

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2022

PETER & ELIZABETH
TOWER FOUNDATION





DEAR FRIEND,

Children and young adults in Western New York and Massachusetts faced new and worsening challenges in 2022. A racially motivated mass shooting, a deadly weather event, and rising mental health concerns threatened their safety and tragically claimed lives in the communities we serve.

Amidst these events, the Tower Foundation and its grant partners remain steadfast in our commitment to help individuals, families, organizations, and communities thrive.

Change can be messy. Challenging outdated systems and structural norms doesn't stick to a timeline. As an organization, we embraced change, dug deeper into our grant efforts, and learned to take some comfort in our work amidst the chaos. Across geographic locations and levels of advocacy, the Tower Foundation's grant partners' efforts intersect and present themselves in varied occupations, initiatives, and boardrooms with the shared vision of improving and elevating the lives of children and young adults. Through shared goals and the combined action of our partners, big things began to happen.

As a Foundation, we continued to support our grantees and partners to help amplify their ongoing efforts. We continued learning to increase our impact as a grantmaker, and, as we reflected on the work we were doing internally, added 'Equity' to our organizational values.

Intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health, and substance use disorders do not discriminate; however, due to racism, implicit bias, ableism, and more, some people have less access than others to the support and resources they need. Everyone deserves a chance to thrive in their communities, schools, and homes and is worthy of services that achieve positive outcomes for families and communities.

This year's accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work of the Tower staff, board, advisory team, and grant partners. We are thankful to work with great partners and optimistic about what next year will bring.



Tracy A. Sawicki
Executive Director



Elizabeth C. Tower (1920–2013), *Untitled (Landscape through door)*, 1990
Oil on canvas, 9 7/8" x 7 7/8" (framed); Burchfield Penney Art Center

FEATURED ARTWORK

As a prolific painter, Elizabeth C. Tower loved everything about art—exploring it, talking about it, and spending time with those who make it. Her artwork was exhibited frequently throughout the 1960s and 1970s but rarely available commercially. Her work, displayed above and on the cover, is also featured on the Foundation's website at TheTowerFoundation.org.

WHAT'S WITHIN

This year's Annual Highlights feature the evolution of our grant partners and how they continued to provide valuable resources to the communities they serve despite an ongoing pandemic.

- 6 REPORTING FROM THE DISABILITIES DESK
- 11 BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
- 14 INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERS
- 18 EMPOWERING PARENTS TO ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSION
- 23 SAFEGUARDING GAINS IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- 27 GRANTS AWARDED





As grantmaker, partner, and advocate, the Tower Foundation strengthens organizations and works to change systems to improve the lives of young people with learning disabilities, mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities.

2022 HIGHLIGHT

REPORTING FROM THE DISABILITIES DESK

The WBFO Disabilities Desk reports on stories involving and impacting the disability community in Western New York and Southern Ontario.

WBFO broadcasts from its studios in downtown Buffalo. The Tower Foundation is the sole funder of the Disabilities Desk.

Emyle Watkins grew up with a dad who is disabled, and at an early age saw how the U.S. medical and disability systems work and affected her family. When she became chronically ill in her teens, her dad taught her self-advocacy skills, and after a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis—an autoimmune condition—at 17-years old, Watkins began identifying as disabled and connecting with her community.



Majoring in multimedia journalism and digital media arts, Watkins quickly realized news outlets have not always been inclusive of disability, both in coverage and newsrooms. As she began pursuing a journalism career, people advised her not to talk about her disability because she could face discrimination. Watkins hid her disabilities until the pandemic, when she realized she needed to make space for herself in the industry and push for deeper, more accurate reporting on disability.

“It was at this critical time in my life when I realized what I wanted to do, but also understood I wasn’t going to have the same opportunities as other people in this society because of discrimination,” said Watkins. “While I questioned what journalism would look like for me as a disabled person, I was also learning that journalism could serve as a tool for changing the systems that try to limit people with disabilities.”

A year into the pandemic, WBFO, the NPR member station in Buffalo, New York, reached out to Watkins about a new reporter job leading the Disabilities Desk. Watkins was pursuing disability reporting and knew from an internship with WBFO they would

**“
While I questioned what
journalism would look
like for me as a disabled
person, I was also learning
that journalism could serve
as a tool for changing the
systems that try to limit
people with disabilities.**

embrace her as a disabled reporter. Once onboard, WBFO made sure Watkins felt supported by providing a mentor from the National Center on Disability and Journalism and allowing her to educate staff on covering disability.

Watkins went on to cover numerous stories at WBFO, including one revealing that the city of Buffalo has not been in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Through the connections she developed as Buffalo's only full-time disability reporter, she received a news tip that Buffalo didn't have an ADA coordinator. This led to Watkins' investigative report detailing how the city was in violation of the law. Watkins and her team went to City Hall to investigate, finding out the city of Buffalo hadn't had an ADA coordinator for almost a year, and that forms required by law were 10 years outdated.

