



FELLOWSHIPS *for* SOCIAL CHANGE



We've always believed that every child, whatever their circumstance, deserves the chance to grow up healthy, well-educated and safe. We were fortunate to be raised in family environments that valued integrity, fairness and respect for all individuals and we worked to instill these values in our children. Because of these core beliefs, we have supported a number of organizations and programs over the years that have the same interests in helping underserved youth. To move this commitment even further, we created a new foundation that allows us to do even more in this field since we believe there are still many vulnerable children and youth who deserve a chance to thrive.

Stoneleigh Center was created to fund ideas, people and organizations that are dedicated to discovering and testing innovative approaches that will open new doors for today's most vulnerable children and youth – giving them a better chance to become successful, productive adults. We are proud to be able to support the dedication and life-changing work of individuals who have a vision for a better world and a future for so many young people.

*Sincerely,
John and Chara Haas*



*Stoneleigh Center
is named for the Haas home
in Villanova, Pennsylvania.*

RESEARCH



STONELEIGH CENTER is a foundation that invests in people – those with ideas, vision and passion to improve the quality of life for children and youth who don't have the means, environment or capacity to thrive in today's complicated and frequently unjust society. We not only invest in people who conduct research or test approaches – we're also investing in the child, the teenager, the young adult who we hope prospers because of our support. But it doesn't stop there. We recognize that we must also fund initiatives that affect policy so systems actually change at the core. And we also realize that to make a significant impact that is far-reaching, we must build partnerships with other organizations that have similar goals.

Poverty, strained human services and education systems, and outdated public policies have created a number of obstacles and barriers for children and youth who have few resources and limited support. It is our goal – through Stoneleigh Center initiatives, projects and fellows – to decrease the number of those barriers by supporting some of the country's most innovative thinkers and doers – pioneers – who are driven to find new ways to help those in need, and to change or update public policies that prevent youth from becoming happy, healthy and productive adults.

Our strategy focuses on three vital systems that serve vulnerable populations – child welfare, education and juvenile justice. Most of our support is given to experienced professionals who work as fellows – both independently and within the system they seek to change. Their work provides evidence that ideas, research and advocacy ultimately have a ripple effect that helps improve the health, well-being and future of young people.

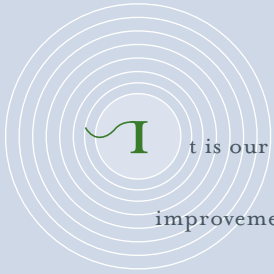
POLICY

PRACTICE

MISSION

To help serve the needs of our country's most vulnerable and underserved children and youth, Stoneleigh Center is committed to supporting talented practitioners, researchers and policymakers to develop and test new ideas and approaches that will improve the well-being and future for young people with the greatest needs.

STONELEIGH CENTER FELLOWS HELP US FULFILL OUR MISSION AND MEET OUR GOALS.



It is our intention to unite the research of our Stoneleigh Fellows with policy change and practice improvement. If policies are updated, enhanced, or created with the support of our research and other institutions and individuals, we believe that we can improve practice in the field and the quality of life in our communities so all children and youth have the capacity, support and skills to seek a successful future.

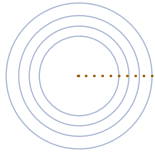
Candidates for Stoneleigh Fellows might be mid- to senior-level practitioners in youth- or family-serving organizations or systems. They may also be seasoned policy makers, analysts, or researchers working in nonprofit, government or academic institutions. Candidates must have a network or system of support from their professional life that they can integrate into their Stoneleigh Fellowship.

We seek individuals who have a track record of advocating in the three areas we target; who have knowledge, contacts and organizational and system support that help to affect policy and improve practice; who have demonstrated ability to design and lead system reform; and who have passion and innovation to achieve results for vulnerable children.

In addition to Stoneleigh Fellows, we also support a new generation of leaders. Through our Junior Fellowship program, we support recent college graduates with an interest in social policy and practice. Junior Fellows work one year in the Philadelphia region with an organization in the public or nonprofit sector. This program gives the junior fellow a unique experience for career development, and provides the social service organization with an opportunity to engage in a policy or research initiative that can enhance their programming.

