



TEEG 2016
Annual Report

SHINE A LIGHT

Shifting Perspectives

SEEING THE FOREST

AND

As a small, grassroots agency, TEEG is a true partner to the communities of Northeast Connecticut. Our perspective about the work that we do is what makes us different.

We believe that our community is healthy and whole when we work together to take care of each other, to hold each other up, and to support the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us.

We believe it is NOT solely the responsibility of government to reach out to those who need a hand – *It is our responsibility* to be a compassionate neighbor, to offer what we can, to be a community who cares.

TEEG Staff (In alphabetical order)

Peg Bernat, *HR/Fiscal Assistant/Benefits Counselor*
Chantale Gingras, *Program Coordinator*
Nicolle Hill, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
Rachel Hilli, *Front Desk Coordinator*
Jenni Fountain, *Fiscal Administrator*
Jim Jutras, *Senior Center Coordinator*
Susan Kershaw-Sczuroski, *Clinical Director*
Nadia Krivosheev, *Program Assistant*
Lisa Day-Lewis, *Juvenile Review Board Case Manager*
Anne Miller, *Executive Director*
Jennifer Strong, *Community Programs Manager*
Chelsea Valade, *Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator*
Colin Whiston, *Youth Program Manager*

Mentoring / ASAP Team

Jill Bourbeau
Christina Bulmer
D.J. Bernat
Max Chace
Dwayne Coles
Branden Grant
Gabriel Grant
Jaylin Greene
Therese Horvath
Douglas Henry
Elizabeth King
Dawn LaFleche
Katelyn Mike
Roy Monteiro

John O'Brien
Aubrey Waz
Brandon Yater, Intern

Consultants

Dr. Andre Bessette,
Child and Adolescent
Psychologist

TEEG Board of Directors

Christopher Burke, Esq.
President
Rene Comptois
Vice President
Mary Anne Fontaine
Secretary

Aaron McGarry
Treasurer
Mercedes Robbins
Asst. Treasurer
Kevin Shaw
Dr. Mary Cheyne
Jo-Ann Chenail

Larry Consiglio, Jr.
Eric Gould
Sandra Gould
Mary Ellen Jones
Erica Kesselman, M.D.
Peter Lusa
Pam Olson

Linda Peiczarka
Barbara Pickett
Ted Reynolds
Jayne Robbins
Leslee Ruggeri

THE TREES

A photograph of a hand holding a piece of wood over a tree trunk in a forest. The hand is positioned as if about to place the wood on the tree. The background is a blurred forest scene with trees and foliage.

In Loving Memory

Inspiration. Guidance. Wisdom. Perspective. We have learned so much from so many amazing people who have departed from our presence, but never from our work.

Linda Groh, a founder and leader of TEEG, inspired the creation of this organization through a deep sense of commitment to community.

Fran Roy, a member of the TEEG Board of Directors from the very beginning, helped shape the *TEEG way* by leading as she lived, with compassion and purpose, always dedicating herself to the greater good. May we always include their perspectives as we endeavor in the work of caring for each other.

This year, in honor of Fran Roy's 26 years of service to the TEEG organization, and her life-long commitment to community service, the TEEG Board of Directors has named the TEEG annual scholarship – an award given to college-bound seniors for outstanding demonstration of community service – the Frances E. Roy Memorial Scholarship. May her legacy of caring, compassion, and community commitment be carried on for generations to come.

A SPECTRUM OF COMPASSIONATE CARING

Northeast Connecticut is truly a community like no other. To look at state statistics, we are the county with the lowest per capita income. To look at the labor reports, we struggle with the highest rates of unemployment. Yet, time and again, we 'out-fundraise', 'out-donate', 'out-sponsor', and 'out-pledge' every other area of the state.

Here in the Quiet Corner, we own our problems, we love our neighbors – *all of them* – and we are willing to share our resources to make our community the very best it can be. Once again, TEEG is humbled by the generosity of this amazing place we are so lucky to call home.

The donor lists on the following pages recognize those who have made financial contributions to TEEG apart from purchases made at our Have a Heart auction.

(NOTE: While we greatly appreciate the generosity of the community at our annual fundraising event, the purchase of goods and services is not recognized by general accounting practices as a donation.)

NEW BEGINNINGS

From the very beginning 29 years ago, the TEEG Board of Directors established a mission of empowerment that still guides us today. A quilt stitched by residents in the village of Three Rows in 1987 was created as a symbol of our mission in action then, and continues to hang in our community room today. It is a constant reminder of our commitment to the Northeast Community.