People with disabilities were publicly speaking out about the lack of an ADA coordinator for months before WBFO broke the news, but no one was listening. When Watkins' story went live, the city responded within days, issuing an apology, and committing to change.

As a disabled person, Watkins wants her community to be heard, and she is thankful that WBFO is there to share these stories. She says this investigative reporting is essential to move communities toward justice and equity, and not just for the disability community.

"People think disability reporting is niche and covers a small group of people, but if we don't all talk about the intersectionality of justice and equity, we're failing," she said. "The disability community is one of the most intersectional communities. It doesn't matter what your age, race, gender, or sexuality is, you can be disabled or become disabled at any time. We are the largest minority group and the one minority group that you can join at any time in your life."

FEATURE

LIVED EXPERTISE

ENRICHES GRANTMAKING

In 2022, we took our participatory grantmaking efforts in an exciting new direction with the creation of the *Community Experts Fund*. Technically, this was the fourth time that the Foundation brought together a group of young people whose lived expertise reflected its funding categories and geographies. But previously, the group largely functioned in an *advisory* capacity. All that changed in 2022. The Tower Foundation's Board of Trustees allocated \$200,000 for a grantmaking initiative to be designed and executed—in its entirety—by its team of community experts.

In September, the team's hard work culminated in grant awards to 12 organizations to support youth mentoring and counseling. Team members independently reviewed a total of 26 applications, then came together to deliberate across two dynamic evening sessions. All the applications were strong, so final decisions were not easy. Every team member came to the table prepared to share their personal perspectives, listen to other viewpoints, and build consensus.

Several members of the team shared their experience as grantmakers at a Tower trustee meeting. [Download this PDF](#) and click the play buttons to hear from them.



Nissa Bisguier 

I just really loved the way we were able to come to decisions based on what we knew from our own experiences, but also what we were learning about the grant review process in general.



Niko DelValle 

Just being heard in spaces where people like me don't generally get heard and I never expected that I would be heard...But also I just get to learn all these new skills and have these experiences that are going to be really valuable to me going forward in my life.



Aliya Mathis 

What really surprised me was how inclusive and accommodating the entire experience was. I was actually shocked because I initially had my guard up and expected and prepared for the worst. But I didn't need to because Tower and the advisory team were so open-minded.

2022 HIGHLIGHT

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Liftoff Western New York commissioned and released an assessment of Western New York's early childhood systems and programs in 2018. The report, "Looking Toward the Future: A Review of Western New York's Early Childhood System," identified the strengths, successes, and shortcomings of early childhood education, and presented opportunities for systemic change. Its findings informed Liftoff's current priority areas for improving early child care and education.

17.5%

of New York children receive a formal developmental screening before entering school



Liftoff works with community organizations and local initiatives to ensure children receive quality child care and screening services to meet critical milestones before they reach kindergarten. By focusing on developmental screenings, child care, and transportation, the organization hopes to eliminate the barriers children face in accessing essential support. The Tower Foundation serves as a strategic partner and thought leader, with Executive Director Tracy Sawicki serving as the chair of Liftoff, imparting institutional knowledge.

“The Tower Foundation has consistently shown up for young children, particularly those who are vulnerable because of delays, disabilities, poverty, or systemic racism, and I’m just so grateful to have their leadership,” said Rachel Bonsignore, director of Liftoff.

Liftoff’s assessment of Western New York’s early childhood systems revealed several shortcomings, including a lack of high-quality, affordable child care options; an inability to serve young children with developmental delays due to limited healthcare providers; and low pay for child care workers. There are approximately 100,000 children under the age of five in Western New York, and the cost of child care rivals tuition at some colleges. Increasingly, a shortage of daycare and preschool providers makes it challenging for families to find high-quality, affordable child care.

80%

of Erie County child care professionals earn below the living wage

30%

of Erie County child care professionals rely on Medicaid

20%

of Erie County child care professionals receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits

“There are fundamental elements that are a part of the early childhood systems that children need to thrive, which includes high-quality care and learning experiences,” said Bonsignore. “As a community we want to make sure children meet their developmental milestones, which requires access to timely and equitable services and supports to assure they are on the right path to healthy development.”

New York ranks second to last nationwide in the percentage of children receiving developmental screenings. Only 17.5% of children receive a formal developmental screening before entering kindergarten. About 1.1 million of New York state’s 1.4 million children are never screened for disabilities or developmental delays in their critical first years of life, when they have the best chance for successful intervention.

