



Building a Stronger Community





Acknowledging Our Creative Team

Design is a critical step in any building project. It's the process that turns an idea into a thought, which becomes the foundation for a plan that guides the development of the effort.

Without a design, there can be no building. TEEG expresses our deepest gratitude to the building partners we have in our design team who make this annual report possible year after year. Mike Bernier of Photo Express, Laura Moorehead of Angell House Design, and Mary Ann and Kyle Dostaler of MAD Communications have once again donated their gifts of professional time and talent to ensure that this document and our website will share TEEG's message in a way that resonates with the community we serve. Their collective commitment to quality and dedication to community is unparalleled.

While we could never afford them, we are ever grateful and appreciative that they have chosen TEEG as a benefactor of their creative gifts.

DEDICATION

The past year has been one of transition in the leadership of TEEG. After volunteering years of service to guide, govern and grow our agency, several long-serving members of our Board of Directors have moved on. We dedicate this report to these selfless individuals who have been so important in the building of TEEG and thank them for the decades of community service they have provided.

The TEEG Executive Committee especially recognizes the dedication and leadership of Dushy Mahendran, who has presided over the Board and provided steadfast leadership for the past nine years. We are grateful for her vision in broadening TEEG's services to be better prepared to meet the needs of our community. We wish her and her family the very best.

Dushy Mahendran
Member and Past President
1998 – 2011

Dr. Alexander Mahendran
Member, 1998 – 2011

Jane Austin
Member, 2000 - 2011

Ada Temple,
Member, 1999 - 2011

Barbara Mulligan
Member, 2005 - 2011

From Concept to Reality



As TEEG ends our 24th year of service to the community, we do so knowing that the success of our agency is rooted in our long-standing relationships and core values. Ours are the same old fashioned principals that founded our nation; the ones where family comes first and community is served above self. It's the same "all for one and one for all" philosophy that built barns, homesteads, neighborhoods and communities.

Holding tight to these values of partnership and community, TEEG has been blessed to see the beginning of our new building take shape. The new facility located on Thatcher Road in North Grosvenordale has been designed from the ground up to meet the physical needs of our growing agency and better serve the community.

The most exciting part of this project is that it is being built the TEEG way. In partnership with many throughout

the community, this construction project is very different from any other municipal initiative. Once completed, it will be forever distinguished by the mark of the community who came together to build it, not with their tax dollars, but with shared effort, sweat equity and commitment to serve; the same tenants that built so many of the historic structures in our region.

After starting with the professional talents of a few to garner the grant funding needed to erect a shell, the spirit of volunteerism has taken over the responsibility of building out the interior space. We are proud that the TEEG public/private partnership is now serving as a model for the State of Connecticut. Our building embodies the spirit of community that founded our agency and the very spirit of civic responsibility and community pride on which America was built.

The TEEG Building Committee. Sitting clockwise: Dick Trudeau, Kathleen Herbert, Kevin Kennedy, Charlie Weedon, Don Antonson, Steve Lewis, Shawn Brissette, John Rice, Chairman; Standing back row L-R Clarinda O'Leary, Barbara Pickett, Ida Ransom; Missing from photo: Delpha Very.



"Having been in politics for many years, I was surprised at how much more I was able to learn from TEEG about what social service really means. I have a better understanding of how many people count on public services; working people who need the system in ways I hadn't thought of before. TEEG is a great example of how the State can fund a little and the community can get a lot."

– State Representative Daniel S. Rovero
51st District Connecticut General Assembly



A Team Approach

At TEEG, we have always believed that the quality of our service rests in two things: compassion for those who seek our service, and accountability to those who fund our programs.

A Message from the TEEG Management Team

Building anything of lasting value takes great teams of people all working toward a common goal. And so it is with TEEG; building a great agency demands a strong team.

At TEEG, our management team has always believed that the quality of our service rests in two things: compassion for those who seek our service, and accountability to those who fund our programs. Our ability to serve is driven by the needs of the community. We have never felt limited in our capacity because of the physical confines of our offices.

Our motto has always been, "Whatever it takes." Those who have visited our current building on Main Street

know that we have raised the concept of space utilization to an art form. With staff working in closets and canned goods piled high in the basement, we have made the best use of the space we have. We have moved desks and rearranged furniture regularly to optimize efficiencies. We have partnered with others to use, barter and rent additional available space. But the time has come to build a new space as we have outgrown our humble home.

