Project LETS: 2017 Updates

What has our community allowed us to do in 2017?

- Updated our website with new educational resources on trauma; and race & mental health
- Re-vamped our 8-week Peer Mental Health Advocate (PMHA) training curriculum & created online modules
- Published our Brown University Impact Report with results from our 4-year pilot at Brown
- Expanded our program & model to 10 new universities; In-person PMHA Coordinator training with 3 schools
- Held the 2017 Project LETS Conference (our first annual)
- Held healing spaces for students and community members who have experienced sexual violence
- Deepened & strengthened our relationships with our Chapter Coordinators and leadership teams on campuses
- Worked with medical school students to improve understandings of ableism, disability, and mental health
- Re-established the Self-Harm Initiative, collecting self-harm tools & replying with a letter from a LETS team member
- Continued to influence substantial policy changes on Brown University's campus
- Shared key articles, blogs, and pieces of writing; such as Title IX Updates in Response to Betsy DeVos: If You Can't Say #MeToo; Diaspora and Disordered Eating; Mental Illness in Pop Culture; Disabled Folks are an Oppressed Group with a History of Organizing
- Organized public resource drives in response to suicides and mass trauma/political happenings
- Advocated directly and on behalf of university students experiencing discrimination in higher education and within the public mental health care system
- Supported university students experiencing grief and loss post-suicide
- Connected our community to systems of professional care (grounded in humanity, dignity, and respect)
- Provided immediate peer crisis support resources to individuals in Providence, RI
- Our chapters: Mental health town halls (UPenn); Media coverage for panel events (UPenn); Held a holiday card writing event for psychiatric inpatients (Yale); Advocated for a paid peer support position in the Computer Science department (Brown); Held their first Failure Confessional (MSU)

Key Organizational Accomplishments:

- Received the Embark Fellowship in May 2017 ($50K)
- Held the first Project LETS Conference in October 2017, bringing together over 40 student organizers from 9 universities (sponsored by the Mary Christie Foundation & PeaceLove Studios)
- Received a grant in December 2017 from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation ($25K)
- Released our first organizational video
- Speaking engagements at the Brown University Donor Volunteer Summit & NAMI Rhode Island Conference

Where are we going in 2018?

- Increase of funds distributed to in-need directly affected communities
- Building a network of culturally and structurally competent mental health care providers who provide services to the Project LETS community
- Producing more original content (podcasts and videos)
- Making our website easier to use, navigate, and understand (more accessible)
- Democratizing medical knowledge into plain-language guides and resources
- Providing more in-person workshops and events
- Facilitating LETS Spaces in the community
- Expanding resources for non-English speakers (primarily Spanish-speaking communities)
- Build out our Advisory Board & Board of Directors
- Build our Peer Crisis Line & international Peer Counseling program
- Mobilize IN PARTNERSHIP with the community (Mental Health America, Oasis, NAMI, AMOR, Project HEAL)
- Building a more diverse team; and expanding the cultural and structural competency of our staff
- Beginning stages of building out peer respite living centers & community mental health clinics