



**SECOND
RESPONSE**

We Build Resilient Communities

2017 DONOR REPORT

A photograph of three young children, two girls and one boy, smiling and hugging each other. The child in the center is a boy with a white shirt, and the two girls are on either side of him, one in a pink top and the other in a white and blue striped shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

DEDICATED TO SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

We have been at the forefront of helping to build resilience in communities around the world since 2004.

As a result of our recognized experience and expertise, there have been significant demands for our help closer to home. We have refocused our key disciplines here in the US to most in need:

- 1** School children, their families and teachers who remain amidst an environment of growing fear, lockdown drills, bullying and other traumatizing presences.
- 2** Caregivers and Emergency Personnel dealing with the tragic effects of poverty, homelessness, chronic illnesses and the opioid crisis.

To support our efforts to serve we have devoted much needed resources to adding capacity at all levels of our organization, including our Board of Directors, where we have doubled in size and greatly expanded our geographic reach. This commitment is reinforced by increasing our pool of qualified trainers and the development of cutting edge digital training materials.

Our programs support those with whom we work directly while creating a ripple effect, ultimately forging broader communities built on resilience and compassionate care.



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Second Response friends,

2017 was quite a year for our organization and I want to first thank you for your support which has enabled us to reach so many children, teachers, parents and caregivers.

After thirteen years of dedicated work around the world in helping communities build resiliency in the face of very real trauma, we have now established a proven methodology that truly makes a difference in so many lives. We have made every effort to keep our focus on doing what we know best and are steadily building capacity so our work can benefit many more in the year ahead. First, we added recognized leaders in education, finance, curriculum development and capacity building to our Board of Directors resulting in a broader geographic reach which will help us strategically focus our growth.

Fortunate Blessings Foundation and Second Response has gained a solid foothold with our School Resiliency Program and we are truly at the tipping point in our efforts to help children, families, school teachers and emergency personnel defeat the very real traumas facing everyone at this intense time in society.

This year Fortunate Blessings Foundation has provided vital support to a wide range of caregivers including EMS personnel, homeless shelters and hospital groups focused on children. In particular, the opioid crisis has hit Connecticut children and families -- indeed all of America -- very hard. Three people a day die in Connecticut from opioid overdoses and last year more people died in America from opioid overdoses than died in every military conflict since 1955 combined. Our programs enable caregivers to more effectively cope with the unbelievable challenges they face every day. We will expand this effort in 2018.

We now face an immediate challenge to identify and train staff and faculty in our specialized methodology to support schools, emergency personnel and caregivers struggling with the dramatic increase of trauma in our daily lives. We expect to conduct two more trainings in 2018.

We have kept our overhead to a bare minimum while our eyes are on efficiency and training to build capacity as we scale our important programs with only very limited administrative and maintenance costs. We are grateful to all those who've helped us through their generosity.

To all our extended worldwide family of supporters, we join again in partnership in 2018 for your ongoing support and wish you health, happiness and Fortunate Blessings.

William

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha Hackett, MD Board Chairperson

Martha is the founder and CEO of Hackett Medical, Martha has dedicated over 30 years to caring for her patients and has created one of the largest private medical practices in NE Ohio. She completed a two-year Integrative Medicine Fellowship at the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine and created LivAwareMD, an all-encompassing wellness center opening the hearts and minds of thousands in her community. Martha holds an MD from Case Western University Medical School.

Evan Dobelle,* M.ED, ED.D, MPA Board Member

Evan's career has spanned politics, education, public administration, private business and diplomacy. Currently, Evan is Senior Advisor to the Chairman of Allied Energy LLC and a board member of Countable and presently the Visiting Leadership Scholar at Moller Institute, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, U.K. He also serves as a consultant to Gensler Architecture and Design in Education, Arts and Culture where he previously served as the Director. Evan has been committed to higher education investment fostering the "College Ready" model that helps students graduate from high school and college. He is the author of "Saviors of our Cities," concerning how colleges are anchor tenants of urban renewal and economic development in cities across America. He has served as President of Middlesex Community College, City College of San Francisco, Trinity College, The University of Hawaii, Westfield State University and the New England Board of Higher Education in Boston. He received his B.A., M.Ed. and Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and his M.P.A. from Harvard University.

Jennifer Stevens* Board Member

Jennifer is an award-winning teacher and leader in her community. She has been teaching for twenty years at Warner Elementary School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Nominated by her colleagues, Jennifer won the prestigious Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Teaching. She also has served as the chairperson of her department, on the Leadership Team and School Centered Decision Making Team. Jennifer is married and stepmother to a wonderful 11-year-old boy.