TEEG has grown to provide a variety of services to more areas of Northeast Connecticut with our signature grass-roots approach. But even though we have outgrown our current office space, our mission still fits. We have not wavered from our core philosophy, which continues to provide a solid foundation for our management team.

Our mission is the blueprint our staff follows to get the job done using the essential building blocks of effective community service – accountability, dignity, integrity and respect.



TEEG Staff. Kneeling L to R: Phanindra Chakraborty, Barndy Richotte, Carl Asikainan, Diane Farquharson, Bob Monahan; Standing L to R: Trinice Holden, Joyce Fountain, Jenni Fountain, Macy Harney, Gwyneth Emigh, Stacy Rodecap, Jim Jutras, Donna Grant.



A Message from the TEEG Board of Directors

This past year has been one of preparation, planning and transition. Our Board has prepared well for the changes ahead – changes in facilities, changes in leadership, and changes in our funding as the State and the nation adjust to changing economic realities.

At our annual Board retreat earlier this year, we worked as a team to better define the role of our Board members and redesign the committee work that we each will be responsible for going forward. Our ultimate goal is to sustain TEEG as the resource our community has come to rely on.

Sustainability takes a common vision, dedication and commitment on behalf of the Board members and the staff. It also takes a greater awareness of our role and value to the community by the policy makers we count on for our public funding. To achieve this level of heightened awareness, TEEG focused our efforts this year on relationship building with State and local officials. Of note, we met with retiring State Representative Shawn Johnston and incoming State Representative Daniel Rovero.

Our goal was to share “lessons learned” from Rep. Johnston, TEEG’s longstanding advocate, with our new legislator. **What Rep. Rovero learned is that our agency is different, and that the social service system is complicated.**

After meeting with TEEG, Representative Rovero wanted other policy makers to hear our story. He in turn invited Speaker of the House, Christopher Donovan, and Senate President Donald Williams to meet with us. At this meeting, First Selectmen Larry Groh of Thompson, Alan Walker of Woodstock and Jim Rivers of Pomfret joined us to explain the importance of TEEG in each of their respective communities.

During the summer, the Selectmen reconvened at TEEG to meet with the newly appointed Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Roderick Bremby, and his Deputy Commissioner, Claudette Beaulieu. During a four-hour meeting, they learned the story of TEEG, toured the town of Thompson, ate lunch with the children in River Mill Village, and visited the new Thompson Social Services Facility.

TEEG also reached out to Deb Heinrich, Nonprofit Liaison to Governor Malloy. In visiting our building site, she was excited to see the possibility of what can be achieved through public-private partnership. She applauded the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism that is so evident in this project.

TEEG continues to stay true to the tenants of our mission, while constantly re-assessing the work we must do to remain sustainable and relevant to the communities we serve.



We are immensely proud that the spirit which gave birth to TEEG 25 years ago lives on today.

The TEEG Board of Directors. Kneeling L to R: Donna Rawson, Barbara McGarry, Lynne Bergeron, Kathy Leveillee, Mary Anne Fontaine, President; Standing first row: Janet Richmond, Barbara Goloski, Angela Brissette-Miller, Barbara Pickett, Delpha Very, Vice President, Fran Roy, Secretary; Standing back row: John Ywarsky, Linda Peiczarka, Laura Prouty, Mercedes Robbins, Treasurer, Christopher Burke.





“During these particularly difficult times, we realize the importance of our ‘safety net’ organizations. Thousands of our most vulnerable – from children to seniors throughout Northeast Connecticut – rely on the good work of agencies like TEEG.”

