

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

the multiplier effect



the multiplier effect

This is the phenomenon that occurs when impact far exceeds input.

For instance, when the benefits of a scholarship reach beyond the individual who receives it. When a single psychiatrist eases burdens for hundreds of patients, and still more family members and friends. When a radio station's listeners spread newfound sensitivity throughout an entire community. These are just a few of the examples recounted in this report ... and some of the ways we pursue our mission.



2018 was a year of action for the Foundation as we increased investments in our priority areas of education and mental health. We expanded our engineering and mental health scholarship programs, advocated for mental health funding and partnered with like-minded national funders to bring greater attention to mental health issues. We are proud of what has been accomplished and the multiplier effect greatly enhanced our initial investments.

The cornerstone of the Foundation's education strategy is the Lee Scholarship Program, which ensures student recipients are well positioned to enter the workforce upon graduation with minimal debt. Our largest scholarship program supports students at institutions of higher learning who are pursuing careers in engineering and other technical fields. As the cost of post-secondary education has increased so has the financial burden on middle-income households. Often, these students do not qualify for adequate financial aid; our program gives them access to affordable educational opportunities.

The mental health challenges facing our region are symptomatic of the national mental health crisis. To achieve meaningful change, advocacy at the state and federal levels is essential. In May, we launched BeKind2TheMind, a bipartisan initiative to educate the community about the need for increased funding for mental health services. Community members were called upon to voice their concerns to elected officials and the local response was inspiring. We were honored to be recognized by Compeer Buffalo with the Googie Butler Advocacy Award for this initiative and our commitment to mental health advocacy.

In October, we attended a gathering of policy experts, mental health professionals and fellow funders from across the United States who share our vision of better health outcomes for people living with mental illnesses. We collectively developed an advocacy agenda for state and federal mental health policy issues. We look forward to explaining more about this effort when it launches in 2019.

The Foundation is thankful for the many individuals and families who inspire our work. We are especially grateful to our scholars for their enthusiasm and passion for learning, and to our grantees for their unwavering commitment to people living with mental illnesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Lee'.

Patrick P. Lee
Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane M. Mogavero'.

Jane M. Mogavero
Executive Director

EDUCATION

65 SCHOLARSHIPS... countless future innovations

Engineering and technology hold great and growing promise for productive and rewarding careers. Yet high tuition and fees – and the burdensome loans needed to cover them – can discourage students who don't qualify for sufficient need-based financial aid. Recognizing this critical gap in support, the Foundation strategically targets grants to candidates from middle income households. Lee Scholars enjoy the financial freedom to devote full attention to their studies and begin their careers with minimal debt. While the future impact of Foundation support is difficult to quantify, we know that Lee Scholars will help to advance their fields and inspire future engineers as well.



Jessica Rozycki (pictured third from right with 2018 Lee Scholars) welcomes the opportunity to spend time with the current scholars and even helps plan an annual community service day for the group.

ASHLEY KOSAK, RIT'S FIRST LEE SCHOLAR

"Astronomical!" This is how Ashley describes the impact of the Lee scholarship on her life. "I was very lucky. Tuition has gone up every year, and prior to the scholarship I was working multiple jobs. The scholarship was a great relief."

"Astronomical" also describes her career aspirations: upon graduation from the Rochester Institute of Technology in May, she will take a job at SpaceX in Florida. In 2017, at SpaceX in California, Ashley experienced a "very hands-on, high-impact internship" as part of the team working on the Falcon and Dragon. Her new job as a Build Reliability Engineer at the launch site means she will have been able "to work on this project from beginning to end." She had other post-graduation offers, but chose SpaceX for the opportunity "to have a long-term impact on space exploration and innovation, to be part of something really big."



JESSICA ROZYCKI, OUR VERY FIRST LEE SCHOLAR

"From the moment I stepped onto the St. Louis University campus, I knew I wanted to go there," Jessica recalls. "The teachers and campus are amazing and the facilities are awesome." It was the ideal place to study engineering, her dream career. But the pressures of her job, work-study and student loans seemed overwhelming by junior year, and she feared she'd need to transfer or drop out. Thus, "when I was told I got the Lee Scholarship, my heart exploded! I was filled with joy because it allowed me to stay." Jessica earned her degree in aerospace engineering in 2012.

