



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With warmest greetings to all,

This past year and into this new year has had its challenges and changes but it has been amazing all the same. It has been my pleasure serving on the Board of Directors of DEAF, Inc. in the officer role as Vice President and now as President for the Board of Directors.

In our community we have been faced with situations that affected all. Since I have been part of this Board of Directors I have witnessed DEAF, Inc. rise to the challenges of meeting the needs of the communities as well as meeting the needs of the staff surpassing any and all expectations.

As always, the mission of DEAF, Inc. is to bring awareness to the needs of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind communities and create unity that will flow cohesively together while bridging the gap with the hearing community. In this report we share with you several things we have done that have made an impact on the community at large.

It is our continued vision to provide services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind with a greater focus on partnering with the broader community to strengthen accessible and equal communication for all. Throughout 2023, inclusion, partnership, and visibility will be vital in continuing our success.



In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Booth'.

Forrest Booth Jr.
Board President



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2022 IN REVIEW

There was a palpable sense of “back to normal” throughout 2022 as we emerged from the impacts of the pandemic. Social events returned in person. Services took place face to face. And the pre-COVID rhythms of operations returned to a familiar cadence.

Reflecting on the year that will soon be in our rear-view mirror, here are some of the newsworthy highlights of 2022 in the world of DEAF, Inc.

TRAINING & ADVOCACY

Effective communication affords deaf people the ability to share and or receive information in a manner that is successful for them. Effective communication increases the opportunity for full and equal participation in any given situation. This includes fluid interactions in which all parties are able to receive and respond to information equally.

One of DEAF, Inc.'s longest standing program is the Sensitivity Training. The project was initially designed to train first responders on how to respond to individuals with hearing loss in an emergency field situation that may arise. This includes education on deafness, different communication modalities, guides basic interaction and communication tools that can be used.

For the last six years, this program primarily focused on training first responders in Jefferson County through a grant. In 2022, DEAF, Inc. received additional funding to expand the program to train first responders in St. Louis County and St. Louis City and have seen an increase in offering this service to nonprofit organizations, colleges, manufacturing companies, and corporate businesses that are committed to workplace diversity and inclusion.

In addition to sensitivity training, we offer direct advocacy support services. In 2022, we served nearly 250 individuals and interacted with over 50 participants through workshops and informal meetings. This is in addition to other direct contact at larger events and expos, where we had contact with over 800 individuals. Communication access in the healthcare and legal settings as well as in the workplace remains as the top concerns we see every year. This year, following the COVID-19 surge in the use of digital technology, we've seen a need for increased support in the use of electronic communication and accessibility applications.



30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

September is Deaf Awareness Month, a time to celebrate the rich cultural history of the Deaf community and continue the work of advocating for the rights of Deaf people everywhere. On September 17th, St. Louis Cardinals and DEAF, Inc. partnered to recognize the St. Louis deaf community while enjoying a good ball game, where we rooted on #5 Albert Pujols. What made this year extra special is that we celebrated the 30th Deaf Awareness Day event!

DEAF, Inc. and the Cardinals business group sales team worked closely to ensure that the game experience would be fully accessible. We kicked off the event with a pre-game social with games at Cardinals Nation located at the Ballpark Village. Three deaf and deafblind consumers were given special passes to visit the field prior to the game. We had two performers, both deaf and ASL users, that signed the National Anthem and God Bless America. One of the performers is a participant in our Youth & Family program. Both were shown on the jumbotron with ASL interpreters, a Certified Deaf Interpreter and live captioning available. Over 215 friends and supporters of this community attended!

PS: The St. Louis Cardinals WON that night! We are already looking forward to the 2023 Deaf Awareness Day with the St. Louis Cardinals... and with St. Louis City SC!

TAX PREPARATION DAY

By focusing on the needs and preferences of the deaf community, DEAF, Inc. partnered with Gateway EITC Community Coalition to streamline the delivery of free tax preparation services with trained volunteer tax preparers and accessible communication using sign language interpreters. Over 20 individuals from various parts of the region attended and 13 returns were successfully filed. This partnership and success will allow us to continue this service for years to come.





DEAF VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

DEAF, Inc. received a \$13,500 Program Support Grant award from the Regional Arts Commission for our Arts Program and \$ 7,326.00 from Missouri Arts Council for its Deaf Visual Arts Festival – which took place this year from September 7 – 10th. The goal of the festival is to continue our effort in bringing awareness to deaf culture and history, sign language, and vibrant art produced by deaf artists. It is a time when we recognize and celebrate diversity and inclusion through visual and performance art. The awarded fund supported artists with hearing loss and promote employment opportunities for our artists. It will also go a long way in strengthening our relationship with St. Louis area museums and venues where we aim to see improved and increased communication accessibility for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community.

