



**TEEG 2017
Annual Report**

Rooted in Love



Acknowledgements

Each year, as we approach the creation of our Annual Report, we are guided, supported, and encouraged by a team of people who give of their time, talent, and resources in order to help us communicate who we are and what we do. Much like the roots of a healthy tree, these folks provide the stability and foundation we need to reach our community. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Thank you to Mary Ann and Kyle Dostaler of MAD communications, Laura Moorehead of Angell House Design, and Lindsay Lehman of Lindsay Shaw Photography for volunteering your support, wisdom, and patience.

Thank you to Chase Graphics for your generosity and the many services you provide.



A Grassroots Movement

Thirty years ago a group of local folks in the Quiet Corner came together to create the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group. Their sole purpose was to help neighboring families in River Mill Village. These volunteers had not been charged with the task, nor were they sure just what their neighbors needed, but they saw a need and they cared.

The founders of TEEG were firmly rooted in their community. Working together to help others was natural to them. In doing so, the seeds of our agency were planted.

Today, the grassroots movement that began as TEEG continues to spread. Our roots run deep thanks to a community whose soil is rich with generosity, fortified with concern for others, and interwoven to support our neighbors.

Like hearty grasses, TEEG is resilient in our ability to help people face ever-changing needs. We assess each program to ensure it is empowering people to change what is getting in the way of living life to the fullest extent they are able.

Anne Miller



The TEEG Mission

- Empowering individuals to live independently
- Strengthening families to live respectfully
- Engaging the community to work collaboratively
- Connecting resources to promote a better future for all

In Memoria/Dedication

No garden can grow without the tireless work and commitment of the individuals who tend it. After returning to his native town of Thompson to enjoy retirement, Norman (Norm) Babbitt became an avid and selfless volunteer to TEEG. From painting our building to serving on our Board, Norm provided the care that allowed TEEG to thrive. The spirit of his generosity lives on in all that we do to help others.



Lives Touched by TEEG Programs

Early Childhood & Community Education	1,734
Diaper Assistance Gambler's Anonymous Parent/Child Playgroup Parent Support Parents Empowered & Anger Aside School Readiness	
Youth Services	6,813
All Star Adventure Program (ASAP) Back to School Campership Program & MARS Scholarships Got Drama? IAM Adolescent Therapeutic Support Services Juvenile Review Board (JRB) Reverse Trick or Treat Scholarship Summer Breakfast & Lunch Summer Camperships	
Community & Income Qualified Programs	28,100
Case Management & Budgeting Client Relief & Private Fund Fuel Assistance Clothing Assistance Community Garden & Nutrition Education Community Outreach Food Systems (Gleaning, Food Rescue, Hub) Holiday Giving Information & Referral Consultation Monthly & Emergent Food Distribution Operation Fuel Private Fund Energy Assistance Salvation Army	
Volunteer Services & Giving Back	2,177
Community Service Volunteering Opportunities	
Senior Services	2,883
Benefits Counseling Pomfret Senior Center Senior Recreation & Events	
Total times lives were touched fiscal year 2015-2016	41,707
Unduplicated Individuals	2,161
Unduplicated Families	815



Nurturing Growth through Empowerment

Just as a seed needs fertile soil, sunlight, and water in order to grow strong and tall, individuals and families need the nourishment of community connections. TEEG offers a warm embrace to link people with the resources they need to thrive.

TEEG programs seek to engage people of all ages. Our goal is to enrich participants' lives with information through case management and group interactions, empower them to live independently, and ultimately, encourage them to contribute back to the community in meaningful ways.

The full spectrum of TEEG programs begins with our newest offering, Hand in Hand. This program reaches out to families with newborns. Our Playgroup is the next step for families to continue building and strengthening bonds. Our mentoring programs seek to connect young people to community resources.

Support programs available to all in need such as Camperships, Back-to-School, and Holiday Giving, allow families to maintain financial security.



grass-roots
noun, also gras-roots

1. the common or ordinary people, especially as contrasted with the leadership or elite of a political party, social organization, etc.; the rank and file.
2. the agricultural and rural areas of a country.
3. the people inhabiting these areas, especially as a political, social, or economic group.
4. the origin or basis of something; the basic or primary concept, rule, part, or the like.



