



NYU Child Study Center

NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER

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J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Foundation Awards \$4 Million to NYU Child Study Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity

NEW YORK, December 10, 2008 – The NYU Child Study Center has received a \$4 million gift from the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Foundation to further the mission of HOPE (Harris Obesity Prevention Effort) and address the childhood obesity epidemic in the United States. With this donation, HOPE will continue to make significant strides as a national leader in the prevention of childhood obesity by developing, testing, and disseminating evidence-based interventions for youth and their families.

Harold S. Koplewicz, M.D., founder and director of the NYU Child Study Center, said, “The number of overweight children in the United States has nearly quadrupled in the last four decades and the future of our children is in jeopardy. Three years ago, the Harris family launched HOPE to help scientists and clinicians throughout the NYU Langone Medical Center tackle this national crisis. This generous gift represents a renewed commitment to our research efforts in prevention for young children and their families.”

“Obesity prevention is the ultimate goal of HOPE. However, for those children who are already dangerously obese, weight-loss surgery remains the only scientifically-proven treatment option,” said George Fielding, M.D., Co-Director, NYU Program for Surgical Weight Loss. “We are grateful for the Harris Family’s ongoing support to improve the physical and mental health of children suffering from this national issue.”

“HOPE brings together a world-class multidisciplinary team of scientists, clinicians and educators to develop and test innovative intervention strategies for combating this complex and costly public health epidemic,” said Dr. Laurie Miller Brotman, director of HOPE and the Institute for Prevention Science at the NYU Child Study Center. “Our programs empower families and teachers to help young children to establish healthy behaviors (eating, physical activity and sleep) that will protect them from the long-term psychological and medical consequences of obesity. As HOPE strives to reach its goal of providing evidence-based prevention programs to millions of young children nationwide, we are also committed to alleviating the suffering of morbidly obese adolescents through state-of-the-art clinical treatment.”

"Nicki and I are very pleased to support HOPE at the NYU Child Study Center," J. Ira Harris said. "We want to make sure that the Center has the resources it needs to make scientific advances in

prevention so that future generations are spared from the devastating personal and societal consequences of obesity.

Funding over three years will help scientists and clinicians provide practical and effective solutions to combat childhood obesity on a national basis.

Visit hopenyu.org for more information about HOPE (Harris Obesity Prevention Effort).

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The NYU Child Study Center

The New York University Child Study Center is the nation's leading organization for research, prevention and treatment of child and adolescent psychiatric and learning disorders. Through science-based clinical care, cutting-edge research, expert professional training, and extensive public education, the Center strives to generate new knowledge about child mental health, improve the practices of healthcare professionals who serve children, and influence child-related public health policy. Most importantly, the Center provides hope, help and care to children and their families who suffer from these disorders.

The NYU Child Study Center is committed to giving children back their childhood. To learn more, visit AboutOurKids.org.