The TEEG Board leads with a broad perspective - looking far and wide to appreciate the span of the community need. Their vision allows TEEG staff to focus on helping people - serving each person, one at a time, with the uniquely right service offered at the moment of need.

By taking the time to learn and appreciate each story, we are able to provide people with what they need, when they need it - a helping hand, a warm heart, a hearty meal ... or a bicycle.

Two Generations of TEEG

The legacy of TEEG began in the early 1980's when Robert 'Swisher' Robbins joined a group of citizens who worked to create the 'Tot Lot' to serve children in the Three Rows neighborhood. It continues today thanks to the guidance and long-term perspective of people like Mercedes

Robbins, Swisher's wife and a TEEG Board member for nearly 20 years. Now Jayne Robbins, Mercedes' daughter-in-law, joins the TEEG board. Two generations of local caring committed to the TEEG mission of community service.



The Story of 'Ned'

Homelessness can happen to anyone. 'Ned' worked hard all of his life, earned a decent living, put his kids through college....and then the plant where he worked closed. His job disappeared. Home life became stressful. Stress led to divorce, and separation ultimately

led to homelessness. By listening to his story, TEEG learned what he really needed was a bicycle and help getting his driver's license back. Today with a new perspective, Ned has a license, a car, a job, a steady income and options for finding a place to call home.