Grounded in Faith

TEEG's beginning as the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group is the taproot of our strength. The core of caring that inspired a group of Faith Based partners to join together in Thompson's River Mill Village is, and will always be, central to our mission.

This focus has sustained TEEG and guided our evolution to become the social service agency for the towns of Thompson, Pomfret, and Woodstock. Our reach extends to surrounding towns as well, offering community programs, education, support, and youth services as well as emergency food and summer lunch for children 0-18. In serving these communities, it is essential that we maintain the ability to flex and grow with changing needs.

Seniors receive the resources that allow them to maintain connections to their communities. Physical, social, and intellectual activities foster strength while fuel assistance and benefits counseling help to balance limited budgets.

Towns Served

Brooklyn
 Canterbury
 Eastford
 Killingly
 Plainfield
 Pomfret
 Putnam
 Sterling
 Thompson
 Union
 Woodstock



TEEG Staff (In alphabetical order)

Peg Bernat, HR/Fiscal Assistant/Benefits Counselor
 Jason Bleau, Community Outreach Coordinator
 Rachel Hilli, Front Desk Coordinator
 Therese Horvath, Case Coordinator
 Jenni Fountain, Fiscal Administrator
 Jim Jutras, Senior Center
 Susan Kershaw-Sczuroski, Clinical Director
 Nadia Krivosheev, Program Assistant
 Anne Miller, Executive Director
 Jenn Plaza, Juvenile Review Board Case Coordinator
 Jennifer Strong, Community Programs Manager
 Chelsea Valade, Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator
 Colin Whiston, Youth Programs Manager
 Jibrael Younis, Resource Developer

IAM Mentors

Elena DeLuca
 Douglas Henry
 Therese Horvath
 Elizabeth King
 John O'Brien
 Jenn Plaza
 Loryn Walker

ASAP Staff

Douglas Henry
 Therese Horvath
 Sarah LeNoir
 Autumn Lewis
 Julie March
 Haylee Olson
 Jenn Plaza
 Cameron Saracina

Consultants

Dr. Andre Bessette, Child and Adolescent Psychologist
 Dr. Janice M. Gruendel, Senior Fellow Institute for Child Success, Yale University

“On a grassroots level, we say that man can touch more than he can grasp.” Gabriel Marcel



“Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.” James Cash Penney

We're Stronger Together

The landscape of Northeast Connecticut is one of rich soil, rolling fields, and heritage farmland. The fertile network of community connections with organizations and businesses enable us to deepen our roots and extend strong branches.

TEEG is one among many passionate and caring organizations who reach out to help those who need it, when they need it. We are grateful to generous community partners who contribute their time and resources by providing needed support.

While we are ever moved by the thoughtfulness and care that drives our sponsors, community partners, and donors, we are never surprised. There is something very different about Connecticut's Quiet Corner. People pull together to support area causes, businesses, and neighbors. It is simply who we are and what we do.

Message from Our Board President

From the early days of TEEG, the community has supported our mission by sharing their time, talent, and treasure to help others. Your generosity has allowed us to grow and spread our movement of caring since our founding 30 years ago. But the grassroots spirit of giving goes far deeper to the founding of our country.

In the early days of the Revolutionary War, people of the Quiet Corner answered the call to aid the city of Boston when resources were needed to fight the British blockade. Farmers from our area drove their sheep to the Commonwealth and later formed militias at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The willingness to answer the call for help is still evident today when hundreds of people join together to support TEEG fundraising campaigns that are essential for us to continue our work. The compassion spreads further when those who have been helped pay it forward to help others.

We are blessed by all the wonderful people who engage with TEEG and we truly appreciate all you do to sustain our mission. The roots of our communities are deep and abiding, and we thank you for all your support.



