

2016 Annual Highlights



The Peter and Elizabeth C. **TOWER** Foundation

from the Executive Director



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy A. Sawicki".

Tracy A. Sawicki
Executive Director



building on Strengths Across Regions



Photo by Julia Cumes

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.



Photo by Julia Cumes

confronting the Growing Addiction Issue



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:



Chief Program Officer Don Matteson shared details on Tower's work in the opioid crisis at the White House Symposium on Medical Response to Addiction through the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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.

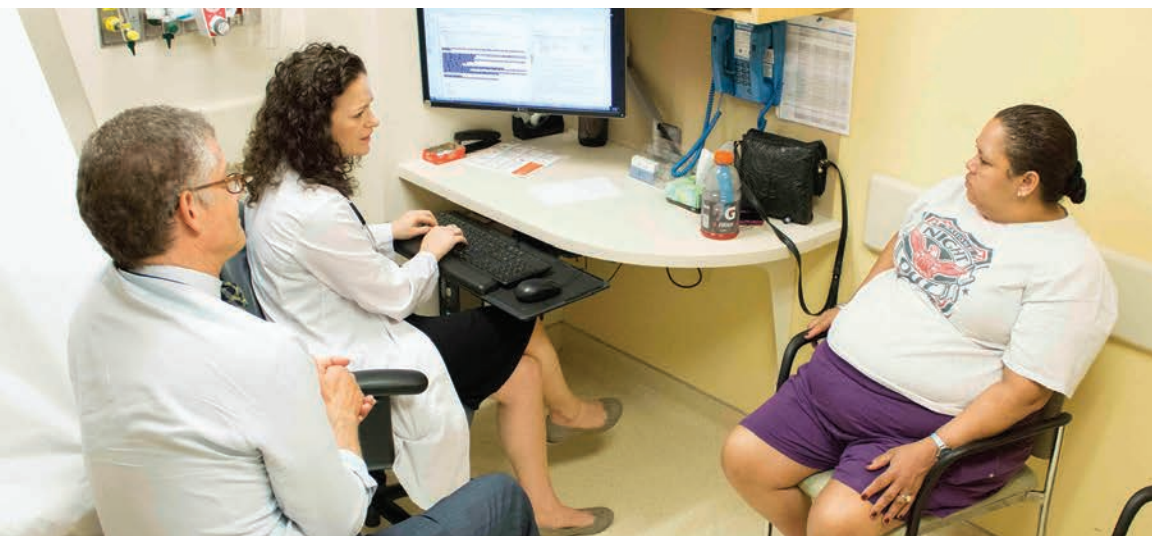
Our funding has helped to build capacity within the medical community to better identify, prevent and treat addiction issues through a physician training program that also certifies doctors to prescribe medication when necessary. Specific training has also been developed for pediatric providers that 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.



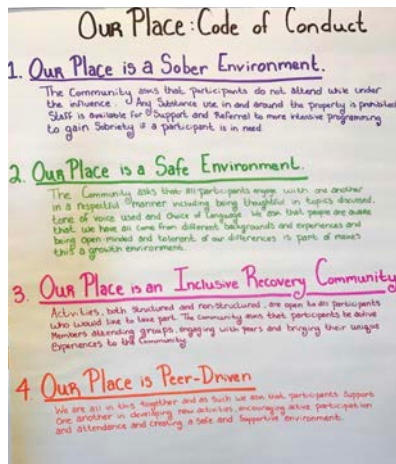
"None of this could have happened without The Tower Foundation. They have always been a great public health partner and their generosity has helped us address critical gaps in the medical community's education in fighting the addiction epidemic."

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



Photo by Suzanne Carey-Fernandez

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.



