



THE STORY OF  
*The House the Community Built*  
• 2012 TEEG ANNUAL REPORT •



As TEEG celebrates our 25th year of serving the community, we do so in a state of euphoria. We have never experienced a time in our history where we have been so happy... and so humbled.

*Our story is  
so joyful we  
could find no better  
way to share it  
with you then to  
just tell it...  
as a Story.*

## Acknowledgement

Our story begins with the storytellers themselves. Our creative team donates their time and talent every year to help us craft our message in words and pictures. We are eternally grateful to Laura Moorehead of Angell House Designs for her immense talents as a designer, illustrator and team member extraordinaire, and to Mary Ann and Kyle Dostaler of MAD Communications for the year-round support in helping to guide the creative process and assist us in sharing TEEG's news with the community. Their on-call assistance with the development and ongoing technical support of our website and social media is invaluable. Rounding out our creative team are the photographers who demonstrate time and again that a picture really is worth a thousand words. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mike Bernier, Brad Shipp, Alex Owen and Cos Quercia along with the many amateur photographers who contributed to this year's special annual report.



## Dedication

Every story has a hero. Ours has three! **John Rice** of Thompson, Chairman of our Building Committee and Volunteer Clerk of the Works; **Steve Lewis** of Thompson, a member of our Building Committee and Volunteer Architect; and **Charlie Weedon** of Pomfret, a member of our Building Committee, Volunteer General Contractor and Energy Conservation Consultant. We dedicate this year's 25th Anniversary Annual Report to these three very special men, our local heroes.

There are countless individuals who heard the bell ring – literally hundreds who answered the call – but none so unselfishly or with such commitment to the cause as these three. TEEG as an agency is grateful, and Northeast Connecticut is richer, forevermore.





## *Once upon a time...*

in a land called the Quiet Corner, a bell was rung. This bell called a community to work for itself; to give of its time and treasures for a common purpose. The project was unique in this modern age. Citizens were asked to come together to support building a new structure that would be owned by all.

Not since the days of yore when barns were built by many hands had such a task been undertaken. But the leaders of the community were confident it could be done.

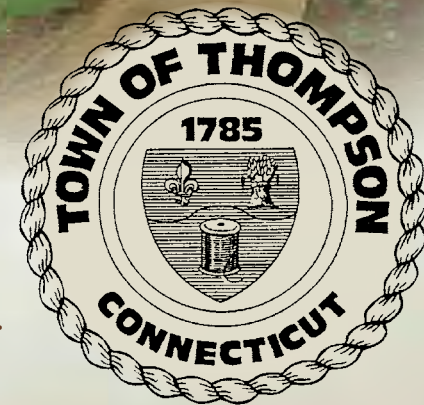
As a symbol of the commitment made to the effort, a seedling was planted in 2009 to mark the beginning of the journey. This seedling would remind all who came to see it that there was job to be done, a building to be built by everyone and anyone who held dear the value of...

## *community.*

# *The Story of the House the Community Built*

*T*his is the house where TEEG lived.

*T*his is the town where TEEG was born.

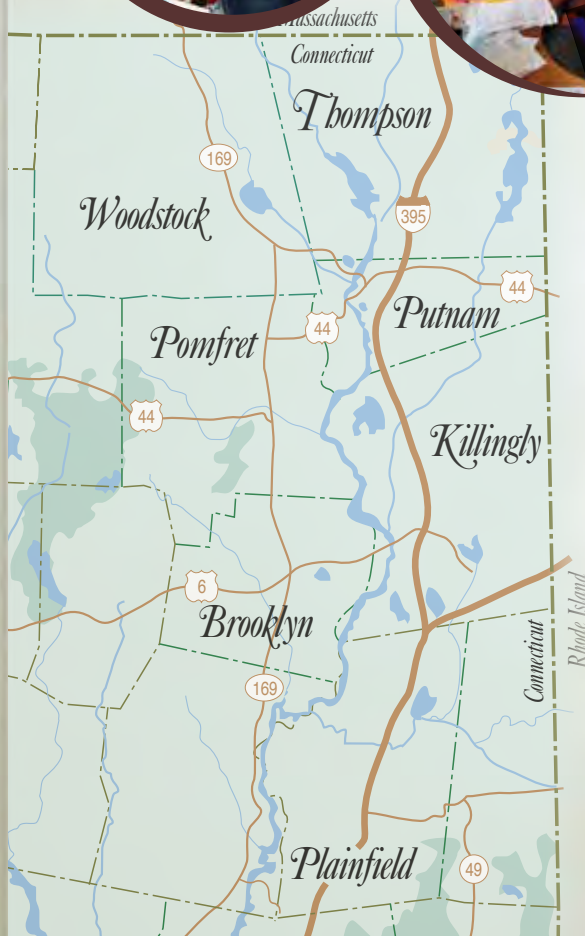


These are the rooms that became too small as TEEG grew bigger to serve more people.



