



The Mental Health Foundation

PO Box 322, Albany, New York 12201-0322
www.mentalhealthfoundation.net

Stephen A. Madarasz
President

Anna Maria Maritato
Vice President

Susan Mitnick
Secretary

Howard Carr
Treasurer

Leila Salmon
President Emeritus

For Immediate Release:
May 18, 2012

Contact: Judy Burgess
518 426-7252

Mental Health Foundation Announces 2012 “It’s Okay to Talk About It” grant program

Funding available for projects focused on the mental health needs of young adults

The Mental Health Foundation is pleased to announce its 2012 “It’s OK to Talk About It” Grant Initiative. Funding is available to individuals and not-for-profit organizations to support projects designed to improve access to mental health related education and services for young adults.

The “It’s Okay to Talk About It” grant program was suggested to the foundation by Marylou Whitney and her husband, John Hendrickson. This grant program has been established to support initiatives encouraging young people about dealing with the challenges of mental illness.

The Mental Health Foundation seeks to support innovative programs that address the reduction of stigma, the promotion of public awareness, and education of mental health issues for the target population of young adults. These programs must entail a peer component of young adults who have personally lived with mental illness and can share their condition and stigmatization in a candid and positive manner with peers. The goal is to improve acceptance of and access to mental health services and supports.

The Foundation anticipates awarding several grants for innovative and creative approaches that serve youth. Project awards may range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Five recipients shared \$35,000 in grant awards in the past year. The Foundation has distributed nearly \$100,000 in grants over the past several years.

Additional information about the program and the online application are available at www.mentalhealthfoundation.net. The deadline for applications is June 29, 2012. The Foundation anticipates announcing the 2012 grant recipients at its annual August Evening in Saratoga, scheduled for Monday, August 20 at Saratoga National in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The Mental Health Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization focused on educational efforts to improve public understanding about mental health and end stigma. The Mental Health Foundation has presented a range of successful events in recent years in its effort to promote better understanding about mental health, including events hosting former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Tipper Gore, and actor and mental health advocate Joe Pantoliano.

-30-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Allocco, Albert Brayson, Dr. David Brill, Howard Carr, Morton Case,
John Colley, Matilda Cuomo, Kathleen M. Donahue, Danny Donohue, Martin Langer,
Stephen Madarasz, Anna Maria Maritato, Susan Mitnick, Michael Orlando, Mark O'Rourke,
Francis M. Pitts, Michael Prevost, Janet Reilly, Leila Salmon, Dr. Timothy Willox

ADVISORY BOARD

John E. Funk, Ph.D.
Nunzio Pomara, Ph.D., JoAnne Sirey, Ph.D.
Dr. Donald P. Zingale