

International Center for Trauma Education and Care

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Edited by:
Kiersten Lechleitner



Milestones since
October 2019



Total People Trained

19,759



Total Educators Trained

3161



Total Pastors Trained

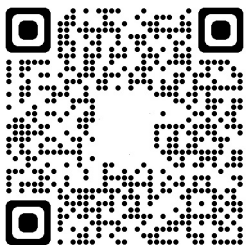
1681



Total Countries Reached

16

Learn More



Celebrating 5 Years of Trauma Education!

As we celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Trauma Education Center (note the poster on the last page created by one of our interns), we reflect on when our journey began - small group of volunteers traveling to a refugee camp with a message of how healing can take place through community.

Prior to leaving, refugee children we worked with in the U.S. wanted to send messages of hope to other children overseas. They personalized their messages by placing their fingerprints on a hand-drawn tree, which was then delivered by the team to the children in the refugee camp.

The children in the refugee camp were delighted by the tree, and responded in kind, sending their own fingerprints back to the US. These prints were framed and now hang at the Shalom House, our center's office, where they are a powerful reminder of the connection we share as human beings, created uniquely and intricately by God.

The tradition continued with trips to Ethiopia, Cambodia, and the Navajo Nation, among others. The act of exchanging fingerprints with the children became known as “Fingerprint Promises” —signifying that, no matter where we are in the world, no matter how different our lives may seem,

we are bound together in faith. Even if we never meet again on earth, we promise to see each other in Heaven. The “Fingerprint Promise” tradition inspires and uplifts those who participate serving as a tangible reminder that no one is ever alone in their struggles.

There are still countless individuals in need of trauma education, support, and hope. We are committed to expanding our reach, continuing our mission of teaching hope and healing, and walking with others as they find their way toward restoration.

As we move into the next chapter of the Trauma Education Center’s journey, we invite you to join us. Whether through prayer, financial support, or spreading the message of hope, you can be a part of this transformative work. Together, we can continue to build a community of healing, support, and love for those who need it most.



Ingrid

In the Community and Beyond

Contributors -
Dustin Young



Trainings Offered:

Introduction to Trauma Awareness

Trauma Responsive

Suicide Prevention Training

Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

And more....

Presentations and Trainings:

On Campus:

The trauma ed team met with the Andrews Student Life team three times in the past few months to train them on trauma awareness concepts, trauma-responsive approaches, and activities for implementing skills.

It is encouraging to see the dedication and intentionality that AU staff want to take toward increasing support for students and one another. While training lasted for few short hours, team members and the trauma ed team continue to collaborate on how to creatively add trauma informed principles into worship services, student support, and community resources. What a gift it is to see how staff members are using trauma informed practices to holistically support our students.

In the Community:

Dr. Young attended the National Association of EMS Educators Expo to present trauma-informed and trauma-aware skills implementation in higher education classrooms. This is a highlight each year for her as she also attends a number of the sessions to glean research, techniques and concepts from EMS educators. This collaboration has helped our team navigate supporting paramedics, EMTs, nurses and other medical professionals in a variety of projects. Topics for this conference must be submitted for peer review, which continues to challenge our team to expand the research in trauma-informed concepts and/or tools.

Request Training



In the Classroom

Contributors -
Charity Garcia



2024 Milestones



Total Educators Trained

606



Total Education Specific Trainings

16

K-12 Education Trauma Training Coming Full Circle

Demand for trauma training within the K-12 context remains consistent- and we continue to offer introductory training as well as more in-depth skill building to educators who are working hard to serve our students. In-service teachers pursuing graduate degrees within the School of Education receive trauma training embedded within the Curriculum & Instruction program leading to an increase in training requests from within that population. In August, this led to Dr. Garcia providing tailored trauma training for the Mamawi Atosketan Native School based in Canada.

