



Margaret Mack leaves behind a legacy at the Clifford W. Beers Clinic focused on helping children in need.



Children who witness violence or experience trauma in their lives are more likely to encounter problems in adulthood.

Domestic and community violence, incarceration or death of a parent, physical or sexual abuse—these are all things that can change a child’s life and increase the risk of mental illness.

Approximately 70% of Connecticut’s kids passing through the doors of the Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic report at least one harmful exposure or traumatic loss in their childhood. Fortunately, the Clinic is equipped to deal with these issues, which are largely invisible to many in the community,

and to prevent further exposure if possible.

“Trauma and violence crosses all demographics and economic status,” says Dr. Alice Forrester, the Executive Director of Clifford Beers Clinic. The facility is one of the nation’s oldest mental health outpatient community-based clinics and is named for a man who is largely recognized as the father of the mental health movement in the U.S. In 1900, Clifford Beers developed a mental illness which required hospitalization for 3 years in a sanitarium. He witnessed and was subject to unspeakable acts of cruelty

and prejudice. Because there were so few treatments at the turn of the century, mentally ill individuals were incarcerated—treated as if they were criminals. Beers made it his mission to change that.

The Clinic has always been ahead of the curve. Its health records are now in electronic format, making for easier access to important information about families. The new system also guarantees faster payment from insurance companies and makes the process of aggregating data used for public advocacy more efficient.

PICTURED TOP:
Margaret Mack



The Clinic has also strengthened its financial health and long-term sustainability. In 1999, it established an organization endowment at The Foundation, to augment its own endowment which was initiated in 1988 by long-time supporter Susan W. Crosby. Today, it's embarking on a campaign to raise its endowment to \$10 million by its 100th anniversary.

Still, gaps between the cost for services and funding continue to pose concerns, especially as budgets are tight. The Clinic has seen an increase of 500 new clients a year, with particular growth within the Latino community.

"Clifford Beers is like any other nonprofit that depends, to great extent, on contracts with the state," says Board member Beverly Hodgson. "In this economy, we are all hoping the state will be wise and see that there is a need for these services. The risk to do horrendous damage is too great without them."

To guard against state budget cuts, Beverly and two other former Board members have made a commitment to support the Clinic through donor advised and designated funds at The Foundation. Such private donations ensure that the Clinic can cover its operational and programmatic costs from year to year.

Margaret Mack, a Clifford Beers Board member for over 15 years, established a donor advised fund at The Foundation, which granted \$100,000 for immediate use upon her death in 2006. Per her wishes, her fund has now become designated to benefit the Clifford W. Beers Clinic and other organizations.

"Margaret was a woman who spoke her mind," recalls Barbara Strauss, the Director of Development at Clifford Beers who has been tasked with leading its endowment campaign. "She was serious about helping individuals in need, offering her time and financial assistance whenever possible. She was a dear

Giving through a CGA allows Dr. Bornstein and his wife Maureen to make a generous gift to their community, while providing an income source that can be counted on for the rest of their lives. A permanent endowment will be created after their deaths that makes annual distributions to designated charities.

"I feel very strongly that The Foundation is doing a wonderful job at being a fiduciary agent for local nonprofits," says Harold, a graduate of Yale's School of Medicine and semi-retired pediatrician who practiced in North Haven for 41 years. "The Foundation's 80-year



Art therapy is used to help children who have been exposed to violence express their feelings.

Margaret Mack established a fund for the Clifford W. Beers Clinic which is one of the nation's oldest mental health outpatient community-based clinics and named for a man who is largely recognized as the father of the mental health movement in the U.S.

friend and is missed by everyone at the Clinic."

Dr. Harold Bornstein, a Clifford Beers Board member who served in the 1970s, has also taken measures to support the Clinic through two charitable gift annuities (CGA) at The Foundation. One will be used to make a gift to the Clinic's Endowment Fund; the other to make a one-time gift for immediate use.

track record also makes me feel more comfortable." The Bornsteins have multiple CGAs with other organizations and 4 more established through The Foundation that will benefit New Haven Home Recovery, the United Way of Greater New Haven and LEAP.

There are several other funds at The Foundation that have given financial aid to

Clifford Beers, including: the George Mixter Fund (est. 1977); the Sam Gingold Fund (est. 1972); the Community Fund for Women & Girls (est. 1995); the Anne Hope Bennett Fund (est. 1943); and the Crippled Children's Aid Society Fund (est. 1986).