This is the bell that leaders rang to call the people to build a new house for TEEG without any local tax dollars!

These are the leaders that said, "Oh my! TEEG does not fit in their house anymore!"



These are the citizens who answered the call!

## Hear ye! Hear ye!

Let this proclamation declare the outstanding efforts of the following citizens and businesses of the Quiet Corner!

### PROJECT LEADERS

John Rice  
*Building Committee Chairman  
and Volunteer Clerk of the  
Works*

Charlie Weedon  
*Building Committee Member  
and Volunteer General  
Contractor*

Steve Lewis  
*Building Committee Member,  
Volunteer Project Architect*

Kevin Kennedy  
*Building Committee Member,  
Project Manager*

### CHIEF VOLUNTEERS

Ron Brissette

Shawn Brissette

Richard Desrochers

Eric Gould

Howard Peck

Irving Schoppe

Bill VanNuewinhyze

### PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Carl Bennett

Janet Blanchette

Chuck Bousquet

Jeff Bousquet

Jesse Bousquet

Susan Devokaitis

David Eddy

Raymond Faucher, Jr.

Gabriel Grant

Sarah Hamby

Paul Hoenig

William Normandin

J. Phillip Parizeau

Daniel Perreault

Jean Marc Perreault

David Poplawski

Mark Provost

James Rawson

Caleb Thomas

Charles Trudeau

Joe Waldron

Vincent Woods

### BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Bear Paw Signs and Graphics

Chuck Bousquet's Kitchens,  
Baths and More

Steve Bousquet's Appliances  
and T.V.

Charter Communications

Chase Graphics

H.H. Ellis Regional  
Vocational Technical School,  
Electrical, Plumbing, and  
Masonry Shops

Hitachi Cable America, Inc.

Independent Security

J&D Civil Engineering

Johnson Electric

Killingly Building Products

85 Main

Mannington Mills

National Chromium  
Company, Inc.

Northeast Flooring and  
Kitchens

Rawson Materials

Rawson Transport

Sherwin-Williams

Sprucedale Gardens

Thompson Lions Club

Thompson Public  
Schools

Windham County  
Sheet Metal

Wyndham Corporate  
Interiors



This is the team  
that  
volunteered  
to lead the project to  
build TEEG a new home.

*T*hese are the Lions that raked and shoveled to move the dirt and clear the way for TEEG's new home.



*T*hese are youth that came from the churches to paint the walls of TEEG's new home.



*T*his is the Governor who came to meet the students who worked hard to build TEEG a new home.



*T*his is the man who volunteered to move the stones and form the walls to create a garden in honor of TEEG's founders.



This is the furniture donated to TEEG that came from businesses far and near all throughout the land.



These are the businessmen who volunteered to build a new kitchen for TEEG to cook the meals to feed the community.



This is the staff, with humble hearts, grateful to the community for building a new home for TEEG.





This is the room that was filled to the brim with all of the people who answered the call to gather community like never before to build a new home for TEEG.



This is the ribbon that was cut by TEEG's Ambassadors who stood with leaders who glowed with pride when the purple door opened and invited the community into the new house where TEEG lives.



*A*nd so it came to pass  
in this land called the Quiet Corner.  
The bell was rung and the villagers poured in!  
Old and young, large and small, with treasures  
to give, or time to spare... and the job was done.

*T*he seedling took root and stands proudly atop  
Thatcher Road next to the building  
that was built for the community,  
by the community...  
to serve the community forevermore.



## A Story of Lessons Learned

As children, we learned our lessons through the stories that were read to us. We learned from Aesop that if you cry wolf too many times, people won't be there when you need them most. We learned the value of honesty through George Washington's cherry tree and the tales of Abe Lincoln. We learned about perseverance from *The Little Engine that Could*.

Building the new Thompson Social Services Building was a lesson in trust. The words, "We think we can. We think we can." became a daily mantra as we chugged along. It was an uphill climb for over three years until one day in March 2012 when we crested Thatcher Road, looked up and hung on tight for an amazing ride to the finish line.