We are also thrilled to have previous participants of our training join Dr. Charity Garcia during her presentations. For example, Delwin Garcia (Administrator at Great Lakes Academy) and Jody Siegal (grade 3-4 teacher and assistant principal at Niles Adventist School) shared valuable insights about how they have been applying a trauma-informed approach within their settings with their fellow Michigan Conference educators and administrators during a full day professional development training. Their experience within the same conference, along with the trauma training content, and classroom experiences shared by other in-service teachers serving as Trauma Center interns, enriched the training experience of participants.

"Several teachers have made a point to share that the information was much needed and appreciated and they are using it with their students and/or for their own understanding in better serving the children in their classrooms."

Charlotte Green, Associate Education Superintendent for Michigan Conference



Pastoral Initiatives

Contributer-
David Sedlacek
Co- Presenter
Beverly Sedlacek



2024 Milestones



Total Pastoral Trainings
22



Total Countries Reached
4

For the Pastors:

For the past few months, I have shared with groups of pastors the results of my study of Trauma in Pastors. As I share, I also ask them to reflect on the Adverse Childhood Experiences in their own lives and trauma even into their adulthood.

Next, I present the results of the focus groups which summarize what pastors who were interviewed tell us about how trauma has impacted their ministry including the Post-Traumatic Growth they have experienced. I share with them the effects of trauma on their physical, emotional, and behavioral health.

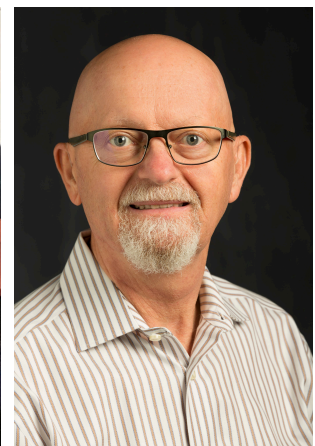
Then, I present information on how to create healthy boundaries in ministry. As pastors typically reflect on what they have heard, they can relate to it in their own lives and ministry. Most of them can relate to these findings in very real ways. Many of them freely shared their own experiences of trauma. The transparency creates a place of safety for them, but also encourages them to learn more and to get the help they need to begin processing their own trauma, if they have not already done so.

-David Sedlacek

"Early research in the United States revealed that about half of the study samples had experienced at least one adverse event, while a quarter had suffered two adverse events. The researchers discovered that for each adverse experience, individuals had a corresponding increase in health challenges, such as higher levels of alcoholism, smoking, drug abuse, depression, and suicide attempts."

"My Well is Empty": Adverse Childhood Experiences
Among Pastors
David Sedlacek and Rene' Drumm

2023



Leaders in Training

2024 - 2025
Interns

Sofia & Trisha Current Projects

supporting the research and creation of a special edition of *"The Journal for Adventist Education."*

Serika Current Projects

Development and presenting of a Trauma Aware Seminar for a large church gathering in Kenya

"Estimates show up to 1.9 million heart disease cases and 21 million depression cases potentially could have been avoided by preventing ACEs."

<https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html>

October 8, 2024

Education:

Sofia Loren Bailey - is a dedicated 3rd-grade teacher at Coralwood Adventist Academy in Alberta, Canada. She has over 20 years of international teaching experience in Jamaica, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Her global teaching journey has made her culturally sensitive and adept at engaging students from diverse backgrounds. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Primary Education from Northern Caribbean University and is passionate about creating inclusive, student-centred environments that encourage active learning and critical thinking.



Through a commitment to lifelong learning and the pursuit of God's true education, she aims to inspire her students to grow intellectually, morally, and spiritually, fostering a holistic approach to their development.



Trisha Higgins Handy - is a lifelong Adventist educator currently teaching at Greaves Adventist Academy in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She holds a BSc degree with an emphasis in Zoology and a BEd in Education and is currently pursuing graduate studies at Andrews University in Curriculum and Instruction.

Trisha enjoys reading, writing, travelling with family and friends, and dreams of publishing children's literature and educational curriculum one day.