– Christopher G. Donovan Connecticut House Speaker

A Framework of Partnerships

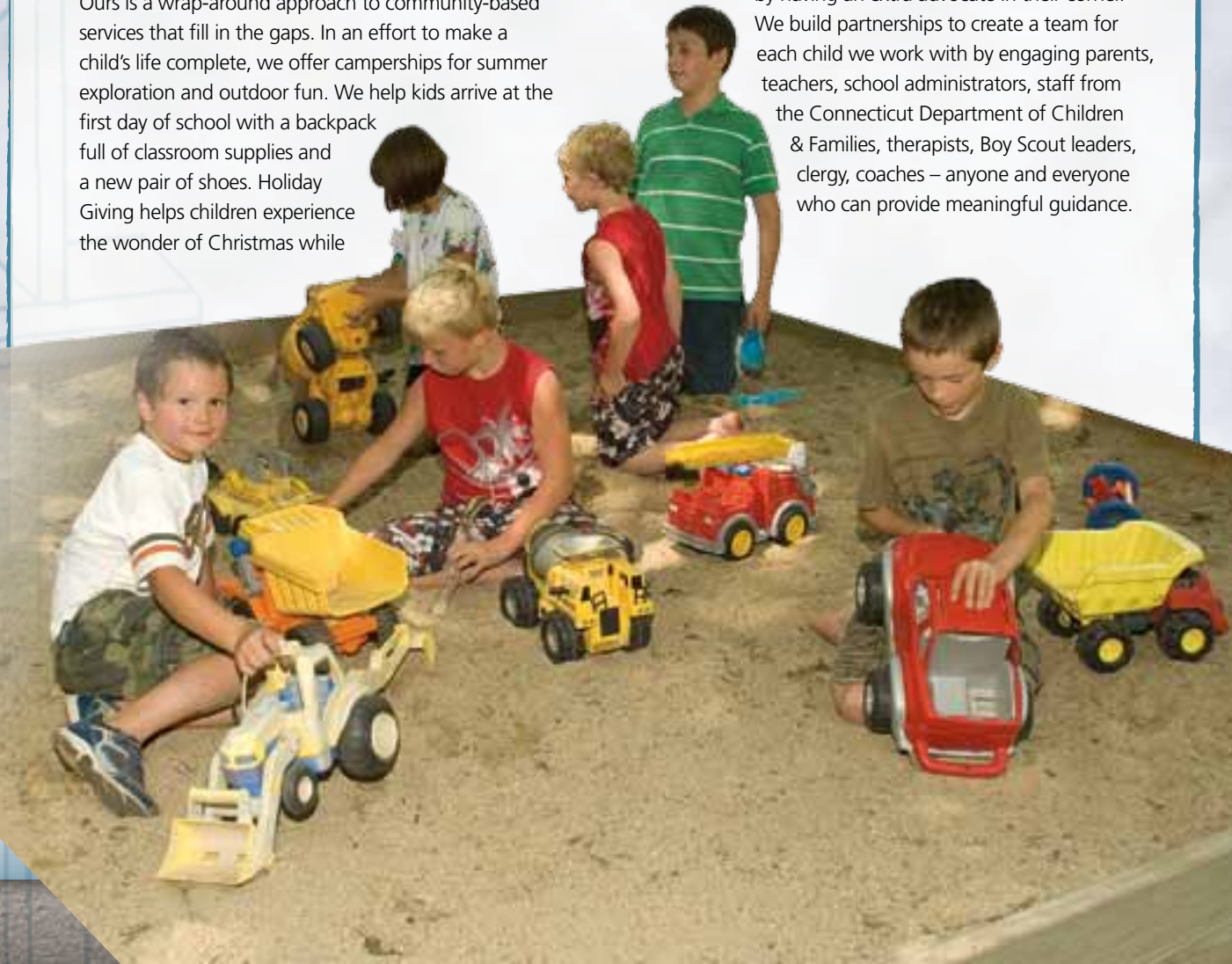
Serving Our Youth

Tyvek and Weather Shield. These are the materials commonly used to wrap around a house under construction. They provide protection from the elements, fill in cracks and keep what’s inside safe. It is the first step in turning a house into a home.

This is the same thinking behind TEEG’s youth programs. Ours is a wrap-around approach to community-based services that fill in the gaps. In an effort to make a child’s life complete, we offer camperships for summer exploration and outdoor fun. We help kids arrive at the first day of school with a backpack full of classroom supplies and a new pair of shoes. Holiday Giving helps children experience the wonder of Christmas while

meeting the community’s need to be generous during the holiday season. Summer Lunch extends a nutritious meal to fill hungry tummies during months when school lunch is not an option.

