



THE MELISSA INSTITUTE
FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2023-2024

**EDUCATING & ACTIVATING
AGENTS OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION**



Dear Friends:



The Melissa Institute's reach and impact promoting safety and mental health in our homes, schools and communities continues to grow. Today, more than 100,000 people and agencies from over 130 countries have benefited from the Institute's educational resources and training. Millions more have visited our websites for science-based knowledge to help repair our world.

This past year, the Institute shared its expertise with a broad spectrum of audiences. For example, we provided trauma-informed care training to children's court judges; bullying prevention, safety, mental health and resiliency training to Miami-Dade Public Schools counselors; and education to consulates from many Latin American countries about intimate partner violence. In addition, hundreds of mental health professionals, school psychologists and social service providers participated in our virtual Innovations in Violence Prevention & Treatment series.

In May, our 27th annual conference on How to Make Schools Safer, More Inviting and Academically More Effective had over 200 registrants from around the country and the world. We are very proud that in June, in recognition of the impactful work being done at the Institute, our Executive Director, Dr. Etiony Aldarondo, received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

All our accomplishments are possible only because of your generous financial support. This report gives you insight into the breadth and depth of our impact locally, nationally, and globally. We feel blessed by the training and scholarly contributions by our esteemed Scientific Board members. Their leadership, expertise and commitment to the Institute's mission have made us a leader in the use of science for the prevention of violence and treatment of its victims.

In these challenging times, we aspire to construct a safer and healthier world for all, using knowledge acquired from scientific research as our guide. We know that violence is preventable. As donors, you are a vital part of our success. Please donate now by using the QR code below or by visiting the Institute's website, www.melissainstitute.org, where you can also learn more about our work. With your donation, you will be ensuring that the Institute will continue to be a vital resource for you, your loved ones, your community and society for years to come. Thank you in advance for your generous donation. Together we make a difference.

Be safe and well,

Lynn Aptman, M.Ed.
Founder & President

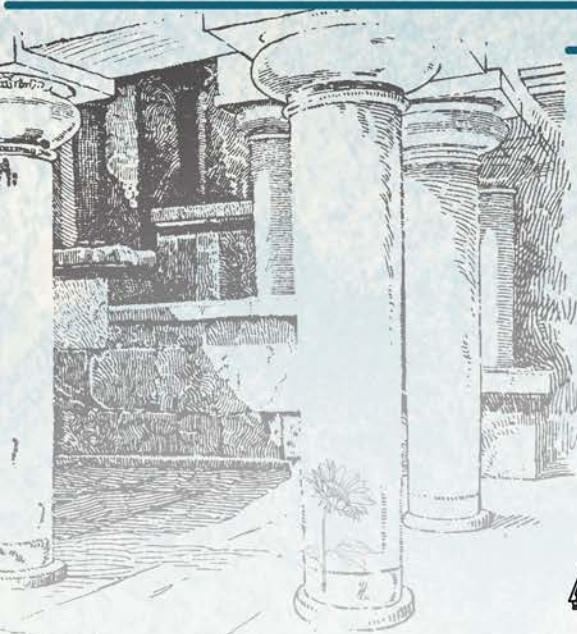
Michael Aptman, M.D.
Founder & Board Director

Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.
Executive Director



TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT MELISSAINSTITUTE.ORG/DONATE.





Leading the way to violence prevention



SINCE 1996...



THE MELISSA INSTITUTE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND FOSTERING SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT.



\$145,000+

AWARDED TO GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH

RESEARCH



100,000+

INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

EDUCATION

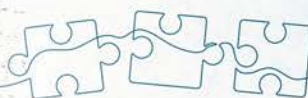
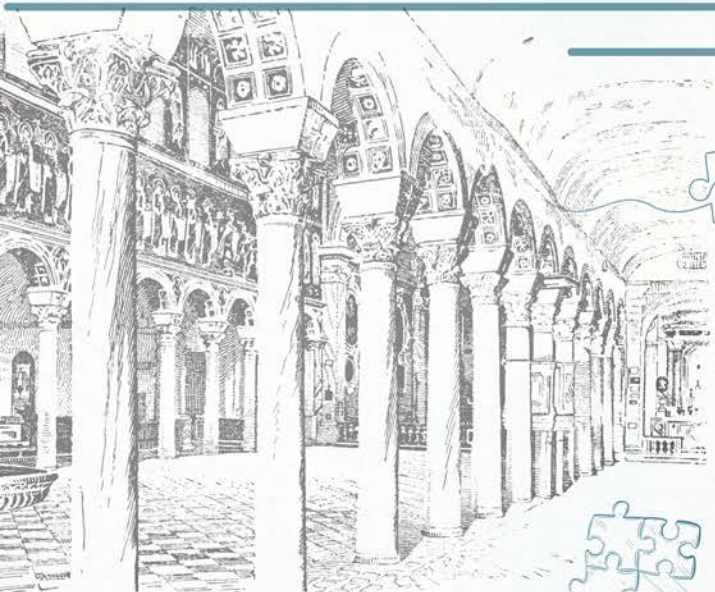


\$55,000+

AWARDED TO ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH FLORIDA

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

EDUCATING & ACTIVATING
AGENTS OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Our pillars

#RESEARCH

- Our Scientific Board members work constantly to share their state-of-the-art knowledge with our participants.
- The Melissa Institute also nurtures the careers of young scientists by awarding annual scholarships to support doctoral students' dissertation research in the field of violence prevention.