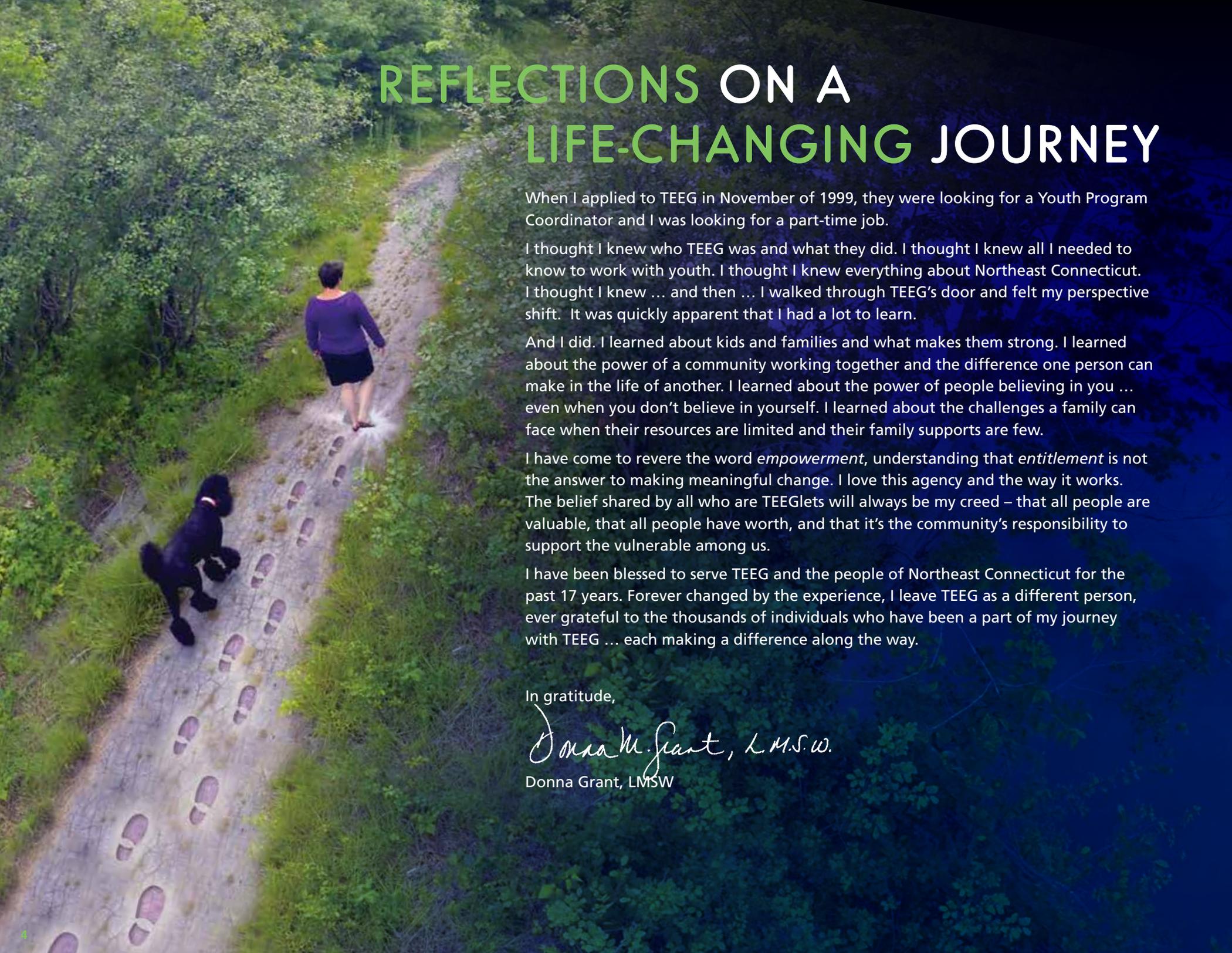
LIVES TOUCHED

TEEG Programs

Early Childhood & Community Education	2,058
Youth Services.....	8,039
Community & Income Qualified Programs ...	24,854
Volunteer Services & Giving Back.....	900
Senior Services.....	3,177
Total times lives were touched	
fiscal year 2015-2016	39,028

Unduplicated Individuals: 2,555

Unduplicated Families: 1,017

An aerial photograph of a woman in a purple long-sleeved shirt and black skirt walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a lush green forest. A black dog is walking ahead of her on the same path. The path is marked with footprints. The background is a dense forest with various shades of green and brown.

REFLECTIONS ON A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY

When I applied to TEEG in November of 1999, they were looking for a Youth Program Coordinator and I was looking for a part-time job.

I thought I knew who TEEG was and what they did. I thought I knew all I needed to know to work with youth. I thought I knew everything about Northeast Connecticut. I thought I knew ... and then ... I walked through TEEG's door and felt my perspective shift. It was quickly apparent that I had a lot to learn.

And I did. I learned about kids and families and what makes them strong. I learned about the power of a community working together and the difference one person can make in the life of another. I learned about the power of people believing in you ... even when you don't believe in yourself. I learned about the challenges a family can face when their resources are limited and their family supports are few.

I have come to revere the word *empowerment*, understanding that *entitlement* is not the answer to making meaningful change. I love this agency and the way it works. The belief shared by all who are TEEGlets will always be my creed – that all people are valuable, that all people have worth, and that it's the community's responsibility to support the vulnerable among us.

I have been blessed to serve TEEG and the people of Northeast Connecticut for the past 17 years. Forever changed by the experience, I leave TEEG as a different person, ever grateful to the thousands of individuals who have been a part of my journey with TEEG ... each making a difference along the way.

In gratitude,

Donna M. Grant, LMSW

Donna Grant, LMSW

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

My path to TEEG took most of my career. It has been a journey through roles steeped in local libraries, civic organizations and schools with international connections before coming back to my local roots.

Born and raised in Connecticut, my work at a local private school gave me a window to a vast world view. Travel abroad allowed me to meet many people and work with students and parents from all walks of life. Yet, as my attention was drawn away, I could feel my focus on local matters dim.

Over the years, the opportunity to volunteer at TEEG provided a different view. I always came away thinking, what if? What if that was how I could spend each day? What if my work was different?

A year ago, my journey brought me to work at TEEG. As I turned my focus back to the local community, I realized that I longed for connection to the unique character and people of Northeastern Connecticut; I longed for a very different perspective.

Perspective can be experienced in many ways. It is often described as a particular attitude, a point of view, a sense of proportion or a true understanding of the relative importance of things. So, if we are able to truly use perspective to view the world around us, perhaps we are best served by looking at the small community we live in.

If we feel powerless in a world that feels like it has grown beyond our reach, maybe we can resolve to make our little corner of the world a better place. As Mother Teresa reminds us, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Small is taking care of your neighbor, giving him or her and their family a hand up. That's power, that's power for good, and that's the power of perspective.

With hope,

Anne Miller
Anne Miller, Executive Director



SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES



Human service is about working through the community to serve the vulnerable among us with humanity and compassion. Whether the need is supportive guidance or a nourishing meal, TEEG programs feed both the bodies and souls of our community.

I AM

TEEG's Intensive Adolescent Mentoring program speaks to the individuals we serve. 'I AM worthy.' 'I AM valuable.' 'I AM someone who matters.' 'I AM loved.' Mentors work one-on-one with youth in our community to help them gain perspective about themselves and the world around them. With a supportive adult to talk to, young people are able to talk about their questions and fears, their dreams and aspirations. Often serving as a mirror, mentors reflect a young person's thoughts and feelings back to them as they develop insight into who they are, and what they need to do to become their best selves.

Growing Community

It truly takes a village to make sure that everyone has their basic needs met. Stepping up to take in a balcony view of the resources available throughout the food system, TEEG's food security program is made possible through the community collective. Relationships with our local faith partners, businesses and schools are how the shelves of the TEEG food pantry are kept full. It is only with the bounty from many partners that we are able to feed our neighbors in need.

