

Partners in Early Childhood Education and Inf

The Irving Harris Foundation and Hebrew Univ

American Friends of The Hebrew University is proud of the strong educational alliance formed between The Irving Harris Foundation, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and AFHU. Committed to advancing the field of early childhood education and infant mental health, The Irving Harris Foundation of Chicago is in the vanguard of interdisciplinary efforts to safeguard the healthy development of children and infants ages zero through five.

Since 1997, successive Irving Harris Foundation grants in support of pioneering Hebrew University programs have helped to educate graduate students, train clinicians, conduct influential research and provide essential prevention and intervention services to Israel's children and their families. This year, thanks to a new Irving Harris Foundation grant, the university will begin to train mental health professionals who will help to treat young children in Israel who have experienced trauma.

"From the beginning," stated Executive Director, Phyllis Glink, "The Irving Harris Foundation has had four investment strategies to advance its mission that all children are born wanted into homes and communities that can nurture and support their healthy development. These strategies include leadership development and training; developing and replicating models and best practices; public policy formation and advocacy; and systems-building in conjunction with government."

Ms. Glink, who earned her master's degree in child and family policy at The University of Chicago's Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, was recruited by Irving Harris to facilitate strategic grant-making. As part of its Professional Development Network, the Irving Harris Foundation provides grants

HU PROFESSOR MARSHA KAITZ founded the successful "Mom-to-Mom" program. A poster (R) advertises the program.

to 18 leading institutions in the US and two in Israel. Irving Harris along with Ms. Glink identified Hebrew University as one such crucial "leadership institution" poised to make a difference in a field greatly in need of trained professionals who can implement best practices on the community level.

"Philanthropy should move new knowledge and best practices forward," said Ms. Glink, who worked closely with Irving Harris for eight years until his death in 2004, and feels inspired by his contributions to the field of child development—as a philanthropist, educational trail blazer, organization builder and staunch advocate for children and families, especially those struggling to overcome economic hardship.

Mr. Harris' widow Joan, a former Commissioner for Cultural Affairs in Chicago, serves as Chairman of the Board of the Irving Harris Foundation, which is also dedicated to providing grants for the arts. Mrs. Harris praised the effective partnership between the Irving Harris Foundation and Hebrew University. "We have been extremely pleased with the way Hebrew University has used our philanthropic grants to develop innovative child development programs and to train excellent clinicians and practitioners dedicated to supporting very young children and their families who have experienced trauma or other challenges."

The Irving Harris Early Childhood Training Center, part of HU's Faculty of Social Sciences, is co-directed by Professor Charles W. Greenbaum (Department of Psychology) and Professor Arthur Eidelman (Faculty of Medicine). The Irving Harris Center promotes new directions for advancing the healthy psychological and physical development of children from an early age. Much of this work aims to prevent the pathological development of children born at high risk. Personnel include Hebrew University faculty and students with medical, psychology, and social work backgrounds.

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“The Harris Center emphasizes the environment of the child, and in particular the family unit,” stated Professor Charles Greenbaum. “Our programs help families from many different cultures in Israeli society.” He added: “These activities, which have received generous support and encouragement from the Irving Harris Foundation, contribute to the betterment of all children. The knowledge we have gained is also having a significant impact on the shaping of public policy in Israel.”

The Irving Harris Center has launched vital projects in Israel, among these: the training of professional personnel at the Sha’arei Zedek Medical Center in the care of high risk infants; the training of public health nurses working in Well-Baby clinics; developing a Call-in Center for parents with child rearing problems; developing a “Mom-to-Mom” home visiting program; a Supervision in Day Care Centers project; and in-service training for health care professionals working with children who have developmental disorders.

This fall these outstanding programs will be enhanced by a forward-thinking new initiative, the Infant Mental Health (IMH) Specialization. Established within the framework of the Schwartz Master’s Program in Early Childhood Studies and funded by the Irving Harris Foundation, the IMH program will provide treatment for young children who have been traumatized by war, loss and related stresses. This landmark program is being run by Hebrew University’s Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare and the School of Education. Bar Ilan University is also collaborating on the training of Israeli professionals to work effectively with traumatized children and their families.

States Professor John Gal, Dean of the Baerwald School of Social Work: “We are grateful to the Irving Harris Foundation for their insight and compassion as well as their financial support. The new IMH program will enable early childhood therapists to work with children at risk and their families in order to overcome diverse mental health problems. This program is the first of its kind in Israel. We are working closely with leading US and Israeli experts to build a comprehensive program that includes individual field training and theoretical studies with the goal of creating a solid infrastructure for promoting infant mental health.”

The Irving Harris Foundation’s partnership with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is raising the quality of early childhood programs and producing professionals better equipped than ever before to help young children reach their full potential.

Irving B. Harris: “The Grandfather of Early Childhood Education”



IRVING and JOAN HARRIS

Irving Harris, described as “the grandfather of early childhood education,” by Phyllis Glink, Executive Director of the Irving Harris Foundation, grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. A successful businessman, he and his brother Nelson founded the Toni Home Permanent Company, which they sold to the Gillette Safety Razor Company in 1948. His dynamic and diverse career included leadership positions as Chairman of the Board of the Acorn Fund, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pittway Corporation, Chairman of William Harris Investors Inc., and Chairman and President of Channel 11, prior to which he led Harriscope Broadcasting.

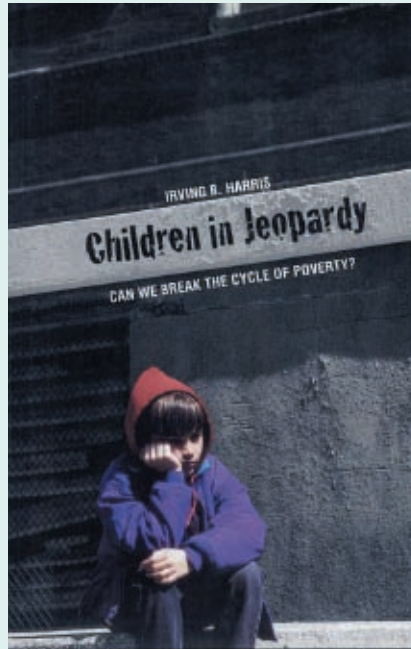
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As Chairman of the Board of The Irving Harris Foundation, he worked tirelessly to foster advances in early childhood education, helping organizations and institutions to develop innovative models for training and service programs. His philanthropic commitments reflected deeply-held beliefs about what young children needed in order to thrive mentally, physically, academically and socially.

Irving Harris helped to establish Project Head Start in the 1960s. He was pivotal to the founding of the Erikson Institute for Advanced Study in Child Development, a cutting-edge facility dedicated to teacher training. During the 1980s he co-founded the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a public and private partnership that addressed key challenges such as child



Authored by IRVING B. HARRIS

abuse and teen pregnancy. He helped to create the Beethoven Project, widely considered a precursor to Project Head Start, and the Doula Project. He served on the board of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families.

The Yale University alumnus was instrumental in establishing the Yale Child Studies Center. His support for public policy studies at The University of Chicago launched the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies. Nationally recognized for his expertise, Irving Harris was appointed to the National Commission on Children, the Subcommittee on Education and Child Development, and the Partnership for Children of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 1992, Yale University

published his influential book, *Children in Jeopardy: Can We Break the Cycle of Poverty?*



The Mom-to-Mom Program: teaching effective parenting to new mothers