THE #DREAMTEAM

In 2022, DEAF, Inc.'s interpreting department exemplified endurance, adaptability, dedication, and sensitivity in every endeavor. As our community slowly approached its return to normalcy, we witnessed over 5,000 requests for interpreting services- a significant rise from 2021. True to our mission, we eagerly provided services for various schools, educational workshops, company meetings, medical appointments, emergency hospital visits, and church services, among many other locations. The interpreting department staff have and continue to face challenges resulting from the nationwide shortage of interpreters.

Alongside our outstanding roster of independent contractors, the DEAF, Inc. interpreting department work to provide consistent, reliable, and quality services for every individual no matter their need. In this area, we have not only met each goal set forth but far surpassed any expectation. Our staff works tirelessly to provide 24/7 help to each customer no matter the time of day. Life does not stop after the normal hours of 8:00 am-5:00 pm, and neither do we. We utilize various forms of communication, such as call, text, email, etc. in order to best fit the needs of our customers. We do everything in our power to ease the process of providing ASL interpreting services for our community.

DEAF, Inc. operates in a unique way by encouraging inter-department collaboration. This allows clients to work with an organization that aids in different areas of their lives. While the interpreting department is designed to provide services, we connect with community program specialists to gain insight and knowledge into matters outside those of a typical interpreting agency. If we find we are unable to provide answers effectively, our department can provide direct contact information of other DEAF, Inc. staff to clients eliminating the need of additional outside sources. DEAF, Inc. prioritizes the needs of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community and this can best be witnessed within the incredible interpreting department.



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Our Youth & Family program offers community and connection through a variety of awareness activities and social opportunities. Our Community Support Specialist, who is also a Deaf role model, visited St. Louis metro area elementary, middle, and high schools to share with deaf and hearing students her story, to bring light to the deaf culture, and what the deaf community has to offer. As a direct result of these interactions, we have seen a growing number of high school students who are deaf join Deaf Teen Club, a social club that promotes healthy interactions, leadership, and independence. We have also seen more hearing high school students volunteer at DEAF, Inc. and show interest in sign language as well as an interest in interpreting as a future profession.



IT'S STORY TIME!

New in 2022, we added a series of ASL Storytime. This effort promotes learning new, big, and interesting words through sign language and to interact with language through play. Most importantly, it helps young children, both hearing and deaf, engage with new perspectives. This would have not been possible without the support of and partnership the St. Louis Public Library and Nine PBS. We are excited to share that this effort will continue through 2023.

The future is brightest when young people have both the tools and the opportunity to build meaningful lives.



BY THE NUMBERS

22

Deaf Teen Club Membership
Community Programs

29

Trainings Provided
Community Outreach

61

Outreach Videos
Media Outreach



272

ASL Classes Registrations
Community Programs



4,068

The Coocon Vlog Viewers
Pink Wings of Hope

5,011

Sign Language Interpreting Requests
ASL Interpreting Services

35,826

Dollars Awarded Through Grants

111

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children Served
Community Programs

215

Attended Deaf Awareness Day
Community Outreach

246

Direct Advocacy Contacts
Community Programs

640

Attended Deaf Visual Arts Festival
Community Outreach

944

Volunteer Hours
Community Outreach

3,286

Instagram Followers
Media Outreach



87,549

Facebook Followers
Media Outreach

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Forrest Booth Jr. <i>Special School District</i>	Robert Crowell <i>Retired</i>
Treasurer Ante Čolić <i>AT&T</i>	Sarah Meiers <i>KU Endowment</i>
Secretary David Wasserman <i>Greensfelder Attorneys at Law</i>	Laura Shapiro <i>BJC Behavioral Health</i>
	William Sheldon <i>Retired</i>

DEDICATED STAFF

Top L to R: Tony Nitko, Marketing Director; Devon Whitmore, Community Advocate; Marena Kaminsky, Interpreting Department Manager; Ashley Yoch, Interpreter Coordinator; De Linda Brite, Director of Community Programs;

Bottom L to R: Matthew Lieberman, Administrative Assistant; Hope Shrake, Media Specialist; Leslie Brown, Interpreter Coordinator; Sarah Prechtel, Executive Director; Shannon Rapp, Interpreter Coordinator; Rachel Ebner, Community Support Specialist



SARAH PRECHTEL
Executive Director



MEET STEPHANIE

Stephanie Wilcox, who is originally from Kansas and a cancer survivor, was looking for a place to connect with other deaf cancer survivors. In 2020, Pink Wings of Hope pivoted to a virtual platform to continue its support for deaf cancer survivors and further its reach across the country. From the first day she joined a virtual volunteer meeting, she immediately connected with others and knew she could use her personal story to inspire and make a difference in the lives of others.

