

Meet Patrick Evans

Introduction by Rob LoBosco

My fellow Rotarians, many of our neighbors in our community who suffer from mental illness, suffer silently through a life most of us would be hard pressed to even imagine. They cycle through a gauntlet of impossible choices of the hospital, jail, and, of course, the streets. Were it not for our Community Behavioral Health Centers, they would have little hope of ever breaking the cycle, much less surviving it.

Fortunately, one of the nation's preeminent Community Behavioral Health Centers is right here in our backyard. It's called Sound Mental Health, and our newest Rotarian, Patrick Evans, is its CEO. He took the helm last year, relocating from Ohio to guide this venerable institution to his vision of a future where the symbiotic relationship between mental and physical health is fully appreciated, and the stigma of mental illness is no more.

Patrick has dedicated his professional life to improving the lives of the mentally ill. He started off as a therapist providing alcohol and drug treatment to young people and their families. But, destined to lead, he became a CEO at a young age and quickly earned a reputation as an expert in turning around distressed behavioral health organizations. He is especially proud of saving one such agency, which provides lifesaving services to its 7,000 community members in need. He received an award for this work, and another for saving a drug and alcohol treatment center. Not least, he was the first male director of a domestic violence shelter for women and children in the state of Ohio.

Patrick was born and raised in the Central Ohio area, near Columbus, where he lived until coming to Seattle last year. He attended The Ohio State University, and later Xavier University for his management degree. He is one of three children. His parents and one sister live in Ohio. His older sister suffered from mental illness and drug addiction and succumbed ten years ago. Patrick is dedicated to community service, inspired by such exemplars as Coach Woody Hayes and President Barack Obama. He has been a Rotarian for twenty-one years, driven by the positive impact Rotary has on our local, national, and international communities. Now our community gets to benefit from his service above self. I think we're rather lucky.

Patrick and his husband, Joe, together for twenty-six years, I might add, enjoy the arts, travel, and walking their two rescue dogs, Fritz and Coco, in these magnificent surroundings. They've got a Mexican cruise in October and a trip to Sydney in February on the calendar.

They fell in love with Seattle on vacation in 2015. A few months later, a recruiter called Patrick about two positions opening in the area. Sometimes it's hard not to believe things happen for a reason.

Please join me in welcoming Patrick, Joe, Fritz, and Coco to their new home, and Patrick to Seattle 4!