

The S. Mark Taper Foundation Awards WIN \$100,000

The S. Mark Taper Foundation awarded Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) a \$100,000 grant to support mental health services for Los Angeles' most vulnerable families—families who are working with WIN therapists and case managers to overcome intergenerational trauma so whole families can thrive at home, in school, at work and in their communities.

“We are tremendously grateful for the S. Mark Taper Foundation’s support,” said Diana Pineda, LCSW and WIN therapist. “With their support, we are able to provide families the mental health care they need—in their own homes—so children are able to grow up in healthy environments and create healthy connections with their caregivers and communities.”

Diana has been a WIN therapist for nearly five years where she excels in providing mental health care for families. And, last year, she was instrumental in creating an early childhood mental health internship pilot program for one master of social work (MSW) student. The program trains the next generation of early childhood mental health providers, and our pilot program was a great success. This year, the internship program has four master’s-level students. As the internship supervisor, Diana hopes to instill confidence in the students so they can effectively help families work through tough issues in order to heal and break cycles of trauma and abuse.

“Being able to trust your clinical instincts is crucial when working with WIN families,” Diana said. “Our interns are learning to confidently identify emerging patterns in the parent-child relationship and then share those patterns and insights with the families—whether it is a strength or an area that needs growth.”

Blanca Martinez, WIN intern and an MSW student at California State University, Northridge, appreciates the way Diana urges the interns to think deeply and to make strong connections with WIN families.

“In the beginning, I was surprised how caregivers see a disconnection between their behaviors and how their children are presenting behaviors,” said Blanca. “And, through the internship, I’ve acquired the skills necessary to provide families with the support, psycho education, modeling, and guidance they need in order to build a stronger bond with one another.”

In Fiscal Year 2015, WIN provided mental health therapy and case management to 90 families (over 350 individual family members) and mental health consultation and training to nearly 250 individuals. Through therapy, case management, consultation and training WIN is working to create a world where kids can grow up to be happy, healthy and successful. To learn more about WIN services, WIN families, and the outcomes they achieve, visit www.winla.org. To learn more about the S. Mark Taper Foundation and the way they are enhancing the quality of people’s lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities, visit www.smtfoundation.org.