In Erie County, 80% of child care professionals earn below the living wage, with more than 30% relying on Medicaid and almost 20% receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

“Without enough early care and learning providers, we will never have enough care for all of Western New York’s families who need it, and that’s why we are also focused on the child care workforce,” said Bonsignore.

Liftoff is actively engaged in the Kids Can’t Wait Campaign, a statewide coalition of early childhood advocates, parents, and providers working to change New York State’s policies and funding to ensure infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with developmental delays and disabilities receive early intervention and preschool special education services in a timely manner.

2022 HIGHLIGHT

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERS

Over the last several decades, the social impact sector has played a key role in addressing many of society's most important needs. The Institute for Nonprofit Practice deeply believes a network of skilled social impact leaders that reflect society's diversity can transform not only the organizations they lead, but the communities they serve.



The Institute for Nonprofit Practice (INP), a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, equips social impact leaders with the tools, skills, and networks necessary to enact change in their communities. Social impact leaders have innovative ideas and work to solve challenging social problems by creating products, systems, or solutions to help improve people's lives.

Supported by the Tower Foundation, INP brought its Core Certificate Program to Erie and Chautauqua counties, New York in 2022, offering educational programs for nonprofit, public sector, and social enterprise professionals through weekly seminars and one-on-one mentorship.

“When launching the Core Certificate Program in a new location, it’s important to have people who know the community to help make a true impact. Tower was that for INP,” said Yolanda Coentro, president & CEO of INP.

Though recently introduced, INP’s Core Certificate Program has already positively impacted individuals working in Western New York nonprofits. Participants say faculty members model leadership—increasing abilities to conceptualize and actualize organizational mission and vision.

Since its 2022 launch in Western New York, INP’s Core Certificate Program has accepted more than 30 social impact leaders and plans to expand program offerings in the region. The organization is set to launch its Community Fellows Program and begin operating its RISE Fellows Program—both designed to empower emerging social impact leaders. In total, more than 60 social impact leaders will join INP’s programs, doubling the organization’s footprint in Western New York in less than one year.

CASE STUDY

TEACHING SELF- EXPRESSION

THROUGH THE ARTS

The Cotuit Center for the Arts is a nonprofit dynamic arts and cultural hub serving Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts, offering art exhibits, live theater, concerts, and art classes. As part of Cotuit's nonprofit operations, the Cape Cod Collaborative Arts Network, CapeCodCAN, provides opportunities for inclusion and participation for people with disabilities of all ages.

Focused on meeting the unique needs of children with disabilities post-pandemic, CapeCodCAN launched the Hello World program in 2022 with support from the Tower Foundation.



“Hello World was designed to help children with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses navigate the changes they experienced after the pandemic,” said Malissa Kenney, director of outreach and inclusion at Cotuit Center for the Arts. “Coming back to school wasn’t easy for kids. We wanted to teach art as a way to explore their new world and help them examine their feelings through projects that didn’t require them to speak,” said Kenney.

Hello World programming was developed to be introspective. Activities ranging from drum circles to designing personal logos offered students an opportunity to connect with and express their emotions. With the goal of equipping children with the tools to process their feelings and manage stress, each activity was strategically selected and could be carried out individually in the classroom or during students’ free time, to allow the efforts of *Hello World* to extend beyond its initial offering.

Since its introduction as a summer camp program, *Hello World* has launched additional afterschool offerings for students in fourth to 12th grade across Barnstable County.

“The Tower Foundation allowed us to engage with kids who wouldn’t necessarily have access to programs like these otherwise,” said Kenney. “To be able to give back is truly incredible.”

2022 HIGHLIGHT

EMPOWERING PARENTS TO ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSION

Massachusetts Advocates for Children is working to remove the barriers that exist in education to create equitable opportunities for children and youth to learn, grow, and thrive. The organization focuses its advocacy efforts on children and youth who face significant barriers, inequities, and/or discrimination because of their economic status, disability, race, ethnicity, culture, or immigration status.



Arturo, a first grader with autism who is non-verbal, was recommended to be separated from nondisabled peers. With support from MAC, Arturo's mother, Ana, successfully advocated for him to remain in an inclusive setting with 1:1 professional support.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC), a Boston-based nonprofit, has worked to advance inclusive educational and life opportunities for children with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities for more than 50 years. Specifically, it empowers parents of children with disabilities to advocate for fair and inclusive opportunities through a statewide helpline, local parent groups, educational resources, direct advocacy services, and legislative advocacy.

With support from the Tower Foundation, MAC has expanded its operations in the Lawrence Public Schools district, one of three districts in the Commonwealth under receivership due to chronic underperformance. MAC's January 2022 launch of the Lawrence Inclusion Initiative, in partnership with Lawrence Community Works, aimed to build capacity among parents and community stakeholders to advocate for children with disabilities to effect system-wide change.

