



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

Distinguished guests,  
Thank you all for being here this evening!

Let me start by saying how honored all of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) are that this event is taking place here at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL). We are grateful to the New York Public Library and the City of New York, which gave us the opportunity to be part of this amazing—as New York University sociologist Eric Klinenberg calls libraries at large, as did Andrew Carnegie before him—“palace for the people,” a beautiful and true public space for the benefit of all people, the SNFL! I am Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the international philanthropic organization SNF. We have been around for 28 years now, active in more than 134 countries around the globe, having committed more than \$3.7 billion to causes in social welfare, arts and culture, education, and health and sports.

At this point, and for the next few years, our focus and major ongoing initiative is our Global Health Initiative (GHI), an initiative truly global and collaborative, an initiative that began in Greece (where our focus is the building of three new hospitals) and has grown to total \$1 billion in a wide variety of projects.

Mental health: We have collaborated with and supported Dr. Harold Koplewicz, who has also become a dear personal friend, since a quarter of a century ago. Harold is truly unique, a real leader in the field of mental health for children and adolescents, who has been ahead of the curve.

We have been early supporters of, and collaborators with, the Child Mind Institute both in New York and as part of our mental health support efforts in Greece. During COVID, where early on it became evident that mental health issues were affecting all of us without exception, we continued to get together with Harold and our focus quickly came to the obvious needs that the area of mental health has and will continue to have in the years to come. Yes, in a way thanks to COVID, the stigma has been coming off—fast! But the needs are great in every respect and so much work is needed. So, the idea of a truly collaborative platform, a global center for mental health for children and adolescents was conceived and quickly developed into a real venture.



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And here we are today, and you will hear more about the vision and mission of the SNF Global Center at CMI from Harold and the panel that will follow. We are truly honored to work with CMI to help innovate and systematically increase access, quality, and equity in child and adolescent mental health care.

Before I close, I really want to share with you excerpts from [a CNN report](#) on last month's meeting at Dartmouth where seven US surgeons general collaborated to discuss the mental health crisis upon us. No place for politics here for sure. And now the floor belongs to my good friend and mental health leader, Dr. Harold Koplewicz

Thank you!