

New England Center for the Deaf, Inc.

“Communicating a better future”

FY2023 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Table of contents	1
Introduction and brief history of NECD, Inc.	2
Board of Directors and Bios	2-3
Activities	3
Strategic plan update	3
Advocacy	3
Fundraising	4
e-Encounters	4
Administrative	4
2020-2021 Private Donors and Corporate Sponsors	5
FY 2021 Financials	6

New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. originated in 2011 as a result of the tragic loss of a young man in the Deaf community. This loss illuminated the need for comprehensive Deaf – understanding social services and thus NECD, Inc. was formed. The founding members, Tracy Knight and Joseph Sisk recruited the Board and thus New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. was created.

Since the formation of the board and the Incorporation in March of 2011, we have moved forward in our development. In 2012 we were granted our 501 C 3, Federal recognition as a non-profit agency. Our Board currently consists of 3 members, all of whom have been involved since the inception of NECD, Inc. Our Board members are very committed to our mission and come to us from a variety of backgrounds. All board members bring specific strengths and benefits to the Board and to the agency.

We are very proud to introduce the current NECD, Inc. Board of Directors.

Tracy Knight: Tracy has her BSW from the University of Saint Joseph (formerly St. Joseph College) and her MSW from Fordham University. She recently earned her Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credential. She is a co-founder of NECD, Inc. and is the mother of a Deaf son. Tracy has been connected with the Deaf communities in Missouri, Kansas and Connecticut for almost 25 years. During this time, Tracy served on the Region 5 Council of Developmental Disabilities, the Southwest Missouri Task force on Autism and is a former member of the Parent Advisory Committee at the American School for the Deaf. Tracy is the Board President and the Chief Executive Officer of NECD, Inc. She is currently working as a Therapist and is an Associate Professor at Missouri Southern State University.

Joseph Sisk: Joe has his BA in Psychology from Bard College and his MA in Psychology from The New School for Social Research. He has subsequently earned his License as a Professional Counselor and he is a Nationally Certified Counselor and holds his Specialty Certificate in Substance Abuse. He is also a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional. Joe is a co-founder of NECD, Inc. and he is the Chairman of the Board and is the Chief Operating Officer for NECD, Inc. Joe has almost 30 years of experience in the field of human services. In addition to his responsibilities at NECD, Inc., Joe currently works full time at another social service agency in Connecticut.

Christopher Knight, Jr.: Chris (Cj) is a Director on the NECD, Inc. board. He is Deaf and is fluent in American Sign Language. After growing up in Missouri and being educated in the mainstream through elementary school, his family moved to Kansas where he attended the Kansas State School for the Deaf. He graduated from middle school at KSD. Chris came to CT where he attended the American School for the Deaf and graduated with his high school diploma. Since graduation he has obtained his veterinary assistant certificate from Tunxis Community College. He currently works at a local farm caring for the animals and maintaining the facility.

ACTIVITIES

Due to CoViD-19, our summer event and subsequent events had to be cancelled. We look forward to hosting future events.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The board of the New England Center for the Deaf, Inc., has entered into the formal process of developing a Strategic Plan. This process was informative and useful for the Board in developing specific goals for the forthcoming years. During this process, we affirmed the accuracy of our mission, we identified and defined a set of agency values and through the creation for a SWOT analysis, we identified specific and focused goals for the agency. Our goals for the next few years will help us to expand our Board and to assist hearing individuals, especially first responders, to better understand and interact with those members of the community who are Deaf during times of emergencies. This will serve to not only improve the communication and relationships between the hearing and Deaf communities, but by doing so, it will increase the safety of those who are Deaf when they are in situations requiring emergency assistance.

ADVOCACY

FUNDRAISING

NECD, Inc. has completed our annual appeal letter writing campaign. As always, we thank our loyal, generous and supportive private contributors. We were also highlighted as the non-profit agency of the month at Stop & Shop grocery store in Simsbury, CT. As a result, we were the recipient of donations raised through their Community Bag programs for which we received \$1 for each reusable shopping bag sold during May.

We also were chosen by the Big Y in Unionville, CT to be the recipient for their Community bag program.