TEEG’s clinical programs also follow the same approach. We provide therapeutic mentors who work one-on-one with children and youth in our community who can benefit by having an extra advocate in their corner. We build partnerships to create a team for each child we work with by engaging parents, teachers, school administrators, staff from the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, therapists, Boy Scout leaders, clergy, coaches – anyone and everyone who can provide meaningful guidance.





“I am so impressed with TEEG’s work to foster community partnerships. Their broad outlook and strong commitment to cooperative efforts have allowed them to leverage their impact exponentially.”

– Deb Heinrich, Nonprofit Liaison to the Governor



Above left and right: **Summer Lunch.** TEEG staff worked throughout the summer to bring 2,748 nutritious lunches to local children.

Above: **TEEG All Star Adventure Program Summer Program Staff:** Top to bottom in purple: Carl Asikainan, Colin Whiston, Jim Jutras, Douglas Henry, Gwyneth Emigh, Program Director, Michelle Stillwell.

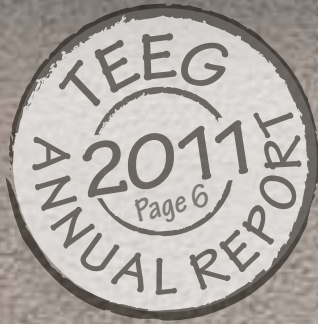
Left: **Therapeutic Support Team.** Sitting L to R: Sarah Colwell, Megan McBroome, Tammy Sanon, Chelsea Valade; Standing first row: Jim Jutras, MSW, Clinical Case Manager, Dr. Andre Bessette, PhD, Clinical Program Director, Donna Grant, Executive Director, Trinice Holden, Clinical Program Coordinator; Standing back row: Jennifer Strong, Trista Hicks, Terry Moylan, Kaylyn Hewey, Dianne Bessette, Will Child.



TEEG knows it takes a community to raise a new building. We also know it takes that same spirit to raise a child. All TEEG programs for youth and children leverage partnerships with funders and families, with providers and parents, with school systems and State agencies, and with community collaboratives and courtrooms, to serve youth of all ages and needs.

- **Parent Child Playgroup – Birth to Age 5**
- **School Readiness – Age 3 and 4**
- **Intensive Adolescent Mentoring - Age 6 to 21**
- **All Star Adventure Program – Summer Day Camp Age 7 to 18**
- **Summer Lunch - Birth to Age 18**





TEEG's community programs provide families, adults and seniors the supports they need. Whether it's building blocks for effective parenthood, caulk to fill gaps for seniors, or concrete to help those seeking to build a new foundation, TEEG is there to help.

- Parents Empowered
- Senior Case Management
- Health Education
- Anger Aside
- Gambler's Anonymous

All of TEEG's Wellness and Prevention efforts are made stronger by our partnership with the Northeast District Department of Health and our membership in HealthQuest, a regional collaborative of healthcare and community partners.

Fortifying Our Foundations

Serving Families, Adults & Seniors

The strength of any structure rests in a solid foundation. Our community programs, while not made of concrete or stone, serve as the foundation that supports so many in Northeastern Connecticut.

Our Parents Empowered series gives parents the tools they need to help them be the most effective they can be. Programs including *Parenting and the Internet*, *Raising Children through Co-Parenting*, *Doctor Dad*, *Handling the Demands of Parenting through Holidays*, and *Infant Safety and CPR* are designed to give parents the information they need to succeed.

Anger Management and Gambler's Anonymous are supports to help those who may be struggling with difficult emotions or addictive behaviors to get the help they need.

Navigating the complex system of aging, healthcare and personal independence can be a daunting task. TEEG's Senior Programs provide case management and health education. Our staff works with leaders of Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock to ensure that all seniors have someone to turn to. Whether they seek heating assistance, food security, benefits education, access to appropriate healthcare, homeowner advice or counseling, we are here to help.



"Whatever it takes." Our team at TEEG is not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get the job done!



“TEEG is one of the human service agencies I chose to visit during my first several months as Connecticut’s Social Services Commissioner. I believe it is important for State policy-makers to get a first-hand look at needs and services throughout the entire State, including rural areas that sometimes may not receive the attention they deserve. I thank the staff at TEEG for sharing their insights and for their extensive work in the community.”

-- Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services

TEEG was founded on a spirit of goodwill and community service. Our volunteers roll up their sleeves to work in our food pantry, our office and our yard. They come forward as individuals and amass as an army in times of need. This year, we added architects, carpenters, electricians and landscapers to the list of dedicated volunteers who sustain TEEG.