Social Work:

Serika Charles Delfish - is a passionate advocate for trauma education and healing. With over 7 years of experience working with NYC government on projects from the Mayor's Office and Department of Social Services, she is dedicated to addressing trauma and fostering resilience. Serika co-founded a nonprofit in Grenada to create safe spaces for young girls to develop holistically through collaboration with government and private sector partners.

Serika has taught short courses on applying trauma-informed principles across various professions and has co-led initiatives at Andrews University focused on raising awareness of invisible disabilities, fostering a sense of belonging and support within the community. Aspiring to own her consulting firm and therapy practice, she aims to help organizations build impactful relationships and become trauma-informed spaces.



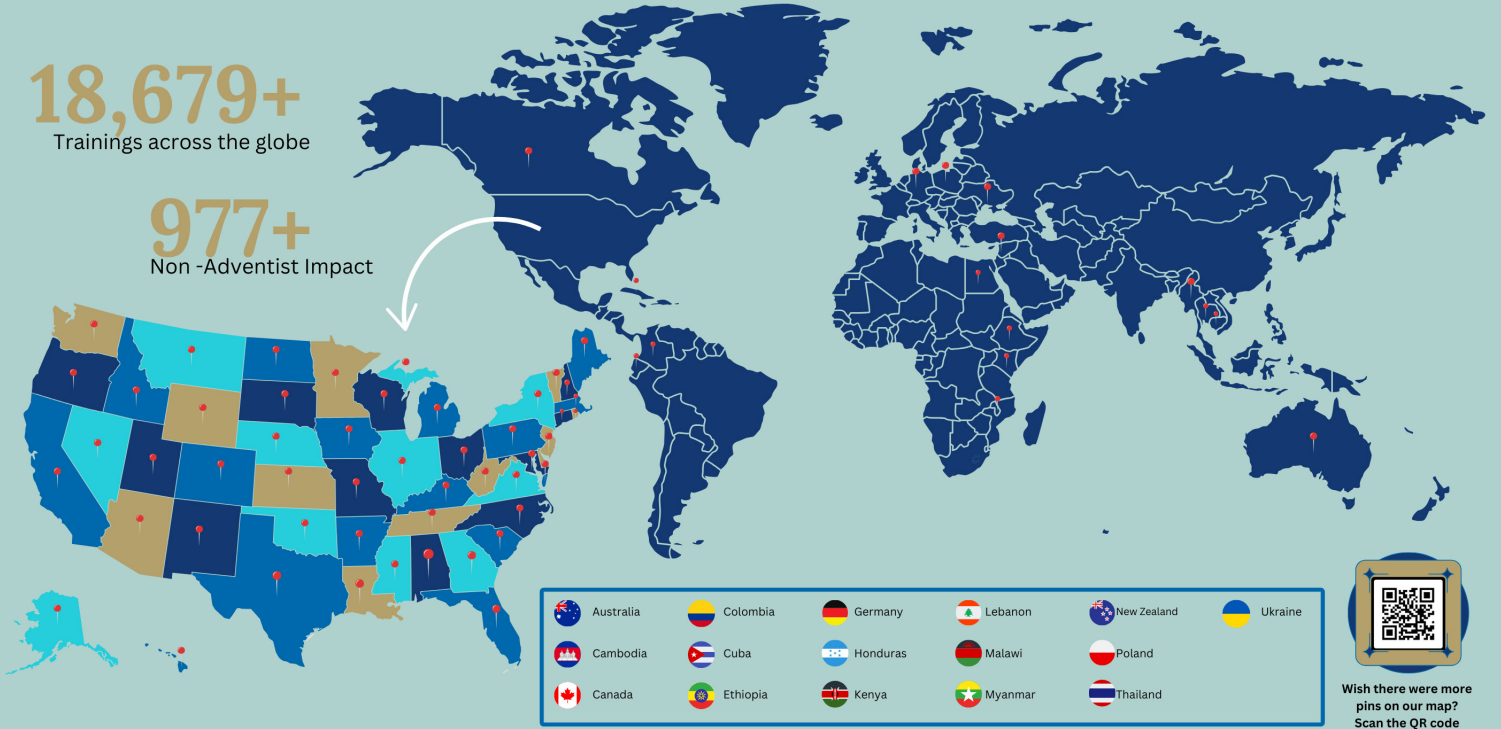


Our Mission: The Center's main goal is to provide trauma-informed education and care to people and places around the globe as we model the compassion of Jesus by helping to prevent traumatization or re-traumatization while promoting long-term healing from trauma.



