2016 Annual Highlights
This past year has been one of action and evolution for The Tower Foundation as we worked to improve our systems, lead on issues of community importance, and increase our overall impact.

We remain committed to improving the lives of young people with Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health issues and Substance Use Disorders living in our geographic regions. Our efforts building grantee capacity is increasing and we are gaining deeper understanding of The Foundation’s role in leading change as we work in new ways and with new partners.

Our national funding partners are learning from us, saying we help keep their perspectives in check, which can sometimes be abstract and theoretical. As a regional funder, we work closely with our communities and can bridge theory to practice at the local level. This is a critical role and one I am proud our team can contribute.

This year, we increased our emphasis on substance use disorders, particularly with the expanding opioid epidemic. The Foundation supported prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives, and efforts to de-stigmatize addiction across our regions. Working with our partners, we helped save lives.

Finally, we had a smooth roll out of changes to our grant application process. It is less burdensome, provides more opportunities to apply for funding and more direct involvement with our team. Initial feedback has been very positive. We believe the changes will help potential grantees align their requests with our funding priorities, while giving them feedback and guidance throughout the process.

I am pleased to share our 2016 Annual Highlights and extend our deepest appreciation to our various partners working with The Foundation to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Tracy A. Sawicki
Executive Director
WORKING WITH DIVERSE PROGRAMS AND across regions gives the Tower Foundation a unique perspective on how successful programs can be implemented in other places. This “cross pollination” can build credibility and provide opportunities to share best practices. For example:

- Nonprofit leadership development on Cape Cod and the Islands is a significant need, particularly as the area can be somewhat isolated. For years, The Tower Foundation supported the Institute for Nonprofit Practice (INP) and introduced the organization to Cape Cod and Island funders. Local funders were more receptive to INP because of the Foundation’s relationship and the value of investing in organizational and human capital. In late 2016, INP’s leadership and management program launched on the Cape, thanks to support from a funders collaborative, which included The Tower Foundation, and was led by The Cape Cod Foundation. The first cohort of 16 nonprofit leaders will graduate in May 2017.

- PEDALS (Positive Emotional Development and Learning Skills), a preschool-age program The Tower Foundation co-developed with the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York, was “exported” to Massachusetts. The program, which has enriched preschool education for more than 2,700 children in Erie and Niagara County, uses the Second Step social-emotional curriculum with additional support in the form of classroom coaching, behavioral data and screening tools. Recognizing an opportunity to strengthen their focus on social-emotional growth, Pathways for Children will test a lighter-touch implementation of PEDALS, featuring a mix of remote consulting and onsite visits from the PEDALS team. The goal is to build Pathway’s internal capacity to support the coaching and continuous improvement platform that PEDALS is built on in 22 Head Start classrooms on Massachusetts’ North Shore.
WHILE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS is not a new focus for Tower, there was greater urgency this year as the opioid crisis continued to grow and as communities across the country searched for solutions. We saw an opportunity to contribute – both in helping to expand successful programs, and in supporting new ones where gaps exist.

Our support extends along the continuum of prevention, identification, and treatment through post treatment. In addition to funding specific programs, our efforts also focused on building capacity within organizations and communities, and helping to share learnings and “export” successful programs from one community to another.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES FROM PREVENTION THROUGH RECOVERY

The Tower Foundation continues to support initiatives that can help prevent, identify and treat substance use disorders, particularly for adolescents and young adults. Our work in 2016 included:

Prevention
- Funding three fellowships in Addiction Medicine through the American Society for Addiction Medicine to build physician knowledge and capacity in addiction issues.
- Sharing expertise at the White House Symposium on Medical Response to Addiction through the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Identification
- Expanding SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) training for healthcare professionals and middle and high school personnel through Massachusetts-based Community Catalyst. SBIRT is a non-judgmental approach to drawing out individuals to share their use of addictive substances and referring to treatment if necessary.
- Tower is also supporting SBIRT in Erie County, New York.

Treatment
- In addition to State and Federal funding, The Tower Foundation supported an outpatient facility for medication-assisted treatment for adolescents at the Duffy Health Center in Hyannis, Massachusetts.
TOWER SUPPORTS PHYSICIAN TRAINING IN ADDICTION MEDICINE

As the opioid crisis escalated last year, the Erie County Department of Health set out to address a critical gap in addiction prevention and treatment: physician training. Because addiction medicine has not been recognized as a medical sub-specialty until recently, most physicians had no training in medical school, leaving them without the resources to address a growing number of patients with substance use disorders.

In a partnership between government and philanthropy, The Tower Foundation collaborated with the Erie County Department of Health to address the need for physician training that is making sustainable change in addressing addiction.

Our funding has helped to build capacity within the medical community to better identify, prevent and treat addiction issues through a physician training program that also certifies doctors to prescribe medication when necessary. Specific training has also been developed for pediatric providers that requires a different approach for children. In addition, an evidenced-based screening protocol called SBIRT, (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment), has been implemented throughout the County that trains healthcare professionals to screen patients for addiction issues in a non-judgmental way and provides referrals to services when necessary.

