

'The Year in Review'

They say time flies when you're having fun and no truer words were spoken when it comes to our first full year of Gil Institute operations. Gil, Goldin, and Shaw oversaw a seamless transition with few disruptions in services to our clients. Our offices were remodeled and reconstructed to accommodate additional office space. Most importantly, we are now at full capacity with the addition of two new full-time therapists, as well as several part-time contractors and residents and interns.

Dr. Gil and Dr. Shaw co-authored a book on working with children with sexual behavior problems which was published this year through Guilford Press. We were proud and excited to do a book-signing and an Open House we hosted in December of 2013. In addition, Ms. Konrath, Goldin, Shaw and Bryan co-authored a chapter on Integrated Play Therapy for a book edited by Crenshaw and Stewart expected to be out in early 2014. Dr. Gil was also beyond proud to have co-authored a chapter with her daughter, Teresa Dias, published in a recent book edited by Malchiodi and Crenshaw on the use of the Expressive Arts for Attachment Problems.

This year also marked our adding a new position to our administrative structure: Mrs. Heather Bryan is now functioning as our Associate Partner and bringing her considerable skills to helping us promote and strengthen our services.

Our services are expanding continuously as our therapists become more informed on several important services. For example, three of our staff are currently certified to provide Circle of Security Parenting Groups. In addition, several of our staff continue to be supervised by Theraplay specialists in this important and useful therapy model. Both Circle of Security, Theraplay, and a parent-child assessment that we utilize routinely (Marshack Interactional Method - MIM), are evidence-based and attachment-focused. This enables us to provide attachment-focused services utilizing the strong foundation provided by these programs.

We initiated and maintained our affiliation with Katie Fallon, and we have provided meaningful equine-assisted therapy to many of our clients. This work is beginning to accumulate important research to demonstrate more clearly its many benefits. We are excited to be collaborating to offer these services to our clients.

Our new staff have brought their unique areas of expertise: Andrea Driggs McLeod has a special interest in Child Center Play Therapy and has a certification in this area. She also has expertise in providing play therapy within school settings as well as participating in research regarding play therapy. Sonal Patel has substantive training in Emotional Focused Therapy and is working towards her certification in this evidence-based practice of couples and family therapy. We have some outstanding part-time therapists, all of whom share something in common: Their full-time jobs are with the school district and we are fortunate to have them for their part-time clinical practices. They include Azi Amirsadri, Malvolia Gregory, Pat Humphrey, and Mahagony Hall.

We have four exceptional residents in marital and family therapy, counseling, and art therapy. Jodi Cobb has a private practice in Maryland where she has provided services to children and families on the autism spectrum. Lexie Pfeifer joins us from BYU and will be defending for her dissertation in early 2014. Joseph Heeter works at Childhelp, a residential treatment program in Legnum, VA and he is

currently providing play therapy to our outpatient population. Finally, Aliya Robbins is our art therapy intern from GW University and she has provided our clients with ample opportunities in art assessment and treatment services.

We are preparing for our 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, held in Crystal City this year. The first day will focus on family play therapy and many talented and seasoned play therapists will provide day-long workshops on play therapy and related topics. Several Gil Institute staff will be presenting.

Starbright Institute workshops have run successfully all year, giving participants an opportunity for experiential learning in a small group setting. Participants have come from all over the United States as well as Chile, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Korea, Japan, and other far-away places. The trainings have felt rewarding to trainers and attendees alike.

We look forward to continuing to thrive in 2014! We are a group of invested, caring, and informed professionals eager to help children and families in crisis. We are vendors for Fairfax and surrounding counties and we accept private self-referrals as well as referrals from schools, pediatricians, other mental health professionals, etc.

Please visit our website to sign up for our quarterly newsletters, to see pictures of Gil Institute, and to download our referral forms, obtain a list of current services, and get contact information should you wish to learn more or talk with us directly.