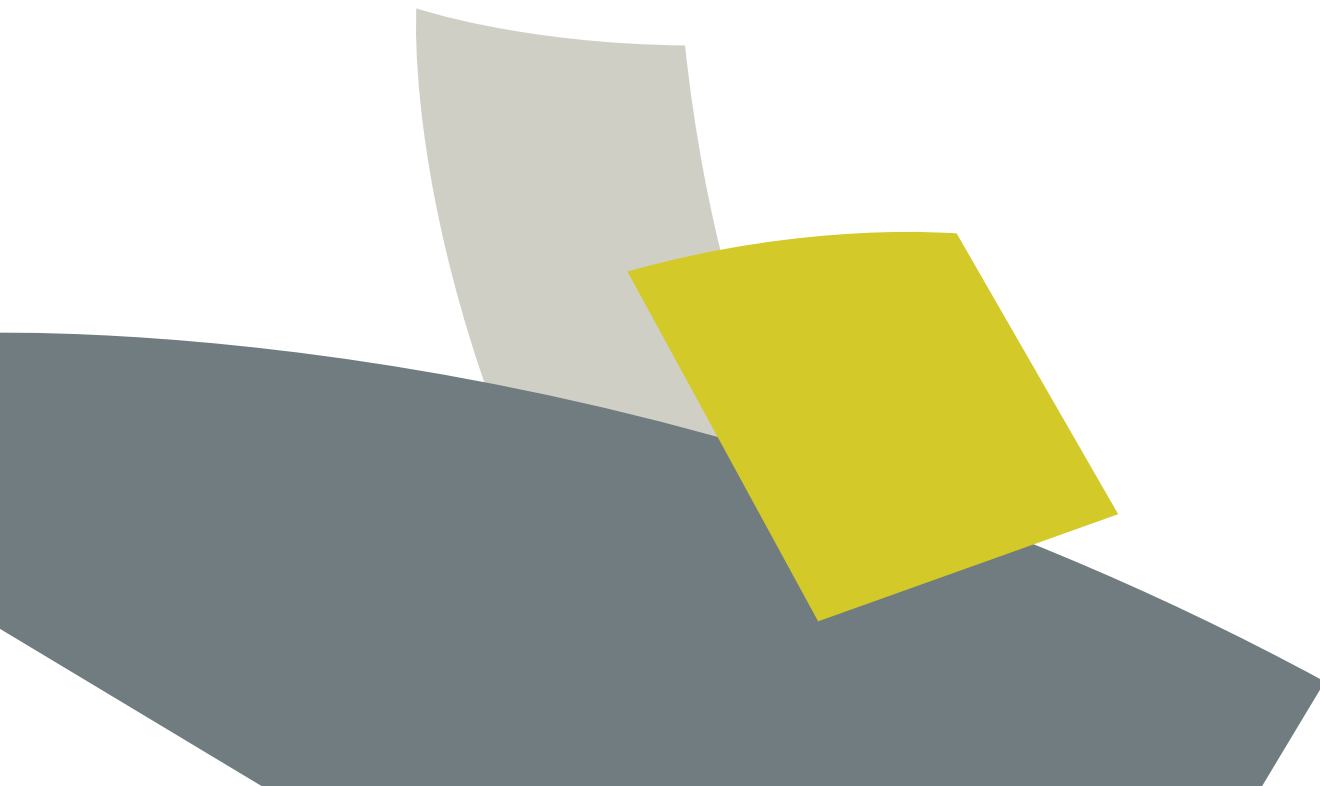
"It's in large part because of the Tower Foundation that we're able to focus so intensively on Lawrence," said Diana Santiago, senior attorney at MAC. "We're engaging the school district and administrative leaders to advocate for inclusive opportunities, because if it's not being done well, it's not inclusion."

Having previously established programs in the district, MAC recognized the need for broader, systemic change in Lawrence Public Schools. It became clear after the pandemic that MAC needed to work closer with families and stakeholders to create sustained change in Lawrence.

Engaging parents, students, and community members, MAC identified the unique needs and challenges students in Lawrence faced, including a lack of special education services following the return to in-person

learning, critical staffing shortages across the district, and rising rates of exclusion from general education classrooms in response to students' disability-related behavioral or mental health issues. Through this process, MAC tailored the Lawrence Inclusion Initiative's programming to have the greatest impact—from providing parents with advocacy training to directly advocating on behalf of area families.

“Words can't express how much I appreciate what MAC does and the help they have provided me for Arturo. After all the stress, tears, and sleepless nights, I was finally able to communicate my concerns with the school during a meeting, and finally, just finally Arturo will be getting one-on-one support,” said district parent Ana Gonzalez.



