



## 2020 REPORT

### FOCUS AND DO



**RADical Hope** is committed to improving the lives and futures of young adults by strengthening connections and building resilience. Pam and Phil Martin launched RADical Hope in 2018 in honor of their son, Chris, who died by suicide during his junior year of college. We work with proven, frontline engagement programs that deliver on our core priorities: connectivity, empowerment, emotional regulation and engagement.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of depression and psychological distress among our youth were soaring to record levels, with suicide rising to the second leading cause of death among Americans ages 7-24. The social and emotional isolation as a result of the pandemic have only compounded this crisis.

Fueled by the commitment and generosity of our donors and partners, RADical Hope executed three critical new initiatives in 2020 to advance evidence-based programs that address the needs of young adults. These new direct investments, in addition to support for ongoing program partnerships, totaled more than \$1.2 million this year. Since our launch two years ago, we have funded more than \$2 million in direct program impact. Our operation is lean, disciplined and focused on results.

Our efforts are motivated by the words of Chairman Larry Bossidy: **Focus and Do**.

We are proud to share an overview of our work this year, with a look forward to our plans for 2021.

### RADICAL HEALTH: A GROUNDBREAKING CAMPUS INITIATIVE



Youth are particularly vulnerable during times of transition. Students entering college, whether in-person or online, require support in developing their mental, physical and emotional health skills. This need is particularly pressing due to elevated anxiety, stress and depression related to COVID-19.



This fall, in partnership with New York University (NYU), RADical Hope launched **RADical Health**, a skill-based program to help first-year college students stay well and stay resilient. Students are graduating high school without fundamental skills: how to get a good night's sleep; how to prioritize their time; how to settle their minds; how to live within a budget; how to interact with people whose opinions differ from their own.

RADical Health was developed with a single goal: Help young people build resilience and support their own mental, physical and emotional health so they're equipped to cope *before* they reach a crisis point. The program is an essential part of orientation for first-year students and serves as an on-ramp for students to other resources and campus activities.

Students can participate in the program in-person or online, and will explore the material through a series of inspirational interviews with notable figures in sports, entertainment, business and culture; curated skill-building resources; and weekly group discussions where they connect with peers and exchange perspectives on the topics of the week.

A brief overview of RADical Health can be viewed on our website.



INSPIRATIONAL INTERVIEW WITH LAUV  
Singer, Songwriter, Producer & Founder of the Blue Boy Foundation

In announcing the program partnership, Chairman **Larry Bossidy** said, “RADical Hope and NYU are responding to an urgent need to support students as they begin a critical chapter in their lives.” NYU alumnus and benefactor **Ken Langone** shared, “What we’re trying to do is to put our human antennae out to make sure — even if it’s just one person who hears it — there’s a place to go; there’s a place to open up your heart; there’s a place to open up your mind; there’s a place to reach out for help and not feel stigmatized. This is the challenge for all of us, and let us not fail. The cause is noble and the need is great.”

## REACHING ONE MILLION STUDENTS



In January, the RADical Health pilot will continue at NYU and at select schools that vary in size, geography and student composition. This spring pilot phase will inform program development for broad scaling in fall 2021. To date, we have invested nearly \$700,000 in RADical Health.



Our partnership with NYU is just the beginning. We are committed to bringing RADical Health to **one million students across the country**. Our \$3.5 million fundraising campaign will enable any higher education institution to provide RADical Health to its students. Funds will also support ongoing program content development and execution.

The turnkey design of this program addresses the resource-constrained realities of higher learning institutions during this pandemic. We have developed a *RADical Health Blueprint* that contains all of the elements required for schools to execute the program. We have partnered with **Potentia**, a national leader on HIPPA and FERPA compliant technology products, to develop a RADical Health proprietary site to house all content and materials for student and faculty use. In addition, we have developed a comprehensive training tool for schools to successfully deliver the program.