Within a few months, she became a support volunteer where she offered 1:1 support and shortly thereafter when she moved to St. Louis, she became an influential piece in the development of our newest cancer education project, The Cocoon vlog series. (You may recognize in several videos of the series available on Pink Wings of Hope's website.) She is also our ASL Storyteller for our ASL Storytime events at the St. Louis Public Library.

Stephanie is a star that shines brightly; she is one that truly goes above and beyond. In 2022, between Pink Wings of Hope and other DEAF, Inc. programs, she contributed an astounding 87.75 hours of her time! She is a walking advertisement for DEAF, Inc., figuratively of course. Everywhere she goes, she promotes DEAF, Inc. and the services we offer. When she has contact someone asking for help, we'll receive a referral for cancer support or advocacy services. As one of our ASL Instructors, she has the largest classes and the highest number of returning students and is often requested for private lessons.

When you meet Stephanie, you immediately see passion. When you talk with her, you immediately feel at ease and welcomed. We hope you have the opportunity to meet her at one of our events soon and see how special she is!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2022

Public Support and Revenue	
Contributions	\$570,677.00
Grants	\$43,326.00
Special events (net)	\$1,827.00
Program Service Fees and Misc. Revenue	\$941,541.00
Investment Income	\$1,864.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,559,235.00

Expenses	
Program Services	\$1,304,004.00
Administration	\$211,296.00
Fundraising	\$21,033.00
Total Expenses	\$1,536,333.00

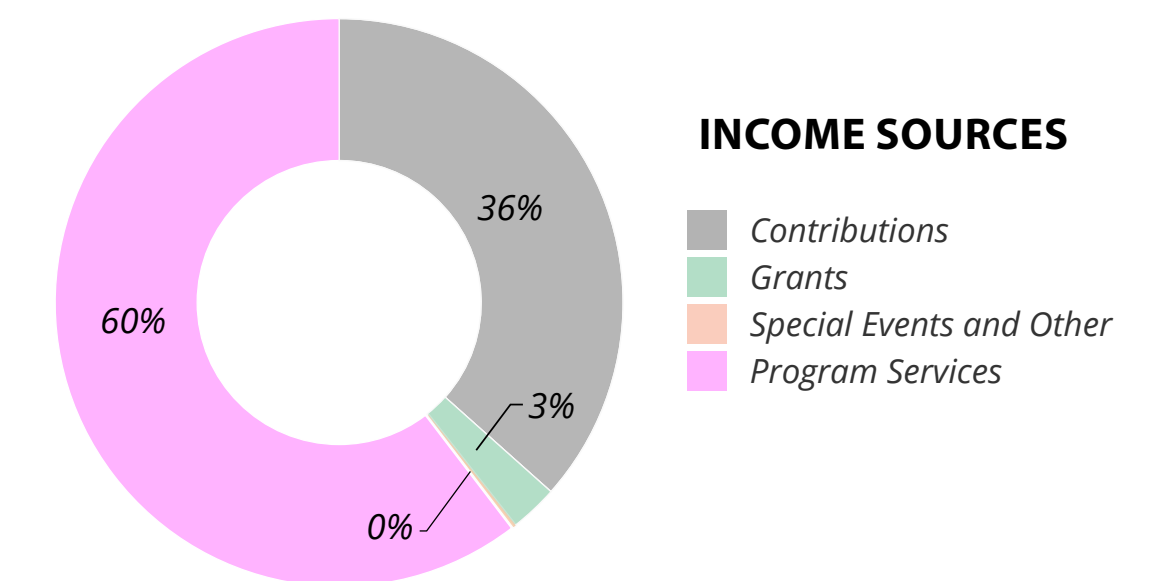
Change in Net Assets	\$22,902.00
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$1,256,900.00
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$1,279,802.00

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$1,361,262.00
Property and Equipment, net	\$54,623.00
Artwork and Memorabilia	\$21,700.00
Total Assets	\$1,437,585.00

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$157,783.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,256,123.00
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$23,679.00
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,437,585.00



INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

ASL Interpreters & ASL Instructors

Our roster of independent contractors, including sign language interpreters and ASL Instructors, is 75+ strong. It is because of our amazing contractors that our customers and deaf consumers can feel confident in the highest quality of services in all settings: legal, medical, business corporate, educational, vocational, conferences, mental health, social events, etc.



