

2016:  
A YEAR OF  
FOCUS AND  
ACTION





*Patrick and Cynthia Lee visit with Lee Scholars at Erie Community College.*

# LETTER FROM FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

**PATRICK P. LEE**



Since its inception ten years ago, the Lee Foundation has funded hundreds of organizations serving Western New York and South Florida. Our grant making employed a wide lens allowing us to be responsive to a variety of issues in education, medical care, behavioral health and human and community services.

We are proud to have supported nationally recognized research institutions committed to innovation in medical treatment, such as Roswell Park Cancer Institute. At the same time, we are also grateful for our partnerships with smaller community based organizations, like Friends of Night People, that address the basic human needs of our most vulnerable. The Foundation is confident that the work of these organizations and all our past grantees will benefit the community for years to come.

As we now concentrate our funding in education and mental health, our goal is to have greater impact in a more targeted way. We will expand our scholarship program to help more students realize their academic and professional goals. In mental health, an ever-growing area of need in Western New York and across the United States, we will raise awareness of serious mental illness through outreach and community education.

We look forward to strengthening our relationships with present grantees and forging new partnerships to further our impact and reach in these critical areas.

Sincerely,

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

**Patrick P. Lee**

Founder, Chairman

Patrick P. Lee Foundation



2016 was a pivotal year for the Lee Foundation. During it, we carefully studied, researched and reevaluated our grant making program. Our self-examination included meetings

with past and present grantees, industry experts, service providers and fellow grant makers. We sought to understand more fully the impact of our funding and where our community investments could be most effective. In the end, we determined to transition from the present four focus areas to two - education and mental health.

The mental health needs in Western New York are considerable, permeating every aspect of our society and requiring immediate attention. Unfortunately, there are limited local resources dedicated to mental health. Therefore, we will leverage additional funds through outreach and advocacy. We plan to raise awareness of mental illness and the importance of early diagnosis, screening and professional training. We will also support individuals, families and providers confronting serious mental illness.

In the area of education, our goal remains to increase post-secondary opportunities that lead to job realization. We will place new emphasis on our already successful scholarship program, targeting engineering students and individuals entering the mental health profession in Western New York. Special attention will be given to funding opportunities at the intersection of education and mental health issues.

As the Foundation embarks on this new chapter, we are highly motivated by our redefined focus areas and, even more importantly, inspired to collaborate with our partners and fellow grant makers to maximize our collective impact.

Sincerely,

**Jane Mogavero, Esq.**

Executive Director

Patrick P. Lee Foundation

**JANE MOGAVERO, ESQ.**

LETTER FROM  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

*Executive Director Jane Mogavero at the beam signing and topping off ceremony for The Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.*





## Continuing Our Tradition of Supporting Education

A focus on education as a direct connection to job and career opportunities has always been a cornerstone of the Lee Foundation. Scholarships granted by the Foundation enable students to continue their studies and prepare for future careers.

We are proud of our work in 2016:

- To connect our two focus areas of education and mental health, the Foundation has recently funded scholarships in the field of psychiatry through the University at Buffalo. Two 3rd year and two 4th year medical students who are committed to staying in Western New York have been awarded scholarships.
- The Foundation supports scholarships for college students through the Horatio Alger Society, based in Washington, DC, and Say Yes Buffalo, which benefits Buffalo Public School students.



- In honor of Patrick P. Lee's alma mater, the Foundation funds scholarships for engineering students at Saint Louis University in Missouri. These scholarships assist middle class students who do not qualify for need-based financial aid. Currently, ten scholarships are awarded annually to juniors and seniors. We will expand this scholarship program to new schools in 2017.

