



LAOR NAMED VAN LEER LECTURE AWARD WINNER FOR 2011

Professor Nathaniel Laor—one of the world’s leading experts in the traumatic impact of disasters on children, families, and communities—will deliver the 2011 Van Leer Lecture on Sunday, April 10, at the Council on Foundations Annual Conference in Philadelphia, U.S.A. He will discuss the harrowing impact of violence in children’s lives and offer ways to build resilience to traumatic events.

Many private foundations work on issues that can result in trauma in young children’s lives, such as terrorist attacks, natural disasters, wars, insurgency, and incarceration. The consequences of these traumatic events on children have not always been understood. However, recent research on brain development, coupled with long-running research from the fields of neurology and psychiatry, has shed some light on this important issue.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Laor has developed a unique perspective on revitalizing whole communities through immediate interventions, individual psychotherapy, parent-child group interventions, and school reactivation. He has authored and implemented a well-known study on building resilience in young children. This work, dealing with the aftermath of an earthquake in Turkey in 1999, now serves as a resource for communities in Israel and elsewhere, and could serve as a model for such countries as Brazil, Haiti, and Australia that recently have been affected by natural disasters.

Professor Laor also has worked extensively with veterans and their families and will address the topic of post-traumatic stress within families and communities of returning veterans.

For more information about the Van Leer Lecture and the Council on Foundations 2011 Annual Conference, go to www.cof.org/annualconf. Inquiries for interviews with Professor Laor can be arranged through the Bernard van Leer Foundation in Europe +31303312271 or the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in Israel +97225605204.