The TEEG Board of Directors

Christopher Burke, Esq, President
 Rene Comtois, Vice President
 Mary Anne Fontaine, Secretary
 Jo-Ann Chenail, Treasurer
 Mercedes Robbins, Asst. Treasurer
 Kevin Shaw, Executive Officer
 Amy Archambault
 Dr. Mary Cheyne
 Larry Consiglio, Jr.
 Eric Gould
 Sandra Gould
 Mary Ellen Jones

Erica Kesselman
 Peter Lusa
 Aaron McGarry
 Pam Olson
 Heather O'Rourke
 Linda Peiczarka
 Barbara Pickett
 Ted Reynolds
 Jayne Robbins
 Leslee Ruggeri
 Taff Tschamler
 Dolores Werge





Managing Growth and Evolution

TEEG, like so many other agencies that serve those in need, continues to watch state, municipal, and federal budgets closely. While funding from these sources represents about a third of our agency budget, we take care to ensure a balanced funding landscape in order to ensure we sustain our ability to serve in times of fiscal uncertainty. Our local community, private grant funders, and successful fundraisers are essential components in making sure we meet our goals. Careful stewardship of these funds helps to maximize our yield to the fullest extent possible.

REVENUE

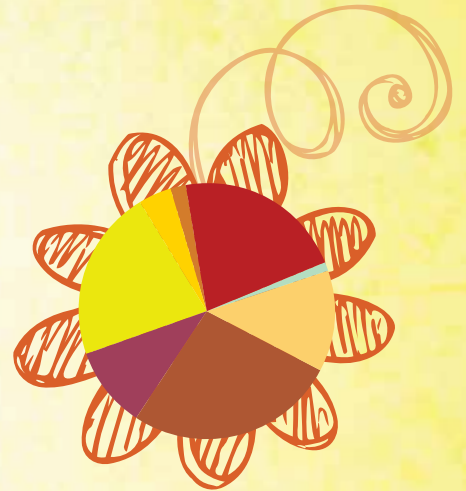
■ Foundations, Individuals, Schools, Scouts & Service clubs	.....\$163,489
■ Faith Based Partners	.....\$6,941
■ Business & Fundraising	.....\$97,715
■ Earned Revenue	.....\$202,118
■ Municipal	.....\$76,787
■ State	.....\$164,789
■ Federal	.....\$30,842
■ Client Relief	.....\$13,654
Total revenue	.....\$756,335

Endowment**\$39,530**

*Program expenses include salary.

EXPENSES

■ Early Childhood	.....\$21,014
■ Youth Services	.....\$358,267
■ Community Support & Education	...\$73,505
■ Community Services	.....\$186,404
■ Senior Outreach	.....\$142,926
Total expenses	.....\$782,116



Funders

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following foundations for helping TEEG meet the needs of the community.

FUNDER	PROGRAM
Cranston Foundation	Matching Funds
Eastern CT Association of REALTORS	Food Security
Glass Foundation	Early Childhood
Greater Hartford Automobile Dealers Foundation	Homelessness Prevention
Greater Hartford Community Foundation	Summer Lunch
The Newell D. Hale Foundation	General Support
Hanover Insurance	Employee Volunteer Recognition
International Paper Foundation	Early Childhood Education
Jewett City Savings Foundation	Food Security
McNeely Foundation, Inc.	General Support
Northeast Area Women and Girls Fund Managed by the Community Foundation of Eastern CT	Empowering Women & Girls
Olga Sipolin Children's Fund	Summer Lunch
Putnam Bank Foundation	Food Security
The Community Foundation of Eastern CT, Inc.	General Support
The CT Credit Union Charitable Foundation	Holiday Giving & Client Relief
Vincent Family Charitable Foundation	Endowment & Food Security
Walmart Foundation	Food Security
Webster Five Foundation	Food Security



Dedicated Town Funds

Residents throughout Northeast Connecticut continue to make a difference. Designated donations to the following funds have allowed TEEG to continue to serve specific local needs.

FUND	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Pomstock	Client Relief	\$1,750
Woodstock Fuel Fund	Fuel Assistance for Residents of Woodstock	\$5,772
Thompson Fuel Fund	Fuel Assistance for Thompson Residents	\$5,108

“Let’s root for one another and watch each other grow.” Anonymous