FEATURE

ADDING 'EQUITY' TO THE FOUNDATION'S ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation envisions equitable communities where all young people are included, accepted, valued, and are confident in themselves.

To make this vision a reality, the Foundation is working to align its grantmaking with the diverse needs, identities, and experiences of young people.

During the last two years, the Foundation focused its efforts on learning and strategizing how to effectively weave diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into the fabric of its work, starting with developing a set of guiding DEI goals.

Staff and Trustees increasingly integrated this work into day-to-day operations, identifying how to best be an equitable grantmaker.

Recognizing the importance of equity as a guiding principle, the Foundation added it to its organizational values.

FIVE CORE VALUES DRIVE THE TOWER FOUNDATION'S WORK

1

DIVERSE VOICES

We listen to and learn from those with different points of view and perspectives. We seek to be proximate with the communities we serve—continually engaging in respectful conversation and incorporating what we hear into our work.

2

COLLABORATION

We understand that in order to make progress, we must build relationships with our partners and share knowledge, resources, expertise, and strategies.

3

INNOVATION

We embrace change and are willing to take risks, recognizing the potential for transformative effect. We look for opportunities to try new and creative strategies and encourage others to do the same.

4

PERSEVERANCE

We recognize that change work can be slow and challenging. We are committed to the long-term improvement of organizations and communities.

5

EQUITY

We pay close attention to the convergence of our focus areas with systemic issues of racism, sexism, classism, ableism, and more, because living at the intersection of multiple identities is a reality that factors importantly into our grantmaking.

2022 HIGHLIGHT

SAFEGUARDING GAINS IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Based in Northampton, The Center for Public Representation (CPR) is a nationally recognized legal advocacy organization that designs and implements systematic reform and initiatives to ensure people with disabilities can live in the community and exercise choice in all aspects of their lives. The organization is committed to equality, diversity, and social justice. The Center's legal director, Steven Schwartz; executive director, Cathy Costanzo; director of training and technical assistance, Kathryn Rucker; and litigation paralegal, Marcia Boundy participated on the legal team for the plaintiff in the *Rosie D. v. Romney* case, which improved children's mental health services in Massachusetts.

“We designed a program with a particular focus around youth from communities of color or whose families might face linguistic barriers in accessing care. We want to also make sure we are addressing ways in which access to care might be disproportionately harder for those communities.”

Kathryn Rucker
Director of Training and
Technical Assistance at CPR

In June 2021, a U.S. District Court in Massachusetts issued a ruling ending the landmark *Rosie D.* case. The ruling terminated court oversight of the *Rosie D.* reforms that affected more than 30,000 children covered under Mass Health. *Rosie D.* required that children with severe emotional disorders, autism, and behavioral needs receive timely assessments, coordinated care, home-based services, and effective crisis intervention. The U.S. District Court found the Commonwealth in basic compliance with the Judgement; however, the mental health services in the Commonwealth suggested the ruling was premature.

Long wait lists for essential services, inefficient crisis interventions, and ineffective care persisted. Hundreds of children were still waiting weeks or months for critical home-based services, in clear violation of the Commonwealth's own timeliness requirements. There were still young people being "boarded," or awaiting care in area emergency departments, and the pandemic increased the need for mental health services.

CPR is continuing its effort to safeguard the gains in mental health services achieved by the *Rosie D.* litigation through a three-year project funded by the Tower Foundation. The grant will support a network of legal aid agencies that provide support to families struggling to obtain mental health services for their children. The collective learning from these agencies' casework will shine a light on parts of the system that continue to underperform and suggest future policy and legislative strategies.

"We designed a program with a particular focus around youth from communities of color or whose families might face linguistic barriers in accessing care," said Kathryn Rucker, director of training and technical assistance at CPR. "We want to also make sure we are addressing ways in which access to care might be disproportionately harder for those communities."

CASE STUDY

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZATIONAL INCLUSIVITY

Imagine sitting in a board room where nobody looks like you and you're discussing issues and topics you are highly knowledgeable about, but the shared ideas, discussions, and decisions being made do not involve you. You voice your opinion but aren't sure if anyone heard you because the conversation continues to move forward. You don't bother speaking up again because it's evident your opinion isn't being heard or validated. Although you may have a seat at the table, you feel invisible. This is an example of what it feels like working in a monocultural environment.

“We recognized that we had a diverse staff but not at all levels; and we weren't successful at retaining people of color in managerial positions,” said Kim Hopkins, consultant at [Centerboard](#), a nonprofit human services organization in Lynn, Massachusetts. “We realized that if you are going to grow and thrive as a nonprofit today, you need to be inclusive and that doesn't mean simply having a diverse staff. It means a lot more than that.”