Photo by Suzanne Carey-Fernandez

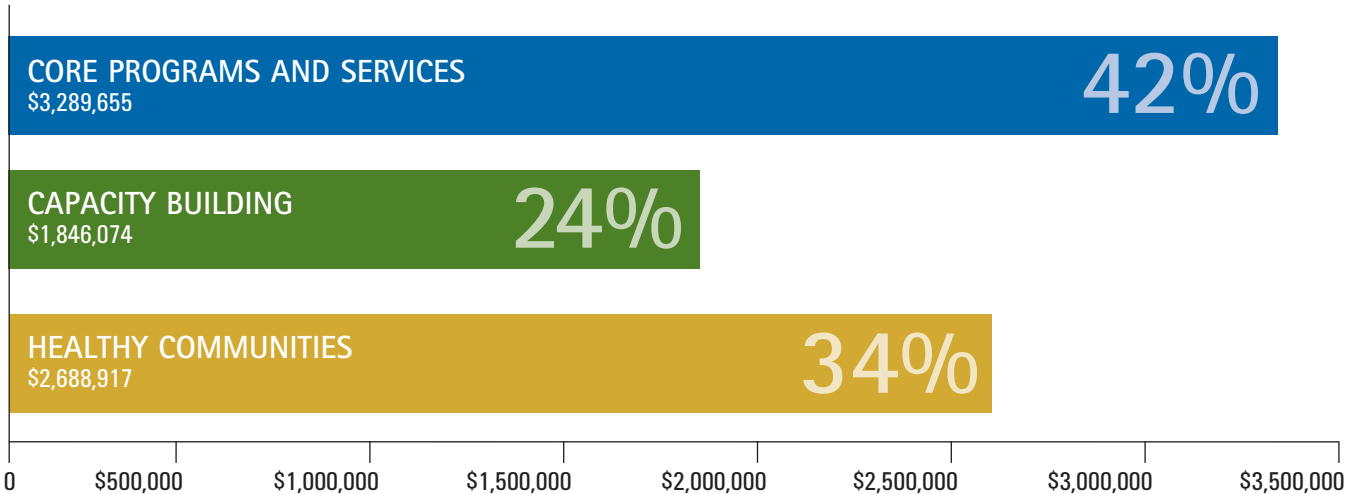
"The epiphany is when you start to realize that the question is not what programs to fund, but what problems to solve, and Tower understands this."