By joining forces with other stakeholders, we believe we can increase our community’s capacity to respond to this community health issue.

“None of this could have happened without The Tower Foundation. They have always been a great public health partner and their generosity has helped us address critical gaps in the medical community’s education in fighting the addiction epidemic.”

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH, FAAP
Commissioner of Health
Erie County, NY
POST-TREATMENT: A CRITICAL TIME

The most dangerous time for relapse can be the period just after treatment for many with substance use disorders. With the temptation of old habits, many who have undergone treatment find this period to be difficult if they do not have adequate supports. Recognizing this, The Tower Foundation supports post-treatment programs that connect those in recovery with people and places that can help them remain on this path including:

- Gosnold, an addiction treatment provider for young adults in Barnstable, Massachusetts, has implemented a Recovery Coach program that pairs those who have recently completed addiction treatment with a coach who can provide support, referrals to needed services, connections to education and employment opportunities, and alternatives to unhealthy social situations.

  The coaches are typically peers – young people who are also in recovery – who understand the pressures facing those who are new to the recovery process. The three-year initiative has proven successful, helping more than 170 people. Participants typically have higher rates of engagement in support groups and longer rates of remission.

- In addition to personal support, a place for those new to recovery can also be critical. The High Risk Task Force in Gloucester, Massachusetts recognized that they had been successful in getting people to treatment, only to learn that relapse and, in some cases, overdose, quickly followed. While large urban centers typically offer centralized places for this population to meet and obtain services, few exist in small and medium size towns.

  The Task Force collaborated with other community groups and created a model that offers those in recovery a place to meet, find fellowship and engage in healthy activities with peers. Named “Our Place” by its participants, the program is housed at a local church and is available once a week, with expansion planned. Participants can find support groups, wellness classes, meals and other activities to help them through the critical post-recovery period. The model is collaborative, relatively low-budget and scalable to other communities.
a regional perspective **Strengthens National Work**

The Tower Foundation is now in its 5th year as the lead funder of Reimagine Learning, a social impact fund within the New Profit portfolio that supports communities and schools in creating learning environments for all students, particularly those with learning differences.

The collaboration includes New Profit, The Poses Family Foundation, the Oak Foundation and, most recently, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As the sole regional funder among national foundations, The Tower Foundation has brought a unique and necessary perspective on making an impact.

As a regional funder, the Tower Foundation has played a significant role increasing partners’ understanding of the local context and paving the way for their entrée into different communities.

Reimagine Learning is supporting two projects within Tower’s geographic footprint in Massachusetts including a community-wide strategic planning initiative for Salem schools and support for Acceleration Academies in Lawrence, designed to support struggling students. The partnership between regional and national foundations has many benefits, as demonstrated by the set of solutions emerging when broad theories about how to create change intersect with the realities of local implementation.

While Tower provides local perspectives, the work with Reimagine Learning has also provided new understanding to The Tower Foundation on the importance of supporting policy change, communications strategy and research to address issues and achieve sustainable results.

“The epiphany is when you start to realize that the question is not what programs to fund, but what problems to solve, and Tower understands this.”

Jeff Walker  
Board Chair, New Profit
2016 Grants Awarded

2016 GRANTS AWARDED
TOTAL: $7,824,646

2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY CATEGORY

- CORE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
  $3,289,655
  42%
- CAPACITY BUILDING
  $1,846,074
  24%
- HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
  $2,688,917
  34%

2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY STATE

- NEW YORK: 33%
  $2,623,836
- MASSACHUSETTS: 61%
  $4,760,810
- OTHER: 6%
  $440,000

2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY COUNTY

- ESSEX (MA)
  51%
- BARNSTABLE (MA)
  11%
- NIAGARA (NY)
  27%
- ERIE (NY)
  3%
- DUKES (MA)
  1%
- NANTUCKET (MA)
  1%
- OTHER
  6%
2016 Grants Awarded

Core Programs and Services

MASSACHUSETTS

Bridgwell
   Bridges to Family Success ........................................ 189,728

Duffy Health Center
   Duffy Teen Addiction Treatment Program .......................... $308,886

Falmouth Public Schools
   Calmer Choice .......................................................... $100,000

Family and Children’s Services of Nantucket, Inc
   Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention
   (ESP/MCI) for Nantucket ........................................... $49,900

Lahey Health Behavioral Services
   Family and Adolescent Recovery (FAR) .......................... $264,066

NoticeAbility
   NoticeAbility – Martha’s Vineyard Learning Differences
   Community Enrichment Project ................................... $73,209

Research Institute for Learning and Development
   SMARTS-T: A Research-Based Executive Function
   Teacher Training Program ......................................... $205,000

Triangle
   IMPACT:Ability Saugus .............................................. $40,000

Trustees of Boston University
   Friends Matter: Increasing and Improving Social
   Interaction Opportunities between Students with
   and without Intellectual Disabilities ............................... $142,522

YMCA of the North Shore
   YMCA Afterschool Mental Health Matters ........................ $220,181

NEW YORK

Buffalo State College Foundation, Inc.
   Access BSC: Bridge to Success in College ......................... $54,142