Jessica's position as a Test and Evaluation Engineer, conducting wind tunnel tests for defense and space programs at Boeing, is the fulfillment of another dream. Having grown up listening to her father's Air Force stories, "I felt this was a way to pay it forward, to serve our country by working in the defense industry." She's also working toward a master's degree in aerodynamics. In fact, inspired by one of her classes, she proposed a project that integrates lessons learned from her coursework. "This type of project has never been done before," she explains, "so everyone is really excited about it."

ONE NEW PROFESSIONAL... hundreds more patients served

Add just one mental health provider to the community, and the impact on care can be momentous. To cite one example, the caseload of a typical outpatient psychiatrist numbers 500. Emergency room psychiatrists average as many as 25 patients per shift, and carry up to 200 outpatients as well. The multiplier effect for each new psychologist and psychiatric nurse practitioner is similar. The Lee Foundation is alleviating urgent deficiencies in our community's workforce, by supporting students who aspire to careers in mental health care and plan to practice here.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

The Foundation expanded Lee scholarships at D'Youville College to include psychiatric nurse practitioners. And we continue to support third and fourth year students in the University of Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine who are committed to psychiatry and to remaining in Western New York. Also significant is our partnership with UB to establish a doctoral internship in psychology.

ALEX COGSWELL, LAUNCHING UB'S PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP

"The Lee Foundation's support is the reason we're able to get this started," says Alex Cogswell, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Training Director of UB's Psychology Doctoral Internship. The university's initial investment in the program was important to the Foundation, making this relationship a true partnership.

"We're super excited about this, and envision it as a way to keep talent here," Alex explains. During the earlier doctoral training experiences, students "develop personal relationships and want to stay to complete their internships. They are looking for opportunities in Buffalo."

Alex also credits Daniel Antonius, Ph.D., Corey Leidenfrost, Ph.D. and Julie Mikula for helping to develop the program and recruit two interns who will start in July.

For interns, a cutting-edge opportunity

The UB internship has a unique emphasis. "Most programs focus on treating either children or adults," Alex explains. "Our interns will work with children, adolescents, families, and younger and older adults. They will gain expertise in how serious mental illness develops across the entire life-span. They will learn to identify indicators of potential or worsening illness in childhood, so that they can intervene earlier, and continue to manage them as they get older."

"We're on the cutting edge of training in inpatient, outpatient and forensic settings," Alex notes. "It truly is a unique opportunity."

For the community, short and long-term impact

UB interns will immediately improve access to thoughtful and sophisticated care, helping to shorten the long waiting lists that permeate the region. On average, interns would see 12 inpatients in group therapy several times per week, and a few more in individual sessions. The caseload for those treating outpatients would include about five families.

Over the longer term, Alex predicts that psychologists completing the program will not only treat many more patients but develop valuable new programs as well. "They're bright, ambitious, thoughtful and creative," he says. "They'll be able to evaluate and improve the system by creating something new."



MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

THOUSANDS OF MINDS ENLIGHTENED... one caring community

The more people know about mental health issues, the more sensitive and welcoming they're likely to be. Wholeheartedly committed to the goal of ensuring people living with mental illnesses are engaged and supported members of the community, the Lee Foundation invests in and leads a diversity of efforts in Western New York, from training programs to awareness campaigns.

"We care deeply about working with the Lee Foundation to bring awareness to the issue of mental health because it affects every community and every family in one shape or form."

Rep. Tom Reed

BeKind2theMind: one initiative, two congressmen ... boundless citizen power

Securing adequate public funding for mental health resources is an ongoing challenge. The Foundation enlisted Congressmen Brian Higgins and Tom Reed to launch BeKind2theMind, a bipartisan initiative offering convenient tools to advocate for increased government support. The website provides contact information for elected officials, as well as talking points and templates to help citizens with phone calls, letters and emails. The effort received significant media attention for helping people appreciate and act upon their ability to effect positive change.

One successful program ... \$1.65 million in leveraged funds

When a citizen experiences a mental health crisis, police officers are usually the first to respond. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) gives law enforcement the knowledge and empathy to de-escalate situations and direct the people involved to the appropriate assistance. Erie County's CIT model is unique because it fosters a working relationship between police officers and a Crisis Services mobile outreach team, giving them a better understanding of how to partner with community resources.