JEFF WALKER
Board Chair, New Profit

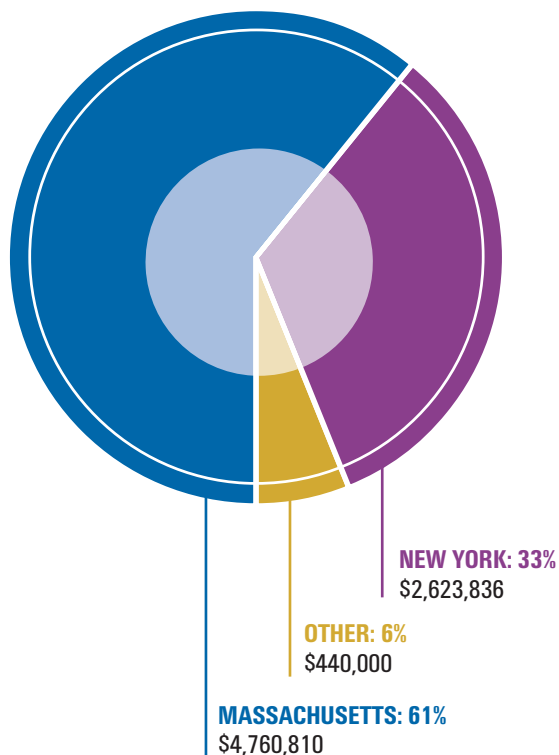
2016 Grants Awarded

2016 GRANTS AWARDED
TOTAL: \$7,824,646

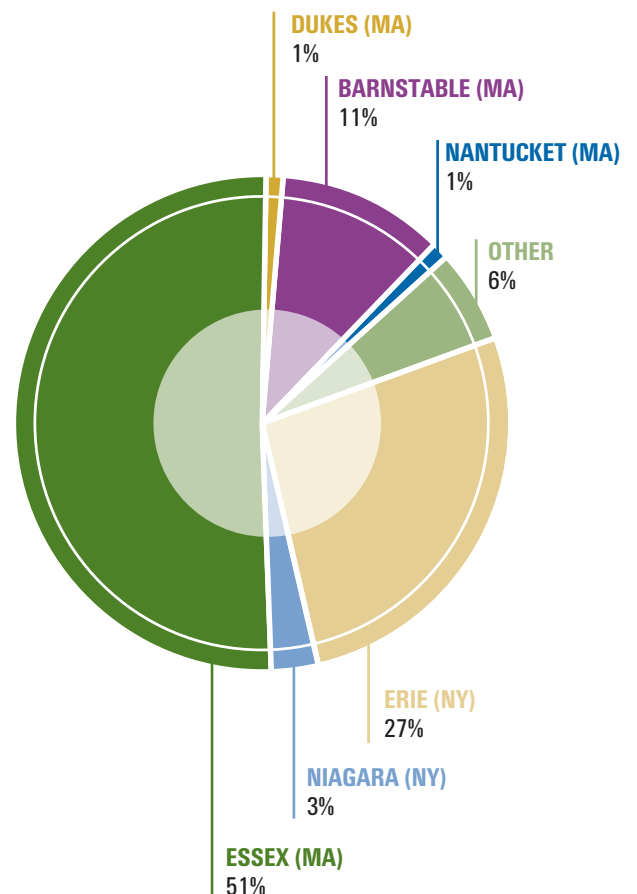
2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY CATEGORY



2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY STATE



2016 GRANTS AWARDED BY COUNTY



2016 Grants Awarded

Core Programs and Services

MASSACHUSETTS

Bridgewell	
<i>Bridges to Family Success</i>	189,728
Duffy Health Center	
<i>Duffy Teen Addiction Treatment Program</i>	\$308,886
Falmouth Public Schools	
<i>Calmer Choice</i>	\$100,000
Family and Children's Services of Nantucket, Inc.	
<i>Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI) for Nantucket</i>	\$49,900
Lahey Health Behavioral Services	
<i>Family and Adolescent Recovery (FAR)</i>	\$264,066
NoticeAbility	
<i>NoticeAbility – Martha's Vineyard Learning Differences Community Enrichment Project</i>	\$73,209
Research Institute for Learning and Development	
<i>SMARTS-T: A Research-Based Executive Function Teacher Training Program</i>	\$205,000
Triangle	
<i>IMPACT:Ability Saugus</i>	\$40,000
Trustees of Boston University	
<i>Friends Matter: Increasing and Improving Social Interaction Opportunities between Students with and without Intellectual Disabilities</i>	\$142,522
YMCA of the North Shore	
<i>YMCA Afterschool Mental Health Matters</i>	\$ 220,181

NEW YORK

Buffalo State College Foundation, Inc.	
<i>Access BSC: Bridge to Success in College</i>	\$54,142
Center for Self Advocacy	
<i>Peer Empowerment Network</i>	\$35,378
Gerard Place Housing Development Fund Company	
<i>Family Learning</i>	\$90,000
Hamburg Central School District	
<i>Implementation of Mental Health First Aid in Hamburg Central School District</i>	\$75,000
Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc	
<i>Lake Shore Behavioral Health – Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Intensive Training (LSBH-DBTIT)</i>	\$181,470

Mount St. Mary's Hospital Foundation	
<i>Pediatric Care Coordination</i>	\$190,000
National Center for Learning Disabilities, Inc.	
<i>Schools that Work: Response to Intervention and Multi-tiered System of Supports Framework for Success – Mashpee Year 2</i>	\$199,700
New York State ARC, Inc.	
Erie County Chapter	
<i>Community Pre-Employment Training</i>	\$100,000
Niagara University	
<i>Gap Funding for Niagara County Early Child Care Quality Improvement Project Phase III – Focus on Kindergarten Transition</i>	\$20,790
Summit Educational Resources	
<i>Improving Transition Outcomes for People with Autism and Complex Developmental Disabilities</i>	\$150,000
Tonawanda City School District	
<i>FLASH (Functional Learning for Attention, Socialization and Hyperactivity)</i>	\$159,683