The story of how the TEEG building was built is not unlike many from childhood... rich with lessons. Our young faith community members learned lessons in public service. Leaders who moved the project forward learned lessons in patience. Ellis Tech students learned vocational skills in electrical construction, commercial plumbing, patio design and concrete installation. Legislators and local

officials learned lessons in community resourcefulness. The greatest lesson I learned is how important it is to give people an opportunity to be a part of something. In this ever more structured world of contracts, policies and risk management, it has become difficult for people to contribute to and participate in public projects. The TEEG building process bucked this trend and invited the community to be part of something meaningful. Everyone who answered the call to donate their time, talents and treasures were repaid not with money but rather a sense of ownership and community pride.

Our project raised almost \$1 million in donated time and materials. Its successful completion is testimony to what can be accomplished when dedicated people set their minds to a task. It really does take a village, and the villagers of the Quiet Corner are still willing to roll up their sleeves and be part of creating their own solutions. Thank you Northeast Connecticut for being THAT kind of community!

*Donna M. Grant*

### TEEG Staff

Allison Kutschker, *Mentor*  
 Alyssa Bessette, *Mentor*  
 Andrena Chace, *ASAP staff*  
 Anne Shields, *Program Assistant*  
 Bob Monahan, *Food Security Worker*  
 Branden Grant, *Mentor/ASAP Staff*  
 Brandy Ritchotte, *Case Manager*  
 Caitlin Cote, *Mentor*  
 Carl Asikainen, *Community Program Manager*  
 Chelsea Valade, *Early Childhood Assistant*  
 Colin Whiston, *ASAP staff*  
 Diane Farquharson, *Early Childhood Coordinator*  
 Dianne Bessette, *Mentor*  
 DJ Bernat, *Mentor/ASAP Staff*  
 Donna Grant, *Executive Director*  
 Gwyneth Emigh, *Program Developer/ASAP Director*  
 Heidi Densmore, *Mentor*  
 Jenn Plaza, *JRB Case Coordinator*  
 Jenn Strong, *Mentor/Clinical Program Support*  
 Jenni Fountain, *Fiscal Administrator*  
 Jim Jutras, *Clinical Program Supervisor*  
 John O'Brien, *Mentor*  
 Joyce Fountain, *Data Clerk*  
 Kim Nedzweckas, *Summer Lunch Worker*  
 Macy Harney, *Front Desk Coordinator*  
 Roy Montiero, *Mentor*  
 Sarah Colwell, *Mentor*  
 Stacy Rodecap, *Director of Programs*  
 Tammy Poirier Sanon, *Mentor*  
 Therese Horvath, *Mentor*  
 Trinice Holden, *Clinical Program Manager*  
 Victoria Montefusco, *ASAP staff*  
 Will Child, *Mentor*

### Not pictured

Andre Bessette, *Child Psychologist, Clinical Director*  
 Christie Lowell, *Mentor*  
 Douglas Henry, *ASAP staff*  
 Hoween Flexer, *Mentor*  
 James Shea, *Mentor*  
 Kelly Piper, *ASAP staff*  
 Kyle Barrette, *ASAP staff*  
 Phanindra Chakraborty, *Fiscal Operations*

## TEEG Board of Directors

Mary Anne Fontaine, *President*  
Delpha Very, *Vice President*  
Mercedes Robbins, *Treasurer*  
Kathy Leveillee, *Secretary*  
Angela Brissette  
Barbara Goloski  
Barbara McGarry  
Barbara Pickett  
Christopher Burke  
Donna Rawson  
Fran Roy  
John Ywarsky  
Joyce Larson  
Laura Prouty  
Linda Peiczarka  
Lynne Bergeron  
Ted Reynolds



*“Everyone who answered the call to donate their time, talents and treasures were repaid not with money but rather a sense of ownership and community pride.”*

Donna Grant, *Executive Director, TEEG*

## *A Story of Perseverance*

In recognizing TEEG’s 25th anniversary, our Board of Directors have taken some time to reflect on our first quarter century of service. Our agency was founded 25 years ago with a single mission of service to community through empowerment. This mission has resonated in the Thompson community and beyond as TEEG has grown to be an important resource throughout the Quiet Corner. We are proud to carry on the work of the founding board, fulfilling the mission with our focus always on empowerment to guide the way.

Although this past year has certainly been a year of change for TEEG, both in its physical location and its increased call for service, we, as a board, are committed to propelling our organization into the future while holding true to our strong organizational roots.