#EDUCATION

- The Institute is a primary source of research-based safety measures and mental health treatment strategies using innovative programs to bolster resilience, support parents and caregivers, equip people with tools to diffuse anger and conflict, and promote mental health.

#COMMUNITY SUPPORT



- The Suzanne L. Keeley Award recognizes an individual whose contributions to the community are consistent with the Institute's goal of reducing violence and helping victims and their families.

TMI *in action*

Highlighting the local, national and international reach of The Melissa Institute and its partners.

Alex Piquero, Ph.D., a professor of sociology and criminology at the University of Miami, is one of the most cited criminologists and violence prevention experts in the country. In 2022, President Joe Biden appointed him director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, which plays a leading role in collecting, analyzing and disseminating crime and justice data. Dr. Piquero champions a science-based, holistic approach to violence prevention to support today's youth in order to create a safer tomorrow. This requires sustained investments at all levels of government to support evidence-based law enforcement and community-based interventions. Dr. Piquero highlights the shared dedication of key local stakeholders, including The Melissa Institute, government agencies and many others' to promote the safety and mental health of our communities. He believes that the violence prevention work being done in Miami-Dade County serves as a model that has important nationwide implications.



Dr. Alex Piquero
Scientific Board member

"Crime prevention is not just addressing the 15-year-old kid that might pick up a gun today. It also involves addressing the 10-year-old kid who might pick up a gun in five years, the 5-year-old kid who might pick up a gun in 10 years, and the kid who is born right now. What kind of community is that kid going to walk into when he/she is 15 years old?"



Wayne Rawlins
Board Member

Wayne Rawlins, a pioneering and influential community violence prevention expert in Miami-Dade County and beyond, is best known for leading the development and implementation of the Group Violence Intervention program to prevent gun violence in the county. He also created and coordinated the Walking One Stop program, designed to change perceived and real barriers to safety and well-being by delivering crucial services directly to residents' doorsteps. Impressive data has shown significant reductions in crime rates in neighborhoods engaged by the WOS program. Recently, Mr. Rawlins began using artificial intelligence to reduce gun violence and crime. As a result, Miami-Dade County is among the first locations in the nation to use ResourceRouter Community, an advanced software application that utilizes a data-driven approach to identify "hot spots" where crime and violence are prevalent. This model is effective in determining where resources are needed most. With advanced tools and hard work, Mr. Rawlins and his collaborators are creating a safer society for all.

"When you remove the barriers, whether perceived or actual, then there is no excuse. All you have to do now is open your door."

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE AND PARTICIPATE AT A FUTURE WALKING ONESTOP EVENT.

2023 BELFER-APTMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



Carolyn Boyd Rogers, [University of Iowa](#) - Personalized Normative Feedback on Risk Factors of Alcohol-related Sexual Assault: Are effects on normative misconception still evident after consuming a moderate dose of alcohol?



Jordyn Tipsword, [University of Kentucky](#) - The Experience and Regulation of Post-traumatic Shame Among Women with Histories of Interpersonal Violence.



Sarah Godoy, [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) - Exploring Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiated During Preadolescence in the United States.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
PROCESS

The Belfer-Aptman Scholarship Award must be used to support expenses that are directly related to the dissertation research and not for personal expenses.



Judge Orlando Prescott's journey in circuit court has been deeply influenced by his relationship with the Institute, initially as a member of the Board of Directors and subsequently as an honorary board member. A strong supporter of The Melissa Institute's commitment to evidence-based practices, Judge Prescott advocates for research-based interventions and policies in his role as administrative judge of the Unified Children's Court of the 11th Judicial Circuit of the Court of Florida, Miami-Dade County. The Institute has provided him with research-based knowledge and insights to better understand and serve young people who appear before him. Recognizing the high levels of trauma experienced by young people in the juvenile court system, he asked The Melissa Institute to provide trauma-informed care training for all judges within his circuit. These Children's Court judges manage complex delinquency and dependency cases, which require care and compassion as well as technical and research knowledge to make informed decisions. Judge Prescott's partnership with the Institute has benefited him, the Children's Court and countless families and youth that come before them.



*The Honorable Judge Orlando Prescott
Honorary Board Member*

"TMI's approach in conveying complex information plays a crucial role in the successful implementation of evidence-based practices"



*State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle
Honorary Board Member*

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle's 28-year tenure as an Honorary Board member of The Melissa Institute demonstrates her total commitment to violence prevention. She holds a deep appreciation for the Institute's transformative approach, turning pain into purpose through research, training and education. This ethos guides her comprehensive efforts to enhance safety in South Florida. State Attorney Fernandez-Rundle's office follows a victim-centered and trauma-informed prosecution model, which prioritizes healing while avoiding re-traumatization. Her advocacy extends to spearheading a specialized task force to combat human trafficking and addressing the impact of gun violence on youth and communities. She emphasizes the necessity for constructive, non-polarizing discussions to protect our children, families and communities.

