

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Symposium explores positive children's mental health treatments** *Keynote speaker discusses effective care models for children with mental health challenges*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – An expert in children's mental health, Robert Friedman, will deliver the keynote address at a symposium on Effective Community Responses for Children & Families on October 27, 2004 at the Sunshine Centre.

Hosted in part by The Partnerships for Children and Families Project at Wilfrid Laurier University, this is the second symposium in a series entitled Positive Systems of Care: Stories of Success, which focuses on children's mental health.

A professor and chair of the department of child and family studies in the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida, Friedman will discuss efforts to improve access to high-quality and cost-effective care for children with mental health challenges. His talk will cover the value of community-based and individualized care systems, evidence-based practices, strong provider networks, performance measure systems and family choice. Friedman will outline the connections between these efforts and offer suggestions for how they can be woven together to build effective systems.

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“Dr. Friedman’s keynote address will offer expert insights into children’s mental health to the participants at the symposium,” said Gary Cameron, research director of The Partnerships for Children and Families Project. “We are delighted that these symposiums continue to feature innovative and effective ways of helping children and families by highlighting positive possibilities and generating new ideas through discussion.”

Other notable presenters at the symposium will include Myra Alfreds, the director of children’s mental health services in the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, and Hewitt “Rusty” Clark, a professor in the department of child and family studies at the University of South Florida.

Housed in the faculty of social work at Wilfrid Laurier University, The Partnerships for Children and Families Project is a five-year research project focused on the lives and experiences of families and children who are served by Children’s Aid Societies and children’s mental health services in southern Ontario. The aim is to foster improvements in existing child welfare and children’s mental health policies, delivery systems, administration and programming/interventions.

The symposium is hosted by The Partnerships for Children and Families Project, Lutherwood, kidsLINK, and The Alliance for Children and Youth of Waterloo Region. There is no cost for the registering for the symposium, however, space is limited and participants are urged to pre-register.

For more information, contact the Partnerships Project at (519) 884-0710, ext. 2086, or toll-free at 1-866-239-1558. Or visit [www.wlu.ca/pcfproject](http://www.wlu.ca/pcfproject).