocktail party. Members invite you to celebrate summer’s arrival with an open bar, hors’ d’oeuvres and a silent auction in the company of other young professionals. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Center.

The cocktail party is Thursday, June 20, at 8 p.m. at Alison 18 in Manhattan’s lower West Side. Tickets are $100. To get your tickets, please contact Tamara Ehlin at tamara.ehlin@mountsinai.org or click on the link https://philanthropy.mountsinai.org/youngprofessionals_register

Join us and network with like-minded individuals who live out the quote “You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give”

—Winston Churchill

Members of MSAHC Young Professionals Group pose with Dr. Diaz.
Meet me at the finish line: Running for better health

A team of eight is taking their support for adolescent health to the concrete by facing up their sneakers for a major running event. Team “Run for Teens” and Dr. Diaz, will participate for the fourth time in the ING NYC marathon on Sunday, November 3, to help raise funds for the Center. Although training for any marathon is grueling, Dr. Diaz and her fellow runners are extremely dedicated and determined to help the city’s young people.

Running 26.2 miles through several boroughs and bridges is no easy feat, but the team is confident that they will get the task done.

For every $1,000 the team raises, the Center will be able to provide a full year of care to one young person. The MSAHC is beyond grateful to have a group of volunteers to run for our cause and people who are willing to donate.

Help us reach our $100,000 goal, by clicking on the link and pledging your support: http://www.crowdrise.com/teammountsinaimedicalnyc2013/fundraiser/angeladiaz.

Project IMPACT hosts HIV/AIDS conference

HIV/AIDS places a heavy burden on those it effects, but when teens are faced with the same health crisis it adds a level of complexity, and that is when Project IMPACT steps in and provides a safe haven.

Project IMPACT provides a vital service to a small demographic of young people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Services include comprehensive medical and mental health counseling and all services are especially designed with people coping with HIV/AIDS. The program is funded by the NY State AIDS Institute, a state run organization that promotes health through disease surveillance and quality prevention, health care and support for those impacted by HIV, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, viral hepatitis and related health problems.

Last month, Project Impact’s staff held the first of two conferences for the year. This one focused on “Working with Children/Adolescents with or affected by HIV/AIDS.” Olivia Ford, Executive Editor of TheBody.com, presented the latest news and issues. Dr. Natalie Humphrey, PhD of Columbia University provided insight to the mental health and behavioral aspects of the virus.

“Our young people show tremendous courage and strength in dealing with the disease,” said Michael Nemhard, Project Impact Program Coordinator. Currently there are about 75 teens registered in the program. The team of seven, consisting of a medical doctor, social workers and support staff, meet the demands of patients head on. Most of the patients the team helps are between the ages of 11 to 25 years old.

In contrast to national statistics in which African-American women are disproportionately infected with the disease, Nemhard says in adolescents it is the 15-25 demographic within African-American and Latino young men that is infected at alarming rates becoming a cause for concern.

“Young people who are HIV positive can still be great students and parents. They still need our support like any other child or teen,” said Nemhard.

Nembhard adds that the greatest challenge with some of the young people is following up with appointments, medication and preventative services.

Our program is focused on growth. “We want to help HIV positive teens get what they need to live long healthy lives. We provide much needed support and present new and innovative information focused on teens to communities,” said Nemhard.
Dr. Diaz shares the business of medicine with BMCC students

The business of medicine was the focus of a panel conversation at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) in April. Dr. Diaz and Dr. Aletha Maybank, Assistant Commissioner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shared their experiences in medicine and its correlation to business. Dr. Diaz and Dr. Maybank gave tips and suggestions to those interested in going into the healthcare profession and answered questions ranging from “Obamacare” to the necessary components for running a non-profit. Dr. Diaz also shared information about the Center and its services. “It was a privilege to spend the afternoon with such an intelligent and eager group of students. I was looking at future leaders in medicine.” Moreover, the business within medicine is a very lucrative and rewarding field that incorporates hospitals, health insurance companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers and more,” said Dr. Diaz.

Author Lewis Kostiner celebrates Fatherhood

A father is without a doubt essential to child rearing and development and a critical component to a stable home. Fathers play an essential in the home, as well as, society and beyond.

Lewis Kostiner, a photographer from Chicago, explores the role of a father in his latest project, Choosing Fatherhood: America’s Second Chance. In April, Kostiner came to the Center to talk about his book, a selection of photographs he took while meeting with families from his travels. The men featured in the book are members of the National Fatherhood Initiative, a movement aimed at trying to reconnect fathers with their children. During the event, Kostiner described his original idea for the book, the experiences he had as he traveled the country and the revelations that occurred to him as he witnessed fathers from all over the nation rejoining their children’s lives. Poignant and deeply moving, Choosing Fatherhood: America’s Second Chance captures not only paternal love, but also the touching appreciation both child and father have for each other.

Goldman Sachs volunteers host Career Day workshop

In June, Goldman Sachs employees prepared over 40 teens and young adults (16-22) with tools for life at a workshop.

Goldman Sachs employees helped the young people write resumes, practice interviewing skills in mock interviews, gave insight on how to pay for college and provided personal advice on their experiences.

This is just one of many programs provided by the Center and its supporters to help young people succeed beyond the classroom. If your company is interested in hosting a workshop that benefits our teen and young adult population, please contact Tamara Ehlin at tamar.ehlin@mountsinai.org.

Did you know?

According to a study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2006, 1.7 million college students had no health insurance.
Keeping up with the happenings of the Center got a lot easier thanks to Mount Sinai’s web team. The Center’s website got a much needed facelift.

This is just one of many updates to come. Center development management is working to make the website a one-stop-shop for both patients and supporters.

The brand new website was unveiled in March and offers a clean and easy to use interface with the latest information in regards to services, appointments and etc.

Please bookmark the website, like the Center on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. http://www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/adolescent-health-center

“Women in the World” features Dr. Diaz

Being a woman on the move, running a health center while educating medical students is a never ending job, but Dr. Diaz does it all with ease.

Dr. Diaz was recently recognized by The Daily Beast (Newsweek) as a “Woman in the World” for her commitment to adolescent health. The feature story gave readers a condensed version of Dr. Diaz’s story from immigrant to the Center’s director and the struggles facing young people today.

“To pursue their dreams, and do what you want to do. The path will be there. Also to get into a profession or job that brings you joy. And also to always try and help the next person. If we help each other then we have a much better chance of being successful and we will have a better society,” said Dr. Diaz when asked to share advice for women venturing into medicine.

The annual feature is part of a bigger project that works to advance girls and women around the world.

To view the entire story, visit http://womenintheworld.org/stories/entry/keep-trying-and-never-give-up-dr.-angela-diaz-wont-rest-till-every-kid-has

Supporters of the Center shopped until they dropped at Saks Fifth Avenue’s flagship store in April. Ten percent of the evening’s proceeds went to support the Center’s ongoing pledge to provide quality healthcare and programs for young people. The ladies enjoyed a fashion show preview of the Elie Tahari spring collection and cocktails. “Your being here tonight is more than just shopping for the latest, but putting our children first. Every cent matters,” said Dr. Diaz.

Dr. Diaz addresses supporters of the Center at shopping event.

Shopping for a cause at Saks

Check out new the site!

The brand new website was unveiled in March and offers a clean and easy to use interface with the latest information in regards to services, appointments and etc.