"The only real way that we can overcome the violence that we experience in all kinds of different forms and also the traumatic impact that it has on victims, their families, and their neighborhood of communities as a whole, has to be through collaboration and bringing everyone to the table."

THE SUZANNE L. KEELEY, PH.D., COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., Community Service Award was created in 2013 by the Institute's Board to honor Dr. Keeley's 16 years of service as president of The Melissa Institute. This award recognizes an individual whose work, dedication, contributions to the community and volunteerism are consistent with the Institute's goal of reducing violence and helping victims and their families.



**SUZANNE L. KEELEY, PH.D.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
2023 WINNER
CONGRATULATIONS!
*Debbie Lyew***



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
SUZANNE L. KEELEY, PH.D.,
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
AND VIEW THE PAST RECIPIENT
LIST, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.melissainstitute.org**

This year's recipient of the Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., Community Service Award is Debbie Lyew, co-director since 2001 of Start Off Smart in Homestead, Florida. The organization, an initiative of the Homestead Police Department, has played an integral role in addressing the needs of children and families impacted by violence and introducing evidence-based programs, such as the Group Violence Intervention Program, to the area. Ms. Lyew's team serves as a crucial link connecting various entities, including law enforcement, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida's Department of Children and Families, the court system, community-based organizations, social service agencies and health providers. The team emphasizes compassion and empathy in providing support to individuals and families in crisis, and leaving a lasting impact on the communities Start Off Smart serves.

5/3/2024

NEXT



Save
THE
Date

28th Annual Conference

"INNOVATIONS IN GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION"



Gun violence is a public health epidemic. According to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 48,830 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S. during 2021. Moreover, more than half of adults in the U.S. report that they or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetime. How to reduce the rates of gun violence and save lives is a highly political issue, pitting gun control advocates against people who are fiercely protective of their right to bear arms. Lost in this polarized political narrative is the growing body of research-based knowledge about strategies that reduce gun violence at home, in schools and in the community.

The Melissa Institute's 28th Annual Conference aims to address the urgent need to enrich the conversation by equipping educators, professionals, policymakers and the public with noncontroversial, state-of-the-art knowledge that has lifesaving implications for all.

Registration for this virtual conference is free and will open early 2024. All our resources are free, except for the fees associated with obtaining continuing education credits. Like most of our presentations, the recording will be uploaded to our YouTube channel. If you are interested in learning more about being a sponsor, please contact us at info@melissainstitute.org.

5/5/2023

27th Annual Conference



"HOW TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER, MORE INVITING AND ACADEMICALLY MORE EFFECTIVE"

Featured Presentations:

Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
"Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Strategies to Address Trauma and Promote Resilience"

Sherry Hamby, Ph.D.
"Mindfulness Research and Strategies to Foster Resilience at School"

Debra Pepler, Ph.D.
"Creating a Nonviolent and Nurturing Environment for All Students at School"

Jim Larson, Ph.D.
"Five Principles for Counseling Reactive Aggressive Students"

Colleen Cicchetti, Ph.D., M.Ed.
"Building Trauma-Responsive Schools Through School-Community Collaboration"

Ron Slaby, Ph.D.
"Comprehensive School-Based Violence Prevention: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead"

Scan QR code to watch videos from our 27th Annual Conference.





Innovations in Violence Prevention & Treatment Series

10/28/22 "WHOM DO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS CALL WHEN THEY DON'T CALL THE POLICE?" WITH DR. LISA A. GOODMAN

12/09/22 "IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON YOUTH: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES" WITH DR. ANNETTE M. LA GRECA

09/15/23 "BUT WAIT, THAT'S NOT REAL: HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO RECOGNIZE FAKE NEWS" WITH DR. YVONNE SKIPPER

10/13/23 "SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SUCCESS IN SCHOOLS" WITH DR. DONALD MEICHENBAUM

12/06/23 "TRAUMA AND THE RESILIENCE PARADOX: THE KEY ROLE OF REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY" WITH DR. GEORGE BONANNO

01/19/24 "FROM BELIEFS TO ACTS: UNDERSTANDING THE CATALYSTS OF CONSPIRACY-INSPIRED VIOLENCE" WITH DR. DANIEL JOLLEY

Free resources on our websites!

<https://melissainstitute.org>

Review scientific articles on a variety of topics, as well as view past community reports.

<https://www.teachsafeschools.org>

A website to help school personnel develop a supportive, safe and inviting learning environment in which students can thrive and be successful.

<https://www.litdiet.org>

A go-to resource for educators and online hub for insights on presenting crucial literacy concepts through brief videos organized into 15 key "food" groups.

