



Mental Health Association of Erie County, Inc.

January 2018

To our many friends and supporters:

The year 2017 was a year of progress in the world of mental health. Increasingly, people are more comfortable discussing their own mental health challenges with friends, family, medical professionals, and in the workplace. Locally, we've seen a number of public figures come forward to share their personal mental health stories through the media. This has opened the door for many individuals to speak up and get the help they need.

On **Wednesday, March 14**, the Mental Health Association of Erie County, Inc. will host its 56th Annual Dinner at The Atrium @ Rich's, located on Niagara Street in Buffalo. Among this year's honorees are **Thurman and Patti Thomas**, along with daughters Angel and Anni, for the work they have done to elevate the awareness and discussion surrounding mental illness. We are also recognizing the **Jericho Road Community Health Center** for the outstanding work they do with our local refugee population and the strong emotional, mental, and behavioral health component of their work.

Despite the increase in openness surrounding mental illness, there is still much improvement needed: youth mental health challenges are on the rise, there is a serious shortage of mental health professionals, and many Americans still lack access to care.

One in five Americans are living with a diagnosable mental health condition.

As a sponsor of this year's event, you will help us continue to support the thousands of individuals, families, and children in our community who are challenged daily by this disease. We offer multiple sponsorship levels.

The dinner includes a cocktail hour, three-course sit down meal, several raffles, and a brief program acknowledging those who have made a difference throughout the year. We encourage you to use the dinner as a networking opportunity. We are happy to accommodate any special seating requests for your group. Dinner proceeds will benefit the many programs and services we offer throughout Western New York.

Together we will continue to promote mental health and wellness, combat stigma, and provide a comprehensive range of services to our community. **Thank you for supporting the work of the Mental Health Association of Erie County.**

Handwritten signature of Ken Houseknecht in blue ink.

Ken Houseknecht
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Gary Bichler in blue ink.

Gary Bichler
Foundation Chair

Handwritten signature of Brendan Harrington in blue ink.

Brendan Harrington
Board Chair