A special Thank You to the dedicated volunteers of the Thompson Lions Club for all of your support in our building project.



Connecting Walls & Supports

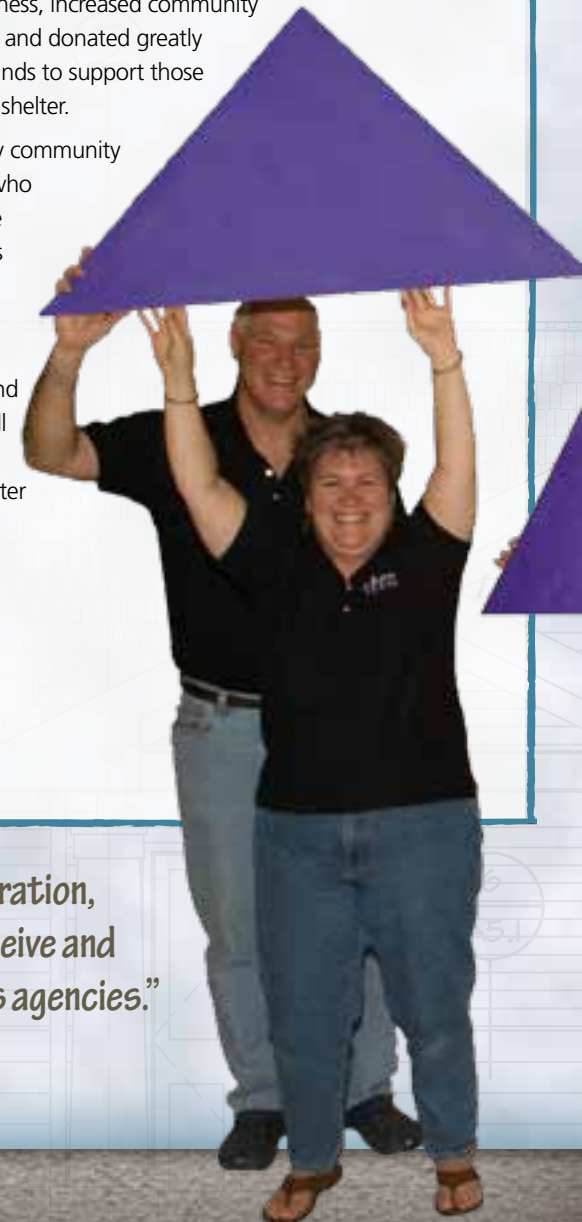
Serving Neighbors in Need

Think of TEEG as a General Contractor. Just as a GC facilitates the building process by organizing the time and talents of the craftsman on the job, so is TEEG's role in providing community service. We coordinate volunteered time and talent, and match that with the many donations received to meet the community need.

- The countless hours of volunteer service in our food pantry, matched with the \$250,000 worth of donated or discounted food products, allows us to make sure no one in our community has to go hungry.
- The hundreds of volunteer hours offered by our Holiday Helpers, combined with over \$25,000 of donated food and gifts enable everyone in our hometowns to have a holiday meal and some Christmas cheer.
- Community gifts of camperships to ensure that every child can experience Summer Camp and create childhood memories that will last a lifetime.
- The "Education Elves" who donate hundreds of backpacks, thousands of dollars of school supplies, and volunteer to stuff each bag with the grade-appropriate materials to ensure every child returns to school prepared.
- The students from Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Marianapolis Preparatory School and Woodstock Academy who partner with TEEG to generate greater awareness of

homelessness in the Quiet Corner. Sleeping in cardboard boxes on their respective town greens, and asking the community to sponsor their efforts, they have raised consciousness, increased community education and donated greatly needed funds to support those who seek shelter.

- The many community partners who contribute thousands of dollars to ensure our local families and friends will have heat in the winter months.



TEEG is the lever that, applied to an immovable object with the force of a community, can move mountains.

- Homeless Awareness
- Camperships
- Holiday Giving
- Back to School
- Food Pantry
- Fuel Programs

"By embracing a spirit of community collaboration, TEEG is able to stretch every dollar they receive and has become a model for other social services agencies."