Lee Foundation funding enabled Crisis Services to demonstrate their success in decreasing unnecessary hospitalizations and diverting citizens from the criminal justice system. In partnership with the Erie County Department of Mental Health, Crisis Services leveraged these positive outcomes to secure a \$1.65 million federal grant to fund training for many more officers.

"More can and must be done to address gaps in services and direct resources to mental health needs across our communities and our country. We stand up and speak out because real progress will require all of us to do our part."

Rep. Brian Higgins



CAPTAIN AMBER BEYER, THE BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST CIT COORDINATOR

Simply completing the CIT course wasn't enough for Amber. She proposed a liaison with Crisis Services to link law enforcement with mental health providers, hospitals, and individuals with mental illness and their families. Commissioner Bryon C. Lockwood appointed her Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator in October.

"There's so much value to CIT," Amber believes. "Law enforcement is often the first contact with individuals in crisis. It's very important to ask the right questions and find out if they're linked to any services. If they are, Crisis Services can make their providers aware of the need for attention. If they're not, we will work with Crisis Services to make those connections."

The officers "all volunteer for this training," Amber says. "They want to protect and serve, and CIT gives them the ability and confidence to handle calls better." Many follow up on their own time to see how people they've assisted are doing, Amber notes, and that's "community policing at its finest."

500+ people trained and counting

Mental Health First Aid, an eight-hour course offered by Compeer, teaches volunteers how to recognize and respond when someone living with mental health issues experiences a crisis. With Foundation support, the agency was able to demonstrate the need and value of the course and, as a result, secure a three-year federal grant to increase its capacity.

MENTAL HEALTH

A DOZEN TARGETED GRANTS... immeasurable capacity to care

From building physical facilities to building skills among providers and the public, the Foundation is committed to increasing access to care and enhancing quality of life for people living with mental illnesses.

- For the **Erie County Medical Center**, we contributed to construction of Behavioral Health Safe Suites in the new Trauma Center.
- For the **WNY Human Services Collaborative**, Foundation funding helped to develop shared space for eight nonprofits.
- For **WNED/WBFO**, our support launched the Mental Health Initiative which provides balanced reporting, community conversations, Facebook Live events and an online video series aimed at challenging stereotypes and encouraging dialogue about mental health issues.
- For the **Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition**, we supported *Join the Conversation*, an awareness and outreach campaign to end the stigma associated with mental illnesses.
- For **mental health providers**, Foundation grants enabled their staff to participate in professional development and training opportunities.
- For several agencies, we funded programs to help people living with mental illnesses find and succeed in employment.

2018 COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS & DISTRIBUTION

Education

Erie Community College
Rochester Institute of Technology
St. Louis University
Say Yes to Education Buffalo
University of Rochester

Education/ Mental Health

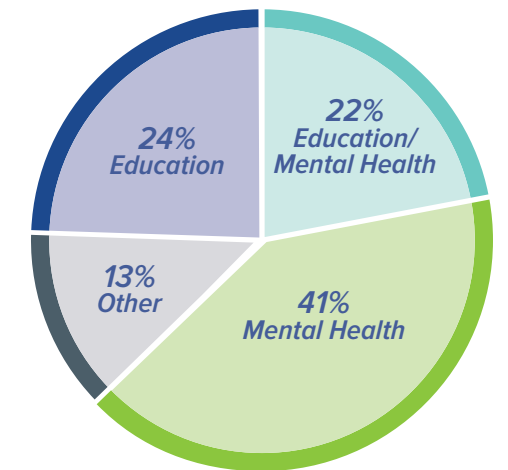
Bring Change to Mind
Camillus House, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Buffalo, NY
Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc.
Child & Family Services of Erie County
Community Concern of WNY, Inc.
D'Youville College
Jericho Road Community Health Center
University at Buffalo Medical School
University at Buffalo Psychology Internship

Mental Health

BeKind2TheMind
Compeer
Crisis Services
ECMC Foundation
Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition
Gerard Place
Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, Inc.
NAMI Buffalo & Erie County People Inc.
WNED/WBFO
WNY Human Services Collaborative

Other

Albright Knox Art Gallery
Board Discretionary
Habitat for Humanity - Buffalo
Tourette Association of America



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2018 St. Louis University Lee Scholars



2018 Erie Community College Lee Scholars

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Photos courtesy of D'Youville College, Sandra Kicman - University at Buffalo and Telesco Creative Group.

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