Dr. Scanlon founded South Bay Mental Health in 1986 with the mission of serving disadvantaged and disabled individuals and families. He pioneered bringing services into natural settings—consumers’ homes, schools, residential programs, correctional institutions and social services facilities. With this commitment to community-based services South Bay grew to a staff of over 1,000 and developed 26 mental health and substance abuse treatment programs in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Dr. Scanlon was awarded a doctoral degree in counseling from Florida State University in 1979. He has served as a staff psychologist at Danvers State Hospital, chief psychologist at Hallgarth Institute, and faculty member of Stonehill College. In addition to his doctoral training, Dr. Scanlon earned a master’s degree from FSU in 1971, trained at the Cambridge Family Institute, and University of Massachusetts Medical School Center for Mindfulness. He has served as a guest lecturer throughout the U.S. and internationally and was a member of a delegation of psychologists sent to Russia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In 2012 Dr. Scanlon and his wife established the Vandermark Foundation in order to improve the lives of underprivileged families and encourage self-sufficiency in developing countries. The Vandermark Foundation has built an orphanage and supports shelter programs for children in Vietnam, supports a woman’s education program in India, has built a water treatment project in the Dominican Republic, and backs an adoption support program in Massachusetts. The Foundation established the Cottingham Colloquium at FSU and provided a grant to FSU to create an online tool kit designed to foster healthy co-parenting in families of divorce.