

A nationally-renowned thought leader in the field of child welfare, The Fontana Center seeks to:

- Increase the public’s awareness and sensitivity toward child abuse and neglect
- Promote positive parenting
- Impact legislation and policy regarding child maltreatment
- Improve practice through research
- Partner with national, state, and local organizations to form coalitions to prevent child maltreatment
- Train professional staff to help reduce the incidence of child maltreatment



Tours of The Fontana Center’s Exhibit, “A Story of Resiliency, Healing, and Hope: Understanding and Preventing Child Maltreatment” are available upon request.



The New York Foundling

Since our bold beginnings in 1869, The New York Foundling has supported hundreds of thousands of our neighbors on their own paths to stability, strength, and independence. With an internationally-recognized and interrelated set of research-backed services, The Foundling works in partnership with children, adults, and families in New York and in Puerto Rico who are working to create transformational change in their own lives.

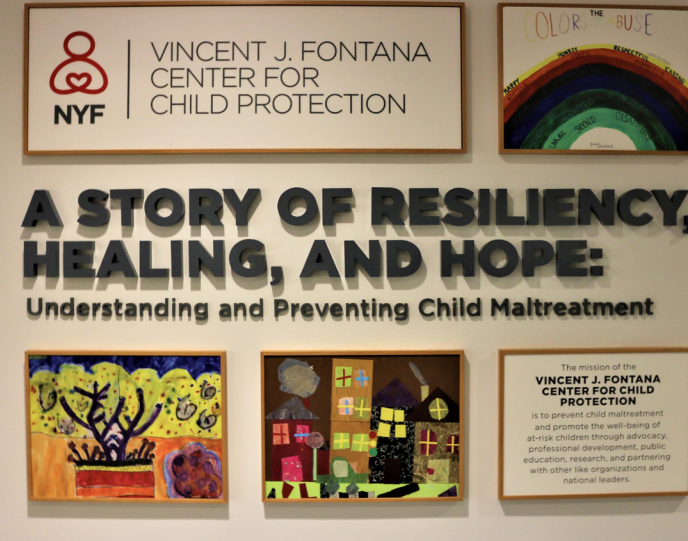
The New York Foundling’s Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection

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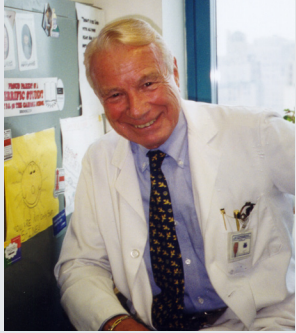
The New York Foundling’s Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection



Working to prevent child maltreatment and to promote the wellbeing of children.



About Dr. Vincent J. Fontana



Dr. Fontana was a national voice for children who had been abused or neglected. As Medical Director at The Foundling, he helped define the scope and magnitude of child maltreatment in the U.S.

“The creation of The Foundling’s Center for Child Protection is not about child abuse: it is about children, their rights, their needs and what we as a society can and should do to protect and care for our children.”

– Vincent J. Fontana, MD

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Policy and Advocacy

From legislation to policy development, The Fontana Center works closely with peer-organizations to achieve our common goals of keeping children safe and ending abuse. Some key relationships that advance our policy and advocacy efforts include:

- **National and New York State Initiatives to End Corporal Punishment:** *The Fontana Center is leading efforts to end the use of physical punishment in the United States.*
- **Center for Child Policy:** *With our partners, we translate research into resources and tools that promote evidence-informed practices for professionals.*
- **Psychological Maltreatment Alliance:** *This alliance serves as the nation’s primary resource center on child psychological maltreatment and how to protect and promote child well-being.*

Professional Development

By providing educational programs, workshops, and conferences in collaboration with fellow child welfare leaders, The Fontana Center helps build professional knowledge for all in our field:

- **Hearst Program:** *This 14-week program teaches theory, practice, and practical tools for service providers.*
- **Web-Based Training Program:** *An online, self-directed eight-module course for child welfare professionals, led by 29 national experts.*
- **Webinar Series:** *An annual six-part webinar series features the nation’s leading experts in child maltreatment.*

- **National Colloquium:** *In partnership with APSAC, The Fontana Center also sponsors an annual national colloquium drawing over 800 professionals from national institutes.*

Public Education

Our work improves the public’s knowledge of attitudes toward child maltreatment with programs like:

- **Child Abuse Prevention Program:** *Our award-winning child safety workshop and training program educates students, teachers, and parents about child abuse and neglect.*
- **Public Tours of the Fontana Center Exhibit:** *Staff and volunteers speak on the nature of child maltreatment, its history, and ways to prevent it through our exhibit: *A Story of Resiliency, Healing, and Hope.**
- **Fontana Center Artist Collective:** *A safe space for young people in foster care to express themselves through various art forms and share their work.*

Research

Collaborating with experts and universities, we conduct critical research into child maltreatment and effective intervention strategies.

In addition to publications in peer reviewed academic journals, Fontana Center leadership co-authored and published the book, *Bonded to the Abuser: How Victims Make Sense of Childhood Abuse.*



The Foundling’s Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection is partnered with APSAC—the leading national organization supporting professionals who serve children and families affected by child maltreatment and violence.