



Altruistic Behavior

INSTITUTE

BOOKS • INQUIRY • ACTION • EDUCATION

“What we do is more important than what we say or what we say we believe.” bell hooks

Is it hyperbole to say this last year was difficult? *Difficult* doesn't render visible the complexity of people's varied and overlapping experiences. As a very small organization, the Altruistic Behavior Institute spent the last year contributing toward individual and community well-being in the face of suffering. In this 2021 annual report you'll read about Sam Oliner's latest published book, a newly funded program to strengthen integration of behavioral and primary health care in rural and Indigenous community-based organizations, a project that circulates people's stories of caring for young children during the pandemic, and ongoing training efforts to reduce opioid overdoses.

In a year of global grief, the Altruistic Behavior Institute lost co-founder Dr. Pearl Oliner, who passed away on February 6, 2021. Consistent with bell hooks' sentiment above, Pearl pulled the Institute into *doing*. I hope you get a sense for this in the few pages within.

I invite you to direct people to the Institute website at <http://altruism.humboldt.edu>. There's a link there if you know someone who would like to make a gift: <https://tinyurl.com/sw7bdel>. Please give me a ring or send me an email if you'd like to talk about the Institute.

Ronnie Swartz, Ph.D., LCSW
Director, Altruistic Behavior Institute
Humboldt State University
707.826.4562
swartz@humboldt.edu
altruism.humboldt.edu

NEWS

Northwestern California Rural and Tribal Behavioral Health Stipend Program

This four year, \$567,000, grant through the United States Health Resources and Services Administration will expand the number of professionals working with persons in high need and high demand rural, vulnerable, and medically-underserved communities by providing team-based primary/behavioral health care training, rural/Tribal experiential placements, a \$10,000 stipend, and post-graduation employment search assistance for 34 advanced year Master of Social Work students between 2021 and 2025.

Sam Oliner's latest book, *What Kind of Future Will Our Children Inherit?* is published and available on Amazon!

See next page for more.

PROJECTS

We Live Here: Humboldt Families Coping with COVID-19

We Live Here is an effort to cultivate community connections by collecting, editing, and sharing excerpts from interviews with people who have had diverse life experiences. The intention is to bring forth empathic responses in listeners as they bear witness to stories about people who live in their community.

The original plan for We Live Here was halted due to the pandemic and transformed into *We Live Here: Humboldt Families Coping with COVID-19*, a podcast series available on all major platforms in which parents and caregivers of young children share their stories of struggle and resilience during the pandemic. With additional funding, We Live Here can continue to collect and share diverse stories.

Naloxone (Narcan®) training and distribution

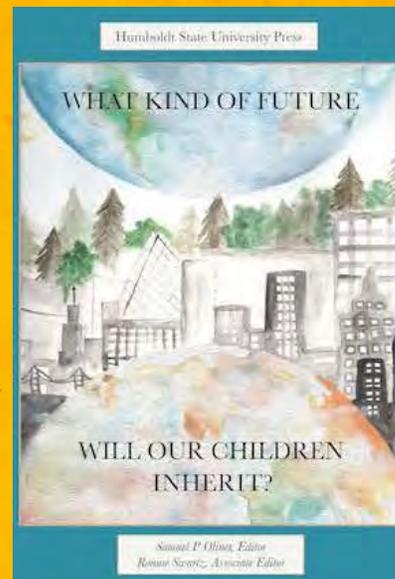
The Institute provides training on administration of the life-saving opioid overdose reversal medicine naloxone (Narcan). Each trainee receives two doses of naloxone to use if they encounter an opioid overdose in the course of their work. This project will continue as long as there is funding to sustain it.

What Kind of Future Will Our Children Inherit?
available on Amazon

Making the world a better place is not simply about the glass being half full or half empty; it is both at the same time. With the complexity of global trends comes major challenges, and one cannot say that one perception is correct and the other incorrect. It is much more complicated than that. We have an emergence of those who see the future as promising and perhaps even more harmonious than we have ever imagined, as well as those who believe that we are declining and ruining ourselves. A number of institutions, groups, governments, and individuals have taken these challenges to humanity seriously—have “seen the light”—and are trying to do something about the future state of the world.

What kind of future will our children inherit? It is a future like all futures—it contains both an evolution of our species towards a higher level of consciousness and a resistance to such change. This has been the balancing act throughout human history. It will be incumbent upon our children to make sure that the glass of the future is half full.

-Sam Oliner, Founder, Altruistic Behavior Institute



Project in search of funding: Intellectual Humility and Service

One way to think about intellectual humility is the ability to admit that one might be wrong, or at least lacks full knowledge of a situation to be categorically right. With funding, the Institute will explore the role and effect of intellectual humility in altruistic and prosocial behavior, particularly with people who work in professional helping contexts and in retail/service industries looking for effective communication outcomes with high-needs individuals.

Altruistic Behavior Institute Board of Directors

Dr. Lawrence Baron
San Diego State University

Reverend Mr. John F Gai
Humboldt State University

Reverend Douglas Huneke
Tiburon, CA

Shaunna McCovey (Yurok)
McKinleyville, CA

Mr. Ken Nakamura
San Diego State University



Dr. Marianne Pennekamp
Freshwater, CA

Dr. Janusz Reykowski
Polish Academy of Science

Dr. John H. Roth
Claremont McKenna College

Mr. Pierre Sauvage
Friends of Le Chambon

Dr. Ervin Staub
University of Massachusetts

Dr. Mary Virnoche
Humboldt State University