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

IAM

All-Star Adventure Program (ASAP)
Juvenile Review Board (JRB)
Got Drama?
Strong Girls, Healthy Women

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

Monthly Distribution
Emergent Distribution
Holiday Meal Distribution
Mobile Distribution
Gleaning
Community Garden
Summer Meals Service



FRAMES OF

*TEEG programs for people of all ages
Everyone's future is brighter when more
independent and confident*

The Possibility of Youth

At TEEG, working with our youth is about seeing the BIG PICTURE. We place great value on the work we do to enrich the childhood experiences of our littlest citizens. The more they can see and touch and feel, the greater their potential for life-long success.

Group play helps them learn healthy social habits. Field trips introduce them to a bigger world. Camperships let every child make special summertime memories. Back-to-school backpacks and new shoes allow children to start each new school year on a level playing field. Holiday Giving lets Santa give presents to children so moms and dads can continue to pay rent through the winter.

EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Parents Empowered

School Readiness

Parent/Child Playgroup

Financial Literacy

Anger Aside

Case Management

REFERENCE

*ages make our community stronger.
The people are empowered to be healthy,
contributing citizens.*

The Wisdom of Age

The perspective of our seniors is vast and deep. They are living connections to our shared past and our guides to the future. TEEG senior services are designed to support the unique needs of our elders with dignity. Working one-on-one, we learn their stories to provide the specific assistance needed to promote independence. From help with paperwork and questions about Medicare to food distributions and Tai Chi, we are there to make sure our seniors are able to stay active and engaged, sharing their wisdom as vibrant and valued members of our community.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Gamblers Anonymous
Senior Services
Operation Fuel

Holiday Giving
Pomfret Community
Senior Center
Back to School



OUR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Passion, purpose, partners ... and perspective.

The work we do requires all of these things. Like a kaleidoscope, TEEG blends a sense of purpose to know what needs to be done, passion to focus the work, partners to make sure that the funding will support the effort, and perspective to apply the limited resources available to exactly where they will be able to do the greatest good.

The economic downturn of the State of Connecticut has had a significant impact on TEEG. Like many human service organizations, we have seen our public funding shrink. Yet, despite a significant reduction in state funding, we were fortunate to be able to rely on the years of community support that we saved for a rainy day.



REVENUE

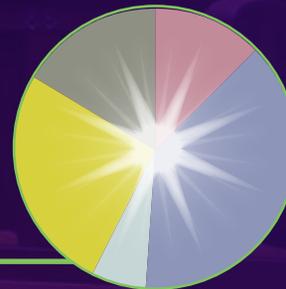
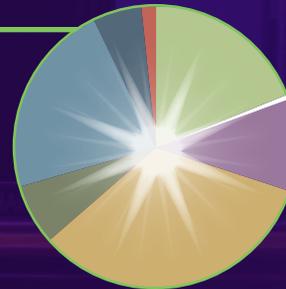
■ Individuals, Foundations, Schools, Scouts & Service clubs	\$167,247
■ Faith Based Partners	\$5,420
■ Business & Fundraising	\$92,508
■ Earned Revenue	\$294,655
■ Municipal	\$61,239
■ State	\$195,124
■ Federal	\$50,008
■ Client Relief	\$12,771
Total revenue	\$878,973

Endowment\$47,859

EXPENSES

■ Early Childhood	\$117,926
■ Youth Services	\$359,566
■ Community Support & Education	\$59,752
■ Community Services	\$243,331
■ Senior Outreach	\$152,591
Total expenses	\$933,166

**Program expenses include salary.*



An Eye to the Future

Perspective is best honed by looking at where you've been, where you are now and where you are going. With an eye to the future, TEEG is very fortunate to have been able to launch an endowment campaign. This will allow us to forge a plan that secures our ability to serve the community for years to come. This opportunity was made possible by a generous anonymous donor who has pledged a challenge, offering up to \$200,000 to match dollar-for-dollar any contribution given toward the TEEG endowment.

We are grateful to the Northeast community for responding so wholeheartedly to this effort, and in doing so, supporting not only TEEG's work today, but validating the importance of our work for years to come.