Centerboard is a human services organization that provides essential supports to Essex County residents, including shelters, transitional housing, support for individuals who've experienced

trafficking, financial education, and more. The staff also offers inclusivity training for nonprofit organizations. After working with outside DEI consultants for more than 13 years and following the framework and tools developed by VISIONS, Inc., Centerboard applied its DEI knowledge internally. Then the organization turned its focus outward to help other organizations with their own inclusion journeys. Centerboard discovered there was a growing demand for this kind of support from area nonprofits, but often a lack of DEI expertise on staff and a lack of funding for training or consultants.

Understanding the importance of DEI work and its power to transform an organization's culture and quality, Centerboard recently launched a cohort model to support nonprofits in a team setting. Funding from the Tower Foundation made the program more accessible to organizations that otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford it.

Centerboard is offering three cohorts over three years, each of which involves an initial assessment followed by 20 weeks of virtual training centered around visions and tools with homework in between that includes incorporating the lessons. The cohorts will provide a safe space for people to learn, speak their truth, and incorporate the teachings within their organizations and out in the world.

Hopkins believes DEI training should be about even more than giving people a voice and making someone feel welcome. She said, "It's about letting them co-create a system they feel a part of, because cultural pluralism is the goal."

An abstract background featuring thick, expressive brushstrokes in various shades of blue, a vibrant yellow, a warm orange, and a textured white. The composition is layered, with some colors appearing more prominent than others, creating a sense of depth and movement.

2022 GRANTS AWARDED

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MASSACHUSETTS

Asperger/Autism Network, Inc. <i>Support for Families of Autistic Children</i>	\$16,050
Best Buddies Massachusetts <i>Best Buddies Jobs Project</i>	\$14,599
Cape Cod Children's Place <i>Cape and Islands Maternal Depression — Home Visiting and Capacity Building</i>	\$60,000
Cotuit Center for the Arts <i>Hello World</i>	\$23,800
Justice Resource Institute <i>Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TCTSY) with Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth</i>	\$58,421
Martha's Vineyard Public Schools <i>Collaborative Problem Solving at Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (CPS-MVYPS)</i>	\$100,000
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe <i>Youth Substance Abuse Prevention</i>	\$100,000
Northeast Arc, Inc. <i>Pathways to Opportunities</i>	\$109,212
Roca, Inc. <i>Expansion of Roca Lynn Young Mothers Program</i>	\$75,000
Salem State University Foundation, Inc. <i>Enhancing Wellness Support Services and Prevention Education for Salem State Students from Underrepresented Populations</i>	\$133,697
Town of Nantucket—Nantucket Community School <i>Special Education Professional Development</i>	\$8,520

Triangle <i>Online Safety Train-the-Trainer Program</i>	\$80,000
UTEC, Inc. <i>Circling Home</i>	\$150,000
YMCA of Metro North <i>Lynn Youth Mental Health Collaborative</i>	\$30,000

NEW YORK

Bridges From Borders, Inc. <i>BFB #OneWorld Program</i>	\$32,340
Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology <i>Continuing the Critical Access to Mental Health Counseling for High School Youth Attending BCAT</i>	\$79,019
Daemen University <i>Daemen Accessible ABA Clinic</i>	\$100,000
Danceability, Inc. <i>Restarting 6-Week Summer Dance Camp Program</i>	\$32,102
Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, Inc. <i>Restorative Justice Facilitator Cohort</i>	\$99,567
Gay & Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York, Inc. <i>Mobile Youth Services</i>	\$150,000
GiGi's Playhouse Buffalo <i>GiGi's Playhouse Buffalo — Program Expansion and Enhancement</i>	\$100,000
Housing Options Made Easy, Inc. <i>Training and Mentorship for Youth in Buffalo's East Side Community</i>	\$97,428
Parent Network of Western New York, Inc. <i>Family Support and Education</i>	\$98,570
Save the Michaels of the World, Inc. <i>Newfane House of Hope</i>	\$150,000

STRENGTHENING PARTNER CAPACITY

MASSACHUSETTS

City of Newburyport	\$450,000
<i>Supporting Our Youth: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Youth with Disabilities</i>	
Community Catalyst	\$370,000
<i>Count on Youth! Improving MH and SUD Services in Essex County Schools</i>	
Massachusetts General Hospital	\$1,749,130
<i>Center of Excellence for Youth Treatment and Recovery</i>	

NEW YORK

Buffalo — Toronto Public Media	\$40,000
<i>WBFO Disabilities News Desk</i>	
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	\$100,000
<i>Buffalo Together Fund</i>	
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	\$50,000
<i>Moving Forward Together Fund</i>	
Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition	\$15,000
<i>Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition 2022 Awareness Study Report</i>	