— Rachael and Shawn Johnston, Thompson Campaign Chairs



“If you see someone struggling to make ends meet who is too proud to ask, offer a helping hand and introduce them to TEEG. It can be just what the ‘Nurse Practitioner’ ordered.”

– David La Chance, APRN,
Woodstock Campaign Chair

“By supporting TEEG you can be part of making our community a better place to live.”

– Joe Botta and Erica Kesselman, Pomfret Campaign Chairs



Lives Touched by TEEG

2010-2011 Programs	Times Lives Were Touched
Early Childhood	
Parent/Child Playgroup	1,034
Parents as Teachers	88
Parent Outreach & Education	353
Youth Services	
IAM Adolescent Therapeutic Support Services	3,025
Supervised Visitation	18
All Star Adventure Program (A.S.A.P.)	176
Back to School	154
Campership Program	33
Community Support & Education	
Anger Aside	24
Gambler's Anonymous	209
Community Services	
Emergent Food Distribution	279
Holiday Giving	2,191
Information and Referral Consultation	6,149
Case Management	3,512
Monthly Commodity Distribution (Food)	3,451
Operation Fuel	242
Salvation Army	40
Client Relief	179
Summer Lunch	2,748
Volunteer Opportunities	1,484
Community Outreach	2,582
Senior Outreach	
Senior Case Management	904
Senior Recreation and Events	210
Total times lives were touched fiscal year 2010-2011	29,085*

*Total represents service delivered to 2,405 unduplicated individuals and 976 unduplicated families.

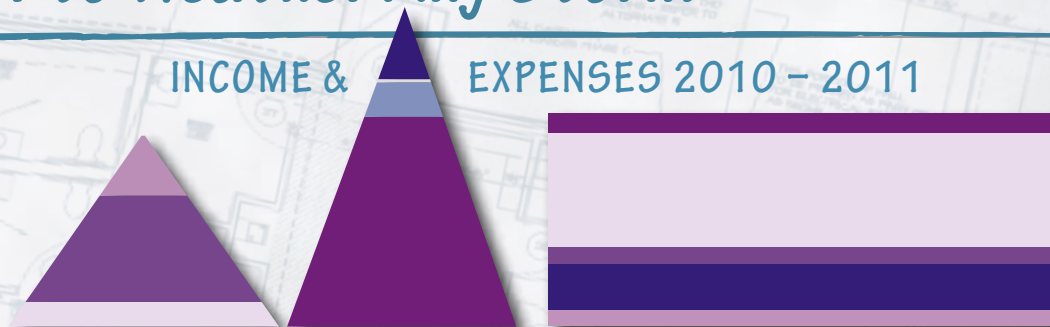
Building a Shelter to Weather Any Storm

TEEG's financial structure is built on a solid foundation of public support from our Federal, State and Municipal partners. Earned revenue from the mental health and clinical programs that TEEG has developed to serve youth in Northeast Connecticut provide the pillars of sustainability. To top it off, our home is sheltered from the elements under a unique roofline buttressed by our partnerships with families, organizations, faith communities and businesses.

Together, money granted, money earned, and money donated has enabled TEEG to build a home large enough to provide shelter to those who find themselves in stormy weather, under a roof sturdy enough to withstand the test of time.

INCOME &

EXPENSES 2010 - 2011



REVENUE

■ Individuals, Foundations and Service Clubs	\$.92,243
■ Faith Based Partners	\$.4,830
■ Business and Fundraising	\$.55,001
■ Earned Revenue	\$.381,911
■ Municipal	\$.42,000
■ State	\$.171,464
■ Federal	\$.42,755
Total Agency Revenue	\$.790,204

EXPENSES

■ Early Childhood	\$.71,187
■ Youth Services	\$.404,157
■ Community Support & Education	\$.60,487
■ Community Services	\$.167,246
■ Senior Outreach	\$.53,769
Total expenses	\$.756,846



"I have long been impressed with TEEG's commitment to helping families in Northeastern Connecticut. I remember when the agency was launched years ago on a wing and a prayer when I was the First Selectman of Thompson. TEEG has sustained because they know how to stretch every dollar to provide help to those in the greatest need, and they change lives for the better."

— State Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., President Pro Tempore

TEEG sweeps up every last penny, making the best use of every available resource.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Community • Faith • Business

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