Foundation for the Arts and Trauma Inc

Contact Information

Nonprofit
Foundation for the Arts and Trauma Inc

Address
19 Edwards Street
New Haven, CT 06511 3913

Phone
(203) 624-2146

Web Site
Web Site

Email
alivetraumaprogram@gmail.com

At A Glance

Year of Incorporation
1976

Organization's type of tax exempt status
Public Supported Charity
Mission & Areas Served

Statements

**Mission**

ALIVE’s vision is to create schools that support open conversations about the truth in our students’ lives, and thereby liberate their energies and spirits for the important work of learning. By attending to students’ stresses before they break down with symptoms and negative behaviors, ALIVE helps entire classrooms and schools to maintain focus. We believe that the primary cause of the achievement gap is not in the conditions of schools, but in the conditions of students, who have been exposed to toxic levels of psychological stress.

**Background**

The Foundation for the Arts and Trauma, Inc. was incorporated in 1976 as Theater That, Inc, which ran a community theater that incorporated former psychiatric patients. Over the years, the Foundation has funded various projects in foster care, veterans with PTSD, and children with HIV/AIDS in South Africa, among others. Since 2007, the Foundation has been the primary sponsor of ALIVE, a trauma-informed program in the public schools. It is managed by a 6 member board and contracts with the staff of the Post Traumatic Stress Center to conduct the program. ALIVE is now being conducted in 17 schools in New Haven, New Britain, Bridgeport, and Minneapolis.

**Impact**

The Foundation for the Arts and Trauma, Inc. is invested in supporting the educational goals of students and teachers in Connecticut’s public schools. We draw on a preventive, trauma-informed, arts-based approach to facilitating student success that we call A.L.I.V.E. (Animating Learning by Integrating and Validating Experience), which has been influenced by and incorporates elements of the Comer Method and Achievement First models of school intervention and the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) model of trauma treatment. This year we provided programs in 8 elementary schools (Barnard, Strong, Wexler Grant, Truman, Curiale, DiLoreto, Bishop Woods, and Brennan Rogers.), and 5 high schools (Metropolitan Business Academy, High School in the Community, International Academy at Wilbur Cross, New Horizons, and Hillhouse) from September 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017. We also conducted programs at Gateway Community College, Westville Manor, and during the summer at the Sullivan Basketball Academy. The overall aims were:  • To increase collaboration between the Foundation and schools.  • To develop school specific interventions, in collaboration with each school, from a trauma-informed perspective.  • To improve students’ engagement in the educational task of the school by reducing incidents of disruptive and withdrawn behavior, increasing time spent learning, and improving the overall social atmosphere in the classroom.  • To evaluate the effectiveness of our programs through school records, self-report, and observational methods.

**Needs**

Having established a method that has shown strong positive effects in both elementary and high schools, we have embarked on three efforts: 1) to expand the number of schools in the New Haven school district so we can have a city-wide impact; 2) to expand into Gateway Community College to serve young adult students who are burdened by toxic stress, and 3) to establish ALIVE schools throughout the country, beginning in Minneapolis in January, 2017.

**CEO Statement**

Our nation’s current policy is to wait until highly stressed young children cannot hold on any longer and break down into symptoms of anxiety, depression, and disruptive behaviors in the classroom, and only then to provide expensive support services and treatments. ALIVE aims to reach these highly stressed students before they need to break down. This is accomplished through methods of early identification, in which every child is asked what is happening in their lives on a regular basis. Currently teachers, principals, and social workers are spending much of their time attending to the many students who are disruptive during the school day. They are not however attending to those students who might be disruptive tomorrow. The result is an unending cascade of upset students. By interrupting this pipeline, ALIVE has lowered office referrals and therefore freed up teachers’ and administrators’ time to attend to their actual duties.

**Board Chair Statement**

see above
Service Categories

**Primary Organization Category**  Education / Educational Services
**Secondary Organization Category**  Mental Health & Crisis Intervention / Counseling

Areas Served

- State wide
- New Haven
- National

We currently serve 14 elementary and high schools in New Haven, one in Bridgeport, and one in New Britain. We are available to conduct programs state-wide. We are also conducting programs in 4 elementary schools and one transitional living program in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
## ALIVE: Animating Learning by Integrating and Validating Experience

### Description
ALIVE is a trauma-informed, preventative socioemotional program for youth from Kindergarten through High School, which aims to identify highly stressed youth prior to their breaking down into symptoms or negative behaviors. The program is conducted within school classrooms by trained ALIVE counselors working in partnership with teachers and school administrators. The program is delivered to ALL students because a student's behavior is not an indicator of whether or not they have been exposed to traumatic stressors. Activities include classroom based discussions concerning child safety from their own experiences, to individual stress reduction sessions lasting about 15 minutes outside the classroom. Significant reductions in disciplinary behaviors such as suspensions, truancy, and fighting have occurred in all ALIVE schools.

### Budget
$0.00

### Category
Education, General/Other / Guidance & Counseling

### Population Served
Children and Youth (0 - 19 years) / /

### Program is linked to organization's mission and strategy
Yes

### Short Term Success
Immediate calming down of upset students; engagement of students in the classroom due to their connecting their personal experiences with the curriculum; support for teachers.

### Long Term Success
In all of our schools that ALIVE has been conducted for more than a year, decreases of 80-90% in office referrals, suspensions, and fighting have been documented. Classrooms have been calmed, and students have been able to focus on their academic work much more.

### Program Success Monitored By
School records of disciplinary behaviors; student and teacher feedback forms; questionnaire assessment of children by teachers; independent external review conducted in 2015 by Curriculum, Research, and Evaluation, Inc.