COMMUNITY CHANGE

MASSACHUSETTS

Building Audacity	\$20,000
<i>Jean Charles Academy</i>	
Building Audacity	\$5,000
<i>Jumpstart</i>	
Calmer Choice	\$24,000
<i>Seeding a Culture of Mindfulness for Lifelong Wellbeing</i>	
Cape Cod Academy	\$10,000
<i>Faculty Training for Student Support for Educational Equality and Diversity</i>	
Cape Cod BMX	\$20,000
<i>Cape Cod BMX Rides for Recovery and Inclusion</i>	
Cape Cod Challenger Club	\$11,416
<i>Challenger Green Project</i>	
Centerboard, Inc.	\$100,000
<i>Guiding Organizational Change: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion</i>	
Chica Project	\$40,000
<i>Chica Project's Estoy Aqui/I Am Here: Strengthening the Mental Health of Latinx and Other Young Women of Color</i>	
Children's Center for Communication/ Beverly School for the Deaf	\$7,710
<i>Ensuring the Mental Health of Teachers and Staff</i>	
Community Foundation for Nantucket	\$35,000
<i>FIMS to Foundant Transition</i>	

Essex County Community Foundation <i>Community Foundation Partnership Grant</i>	\$75,000
Express Yourself, Inc. <i>Jumpstart</i>	\$5,000
Fairwinds — Nantucket's Counseling Center, Inc. <i>Empowerment Through Technology</i>	\$29,200
Family Services of Merrimack Valley <i>Mental Health Clinic Infrastructure Improvements</i>	\$36,435
Gosnold, Inc. <i>Capacity Grant: Gosnold Behavioral Health Center Pharmacy</i>	\$35,000
Greater Lynn Senior Services <i>NRLP: Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health</i>	\$35,000
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center <i>A Call to Men Partnership to Transform DEI Efforts at JGCC</i>	\$39,000
Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc. <i>Enhanced Services for Families Facing an Autism Diagnosis</i>	\$60,000
Latham Centers <i>Audio Video Production Studio</i>	\$40,000
Lynn Shelter Association <i>Customized Staff Training to Improve the Quality of Services for Greater Lynn's Homeless Population</i>	\$36,974
Merrimack Valley YMCA <i>Inclusion Programming at the Merrimack Valley YMCA</i>	\$20,000
Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center <i>Increasing Access — Phase 1</i>	\$39,000
Pathways For Children, Inc. <i>Universal Pre-Kindergarten Research Project</i>	\$15,600
Plummer Youth Promise <i>Permanency Practice Leadership: Building Training Capacity through Videos</i>	\$35,000

Sassafras Earth Education <i>Native Youth Programming and Services</i>	\$35,000
The Cape Cod Foundation <i>Community Foundation Partnership Grant</i>	\$25,000
The Rock Ministries <i>Purpose Driven Mentoring</i>	\$20,000
You're With Us!, Inc <i>Insurance Reimbursement Capacity-Building Initiative</i>	\$15,000
Barnstable, Dukes, Essex, and Nantucket Counties <i>Capacity Building Initiatives</i>	\$45,000

NEW YORK

Arts for Learning WNY <i>Arts for Learning: Teaching Artist Certification Program</i>	\$27,660
Back To Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc. <i>Mental Health Training for Staff and Volunteer Mentors</i>	\$15,006
Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology <i>BCAT Board Development</i>	\$20,000
Care Management Coalition of Western New York, Inc. <i>Care Management Coalition Director</i>	\$335,110
Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc. <i>Completing the Conversion to Electronic Records</i>	\$40,000
CCNY, Inc. <i>GetSET MA</i>	\$23,500
CCNY, Inc. <i>GetREADY</i>	\$37,872
Center for Self Advocacy <i>Project Access</i>	\$20,000
CEPA Gallery <i>Alternative Perspectives</i>	\$17,114