{ For specific information about the application process, criteria and timeline,
please visit our web site www.stonleighcenter.org. }

FELLOWSHIP GRANTMAKING-



STONELEIGH PROVIDES FELLOWSHIPS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO:
seek solutions to current problems in public systems — child welfare, education and juvenile justice.

As we award grants, we consider how a cross-disciplinary approach can help us achieve a synergy among our Fellows. This synergistic approach is similar to how puzzles are completed – putting many pieces together to finally see the big picture. We’re featuring examples of how we’re getting to that big picture and creating synergies across our three focus areas.

CHILD WELFARE

In its early years, Stoneleigh has funded partner institutions and fellows who address specific needs related to the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth that are directly linked to the goals of the federal and state child welfare system. Federal policy is carried out at state level where welfare agencies work to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect; are given the opportunity to live in permanent and stable living conditions; and are able to receive adequate services to meet their education, physical health and mental health needs.

While the agencies are doing the best they can with limited resources, needs are huge and continue to grow. We believe more should be done to ensure that all children and youth are served, so Stoneleigh Fellows and partner institutions are working hard to fill that gap. Two Stoneleigh Fellows are working to recommend new or enhanced approaches to the current child welfare system process to support children in substitute care.

{ **David Rubin, MD, MSCE** }

Child Welfare and Well-being.

David is conducting one of the nation’s first longitudinal studies of children in foster care specifically focused on gathering detailed information about the children’s well-being at every change of placement. His goal is to identify local service interventions that will improve continuity in school system placements for children in out of home care and ensure timely access to physical and mental health services.

{ **Christine Trinkl Dougherty, Esq.** }

Child Welfare and Well-being.

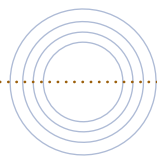
Christine is working to ensure that child well-being be made a component of system concern and court review for every child in foster care. Her goal is to develop a method by which family court judges and child advocate attorneys integrate the health and mental health needs of dependent children into everyday practice through court orders for services and case management for all children.

{ **Liza M. Rodriguez, Ph.D.** }

Child Welfare and Education.

Liza’s experience in city government, human services, nonprofits and education systems supports her work to develop a cross-system collaboration between the Philadelphia Department of Human Services and the School District to improve education outcomes for youth served by DHS. Through this cross-system effort, she is exploring how DHS can develop an Education Support Center to serve as a resource and practice bridge between DHS and the School District. Liza is Stoneleigh’s first public policy fellow.

A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY STRATEGY



→ *identify needed policy changes and disseminate research on promising programs and practices.*

EDUCATION

Today, too many children are failing or dropping out of school because they are poor, disabled, homeless, in trouble with the law, or have been neglected. Students in foster care and those in the justice system have especially high dropout rates. Children in foster care often transfer to a new school every time they change foster homes and hit walls because of inflexible rules and complicated paperwork. Stalling a student's progress, schools often refuse to accept credits for courses taken by students while in juvenile detention facilities because they do not meet local graduation requirements.

The many factors that influence a student's readiness to learn require the education system to work with other public agencies and service providers to meet the complex needs of students in their schools. Stoneleigh Fellows Candace Putter and Gregory Volz integrate the work of educators and other agencies to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable students.

{ **Candace Putter, MSW, LCSW** }

Education, Juvenile Justice and Career/Technical Training.

Candace is working across these systems to improve the education and career training offered to delinquent youth in residential detention facilities. This collaborative, cross-system, and multi-jurisdiction initiative addresses policies that prevent delinquent youth from receiving credits toward graduation for courses taken in detention placement; and improving job training in placement so students are prepared for employment once they return to their communities.

{ **Kelly Seigel, MSW** }

Education.

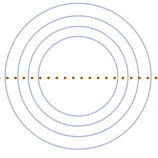
As a Junior Fellow, Kelly is working with Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), a leading children's advocacy nonprofit group, to improve school climate, safety and trust on a district-wide level in Philadelphia. Seigel's cross-sector effort that is helping to advance the implementation of "positive behavioral interventions and supports" (PBS) includes work with the School District of Philadelphia, United Way, Devereux, the Office of the Mayor, the Corporate Alliance for Drug Education and the Education Law Center.

{ **Gregory Volz, Esq.** }

Education, Juvenile Justice & Youth Development.