With more opportunity comes greater responsibility, therefore it is essential that we focus our time and energy on what is best for TEEG and its ability to continue to provide programs and services that are so often needed in our community.

Over the past year, the board has also reorganized its structure to fully empower leadership so that members have the resources to complete the many tasks at hand. As everyone in the TEEG family has learned new lessons this year, so has the board. Our lesson learned is the simple fact that each of us can do a little, but together we can do a lot.

We are making progress, and with your help and your continued support, we will ensure a better future for the communities we serve.

*Mary Anne R. Fontaine*

# A Story of Fiscal Discipline

*The House the Community Built* weaves together the many different story lines and sub-plots to show the connections of how everything came together in support of a common purpose. The constant theme running throughout is resources. The way they were gathered and the way they were used combined to make a whole that is far greater than the sum of its parts, much like the story of blackbird pie.

The fiscal planning for the move to our new building began several years ago. We knew that significant resources would need to be expended so we gathered, earned and set aside the reserves necessary to invest in our future. This year we realized that future. Our reserves, which had been carefully saved, were used to allow the agency to grow into the new space the community built for us. Significant one-time expenditures, including phone systems, computers, servers, and appliances, were planned and purchased without impacting the financial health of any client program. Vigilant stewardship of agency funds allowed for the purchase of the necessary equipment to complete the move while maintaining steady growth in program offerings to the community.

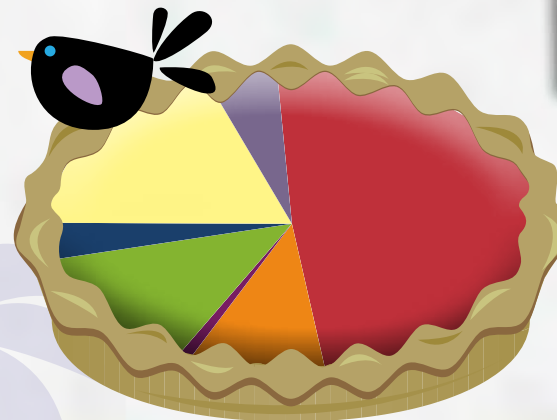
We are very pleased to report that financially, our story has a very happy ending!



## Revenue

▶ Individuals, Foundations and Service Clubs . . . . .	\$69,875
▶ Faith Based Partners . . . . .	\$6,421
▶ Business and Fundraising . . . . .	\$71,619
▶ Earned Revenue . . . . .	\$426,906
▶ Municipal . . . . .	\$42,000
▶ State . . . . .	\$162,630
▶ Federal . . . . .	\$33,693
<b>Total Agency Revenue. . . . .</b>	<b>\$859,725</b>