Anthony Holland Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

Anthony is COO/CTO of Cornerstone Agency and The FADER. Cornerstone is an award-winning global creative agency built on the belief that to reach consumers, you must inspire. It represents Fortune 500 clients across multiple disciplines, with an emphasis on the consumer products / services and music / entertainment industries. Anthony holds a BS in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Peter G. Kelly* Board Member

Chairman and Director - Malta House of Care Foundation, Director - Malta House of Care, Inc., Chairman and Director - Saint Francis Hospital Foundation, Vice Chairman and Director - International Council for Middle East Studies, Director - Fortunate Blessings, Inc., Member, Advisory Board- Dodd Center (University of Connecticut), Director - Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Chairman and Director - World Affairs Council of Connecticut, Inc., Director - Connecticut Public Broadcasting Corporation, Knight - Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Special Olympics (Connecticut) Honorary Board of Directors, Co-Chair - Connecticut Legal Services Campaign for Justice, Co-Chair - Connecticut Legal Services Advisory Board Member, Peter Kelly has long been active in Democratic politics at the local, state and national level, in the world of business on a national and international level and the practice of law in Connecticut, New York and Washington, D.C. He has served as Treasurer and National Finance Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and was a member of that Committee for sixteen years. He has served as a senior political advisor to Albert Gore, Jr., in 1988 and 2000 and Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996. Peter is a graduate of Georgetown University, magna cum laude, and The Yale Law School where he served as an Editor of The Yale Law Journal. He is a senior principal of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

Miyuki Matsumoto,* MBA Board Member

Miyuki is a managing director in the Goldman Sachs Investment Partners Venture Capital and Growth Equity team in the Investment Management Division (IMD), and is focused on sourcing venture and growth equity investments in technology companies. She joined Goldman Sachs in 2000 as an analyst in Private Wealth Management and was named managing director in 2011. Miyuki was co-head of the IMD Women's Network from 2009 through 2013. Miyuki earned a BA in Political Science from Middlebury College and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Joan Spear Founding Member

Joan is an award winning composer, permaculturist, and founder of PLAN Litchfield, an environmentalist effort to protect local resources. The co-founder of Fortunate Blessings Foundation and mother of three sons, she was formerly the COO of Australia's Cloudburst Wine. She enjoys making music with her vocal improv collective, "Wisemouth" and earned a BA in Music from Yale University.

William Spear Founding Member

William is Founder of Fortunate Blessings Foundation and an international lecturer, consultant, mentor, and writer on complementary healing arts, self-development, end-of-life care, vital design, Eastern philosophy, and somatic treatment of trauma. His articles in The Huffington Post touch upon some of these subjects. His work draws from more than four decades as an educator following in-depth training with Michio Kushi, the Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Center and Sogyal Rinpoche.

Sarah E. Gager,* MBA Board Member

Sarah currently serves as the Dean of Students at Naugatuck Valley Community College and as the Dean of Student Services at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. She has been steadfast in her efforts to improve student services, and ultimately student success. She is a long-time resident of Connecticut actively involved in local politics and environmental issues in the region. Sarah holds a MBA from the University of New Haven.

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MORE

*Denotes New Board Member

THE OPIOID CRISIS

STORIES FROM THE NEWS

“Three EMS workers, infant hospitalized after exposure during overdose call”

“Children of the opioid epidemic are flooding foster homes. America is turning a blind eye”

“Opioid Epidemic Strains Hospital Emergency Departments”

“We’re Raising a Generation: Grandparents of Children Orphaned By Opioid Crisis Say They Need Help”

“America’s opioid crisis: how prescription drugs sparked a national trauma”

“As the opioid epidemic grows, paramedics feel the weight of tragedy”

“Lethal drugs threaten lives of local first responders; police make changes”

“Boston-area paramedics on front lines of US opioid crisis”

“Grieving Parents: He was more than his addiction”



HOW YOU CAN HELP

MORE AMERICANS DIED JUST LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE OPIOID CRISIS THAN IN EVERY SINGLE CONFLICT WE HAVE FOUGHT IN SINCE 1955

Including Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq — and casualty rates among young and old in our neighborhoods are still rising.

The trauma confronting children, families, teachers and caregivers is unlike anything we have ever seen. Second Response is receiving requests from all over the country for help. These requests are coming from EMS personnel, schools and homeless shelters.

We must train as many people as possible in our unique methodology, using a combination of online teaching tools and videos with intensive personalized instruction. Please consider an immediate donation to support this urgent effort.

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“The opioid epidemic is ravaging families and damaging communities. It is destroying an entire generation of Americans weighed down by the burden of grief and shame that accompanies addiction. From 1999 to 2015, more than 183,000 people died in the U.S. from overdoses related to prescription opioids. In CT alone, more than three people die every day because of insufficient resources and a multitude of barriers to treatment. The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation is proud to support Second Response and all the incredible work they do for EMS Personnel, Homeless Shelter staff, Children and Caregivers.”