Through the development of school- and community-based youth courts, Greg is working across these systems to both block the "school-to-prison" pipeline and to develop a new generation of civic-minded leaders in the city of Chester, Pennsylvania. School-based courts help prevent lower levels of misconduct from escalating to more serious infractions, and community-based courts lower costs to the juvenile justice system. Both encourage leaders in the education and juvenile justice systems to work together more effectively in order to better serve the youth.

TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH



→ *improve outcomes and opportunities for disadvantaged children and youth.*

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Public safety and security are the traditional priorities of the juvenile justice system. However, the majority of youth who enter the system are likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, substance abuse problems, mental and behavioral health disorders, or learning disabilities. The odds of children and youth in this situation breaking their “in and out” cycles of violence and acting out are low because they rarely receive the assessment and treatment service they need. Conditions during incarceration tend to exacerbate mental health problems. Suicide in juvenile detention facilities is more than four times as high as the rate among youth in the general population. Juvenile detention also interrupts the education of these youth and many have difficulty returning to school or finding employment. Left unaddressed, these problems often contribute to young people re-entering the juvenile justice system for new offenses.

Stoneleigh Fellows are also working in the juvenile justice system to integrate health, education and other complex needs of young offenders into the juvenile justice system. Stoneleigh Fellows Leslie Acoca and Danielle Sered are involved in groundbreaking work in this area.

{ **Leslie Acoca, MA, MFT** }

Juvenile Justice and Health.

Leslie is working to identify and prioritize the health problems of girls as they enter detention. Her goals are to improve the health of girls in the juvenile justice system to reduce reoffending and to improve their long-term life success. She believes her model can apply to other systems of care (e.g. child welfare and homeless shelters) for use in improving the outcomes of all children in their care.

{ **Sam George, BA** }

Juvenile Justice and Education.

As Stoneleigh’s first Junior Fellow, Sam partnered with the United Way of Southeastern PA to develop a public dialogue on the roots and consequences of the code of silence in inner city Philadelphia. Using research from Sam’s college thesis on the “stop snitching” phenomenon, he partnered with the United Way to host a public forum for the city’s social services and criminal justice leaders to address the issue of violence and witness intimidation. He also partnered with Congreso de Latinos Unidos to determine if a lack of Spanish language access throughout the public education and juvenile justice systems creates a disadvantage for Latino youth and parents.

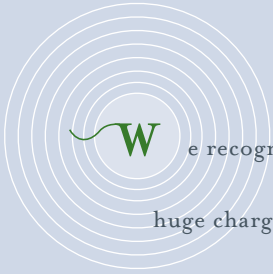
{ **Danielle Sered, MFA** }

Juvenile Justice and Allied Systems.

In collaboration with the Vera Institute of Justice, Danielle seeks to test an alternative-to-incarceration model for young people convicted of felonies, which involves dialogue with and restitution to those harmed by violence. Using conferencing and mediation, she aims to diminish the harmful effects of incarceration in cases where it does not serve the public interest, to avoid the negative and harmful experiences victims of crime may encounter in an adversarial system, and to provide a meaningful and cost-effective avenue for healing for those impacted by violence.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

IN IT FOR THE LONG TERM.



We recognize that creating change to systems that have been in place for a long time and affecting policy is a huge charge and it's not going to happen overnight. Or even after a year or two.

But we're willing to chip away at it and make a commitment to fund Stoneleigh Fellows for years to come. Not only are we in this for the long term – we hope our efforts to support innovative, forward-looking public policies will sustain children and their families over the long term and through the various stages of their lives. To achieve this, we take the “whole child” view in our work. We believe it takes a sustained effort over the whole life of the child; a sustained effort with the whole family; and a sustained effort with the wide array of public systems that serve our most vulnerable children and youth – child welfare, education, and juvenile justice.

It is our intention to create new ways to share our Fellows' work, findings and results with decision makers in the policy community, influential leaders in the fields we support, the partner organizations where our Fellows do their work and the broader community. The Internet and other new media outlets provide opportunity for broad dissemination and impact.

Please visit our web site for reports, white papers and forums that are designed to leverage our work and help to inform and influence a broad audience of people and institutions that share our goals.

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