*\*Budget numbers reflective of fiscal year 2012 ending 6/30/2012.*

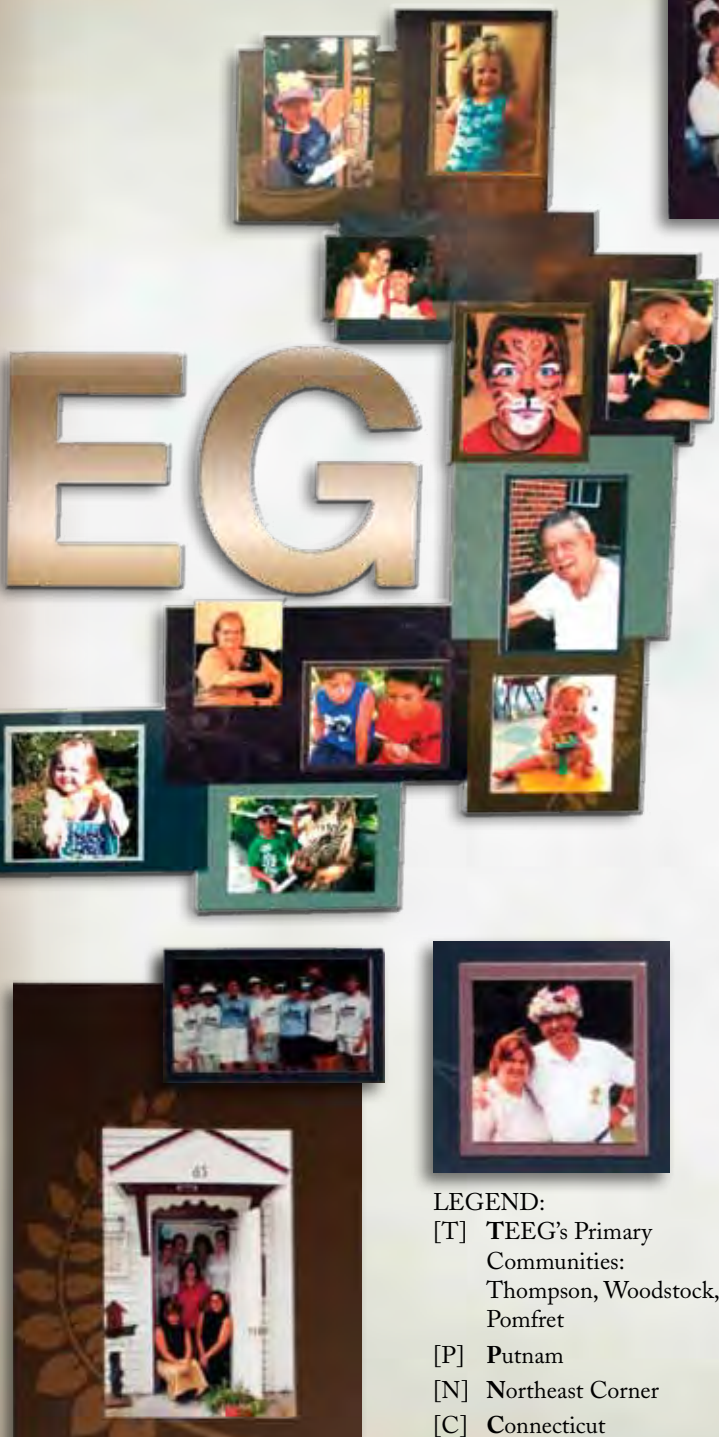


## Expenses

▶ Early Childhood . . . . .	\$94,541
▶ Youth Services . . . . .	\$411,658
▶ Community Support & Education . . . . .	\$108,370
▶ Community Services . . . . .	\$157,329
▶ Senior Outreach . . . . .	\$98,747
<b>Total expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>\$870,645</b>



# TEEG



## A Story of Human Kindness

Just as the community answered the call of the ringing bell, TEEG staff continued to answer the call of the ringing telephone. Our staff has served 205 more individuals and 78 more families in 2012. We added programming and increased our capacity to allow us to touch lives on 6,590 more occasions than in the past year. We are grateful for the trust Northeast Connecticut has placed in us to offer a hand up to our neighbors in need. It is a privilege to serve and empower our community.

Programs	Towns	Lives Touched
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>		
Parent/Child Playgroup.....	TPN	1854
Parents as Teachers .....	T	32
Parent Outreach & Education.....	TPNC	250
School Readiness.....	T	22
<b>YOUTH SERVICES</b>		
IAM Adolescent Therapeutic Support Services.....	TPN	4,259
All Star Adventure Program (A.S.A.P.) .....	TPN	329
Back to School.....	T	162
Campership Program & MARS Scholarships .....	TPN	17
<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION</b>		
Anger Aside.....	TPNC	40
Gambler's Anonymous .....	TPNC	435

Programs	Towns	Lives Touched
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>		
Emergent Food Distribution.....	TPNC	365
Holiday Giving.....	T	2,085
Information and Referral Consultation ..	TPNC	4,896
Case Management & Budgeting.....	T	2,891
Clothing Assistance.....	T	591
Monthly Commodity Distribution (Food).....	T	2,278
Operation Fuel .....	TP	398
Salvation Army.....	T	20
Client Relief & Private Fund Fuel Assistance .....	T	148
Summer Lunch .....	TPNC	2,717
Volunteer Opportunities.....	TPNC	864
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance .....	TP	48
Community Outreach .....	TPN	10,027
<b>SENIOR OUTREACH</b>		
Senior Case Management .....	T	697
Senior Recreation and Events .....	T	250

- LEGEND:  
 [T] TEEG's Primary Communities: Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret  
 [P] Putnam  
 [N] Northeast Corner  
 [C] Connecticut

**Total times lives were touched by TEEG in the fiscal year 2011-2012 = 35,675**

*\*Total represents service delivered to 2,610 unduplicated individuals and 1,054 unduplicated families.*

*“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

P.O. Box 664, 15 Thatcher Road, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 • Phone: 860-923-3458 • Fax: 860-923-5770 • [www.teegonline.org](http://www.teegonline.org)

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