SCAN
ME



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO VISIT
OUR YOUTUBE
CHANNEL AND
WATCH ALL OF
OUR PAST
COURSES



SUBSCRIBE





Social Media Safety & Mental Health Initiative

PROJECT REAL USA

This is the year that social media became a major concern for parents, educators, public health professionals and policymakers worldwide, distressed by the negative impact of social media platforms and other digital technology on the mental health and development of young people. In April, a bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation to ban kids under 13 from joining social media. In May, the U.S. surgeon general issued an advisory urging action to protect children online.

A few months earlier, The Melissa Institute began exploring ways to use science-based methods to address this unfolding crisis. Upon learning about our search for research-based solutions to this problem, Scientific Board member and cyberbullying expert Debra Pepler, Ph.D., introduced us to Yvonne Skipper, Ph.D., a lecturer at the University of Glasgow and founder and director of Project Real, an intervention that helps young people spot fake news online.

In Project Real we found an evidence-based tool to help young people in the U.S. and an inspiring and creative scholar who jumped at the opportunity to expand her work and join The Melissa Institute's efforts to repair the world. The Institute's Social Media & Mental Health Initiative builds on Project Real and incorporates lessons based on Dr. Richard Lerner's 6 C model for Positive Youth Development in a program designed to help young people develop the skills to recognize "fake news," as well as the skills to create opportunities for social support, online companionship, confidence, compassion and a sense of community that can promote healthy socialization and mental health. We are happy to announce that starting in January 2024, Dr. Skipper will assume the role of program developer for the expanded version of what we are now affectionately referring to as Project Real, USA.

Central to the initiative's development is a student advisory board which, in collaboration with project developers and selected social media influencers, will help shape the activities and learning experiences of the program. We believe that long-term solutions to the pervasive presence of damaging content on social media platforms require the active participation of young people as promoters of safety, peace, harmony and mental health.

INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR THE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD?

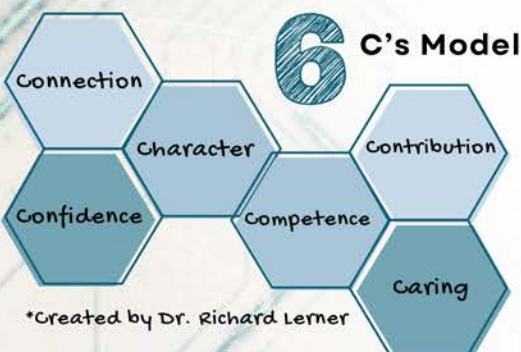
Contact
programs@melissainstitute.org



TMI SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Dr. Yvonne Skipper
Dr. Debra Pepler



*Created by Dr. Richard Lerner



PROJECT REAL



Scan the QR code to learn more about Project Real and gain access to lesson plans and resources focused on the UK government's SHARE guidelines on online misinformation. These lessons are free and have been designed to be delivered in schools and youth group settings, but may also be of interest to families.

WHAT IS SOCIAL MEDIA?

Social media refers to a collection of digital platforms and technologies that enable individuals and organizations to create, share and exchange information, ideas and multimedia content, leaving behind a digital footprint.

WHAT IS A DIGITAL FOOTPRINT?

A digital footprint is the trail of data and information left behind by an individual's online activities, encompassing personal details, social media posts, online purchases, website visits, search queries and other interactions that collectively form a digital identity and can be tracked and analyzed by others.

YouTube



TikTok



Instagram



Facebook



Pinterest



Twitch



PLATFORMS FOR VIEWING & SHARING VISUAL CONTENT



SCAN ME

Sign up for our newsletter and stay up to date with program developments.

-6-



PLATFORMS FOR MICROBLOGGING AND SHARING THOUGHTS

Twitter



Tumblr



Reddit



PLATFORMS FOR PRIVATE MESSAGING

Snapchat



Telegram



Discord



Viber



WeChat



WhatsApp



A LEGACY PROGRAM

Don Meichenbaum

ESSENCE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY



Our esteemed Scientific Director and Institute co-founder, Dr. Donald Meichenbaum, has prepared an extraordinary tool for the training of mental health professionals now and into the future. As a culmination of his 50 years of experience in clinical psychology, psychotherapy, research and development of Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Dr. Meichenbaum has collated his extensive experience into a Legacy course.

The primary aim of this program is to increase the likelihood that participants will further develop their level of expertise and become part of an elite “group of 25% of psychotherapists” who get better outcomes with their patients. The other goal is to challenge participants to consider the trans-theoretical behavior change principles that are common across various psychotherapeutic approaches and how to implement the Core Tasks of Psychotherapy. Along the way, they will learn how to spot hype in the field of psychotherapy and become a more critical consumer of psychotherapies and information in the field as a whole. For more information about the Legacy course, please contact info@melissainstitute.org.

DR. MEICHENBAUM HAS GRACIOUSLY ARRANGED FOR ALL PROCEEDS FROM HIS LEGACY COURSE TO BE DONATED TO THE MELISSA INSTITUTE IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE, MARIANNE MEICHENBAUM.

4 EASY WAYS TO DONATE TO TMI

- Visit our website www.melissainstitute.org/donate
- Donate using a “qualified charitable distribution” from a traditional IRA.
- Select The Melissa Institute as your favorite charity at checkout to make a donation through one of our partners



- Select The Melissa Institute as your favorite charity to round up your tab when shopping and donate your spare change!