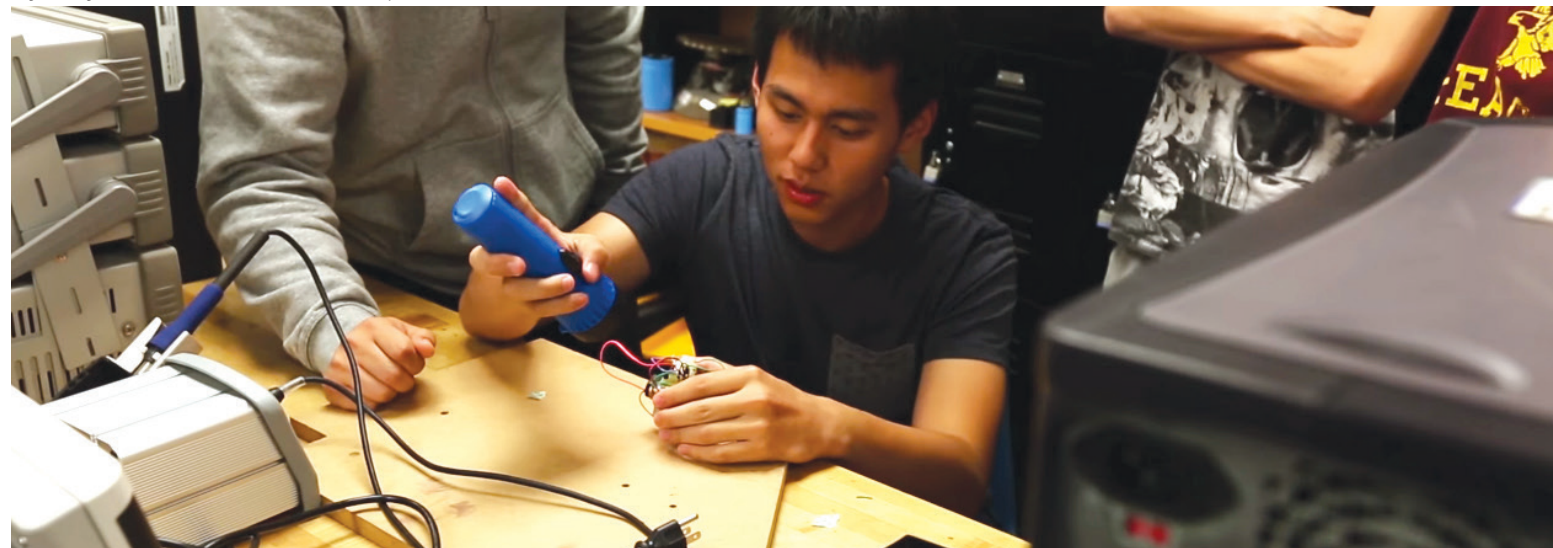
## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENGINEERING AND MENTAL HEALTH

*“Making an impact on a person’s life, especially one who is in an extremely vulnerable position due to mental illness, would be the ultimate reward for me.”*

**– Melinda Harwood**

UB Medical Student in Psychiatry  
and current Lee Scholar

*Engineering Student at work at Saint Louis University in Missouri.*





*Recent cohort of law enforcement officers after completing CIT Training.*

## *Training Leads to Better Understanding of Mental Illness*

Recognizing that police officers are often the first to answer calls involving those in crisis, the Lee Foundation supports Crisis Services' program that trains law enforcement to respond more effectively to individuals grappling with mental illness. Using the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, officers learn techniques to recognize mental health issues, deescalate situations and connect individuals to community resources.

Once training is complete, officers responding to mental health crises will receive ongoing support from the Crisis Services Mobile Outreach Team. The partnership between law enforcement and Crisis Services improves outcomes and ensures a seamless, effective and responsive intervention for individuals with mental illness.

According to Christina Newman, Training Lieutenant, Cheektowaga Police Department, "The CIT training program was especially beneficial to our officers. Many were not aware of all the resources available locally and having a chance to meet and learn from people in our community created a feeling of connection."

To date, the Lee Foundation has funded CIT Training for 223 officers across nineteen police departments in Erie County. Preliminary data suggests the program reduces unnecessary hospitalizations and incarcerations. As a result, those afflicted with mental health issues receive the proper level of care and the community is not burdened with unnecessary costs of inappropriately utilized resources. This program is a strong fit for the Lee Foundation since it marries our core focus areas of education and mental health.

## TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

*"In today's environment, training like this is not really optional. It is a necessity for us to be able to accomplish our mission."*

**- Joshua Sticht**

Deputy Chief of Police, NYS University Police,  
University at Buffalo



“By assisting us with the one-time costs associated with the merger, the Lee Foundation has allowed us to continue to provide services to families in our community without interruption.”

– **Howard K. Hitzel, Psy.D**  
President, Lake Shore Behavioral Health



Lake Shore staff members and families participating in recent community event.

## Streamlining Mental Health Services for All Ages

For years, Lake Shore Behavioral Health has provided comprehensive mental health services for adults while Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) served children through age 21 with mental health challenges.

