

# *New England Center for the Deaf, Inc.*

*“Communicating a better future”*

FY2024 Annual Report



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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 continuing to search for individuals who could provide some enthusiasm and strong leadership as part of the team and who would be willing to serve on the Board.

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.

**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 over 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 as a Regional Director and Director of Contract Compliance.

**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*

We provided Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, inclusive of food and gifts to assist individuals with Deaf children this year. They were all very appreciative and grateful for this support that was made possible only through your donations.

## *STRATEGIC PLAN*

We were focused on facilitating the NECD, Inc. Strategic plan. We are in the process of creating a First Responder's communication card which will assist first responders (Police Officers, Ambulance and EMT workers, etc.) to become aware and to better communicate with individuals who are Deaf during emergency situations. We expect that in the coming year, we will have this completed and distributed to first responders throughout the New England states.

We have also begun to discuss the creation of seat belt wraps for drivers who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These will wrap around the seat belts so that if pulled over or in emergency situations, the first responders will see immediately that the driver communicates by means of other than spoken language.

## *ADVOCACY*

This year we provided the following assistance:

A woman from CT contacted us about ASL tutoring. We were able to provide resources.

We received an inquiry from a Social Service professional in Ohio looking for CM services in CT for a Deaf individual. We did respond asking to be put in touch with that individual.

## *FUNDRAISING*

NECD, Inc. has completed our annual appeal letter writing campaign. As always, we thank our loyal, generous and supportive private contributors.

New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. continues to be a recipient of a grant from the Town Fair Tire Foundation. This year we received \$3000 in two checks. Due to the dates, they were both credited to this fiscal year, though they increased their donation to us from \$1000 to \$2000 for this year. We are very grateful to them for their assistance! We continue to be an annual recipient of this grant.

NECD, Inc. also is an annual recipient of a donation from the Zach's Family Foundation and continues to receive support from them. They generously donate 10X Chai. In the Jewish religion, Chai is 18 and is a symbol of 'life'. Donations are often made in increments of Chai.

NECD was the designated recipient for the Stop and Shop Community Bag Program. We appreciate their support as our community partner.

NECD was also chosen by Big Y as the designated non-profit agency for the month of May for their Community Bag Program. We appreciate their support as our community partner.

## *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.

## *SCHOLARSHIPS:*

### *Joseph H. Weingart Memorial Scholarship*

This year, the New England Center for the Deaf, Inc. did not receive any appropriate applications for the scholarship. Unfortunately as a result we did not award the scholarship this year but we will continue to pursue appropriate candidates next year.

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.

# *New England Center for the Deaf, Inc.*

## 2023-2024 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**

Leanne Dillian  
Father Joseph Looney  
Pete and Kathleen MacDonald  
Dominick “Fred” Reisen

### **Sponsors**                    **\$100-\$499**

Bill and Betty Cheney  
Daniel and Kristen King – Woofer Audio and Electronics  
Richard and Helen Weingart  
Zach’s Family Foundation

### **Donors**                    **\$500-\$999**

Gerald and Ann Levinson

### **Patrons**                    **\$1000-\$4999**

Town Fair Tire Foundation

### **Benefactors**                    **\$5000-\$9999**

### **Endowers**                    **\$10,000+**

### **Corporate Sponsorship**

Stop and Shop of Simsbury  
Big Y of Avon

### **Foundations that supported NECD this year:**

Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Zachs Family Foundation

## Financials

### FY 2023-2024

Beginning balance: **\$3575.28**

	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
FY21 Personal Donations	\$1075.00	
Network for Good	\$	
Corporate donations		
Big Y (Community Bag Project)	\$ ( <i>pending</i> )	
Stop & Shop (CBP – Simsbury 0522)	\$7.00	
Big Y Cares Blooms event	\$	
<i>Amazon Smile</i>	<i>\$ PROGRAM DISCONTINUED</i>	
Town Fair Tire Foundation Grant	\$3000	
Zachs Family Foundation	\$180	
Events		
Donations/raffles		
Supplies		
Food/Ice		
Administrative expenses		
Secretary of State (annual filing)		\$50
Simple form Fed Filing		\$40
Supplies (printer ink)		\$90.39
Travel		
<b>Postal costs</b>		
PO Box renewal		\$256
Stamps		\$68
Other administrative		
Agency Cell Phone		\$405.54
Grant station		\$
<b>Web Site expenses</b>		
Domain		\$14.95
Web site (2 years through Dec 2024)		\$0
Promotional items		
Technology		

Advocacy

Seat Belt Covers		\$
ASL Cards		
ASL books		
Client services:		
Holiday baskets		\$449.83
Other food for families		
Joseph H. Weingart Memorial Scholarship		\$0
<b>TOTALS:</b>	\$7837.28	<b>\$1374.71</b>
<b>Ending balance:</b>	<b>\$6462.57</b>	