OTHER

Beneficent Technology, Inc.	
<i>Deepening the Impact of Bookshare for the Success of Students with Learning Disabilities</i>	\$200,000
The Addiction Medicine Foundation	
<i>The Addiction Medicine Foundation Fellowship Training</i>	\$240,000

Capacity Building

MASSACHUSETTS

Beverly Children's Learning Center, Inc	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$14,000
Calmer Choice	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$7,200
Cape Cod Challenger Club	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$15,000
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$25,000
Emerald Hollow Therapeutic Riding Center	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$4,000
Essex County Community Foundation	
<i>The Institute for Trustees</i>	\$45,000
Fidelity House, Inc.	
<i>Small Grant</i>	\$25,383

2016 Grants Awarded

Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership <i>Core Certificate Program</i>	\$66,000
Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership <i>Small Grant</i>	\$15,000
Northshore Education Consortium <i>Small Grant</i>	\$30,000
Professional Center for Child Development <i>Technology Needs Assessment and Creation of Technology Strategic Plan</i>	\$4,760
Raw Art Works, Inc. <i>Small Grant</i>	\$13,645
Salem State University Foundation, Inc. <i>2017 YAR Conference Sponsorship</i>	\$10,000
Salem State University Foundation, Inc. <i>Salem State Youth at Risk Sponsorship</i>	\$10,000
The Children's Center of Faith United Methodist Church <i>Small Grant</i>	\$20,635
The Plummer Home for Boys <i>Plummer Technology Implementation Project</i>	\$125,000
Regional Capacity Building Initiatives <i>Barnstable, Dukes, Essex and Nantucket Counties</i>	\$47,778
NEW YORK	
Center for Self Advocacy <i>Small Grant</i>	\$8,969
City Mission Society, Inc. <i>Small Grant</i>	\$15,000
City Mission Society, Inc. <i>Cornerstone Manor Technology Planning</i>	\$5,660
Community Connections of New York <i>GetSET 3.0.</i>	\$150,000
Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled <i>Developing a Comprehensive Technology Plan</i>	\$33,750
East Aurora Union Free School District <i>Small Grant</i>	\$17,920
Empower <i>Small Grant</i>	\$10,310
Every Person Influences Children <i>Technology and Software Upgrades</i>	\$30,727
Explore and More Children's Museum <i>Small Grant</i>	\$11,750
Jericho Road Community Health Center <i>Jericho Road Technology Implementation</i>	\$87,395

Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. <i>Child and Adolescent Treatment Services – Lake Shore Behavioral Health Merger</i>	\$250,000
League for the Handicapped, Inc. <i>Small Grant</i>	\$10,000
Mental Health Association of Erie County <i>Small Grant</i>	\$30,000
Mount Mercy Academy <i>Small Grant</i>	\$11,303
Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club <i>Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club Revitalization Project</i>	\$38,337
Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc. <i>Technology Implementation</i>	\$46,999
Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped, Inc. <i>Small Grant</i>	\$9,800
Summit Educational Resources <i>Increasing Organizational Capacity to Serve Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism and Other Complex Developmental Disabilities</i>	\$498,215
Villa Maria College <i>Small Grant</i>	\$5,085
Young Audiences of Western New York <i>Technology Plan Implemetation</i>	\$43,052
YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. <i>YWCA of Niagara Frontier Technology Planning Grant</i>	\$10,000
Regional Capacity Building Initiatives <i>Erie and Niagara Counties</i>	\$43,401

Healthy Communities

MASSACHUSETTS

City of Gloucester Health Department <i>Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Bridge Funding</i>	\$125,000
Health Care for All <i>The Commonwealth Mental Health Parity Assessment Scan</i>	\$200,000
Health Law Advocates <i>Juvenile Court Mental Health Advocacy Project</i>	\$363,917
New Profit, Inc. <i>Reimagine Learning</i>	\$2,000,000

Discretionary

Total Discretionary	\$590,000
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Tower Foundation Board and Staff



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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Mollie Byrnes
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