ROUNDUP APP



Welcome
Back!

Judy Schaechter, MD, MBA SCIENTIFIC BOARD MEMBER

The Melissa Institute is pleased to welcome back former Honorary Board member Judy Schaechter, M.D., MBA, as an official member of our Scientific Board.

Dr. Schaechter is a long-time collaborator and supporter of The Melissa Institute, with a distinguished record as a researcher, educator and advocate in improving the health and welfare of children and families all over the nation.

She has served as chair of Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, president and CEO of the American Board of Pediatrics, and as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/National Academies of Science Health Policy Fellow, staffing the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Join us in celebrating her return and continued commitment to creating a safe and healthy world for all.



ON WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IN AUGUST, THE MELISSA INSTITUTE JOINED BAPTIST HEALTH MEDICAL GROUP TO COLLECT DONATIONS FOR THE CVAC IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

Community Partner
Spotlight
Baptist Health
Medical Group
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



WHAT IS CVAC?

THE COORDINATED VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER (CVAC) IS A WALK-IN CENTER FOR ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS AND THEIR CHILDREN. MORE THAN 35 SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FACILITY TO HELP VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

35+ SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF TO SERVICE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

**2400 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
305-285-5900**



Welcome

Dr. Yamila Lezcano



Did You
Know?

1 in 5

teens and young adults
live with a mental
health condition.

-National Alliance for Mental
Illness



Mental Health FIRST AID®
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING®

Dr. Yamila Lezcano, head of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Florida National University and a specialist in providing mental health services to children and families at risk, has partnered with The Melissa Institute to expand the Institute's training capacity in bullying prevention and promoting the mental health of young people.

Dr. Lezcano is experienced in training Miami-Dade public schools counselors and teachers in youth Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based program developed in Australia, that teaches adults how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The partnership with Dr. Lezcano strengthens the Institute's ability to make science-based violence prevention and mental health knowledge accessible to at-risk children and families in our community.

Together, we ARE making a difference!

Creating Safer and Healthier Communities Through Trauma Education

The Melissa Institute is a recognized leader in trauma education and the dissemination of trauma-informed care practices. Over the years, the Institute has trained hundreds of educators, mental health professionals, judges, probation officers and juvenile justice service providers nationwide. Recently, we scaled up our local training efforts in partnership with the Carrie Meek Foundation and the Miami-Dade County Office of Neighborhood Safety to expand the trauma-informed workforce in settings working with children. These youths have been exposed to traumatic experiences, including community violence, intimate partner violence, gun shooting or abuse.

The Melissa Institute is the official consultant to the Miami-Dade County Community Violence Intervention Initiative. Funded by the Carrie Meek Foundation through that initiative, the Institute is now providing trauma-informed care training to credible messengers, natural helpers, high-risk interventionists, youth sports coaches and other community volunteers.

Additionally, in coordination with the Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, we are building the South Florida Trauma-Informed Care Community-Based Coalition to expand training and workforce development efforts in healthcare settings, schools, social services agencies and other community organizations to foster resilience and deliver services to heal the impacts of trauma.

Research has shown that the impact of trauma can be mitigated and prevented by training caretakers, teachers and others to provide safe, stable, nurturing environments for children using evidence-based interventions to foster coping and resilience skills. We need to work together to create safer, healthier and kinder communities through trauma education.



Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D., Executive Director of The Melissa Institute, received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

"THIS RECOGNITION SERVES AS A TESTAMENT TO THE EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION AND TIRELESS EFFORTS DR. ALDARONDO HAS MADE IN ADVANCING THE MISSION OF THE MELISSA INSTITUTE."

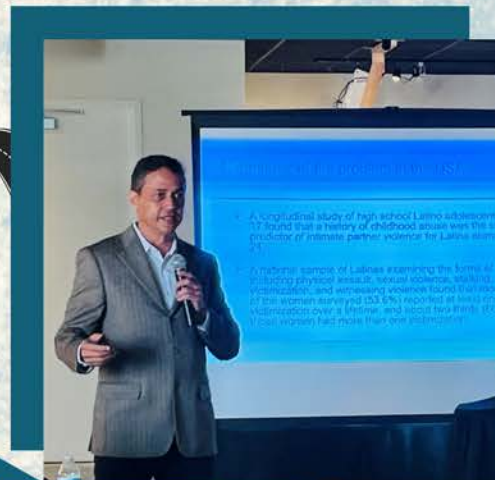
Lynn Aptman

co-founder and Board President of The Melissa Institute



Did You Know?

The Melissa Institute, together with community partners, presented to the Latin American Group of Consuls in Miami on Intimate Partner Violence.



Washington, DC

-9- Consulate General of Mexico in Miami

Peace & Harmony 2023

In March 2023, The Melissa Institute had the privilege of hosting its annual Peace & Harmony gathering at the Ritz-Carlton in Coconut Grove. The evening brimmed with happiness, rekindled connections, and conveyed a genuine sense of how our work and our partnerships can genuinely create an impact.