### Examples of Program Success
At DiLoreto School in New Britain, suspensions dropped from 90 to 7 in one year; at Curiale School in Bridgeport, suspensions dropped from 184 to 20 in one year. Data on individual stress reduction sessions derived from each student rating their stress before and after each session, on 8,000 sessions, indicated nearly 90% drop in stress within 15 minutes.

### Program Comments

#### CEO Comments
Due to our success, as well as being highlighted in a film documentary, "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope," directed by James Redford, we have been contacted by many districts across the country, and have conducted ALIVE at four schools in Minneapolis. Preparing to conduct training and hiring staff in other states is a current challenge.
Leadership & Staff

CEO/Executive Director
Dr. David Read Johnson

Term Start
Jan 2010

Email
davidreadjohnson@gmail.com

Experience
We actually do not have a separate CEO. Dr. Johnson, as President, with help from other board members, manages the operation. The program is conducted by the Post Traumatic Stress Center through a separate contract.

Staff

Number of Full Time Staff 18
Number of Part Time Staff 15
Number of Volunteers 25
Number of Contract Staff 7
Staff Retention Rate 90%

Staff Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black 8
Asian American/Pacific Islander 1
Caucasian 14
Hispanic/Latino 3
Native American/American Indian 0
Other 70

Staff Demographics - Gender

Male 5
Female 18
Unspecified 10

Plans & Policies

Organization has a Fundraising Plan? Under Development
Organization has a Strategic Plan? Under Development
Management Succession Plan? No
Organization Policy and Procedures Under Development
Nondiscrimination Policy Yes
Whistleblower Policy  No
Document Destruction Policy  No

Senior Staff

Catherine Davis
Title  ALIVE Program Director
Experience/Biography  Ms. Davis manages the day to day operations of the ALIVE program.

Kat Lee
Title  Assistant Director for High Schools

Erinn Webb
Title  Assistant Director for Elementary Schools

Antonietta Delli Carpini
Title  Assistant Director for Staff Development

Formal Evaluations

CEO Formal Evaluation  N/A
CEO/Executive Formal Evaluation Frequency  N/A
Senior Management Formal Evaluation  Yes
Senior Management Formal Evaluation Frequency  Annually
Non Management Formal Evaluation  Yes
Non Management Formal Evaluation Frequency  Annually

Collaborations

New Haven Trauma Coalition; Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic; Solar Youth; New Haven City YouthStat; Housing Authority of New Haven; Guns Down Books Up; Fresh Start; Gateway Community College

Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award/Recognition</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening of the documentary &quot;Resilience&quot; at White House</td>
<td>White House Council on Women</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partner of the Year</td>
<td>City of New Haven Department of Youth Services</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments

CEO Comments
Originally our focus has been exclusively on improving academic outcomes for youth. However, the positive impact on misbehavior and reduction in disciplinary actions has linked us with efforts to reduce their involvement
with the criminal justice system. We are therefore pursuing funding opportunities in the area of restorative justice and prison redirection.
Board & Governance

Board Chair
David Read Johnson Ph.D.

Company Affiliation
Post Traumatic Stress Center

Term
Jan 2019 to Dec 2020

Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cecilia Dintino</td>
<td>Columbia University, New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren McCommons</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Miller</td>
<td>Miller Associates, Hoboken, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisha Sajnani</td>
<td>Lesley University, Cambridge, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Wiener</td>
<td>Central Connecticut State University</td>
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Board Demographics - Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American/Pacific Islander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American/American Indian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0 0</td>
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Board Demographics - Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Governance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Governance</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Term Lengths</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Term Limits</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Meeting Attendance %</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Full Board Meetings Annually</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Board Selection Criteria</td>
<td>Under Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Conflict of Interest Policy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Making Monetary Contributions</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Making In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constituency Includes Client Representation</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  Accident and Injury Coverage
  Commercial General Liability
  Directors and Officers Policy

Standing Committees

  Executive
Financials

Fiscal Year Start
Jan 01 2019

Fiscal Year End
Dec 31 2019

Projected Revenue
$1,400,000.00

Projected Expenses
$1,350,000.00

Spending Policy
N/A

Detailed Financials

Prior Three Years Total Revenue and Expense Totals Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$1,350,768</td>
<td>$1,259,947</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$1,334,794</td>
<td>$1,239,894</td>
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</table>

Prior Three Years Assets and Liabilities Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$39,623</td>
<td>$22,330</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$39,389</td>
<td>$22,330</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$4,778</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$34,845</td>
<td>$22,330</td>
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</table>

Prior Three Years Top Three Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solvency

Short Term Solvency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long Term Solvency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities/Total Assets</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Campaign

Currently in a Capital Campaign?
No
Comments

CEO Comments
Our financial situation has been gradually increasing and its stability is due to having four or five major sources of funding. We intend to convince school districts to include ALIVE in their annual budgets as a long term plan. Philanthropy and grants will be used to establish ourselves in the meantime. Our income rose to $1,250,000 this year, a 78% rise.

Foundation Staff Comments
This profile, including the financial summaries prepared and submitted by the organization based on its own independent and/or internal audit processes and regulatory submissions, has been read by the Foundation. Financial information is inputted by Foundation staff directly from the organization’s IRS Form 990, audited financial statements or other financial documents approved by the nonprofit’s board. The Foundation has not audited the organization’s financial statements or tax filings, and makes no representations or warranties thereon. The Community Foundation is continuing to receive information submitted by the organization and may periodically update the organization’s profile to reflect the most current financial and other information available. The organization has completed the fields required by The Community Foundation and updated their profile in the last year. To see if the organization has received a competitive grant from The Community Foundation in the last five years, please go to the General Information Tab of the profile.