Center for Self Advocacy
   Peer Empowerment Network ....................................... $35,378

Gerard Place Housing Development Fund Company
   Family Learning ........................................................ $90,000

Hamburg Central School District
   Implementation of Mental Health First Aid in
   Hamburg Central School District ................................. $75,000

Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc
   Lake Shore Behavioral Health – Dialectical Behavioral
   Therapy Intensive Training (LSBH-DBTIT) ....................... $181,470

Mount St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation
   Pediatric Care Coordination ....................................... $190,000

National Center for Learning Disabilities, Inc.
   Schools that Work: Response to Intervention
   and Multi-tiered System of Supports Framework
   for Success – Mashpee Year 2 ..................................... $199,700

New York State ARC, Inc.
   Erie County Chapter
   Community Pre-Employment Training ......................... $100,000

Niagara University
   Gap Funding for Niagara County Early Child Care
   Quality Improvement Project Phase III – Focus on
   Kindergarten Transition ........................................... $20,790

Summit Educational Resources
   Improving Transition Outcomes for People with
   Autism and Complex Developmental Disabilities ............. $150,000

Tonawanda City School District
   FLASH (Functional Learning for Attention,
   Socialization and Hyperactivity) ............................... $159,683

OTHER

Beneficent Technology, Inc.
   Deepening the Impact of Bookshare for the Success of
   Students with Learning Disabilities ............................ $200,000

The Addiction Medicine Foundation
   The Addiction Medicine Foundation Fellowship Training ..... $240,000

Capacity Building

MASSACHUSETTS

Beverly Children’s Learning Center, Inc
   Small Grant ....................................................... $14,000

Calmer Choice
   Small Grant ....................................................... $7,200

Cape Cod Challenger Club
   Small Grant ....................................................... $15,000

Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled
   Small Grant ....................................................... $25,000

Emerald Hollow Therapeutic Riding Center
   Small Grant ....................................................... $4,000

Essex County Community Foundation
   The Institute for Trustees ......................................... $45,000

Fidelity House, Inc.
   Small Grant ....................................................... $25,383
2016 Grants Awarded

Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership
Core Certificate Program .................. $66,000

Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership
Small Grant .................................. $15,000

Northshore Education Consortium
Small Grant .................................. $30,000

Professional Center for Child Development
Technology Needs Assessment and Creation of Technology Strategic Plan ................. $4,760

Raw Art Works, Inc.
Small Grant .................................. $13,645

Salem State University Foundation, Inc.
2017 YAR Conference Sponsorship .......... $10,000

Salem State University Foundation, Inc.
Salem State Youth at Risk Sponsorship .... $10,000

The Children’s Center of Faith United Methodist Church
Small Grant .................................. $20,635

The Plummer Home for Boys
Plummer Technology Implementation Project $125,000

Regional Capacity Building Initiatives
Barnstable, Dukes, Essex and Nantucket Counties .......................... $47,778

NEW YORK
Center for Self Advocacy
Small Grant .................................. $8,969

City Mission Society, Inc
Small Grant .................................. $15,000

City Mission Society, Inc
Cornerstone Manor Technology Planning ........... $5,660

Community Connections of New York
GetSET 3.0 .................................. $150,000

Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled
Developing a Comprehensive Technology Plan .......................... $33,750

East Aurora Union Free School District
Small Grant .................................. $17,920

Empower
Small Grant .................................. $10,310

Every Person Influences Children
Technology and Software Upgrades ............ $30,727

Explore and More Children’s Museum
Small Grant .................................. $11,750

Jericho Road Community Health Center
Jericho Road Technology Implementation .......... $87,395

Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.
Child and Adolescent Treatment Services –
Lake Shore Behavioral Health Merger .............. $250,000

League for the Handicapped, Inc.
Small Grant .................................. $10,000

Mental Health Association of Erie County
Small Grant .................................. $30,000

Mount Mercy Academy
Small Grant .................................. $11,303

Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club
Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club Revitalization Project ............ $38,337

Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc
Technology Implementation ................ $46,999

Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped, Inc.
Small Grant .................................. $9,800

Summit Educational Resources
Increasing Organizational Capacity to Serve Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism and Other Complex Developmental Disabilities .... $498,215

Villa Maria College
Small Grant .................................. $5,085

Young Audiences of Western New York
Technology Plan Implementation .............. $43,052

YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, Inc.
YWCA of Niagara Frontier Technology Planning Grant .......... $10,000

Regional Capacity Building Initiatives
Erie and Niagara Counties ...... $43,401

Healthy Communities
MASSACHUSETTS

City of Gloucester Health Department
Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Bridge Funding .......... $125,000

Health Care for All
The Commonwealth Mental Health Parity Assessment Scan ........... $200,000

Health Law Advocates
Juvenile Court Mental Health Advocacy Project .......... $363,917

New Profit, Inc.
Reimagine Learning ................................ $2,000,000

Discretionary
Total Discretionary ................................ $590,000
Pictured above is The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation Staff
Back row: Megan MacDavey, Don Matteson, Nick Randell, and Chuck Colston
Front Row: Dawn Pytlik, Tracy Sawicki, and Kathy Andriaccio

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