ORGANIZATIONS

Brooklyn Correctional Institution
Cargill Chevrolet Co Inc.
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock
Hometown Heating
Linemaster Switch Corporation
New Shoreham Human Systems

Carl & Sally Keil
Greg King
Tom Laskey
Roland Lupien
Peter & Virginia Lusa
Jack & Jane Middleton
Robert & Sylvia Miller
Rene Morin & Lynne Bergeron
Jeffrey & Heather Mydlarz

INDIVIDUALS

Joseph Adiletta
Michael & Denise Baum
Joseph Botta & Erica Kesselman
Taff Tschamler & Wendy Bradley
Christopher & Patricia Burke
Dr. Debra Campbell
Rene & Lynne Comtois
Laurence & Cynthia Consiglio
Charles Coombs
Joan Dash
Marylou Davis
Eric Fogg & Anne Miller
Brian & Maryanne Fontaine
Anthony & Melany Gronski
Steve & Kathleen Herbert
Jason & MaryEllen Jones

Richard & Kathy Naumann
Patrick & Erica O'Brien
David & Pam Olson
David & Linda Peiczarka
Barbara Pickett
Ted Reynolds
Mercedes Robbins
Merrill & Jayne Robbins
Mark & Leslee Ruggeri
Paul & Deb Savoie
Luke Semmelrock
Earl & Semmelrock &
Sarah Heminway
Kevin & Linda Shaw
Richard & Jamie Thompson
Robert & Susan Vincent
Mary Wallace

Visionary Funders

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following foundations for helping TEEG to keep an eye on the horizon, meeting the needs of the community as they arise.

FUNDER	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
The Bishop's Fund for Children	Early Childhood Programs	\$2,000.00
Northeast Women & Girls Fund, Managed by the Community Foundation of Eastern CT	Women's Self Defense	\$3,325.00
	Client Relief	\$1,371.80
Cranston Foundation	Matching Funds	\$1,500.00
Eastern Ct Assoc of Realtor	Food Security	\$400.00
End Hunger, CT!	No Child Hungry	\$1,425.00
Farm Credit East Cares CNY Foundation	Holiday Giving	\$600.00
Glass Foundation	Early Childhood Programs	\$35,000.00
Hanover Insurance	Employee Volunteer Recognition	\$500.00
Newell & Betty Hale Fund, Managed by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation	General Support	\$1,500.00
The CT Credit Union Charitable Foundation	Holiday Giving & Client Relief	\$1,000.00
Voya Foundation	Matching Funds	\$5,000.00
Walmart Foundation	Food Safety Awareness	\$500.00

Focusing on Making a Difference

Residents throughout northeast CT continue to make a difference. Designated donations to the following funds have allowed TEEG to continue to serve specific needs in our community.

FUND	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Pomstock	Client Relief	\$1,600.00
Woodstock Fuel Fund	Fuel Assistance for Residents of Woodstock	\$4,705.00
Thompson Fuel Fund	Fuel Assistance for Thompson Residents	\$100.00



Our Legislative Partners in Hartford ensure that the voice of the Quiet Corner is heard loud and clear by elected officials from around the state as they make decisions that affect our clients most.





Community sponsors are essential to our mission. Be it through financial support, gifts in kind, or the opportunity to engage TEEG youth participants by offering both community service opportunities and work experience.



ENVISIONING A STRONG FUTURE

*Meet the team that will carry
TEEG forward...*

Jenni Fountain (right), a trusted friend and confidant, serving TEEG for more than 20 years, will remain to help the new team shape their perspectives through the TEEG lens.

Anne Miller (center), with her first 'TEEGlet' year under her belt and 29 years of experience in working with youth and families, is ready to take the helm.

Susan Kershaw-Sczuroski (left), new to TEEG but steeped in decades of experience in the community-based work that is TEEG's mission, will lead our clinical team.

If we feel powerless in a world that feels like it has grown beyond our reach, maybe we can resolve to make our little corner of the world a better place.

Anne Miller, Executive Director

We could not serve our clients without the help of volunteers like Nick. He first came to TEEG in 2014 as a homeschooling student who was looking for something to do outside of his classwork. Since then, Nick has put in hundreds of volunteer hours, faithfully coming two to three days a week.





Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Josh Lake for his aerial drone photography.

Thanks also to Laura Moorehead of Angell House Design and Mary Ann and Kyle Dostaler of MAD Communications for once again donating your time, talents and clear perspective to create the TEEG 2016 Annual Report. They are photographed here at Putnam's First Friday – an event, like so many others in our region, that showcases the vibrant, creative, and friendly spirit of Northeast Connecticut.

"I TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND LET MYSELF ASK
'WHAT IF...!'

AND I INSTANTLY FELT A SHIFT
IN MY HEART, AND THE
SHIFT IN MY HEART
CREATED A SHIFT
IN MY VIEWPOINT."



Community • Faith • Business

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