Thank you to all our volunteers, donors and supporters for making this year's special event possible. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's Peace & Harmony Gala on Saturday, March 2, 2024!



2023 SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSOR

allMedical Personnel



JP ZARS **EQUITABLE**
ADVISORS



Morgan Stanley
Gregg Gelber, CPM



Journey
& ASSOCIATES, INC.
Established 1976



Professional Bank

The

TANK
BREWING CO

Tito's



Commissioner
Micky Steinberg
District 4

andi
SOIRÉES

INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR FOR PEACE & HARMONY 2024?
CONTACT US AT INFO@MELISSAINSTITUTE.ORG.

SCAN
ME



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO VIEW
SPONSORSHIP
LEVELS

\$66,284

RAISED ON

**Give
Miami
Day**

**THANK
YOU!**



**PEACE &
HARMONY**

March 2, 2024
Coral Gables Museum

SAVE
THE
DATE

FEATURING:
CELEBRITY CHEF CHRIS VALDEZ
CLOSE-UP MAGIC & MENTALISM WITH MAGIC BY MIO

On May 5, 1995, Melissa Aptman was murdered in St. Louis. A Miami native, she was just two weeks away from graduating with her bachelor's degree from Washington University.

One year after her death, Melissa's family, friends and violence prevention experts established The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment to honor her memory and make a difference by working to prevent violence and assist victims.



Without the participation, expertise and leadership of our volunteer boards, the Institute could not accomplish its goals. These include the Board of Directors, Scientific Board and Honorary Board.

Board of Directors

Lynn Aptman, M.Ed.
President
Philipp N. Ludwig, MBA
Treasurer
Vanessa Lopez Silverman, CPA
Vice President
Maggie Snyder, Esq.
Secretary
Michael Aptman, M.D.
Kenneth M. Bloom, Esq.
Karyn I. Cunningham, B.A.
Pastor Charles Dinkins
Stacy Laferre
Jesse Leon, B.S.
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
Virginia Pereira Alvarez, B.A.
Lissette M. Perez-Lima, Ph.D.
Trish Ramsay, M.A.
Wayne Rawlins, M.S.
Thomas Scolaro, Esq.
Megan Staubitz, MPH

Scientific Board

Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
Research Director
Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.
Leena K. Augimeri, Ph.D.
Victoria Banyard, Ph.D.
John Briere, Ph.D.
Colleen Cicchetti, Ph.D.
Lisa Goodman, Ph.D.
Sherry Hamby, Ph.D.
Annette M. La Greca, Ph.D.
Jim Larson, Ph.D.
Guerda Nicolas, Ph.D.
Debra J. Pepler, Ph.D.
Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D.
Isaac Prilleltensky, Ph.D.
Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
Judy Schaechter, Ph.D.
Wendy K. Silverman, Ph.D.
Ron Slaby, Ph.D.
Dale M. Willows, Ph.D.
Marleen Wong, Ph.D.
Frank Zenere, Ed.S.

Honorary Board

Jo Baxter, MBA
Patricia E. Deering
Frank G. DeLaurier, Ed.D.
Michael Haggard, Esq.
Martha C. Journey
Remi J. Kajogbola, MBA
Judith S. Katzen
Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D.
David Lawrence Jr.
The Hon. Cindy Lederman
Ira H. Leesfield, Esq.
The Hon. Carlos J. Martinez
Alyse Messinger
Marie D. Osborne, Esq.
The Hon. Orlando Prescott
The Hon. Katherine
Fernandez Rundle
The Hon. Nushin G. Sayfie
Fred Stock, MSW

Staff

Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Cristina Fonseca
Office Manager &
Communications Coordinator
Alexis McCauley
Office Assistant
Penelope Leal
Assistant Program Coordinator



IN-KIND DONORS

Carolyn Aronson • Barbara Bloom • Jill Bloom • Arlene Cabrera • Gary De Palo • Rachel Garber • Phyllis Goldberg • Michael Haggard • Martha Journey • Andi Lipton • Lorraine Medici • Bobbie Longo • Judi Katzen • Melissa Sidote • Dorothy Stein • Ellen Steiner • Robert Tenzer

The Melissa Institute is fortunate to have the support of several businesses. We encourage you to visit and support these businesses!

Andi Soirees • Bagel Emporium • Benihana • Book of the Month • Carolina Ale House • Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden • Fiola • Footworks • Fratellino Ristorante • Frost Museum • Giardino Gourmet Salads • Haller Robbins Epelbaum Misunas, LLC • It's a 10 Haircare • Haggard Law Firm • Hampton Inn Coconut & Miami Brickell/Downtown • Jam with Jamie • Joe's Stone Crab • Kingdom Inspired Photography • Learning Express Toys • Lion Country Safari • Luxe Design Group • Lyonstrong • Maipo Gold • Med Aesthetics Miami • Miami FreeRunning Academy • Milam's Market • My Happy Cabana • National Orchids • Oceanic Pompano Pier • Old Sturbridge Village • Organize with Pat • Parrish Designs • Penguin • Perricone's Marketplace & Café • Perry Ellis • Photos by Liset • Portofino Cafe • Publix • Rapids Waterpark • Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove • Royal Sonesta in San Juan, Puerto Rico • Rubell Museum • Seasons 52 • Shake Shack • Silent World • SmartBean Coffeehouse • Somali Fitness • Sushi Maki • The Collection • The Invitorium • The Runner's High • The Tank Brewing Co. • Tito's Vodka • Total Wine & More • Trader Joe's • Yard House • Zativa • Zoo Miami