**RADical Hope is committed to eliminating barriers to access, which includes providing RADical Health free of charge.**

## FRONTLINE ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS



The needs of high school aged students are as pressing as ever. [Bring Change to Mind](#) (BC2M) is an evidence-based peer-to-peer club program that empowers and educates students through a culture of peer support within schools. This fall, RADical Hope made a multi-year investment to enable the Northeast expansion of BC2M. We pledged our commitment to BC2M following a rigorous evaluation of the organization using our *Standards of Excellence*. RADical Hope’s funding will enable the launch of 50 new BC2M clubs in Northeast high schools over the next two years.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Pamela Harrington, BC2M has successfully launched many of the new clubs virtually in a time when students are craving interaction and connection.

“Our common goal is to empower these students to educate one another, and their communities, and to create a culture of peer support within their schools. Together, we’ll fight the stigma around mental illness.”



- Pamela Harrington, Executive Director of Bring Change to Mind.



Image courtesy of PeaceLove

Earlier this year, we continued our support of our first program partner, [PeaceLove](#), an expressive arts provider that reaches tens of thousands of people across the country. RADical Hope funded the production of virtual workshops for distribution to families, schools, healthcare providers and community groups unable to experience workshops in person.

## OUR STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE



To refine our own approach to identifying high-quality programs, and to assist other stakeholders in the field, RADical Hope developed the *Standards of Excellence* (the “Standards”). With the support of leading scientists across the field, we created a structured approach to program evaluation, using evidence-based metrics.

The *Standards* summarizes a range of domains essential to a program’s success, including: Goals; objectives; organizational features; specific operational indicators; and program content. Its content is generalizable and easily adaptable to the specific evaluation needs of other foundations. Although highly detailed, the information is organized simply, in report card form. This makes executive judgment of a program’s overall health and fundability easily apparent.

In developing the *Standards of Excellence* with RADical Hope, David R. McDuff, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine said, “Foundations would benefit greatly from an adaptable tool kit that helps them decide on program structure and content that is in alignment with their mission and values as well as pre-determined outcomes that can guide future programs for at risk populations.”

TOOL# 2   ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH CHECK							
DIMENSION		EXPECTATIONS		RATING			
		DOCUMENTS REQUESTED		ACCEPTABLE	NEEDS WORK	UNACCEPTABLE	UNAVAILABLE
ORGANIZATION	GOVERNANCE	Corporate by-laws, policies, Board Members and Board Member fundraising responsibility					
	LEGAL STATUS	Incorporating documents (Non-Profit, LLC, S-Corp, C-Corp, etc); IRS Letter of Determination					
	FINANCIAL	IRS Form 990 filings and Audited Financials for the past 3-5 years					
	STRATEGIC PLAN	Strategic plan and recent annual reports					
	LEADERSHIP	Biosketches of key staff; Chairman and CEO roles and division of duties					
	PARTNERS	List of formal partnerships (contract, memorandum of understanding, etc.)					
	FUNDING HISTORY	List of all current grants and externally funded projects					
PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION*	Provide overview of program's design, methods and evaluation (500 words max)					
	EXPERIENCE	List previous programs, with outcomes achieved					
	MISSION DISCIPLINE	Describe mechanisms for program execution and documentation of outcomes					
	INNOVATION	Explain how approach to engage/impact target population is novel					
	TEAM	Provide brief biosketches of key team members <i>if different from above</i>					
	SHARED CULTURE	Explain how program rationale aligns with funder's/partner's mission and values					

\*This information will also be requested with more detail in Tool #3 (Program Assessment)

Tool #2 Score:

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The *Standards of Excellence* is [now available](#) to the philanthropic community on our website.

## THANK YOU



To enhance our communication with you, we launched **RADical Hope Radio**, a podcast featuring conversations with some of the world's leading mental health experts, business executives, program leaders and youth advocates. We hope this exchange of stories, ideas and advice will generate conversations that help our communities get better connected. As always, you can visit our website at [www.radicalhopefoundation.org](http://www.radicalhopefoundation.org) to engage in our work and hear any news.



We are deeply grateful for your financial support and shared commitment to our mission: improving connection and building resilience in young lives.

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