VOLUNTEERS

Community Members, Parents & Students

The heart and soul of our organization is our volunteer community, including but not limited to DEAF, Inc. friends/supporters, parents of deaf youth, and interpreter training program students. Our volunteers graciously invest their time and resources to support our mission, and lend their expertise to the board of directors, from fundraising campaigns and special events, and to work in direct customer service roles.



PARTNERS

Corporations and Non-Profits

No one is an island. 'The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.' Partnership and collaboration go a long way in creating a strong and better community. It can provide stability and more. We are so grateful for the support of our corporate and non-profit partners, who share and support our vision to break barriers to communication access and are committed to helping others.

WITH GRATITUDE

Corporations & Foundation

American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
Anonymous
Apple
Chick Fil A
EDF Renewables
Google
Jefferson Foundation
Kaldi's Coffee
Missouri Art Council
Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
PayPal Giving Fund
Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis
Relay Missouri
Sam's Club
Schnucks
Sorenson Communications, LLC
Spectacular Eye 4 U
St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf
St. Louis Community Foundation
The Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
The UPS Store #0558
Union Pacific Foundation
Vancro Integrated Interpreting Services
Veterans United Foundation
Walmart

Organizations

Gallaudet University
AmazonSmile Foundation
Brookdale Farms
Central Institute for the Deaf
Costco United Way Campaign
Darkness Haunted House
DeafLEAD
Haegele Nursery
Herman's Farm
Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf
Network For Good
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews
Sight & Sound Impaired of St. Louis
Starkloff Disability Institute
Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Individuals

Ruth Adams
Angie Aromando
Jessica Ashley
David Binning
Emily Borge
Forrest Booth, Jr.
Leslie Brown
Gerry Buckley
Shane & Nancy Call
Ante & Maria Čolić
Kristen Crossen
Debbie Crowell
Samuel Culbertson
Colleen Curry
Dale Dase
Kerisha Dassadu
Rachel DeMonge
Rebekah Dix
Eric Driskill
Rachel Ebner
Sue Ebner
Mark Edgehill
Edward Edward
Carol Ellison
Susan Eshbaugh
Andrea Fisher
Manfred Georg
Eric Gjerdingen
Steve Hebel
Cheryl Hermann
Thomas Horejcs
Tsechi Hsu
Nora Hunt
Philip Jacob
Alexa Johnson
Sheryl Kalman
Paul Kaufman
Sydney Keracher
Nancy Kinder
Joseph Kramlinger
Sabrena Lillybridge
Robert Lograsso
William Loyd
Cynthia Mann
Dani Marie
Erin Marie
Mike McEwen
Schad McGovern
Sarah Meiers
Kyle Mengwasser
Joan Mestres
Anthony & Veronica Nitko
Anthony Nitko, Jr.
Blake Nitko
Kathleen O'Regan
Dean Papalia
Megan Pesch
Aimee Peterson
John & Leslie Prechtel
Victor & Sarah Prechtel

Cheryl Hermann
Thomas Horejcs
Tsechi Hsu
Nora Hunt
Philip Jacob
Alexa Johnson
Sheryl Kalman
Paul Kaufman
Sydney Keracher
Nancy Kinder
Joseph Kramlinger
Sabrena Lillybridge
Robert Lograsso
William Loyd
Cynthia Mann
Dani Marie
Erin Marie
Mike McEwen
Schad McGovern
Sarah Meiers
Kyle Mengwasser
Joan Mestres
Anthony & Veronica Nitko
Anthony Nitko, Jr.
Blake Nitko
Kathleen O'Regan
Dean Papalia
Megan Pesch
Aimee Peterson
John & Leslie Prechtel
Victor & Sarah Prechtel

Kayla Raquel
Shaunda Rheame
Nancy Rogers
Jennifer Sebastian
Joey & Alicia Seifner
William Sheldon
Karen Shrake
Jamie Snider
Meghan Sperduti
Michele Steele
Heather Stonestreet
Isabel Swearingin
Kevin Symons
Frank & Lisa Theves
Alexandra Tweedy
Courtney VanOstran
Eric Vaughn
Yoana Vuteva
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ward
David Wasserman
Lesta Watson
Grace Wayant
Barbara Weber
Jennifer Weiser
Abby Wemple
David & Emma Whatley
Jeffery White
Stephanie Wilcox
Christopher & Candace Woodside
Greg Zinn