Child & Family Services of Erie County <i>Purchase & Implementation of New Electronic Medical Records System</i>	\$35,000	Grand Island Central School District <i>Grand Island CSD Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Building Program</i>	\$20,000
Christian Counseling Ministries of Western New York, Inc. <i>Technology Infrastructure: Strategic Capacity Building Request</i>	\$15,000	Hilbert College <i>Hilbert College Global/Best Self CASAC Partnership Program</i>	\$100,000
City Year Buffalo <i>Expanding City Year Buffalo Capacity to Meet Students' and AmeriCorps Behavioral & Mental Health Needs</i>	\$20,000	Homespace Corp. <i>Security Improvements at Second Chance Home</i>	\$6,500
Collaborative Center for Social Innovation <i>Project Uplift Planning</i>	\$15,000	Hope of Buffalo, Inc. <i>Empower Youth</i>	\$60,000
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America <i>Developing a Youth Movement for Substance Misuse Prevention in Erie County</i>	\$40,000	Iroquois Central School District <i>Iroquois CSD Safe and Civil Schools Training</i>	\$40,000
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo <i>COVID-19 Moving Forward Together — WNY Digital Equity Coalition</i>	\$100,000	Jericho Road Community Health Center <i>A Path to Hope: Campaign for Jericho Road's Vive Shelter</i>	\$40,000
Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, Inc. <i>Jumpstart</i>	\$5,000	Kaleidoscope of WNY, Inc. <i>Kaleidoscope of WNY Community Classes-Inclusive Improvements and Program Supplies</i>	\$15,000
Faith Based Fellowship <i>Faith House</i>	\$20,000	Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District <i>Ken-Ton Multi-Tiered System of Supports Enhancement</i>	\$35,000
Frontier Central School District <i>Frontier Central School District Professional Development in Social-Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care</i>	\$35,000	Kids Escaping Drugs <i>KED.ORG</i>	\$60,000
Gateway-Longview, Inc. <i>Critical Replacement of Core Switching Technology Equipment</i>	\$20,000	KidsPeace National Centers of North America, Inc. <i>KidsPeace EMDR Therapy Enhancement</i>	\$5,353
Gerard Place Housing Development Fund Company <i>Gerard Place Education Building Renovation/Mental Health & Dental Clinics</i>	\$10,000	Learning Disabilities Association of Western New York <i>Merger Between LDA of WNY and Catalician Center for Learning</i>	\$32,000
		Mental Health Advocates of WNY (formerly Mental Health Association of Erie County) <i>Youth Peer Advocate Non-Crisis Support Line</i>	\$35,000

Mental Health Advocates of WNY (formerly Mental Health Association of Erie County) <i>Sustainable Services Through Medicaid Billing</i>	\$13,800	Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service, Inc. <i>Crisis Response Diversion Coordinator Proposal</i>	\$35,829
Native American Community Services, Inc. <i>Financial Stabilization at NACS</i>	\$100,000	Transforming Care <i>Bringing L'Arche to Buffalo; Creating an Intentional Community of Care</i>	\$35,000
Neighborhood Health Center <i>Resilience and Inclusion at Neighborhood: Empowering Employees to Interrupt Microaggressions and Confront Implicit Bias</i>	\$40,000	UB Family Medicine <i>UB Addiction Medicine Fellowship Strategic Development</i>	\$20,000
Niagara University <i>Pathways and Play Days</i>	\$95,310	VOICE-Buffalo <i>VOICE Influences Building Equity</i>	\$40,000
Northwest Community Mental Health Center/dba/Envision Wellness <i>Professional Development — Family Success Center</i>	\$35,000	Western New York Nonprofit Support Group <i>WNY Catchafire Cohort Extension</i>	\$21,578
Parent Network of Western New York, Inc. <i>Ensuring Our Future</i>	\$35,400	Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Program <i>Coming Back Even Stronger</i>	\$20,000
Parent Network of Western New York, Inc. <i>Jumpstart</i>	\$5,000	Erie and Niagara Counties <i>Capacity-Building Initiatives</i>	\$38,329
Peace of the City, Inc. <i>Peace of the City Building for Our Future with a Mentoring Coach & Development Director</i>	\$40,000	OTHER	
Research Foundation for SUNY on Behalf of the University at Buffalo (UB) <i>Sleep Medicine Behavioral Health and Desensitization Program</i>	\$40,000	Discretionary Grants	\$535,000.00
Rock Autism, Inc. <i>Rock Autism Multimedia Masterclasses</i>	\$10,200		
Stanley G. Falk School <i>Racially Literate Instructional Practices & Interactions</i>	\$36,000		
Suburban Adult Services, Inc. <i>Ceiling Lifts</i>	\$10,000		

THE TOWER FOUNDATION

The Tower Foundation is guided by a dedicated team and supportive Board of Trustees. Our work is based in Western New York and Eastern Massachusetts, areas where the Tower family lived and raised their children.



STAFF

Tracy A. Sawicki
Executive Director

Donald W. Matteson
Chief Program Officer

Charles E. Colston, Jr.
Program Officer

Megan T. MacDavey
Program Officer

Nicholas G. Randell
Program Officer

Kathleen E. Andriaccio
*Director of Finance
& Administration*

Dawn M. Pytlik
*Executive Assistant/
Office Coordinator*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Byrnes

Mollie Byrnes

Peter Byrnes

Cynthia Doyle

Mollie Doyle

Robert Doyle

Donna Owens

Randolph Treece

David Welbourn

James Weiss

THE PETER AND ELIZABETH C. TOWER FOUNDATION

2351 NORTH FOREST ROAD | GETZVILLE, NEW YORK 14068

THETOWERFOUNDATION.ORG | 716 689 0370



PETER & ELIZABETH
TOWER FOUNDATION

TheTowerFoundation.org