When the two non-profit organizations decided to merge, the Lee Foundation provided support, believing the union was advantageous from a treatment and a financial point of view. Now called BestSelf Behavioral Health, it is the largest mental health provider in the region serving more than 18,000 people.

The new organization provides seamless treatment services for any age, ensuring continuity of care. In the past, those who had “aged out” of CATS treatment did not always make the connection into adult services and became more at risk. BestSelf has also expanded family support services allowing for better coordination and comprehensive treatment.

In addition to enhancing critical mental health services in Western New York, the merger strongly positions BestSelf to navigate the

complex health care environment that is moving to value-based care, rather than a fee-for-service model. By combining the two organizations, the new entity is better equipped to compete in this changing marketplace.

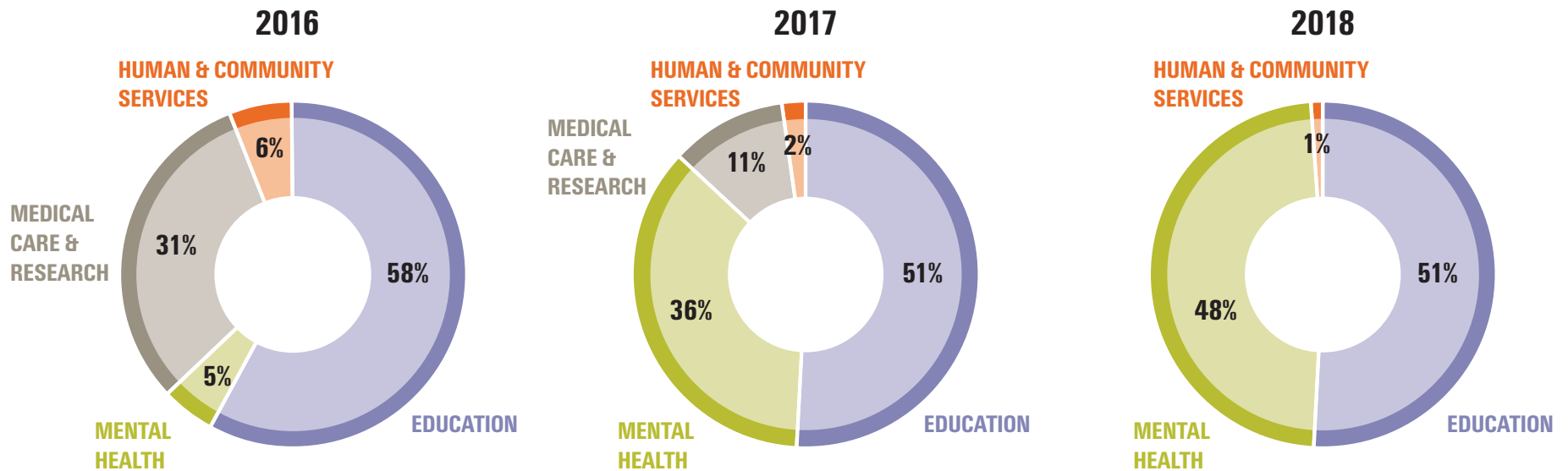
Awarded in January 2017, this grant exemplifies the Lee Foundation’s commitment to mental health as a core investment area. We look forward to working collaboratively with BestSelf and other providers to address critical, and often overlooked, issues in treating and de-stigmatizing mental illness.



## MERGER OF LAKE SHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CATS

## A Transition of Funding Priorities though 2018

We are proud of our past grants and the strong relationships we have forged with grantees. As we sharpen our focus on education and mental health, we are implementing a thoughtful and measured approach to ensure impacted organizations have the necessary time to adjust.



### Priority Areas:

- Education with a focus on job/career realization
  - Scholarships in engineering and mental health professions
  - Professional development for those in the mental health field
  - Work force development and training
- Mental health and specifically serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder
  - Raising community awareness including the importance of early diagnosis and screening

### Geographic Areas Served

- Erie and Niagara Counties in New York
- Monroe and Miami/Dade Counties in Florida
- Other areas considered at the discretion of the Board of Directors

## OUR NEW STRATEGIC FOCUS



2016 Patrick P. Lee Foundation Board Members

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 **Patrick P. Lee**  
FOUNDATION