NECD was also the chosen agency for the 2022 Deaf Awareness Month event through Big Y. Through their Big Y Cares Blooms, we received a portion of each specially marked flower bouquet during the month of September. This totaled almost \$900 through the generosity of Big Y and their Floral customers throughout the state of CT.

New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. continues to be a recipient of a grant from the Town Fair Tire Foundation for \$1000. We are now an annual recipient of this grant.

NECD, Inc. also is now an annual recipient of a donation from the Zach's Family Foundation and continues to receive support from them.

e-NCOUNTERS

We are committed to maintaining our web site, twitter account and Facebook page. Our web site is maintained and is current with news and agency activities. Our Facebook account joined a number of groups focusing on Deaf individuals and through that we are able to further advocate for the needs of that community.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Joseph H. Weingart Memorial Scholarship

This year, the New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. was able to continue the Joseph H. Weingart Memorial Scholarship. This educational scholarship was created to assist an individual who is Deaf and who is attending a college, trade program or other educational pursuit. It is open to any individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing in New England in order to provide some financial assistance.

Because of the generosity of our donors, we were able this year to continue the scholarship. After a careful review of the applications we received, we awarded the scholarship to Muna Abanoor. Muna is from Roxbury, MA. She graduated from the Horace Mann School for the Deaf in Boston, Massachusetts, in the class of 2023. Muna is an amazing young woman and is a proven leader amongst her peers and within the Deaf community. Muna will be attending Gallaudet University in Washington, DC and majoring in Social Work. We are proud to be a small part in her future success and we wish Muna all the best in all she does! Keep in touch with us, Muna!

New England Center for the Deaf, Inc.

2022-2023 Contributors

The Board of Directors and Management of NECD, Inc. wishes to thank all of those people and businesses, large and small, who have helped us with financial contributions allowing us to assist individuals and families. Without your generosity, we would not have been able to facilitate the building of, and the continued life of NECD, Inc. Thank you all!

Friends \$1-\$99

Seymour and Linda Adelman
Leanne Dillian
Father Joseph Looney
Dominick Fred Reisen
Sandra Staebner in memory of Ernie

Sponsors \$100-\$499

Daniel and Kristen King – Woofer Audio/Video Electronics
Ann Z. Leventhal and the Hon. Jon Newman
Dick and Helen Weingart
Zach's Family Foundation

Donors \$500-\$999

Gerald and Ann Levinson

Patrons \$1000-\$4999

Benefactors \$5000-\$9999

Endowers \$10,000+

Corporate Sponsorship

We would like to thank **Stop and Shop of Unionville, CT** for selecting us as the recipient for the Community Bag Program for July.

We would like to thank **Stop and Shop of Simsbury, CT** for selecting us as the recipient for the Community Bag Program for March.

We would like to thank **Big Y of CT** for selecting us as the recipient for the Big Y Cares Blooms for September, National Deaf Awareness month. All CT stores donated a portion of their proceeds from the specially marked bouquets sold during September to NECD, Inc.

Foundations that supported NECD this year:

Tow Fair Tire Foundation

Zachs Family Foundation

Financials

FY 2022-2023

Beginning balance \$3777.69

	REVENUE	EXPENSES
FY21 Personal Donations	\$1160	
Network for Good	\$	
Corporate donations		
Big Y (Community Bag Project)	\$	
Stop & Shop (CBP – Simsbury 0522)	\$74.00	
Stop & Shop (CBP – Unionville 0722)	\$145.00	
Big Y Cares Blooms event	\$863.75	
Amazon Smile	\$32.87	
Town Fair Tire Foundation Grant	\$	
Zachs Family Foundation	\$180.00	
Events		
Donations/raffles		
Supplies		
Food/Ice		
Administrative expenses		
Secretary of State (annual filing)		\$ 50
Supplies (printer ink)		\$127.61
Travel		
Postal costs PO Box renewal		\$ 248
Other administrative		
Grant station		\$139
Web Site expenses		
Domain		\$ 14.95
Web site (2 years through Dec 2024)		\$226.06
Promotional items		
Technology (CriCut machine)		\$831.80
Advocacy		
Seat Belt Covers		\$20.61

Client services:

Holiday baskets

Other food for families

Joseph H. Weingart Memorial Scholarship

\$1000.00

TOTALS:

\$6058.31

\$2658.03

Ending balance:

\$3400.28