Julia H. Scharnberg,
Grants and Program Director
Northwest Connecticut
Community Foundation

STORIES FROM THE NEWS

“An E.R. Kicks the Habit of Opioids for Pain”

“Recovery coaches help opioid addicts stay clean after treatment”

“4 West Virginia women deal hope in a community gripped by opioid crisis”

“U.S. Surgeon General says working together is key to combating opioid crisis”



THE TRAUMA FACING OUR CHILDREN

STORIES FROM THE NEWS

“At School Where Student Died, Bullying Led to a Suicide Attempt”

“Suicide of 12-year-old Pennsylvania boy Evan Ziemniak ‘was his response to stop the pain’ of bullying”

“Authorities say a planned massacre at a New Bedford, Mass., high school could have been another Columbine”

“Suicide of girl aged 13 bullied for being 6ft”

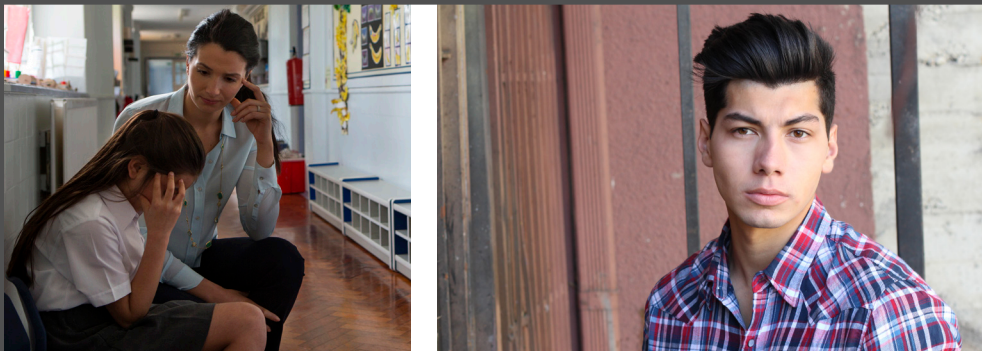
“Student Charged With Manslaughter in Bronx School Stabbing”

“3 Killed in New Mexico School Shooting”

“Since 2013 there have been nearly 300 school shootings in America - an average of about one a week”

“Northern California Gunman Killed Wife Before Shooting Rampage”

“Youth suicide rates are rising. School and the Internet may be to blame.”



STORIES FROM THE SCHOOL

“ This program should be in every school. It helps teachers and their students connect in new and fun ways that help when stress or personal trauma enter the classroom. ”

Jaye Stuart

Health & Physical Education Staff at Shepaug Valley High School Washington, CT

“ To help children find their way physically, socially and spiritually in this world that we live in is vital to their growth and development. PLAYSHOPS have specially designed physical exercises that are grounded in theater training, biopsychology and somatic research to help children do just that... to feel safe and find JOY! ”

Helen Treacy

Principal at St. Matthew's Elementary School Bristol, CT

“ At first, my staff was skeptical of the program. The methodology Second Response teaches is nothing like they have ever encountered before. However, after the full day of PLAYshops with each class, everyone loved it and felt calm and relaxed afterward. ”

Eric Frenette

Principal at St. Joseph's Elementary School Bristol, CT

SCHOOL RESILIENCY PROGRAM

A GUN HAS BEEN FIRED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS NEARLY ONCE A WEEK SINCE THE TRAGEDY AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Many schools now have assigned uniformed and armed resource officers, and all have bomb threat protocols and lockdown drills. One of every four students reports being bullied during the school year with associated negative impacts on their academic, emotional, social and physical well-being. There are also new guidelines for suicide prevention in response to 16% of students nationwide who seriously consider suicide. The accumulation of stress and trauma our children experience is daunting.

Schools are the center of communities and teachers are on the front line of every issue that arises each and every day for our children. The responsibility of schools to prepare our children for the future has never been greater, yet nearly half of K-12 teachers report high daily stress during the school year. Teachers are focused not only on their students' academic success but on their safety and social-emotional development as well. School districts have begun to implement social-emotional curriculum after realizing the urgent need for better tools to address the unparalleled rise in trauma exposure our children now face.

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FACULTY WORK AROUND THE WORLD



Gina de la Chesnaye

is part of our Caring for the Caregivers program and has led numerous PLAYshops in Nepal, Uganda and the U.S. She brings her experience as a teacher with The Lineage Project and as Yoga Director for The Three Jewels in NYC. Gina is also the Trauma Resource Director for the International Center for Mental Health and Human Rights. Dedicated to humanitarian relief, she has spent many years focusing on trauma and resiliency work with children in orphanages, schools and refugee camps using movement, yoga and meditation techniques. Gina now brings her extraordinary expertise to support caregivers to mitigate the impact of secondary trauma on their professional and personal well-being.

“It is my feeling that the trip was incredibly productive having worked with hundreds of children and youth as well as nearly 150 caregivers. I am very hopeful to be able to return and do a longer training with the African Youth Initiative Network as they have a staff of 35 and to work for longer periods of time with the Red Cross at Imvepi as well as the children. Thank you for your belief, support and funding.”

Gina de la Chesnaye



IN GRATITUDE FROM SECOND RESPONSE

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Aroon Ajmera
Amazon Smile Foundation
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Anonymous

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Thank You

We recognize all of those who honored our organization with gifts in 2017 to help us accomplish our mission to support children and caregivers!





Learn more at
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or contact us directly at
info@fortunateblessings.org

Second Response is an initiative of
Fortunate Blessings Foundation,
a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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