

Approximately 20 challenges have been identified under the mental health umbrella including: Alzheimer's disease, developmental disabilities, depression, bipolar, autism, eating, emotional and cognitive disorders. At times mental health issues are inaccurately identified, neglected and misunderstood.

Mental illness is widespread, affecting all ethnic groups, income and education levels, professions and ages. Mark Twain, Michelangelo, Van Gogh, Handel, Tolstoy, Hemingway and Churchill all faced mental health challenges. Countless family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and strangers who enrich our lives also face such challenges.

Considered America's greatest humorist, Mark Twain periodically endured bouts of depression. Michelangelo, leader of the Italian Renaissance and one of the world's most famous architects, artists and sculptors is thought to have had a bipolar disorder. He along with Handel, a world-renowned composer, had periods of high productivity only to be thwarted by episodes of deep depression. Abraham Lincoln also coped with depression.

UNICO's commitment is to underwrite meaningful projects in the areas of research, diagnosis, treatment, education, and training related to mental health issues. The UNICO Foundation, through funding by UNICO chapters, districts, personal contributions, and corporate sponsors continues to donate thousands of dollars to diversified mental health programs.

UNICO's objective is to affect a noticeable difference in the lives of challenged individuals and their families.