\$10,000 & Above

Dr. Etiony Aldarondo
Lowell & Eileen A. Aptman
Dr. Michael & Lynn Aptman
Ret. Commissioner Sally Heyman
Dr. Julie Schwartzbard & Neil Bernstein

\$2,500-\$9,999

Dr. Barbara & Mr. Kenneth Bloom
The Boston Consulting Group
Richard P. Cole
Patricia Deering

\$2,500-\$9,999

Patricia Deering
DLA Piper
Equitable Advisors
Elizabeth J. Green
Haggard Law Firm
Kent & Martha Journey
Dr. Barry & Judith Katzen
Morgan Stanley
Kenneth O'Keefe
Juan Pizarro
Edward & Vanessa Silverman

\$1,000-\$2,499

Marcelle Andujar
Gregory Aptman
Jessica & Steven Weiss Aptman
Wallace Aptman
Leonard & Jill Bloom
Citrus Family Care Network
Mark Fisher
Mark Gilson
Dr. Raymond & Janice Horwitz
Sherrill Hudson
Dr. Susan Iannaccone

\$1,000-\$2,499 CTD

Dr. Suzanne & Brian E. Keeley
Adam Koppekin
Dr. Annette La Greca
Dr. James & Teri Larson
Leesfield Family Foundation
Dr. Leonardo & Kim Lopez
Jerry Markowitz & Patricia Redmond
Dr. Jonathan & Alyse Messinger
Steven Pabalan
Toby Richards
Melinda Robbins
The Honorable Judge Nushin Sayfie
David Schnadig
Megan & David Staubitz
Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Students Offering Support, Inc.
Dr. Howard W & Suzanne P Wallach
Dr. Jack Ziffer

\$500-\$999

Ira Alweiss
Paul & Debra Appelbaum
Matthew & Jessica Silver Aptman
Gonzalo Balandra
Jo Baxter
Astrid & Stuart Beharry
Jeffrey Bernstein
Alison Bloom & Gabriel Rutman
Dr. Frank DeLaurier
Joaquin Luaces & Anne Estevez
Gregg & Carolina Gelber
Drs. Joan & Paul Gluck
Robert Guerette
Michael Haggard
Douglas & Amy Halsey
David Kaye
Keweshan Family Fund
Paul & Lois Lester
Dr. Donald Meichenbaum
Dr. Guerda Nicolas
Susan Pinco
Jorge Rodriguez
Leonard Rothenberg
George & Karen Silver
Dr. Samuel & Ellen Steiner
John & Jo Sumberg
Dr. Michael & Deborah Troner

\$250-\$499

Diego Aldarondo
Bob Asarnow
Scott M. Davenport
Francis Feeney
Dr. Michael & Nancy Finer
Brian & Hara Fischbein
William & Phyllis Goldberg
Joseph Goodman
Michael & Stephanie Hoff
Alexander & Claire Jordi
Dr. Leonard & Debra Kalman
Dr. Steven & Susan Kobetz
Shaun & Jamie Kolnick
Jesse & Angela Leon
Dennis & Barbara Longo
Candace & Michael Lowry
Debra McNeil
Dr. Neil & Madelyn Messinger
Mitchel Moore
Patricia Ortega
Javier & Charlotte Ortiz
Dr. Anis & Ann Racy
Patricia S. Ramsay
Michael & Michelle Rudzik
Dr. Daniel & Yoli Santisteban
Emery & Jill Sheer
June Shepherd
Aaron & Maggie Snyder
Dr. Susan & Alan Snyder
David & Ruth Stein

\$250-\$499

Matthew Storm
Rocio Tafur-Salgado
Victor Torres
Verizon
Wynn Volkert
Pamela & Howard Wolfson
Dr. Howard & Linda Zwibel

