

GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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IN
HEALTH

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The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation

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The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation (MCMF) was formed in 2001 as a private entity through an initial donation from Burton D. Morgan, Margaret "Peg" Morgan's husband, setting in motion plans to carry out Mrs. Morgan's decades-long desire to help families grappling with serious mental illness. MCMF envisions a world where all regard mental wellness as an integral part of a healthy life, and recovery from mental illness is the expectation.

The foundation's mission is to improve the lives of people with serious mental illness by investing in innovative projects in Northeast Ohio that have national transformational impact. MCMF seeks to establish partnerships and alliances with regional, national, and international organizations working in mental health to expand knowledge and share lessons learned.

Program Information: MCMF focuses on innovation and change in mental health treatments, with secondary and local interest in education and the arts. Eighty percent of the foundation's annual grantmaking budget is allocated to mental health projects in Northeastern Ohio. The mental health program emphasizes funding projects that not only change the lives of those living with mental illness today, but also serve as a national template for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the mental health delivery system.

► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$78 million (FY 2012)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$2.4 million (FY 2012)

► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Best Practices in Schizophrenia Treatment (BeST) Center at Northeast Ohio Medical University** – MCMF provided initial funding to establish the BeST Center, which brings evidence-based and promising practices into the mental health care system. BeST Center works with mental health consumers, family members, expert consultants, policymakers, and clinical partners to offer training, consultation, evaluation, education, and system change to build the capacity and improve patient outcomes (\$10.5 million).
- **Morgan Forum Series** – This series convenes experts and facilitates knowledge sharing, raising treatment expectations, professionalism, and general knowledge throughout the community regarding mental health care. The foundation hosts quarterly forums, bringing mental health leaders from across the region and nation to dialogue with consumers, care providers,

fundors, and stakeholders. The focus varies but includes important and sometimes topical issues in mental health. The emphasis is to enhance and improve quality of care, inspire collaboration, and create a sense of mission and momentum in the recovery movement (\$140,000 annually).

- **Psychiatric Intake and Response Center (PIRC), Akron Children's Hospital** – PIRC was created to improve access to care for adolescents experiencing mental health crises, such as severe self-injury, a psychotic break, or other mental trauma scenarios. Families with children experiencing mental health problems can be seen in a calm, family-centered area of the emergency department, where children are medically cleared and then assessed by a mental health clinician. Eight dedicated rooms are designed to keep the patient and staff safe and to de-escalate the trauma and emotions normally encountered by the patient and family during these types of emergencies. Wraparound mental health care is provided, with follow-up access to care as needed (\$1.3 million).
- **College Campus Safety and Mental Health** – This initiative promotes collaboration between campus and community stakeholders to develop and implement programs for preventing campus suicide and other violent acts. The foundation supports educational events, as well as dissemination of resources and services to reduce stigma and improve access to treatment. The important focus is prevention versus reaction (\$100,000).

Challenge for the Future:

"Our challenge is to help build a care culture where mental health care and physical health care are simply known as health care, fully integrated and treated with the same urgency and priority. We know that this requires a shift in funding mechanisms (preventative versus reactive), a change in attitude regarding mental health illnesses (reduce stigma), and a willingness to partner and share our story openly (it impacts all of us). We can have better health outcomes for significantly less money – let us work to make it happen."

Rick Kellar
President