18,679+ Trainings across the globe

977+ Non-Adventist Impact



Wish there were more pins on our map? Scan the QR code to donate!

STORY HIGHLIGHTS



EMS Workers Association
Dr. Dustin Young teaching EMS educators how to implement trauma-informed principles and practices into their curriculum and teaching.



SPLAD Department
SPLAD faculty in their Trauma Responsiveness training learning how to help their students cope and thrive in an intensive program.



COLOMBIA
A team of 10, consisting of social work students and faculty conducted daily trauma education trainings and activities with local pastors, teachers, professors, and students in Cartagena, Colombia.

1641 Pastors trained

22 Affiliates trained and continuing to impact around the world.

3131 Teachers trained



Mildred C. Wells Teacher Training
Dr. Charity Garcia training educators on trauma-informed practices, assists them in recognizing when a student's behavior might be the result of trauma or stress, allowing them to identify students who may need extra support.



Student Leaders Brain Game
Student leaders from Adventist universities across the US learn about ACEs and PACEs and the impact it has on a person to empower them to advocate for their fellow students from a place of understanding and compassion.



AU One Place
Our interns, Serika Charles Delfish and Isai Ramirez teaching about the effects of Trauma and the ways that our survival responses can shape the ways we relate to God and how we can take care in of ourselves in the process of healing in healthy relationships and community as we make our way closer to God.

Unions & Churches

- Unions & Conferences**
- Lake Region, Michiana Pastors
 - Lake Union Conference
 - Arizona Conference
 - SE California Conference
 - Georgia Cumberland Conference
 - NAD Conference
 - Bermuda Conference
 - Georgia Cumberland Conference
 - Rocky Mountain Conference
 - Carolina Conference

Churches

- Highland Avenue
- Hudson Valley Church
- Berean South Bend
- Grace Place-Church
- Danville SDA Church
- Mid-Kentucky Church
- Village Church
- Tillamook Church
- Thomasville SDA Church
- Commons Church

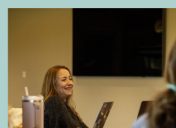
Organizations

- ADRA
- Adventist Information Ministry (AIM)
- Adventist Recovery Ministry
- Battle Creek Refugee Community Services
- Berrien County Foundation
- Berrien RESA
- Cass Great Start Initiative
- CASA of SWMI
- Corewell Health
- End It Now! -Australia
- God's Hands 4 Kids Foster Parents
- Karen Purvis Institute of Child Development
- National Association of EMS Educators
- Native American and other Indigenous Populations
- Soul Shop
- Tri-County Headstart
- United Way



Community

- Andrews Academy
- Sylvester Elementary
- Takoma Academy Chapel
- Atlanta Adventist Academy
- North Tampa Christian Academy
- Loma Linda University
- Millard C Wells Benton Harbor School
- Eastern Kentucky University
- MABSU, Ferris State University
- BSPS Administration
- Benton Harbor Math Camp
- Timber Ridge Blind Camp
- Hatian Zoomers Group
- Adventist Faith Community Nurses
- Camp AU Sable
- St. Joseph Library



Trainings & Webinars



Trauma Awareness Training
Great Start Initiative - Cass County Sept 11th 2024

- Soul Shop Suicide Prevention for Faith Communities
- Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)
- Trauma Awareness Trainings
- Trauma Responsive
- Trauma-Informed Consultation & Implementation Phase I - III