\$100-\$249

Michael Abels
Bernardo Acebal
Idianise Aldarondo
Keven Velez & Nitska Aldarondo
Yatska Aldarondo
Sigfredo Aldarondo
Mitchelle Alvarez
Leena Augimeri
Michael Barron
Eric Berger
Bobbi Berlin
Andrew Biemiller
Dr. Larry & Dulce Blacher
Rebecca Blase
Steve Bloom
Lainey Brooks
Dr. Ken & Patti Butler
Jennifer Buttrick
Carlos Caballero
Edward Cabassa
Arlene Cabrera
Roy Cameron
Maria Carlo
Dr. Mark & Debbie Caruso
Renay Chung
Mark Davis
Robin Denison
Judith & Barry Dichter
Charles Lee Dinkins
Dr. David & Phyllis Edelman
Mollie Butler Englander
Michael & Carly Epstein
Michael & Paula Finkle
Bruce Fitell
Jerold Fleishman
William & Judith Friedel
Alden Gagnon
Jodi & Marc Ganz
Marlon Goldstein
Ricardo Gonzalez
Lisa Goodman
Cody Gradwell
Maureen Grant
Judith Henry
David Henshaw
Jillian Herbello
James Higgins
Kenneth Hilton
Michael Hoak
Elizabeth Janowitz
Stimpson Jennifer
Karen Kaczmarek
Remi J. Kajogbola
Zachary Kessler
Jonathan & Tina Kislak
Shelley Kolber
Stacy Laffere
Bruce & Eileen Lamchick
Bertha Larez
Warren & Lisa Levitan
Lisset Lopez
B.A. Ludovici Family Trust
Philipp & Natasha Ludwig
D'Arcy Lyness
James & Sandy McCarthy
Jeanee McJilton
Janet Medina
Richard Miller
Dr. Michel & Connie Nahmad
Marie G. Nicolas

\$100-\$249

Dr. Ian & Myrna Nisonson
Ronald & Marlene Novas
Open Door Health Center
Dr. Debra Pepler
Pepsico Foundation - Your Cause LLC
Virginia Pereira-Alvarez
Lissette Perez-Lima
David Pilon
Dr. Nancy Polk
Sharon Polk-Sadownik
Alex & Sofia Ponomarenko
Leoernando Quevedo
Dr. David & Susan Racher
John Racinkas
Alberto Ramirez
Edward Rappaport
Wayne Rawlins
Joshua & Debra Rednik
Charles Reed
Andrew & Nicole Rifkin
Heather Risk
Randy Robbin
Jeffrey & Faye Roth
Dr. Martin & Sharon Rothberg
Johanna Rousseaux
Gail & Gene Robinson
Richard Rubinson
Sara Sadownik
Dr. Richard & Phyllis Sandrow
Shirlee Schiller
Howard Schwartz
David Serle
Mark & Jane Shemtob
Barry Sher
Russell Silverman
Dr. Ronald G. Slaby
Howard & Sharon Socol
Dr. Jeffrey & Joyce Spar
Dorothy Stein
Diana Suarez
Dey Thomas
Lesley Tobin
Dr. Wayne & Linda Tobin
Dennis & Lorraine Turk
Kenneth & Ayala J. Usdin
Andy Varat
Karen Watson-Etsell
Rhonda B. Weiner & Marc Zelanko
Alisa Weinstein
Steven & Shari Wels
Heather Winters
Nannette Zapata

\$1-\$99

Marie Anderson
Angel Archilla
Sandy Baer
Lou & Nadine Barocas
Luis Barreto
Ted & Ellen Bayer
Hershel Becker
Christopher Bednar
Javier Berezdivin
Greg Bloom
Susan Bloom
Johanna Borrero
Patricia Bowers
Irene Bravo
Tanya Bray
Amanda & Jacob Burns
Deborah Busler
Reva Ceader
Penn & Sheila Chabrow
Imelda De La Cruz
Efrain De Los Santos
Dr. David & Phyllis Edelman
Carmen Fanego
Jonathan Fischer
Antonio Fonseca

\$1-\$99

Cristina Fonseca
Wendy Friedman
Robyn Gable
Howard Gadlin
Robin Gallagher
Alina Gallego
Bette Ganz
Justo Garcia
Dr. Henry & Frances Glick
Regina Goldstein
Connie Goodman-Milone
Holly Gordon
Bessie Gotthold
Margaret Gotthold
Stan & Lisa Heiblum
Diane Holliman
Linda Holzman
Charles D. & Johanna Horowitz
Ingrid Kessler
Sonia Labrador
Elise Suna & Nicolas Lagueruela
Sharon Langer
Diana Luchtan
Nicolas & Jonathan Ludwig
Elizabeth Mckeeon
Kelly Melchiondo
Nick Metheny
Victoria & Adam Mitrani
Marilyn Mittenag
Tony & Tania Moralejo
Adriana Munoz
Toby Newman
Amelia Nichols
Cecilia O'Reilly
Jami Osborn
Samantha Otokiti
Robert Phifer
Beverly Pieren
Dr. Isaac Prilleltensky
Lisa Raponi
Mary Reincke
Dolores Rivero-Fonseca
Adriana Riviera
Joann Rodriguez
Joel & Ellen Rosenblatt
Kevin Sayles
Ronald S. Schotland
Ari Shapero
Melissa Sidote
Barbara Siegal
Lillian Siegel
Bernard M. & Carol S. Stein
Andrea Steinacker
Jessica Steiner
Judith Stopek
Brooke Sussman
Kirsten Swami
Jerry Tello
Sabrina Tirabassi
Julie Sherman Whitney
Dr. Charles & Alba Passerini Wohl
Rita & Stephen Wolfenstein
Holly Zwerling

This list represents donors from August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023. We apologize for any omissions due to the printer's deadline.



**THE MELISSA INSTITUTE
1507 LEVANTE AVENUE, SUITE 331
CORAL GABLES, FL 33146**

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 3725



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023-2024 COMMUNITY REPORT SPONSOR

