

2023 Annual Report



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Supporters,

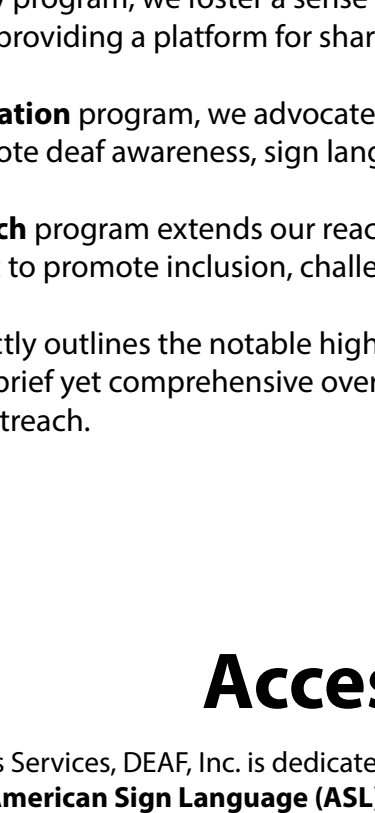
As we look forward to the year ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we've made and the resilience we've shown. In 2023, DEAF, Inc. undertook a transformative journey to enhance our organizational cohesion and amplify our impact on the communities we serve.

Through collaborative discussions and strategic planning, we restructured our staff positions to align and better streamline how we deliver services. We also restructured our services into four core programs: Access, Community, Education, and Outreach. This framework not only crystallizes our mission but also guides our collective efforts toward achieving our objectives.

In this direction we can best perform our duties that will benefit the communities and provide services to the best of our abilities. In this transformative change we are working for a better future for the communities we serve.

While our journey continues, I am confident that the dedication and passion of our team will propel us toward even greater achievements. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

With gratitude and anticipation,



Forrest Booth Jr.
Board President

2023 in Review

In the crucial year of 2023, DEAF, Inc. set out on a path to improve organizational cohesion as we continue to achieve our objectives. Through collaborative discussions, we updated our branding and restructured our services, organizing them into four core programs: Access, Community, Education, and Outreach. This strategic framework represents a reorganization of our existing services, aligning them under these four categories to better guide our collective efforts and amplify our impact.

Our **Access** program ensures equitable access to vital resources for the deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind communities, recognizing access as a fundamental right.

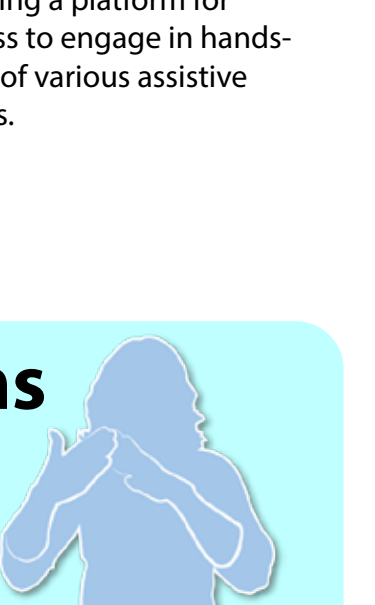
In our **Community** program, we foster a sense of belonging and support for individuals and families within our communities, providing a platform for shared experiences and connections.

Through our **Education** program, we advocate for knowledge and understanding, offering training and resources to promote deaf awareness, sign language proficiency, and cultural competency.

Lastly, our **Outreach** program extends our reach beyond our immediate community, actively engaging with the broader public to promote inclusion, challenge stereotypes, and build a more inclusive society.

This report succinctly outlines the notable highlights of our core programs during the impactful year of 2023, providing a brief yet comprehensive overview of our significant achievements in Access, Community, Education, and Outreach.

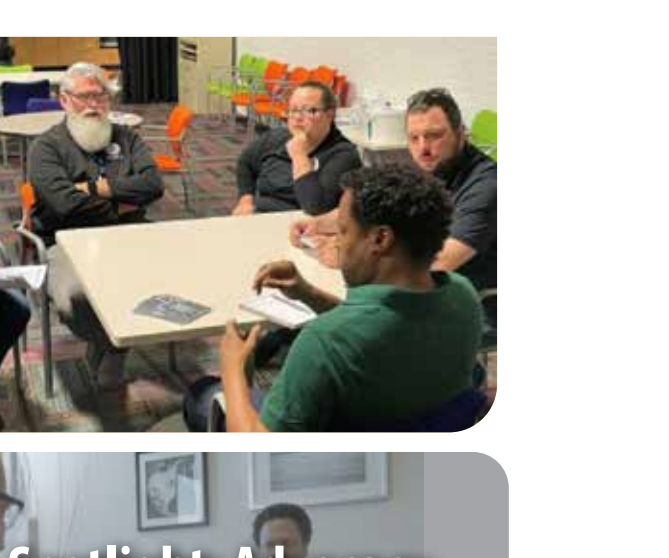
Access Services



Within our Access Services, DEAF, Inc. is dedicated to providing comprehensive **Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting services**, accessible every hour of every day, 365 days a year. Revenue generated from the Interpreting Department contributes to sustaining our Community Programs.

"Over the past several years, the scheduling team has excelled at just being them. The team has brought such a personable aspect to any requests or messages they send. They are amazing at understanding that interpreters have many things happen to them too, and work to resolve any situations they can or offer support/brainstorm with us. Many agencies out there are looking for warm bodies to fill jobs, but the DEAF Inc. scheduling team ensures that the right interpreters are matched to the right customers and/or the right cultural/environmental settings...It is so refreshing to see!"

Independent Contractor

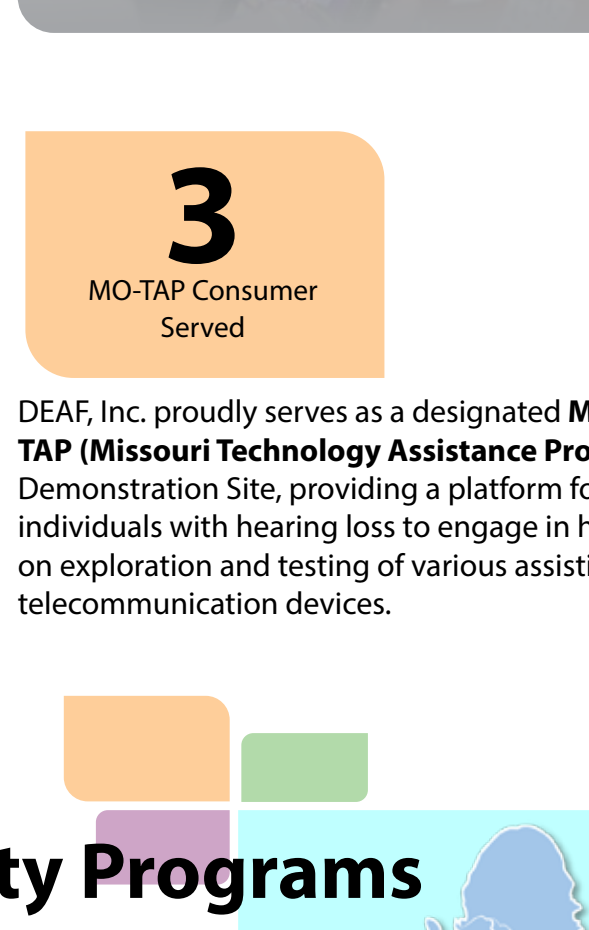


Spotlight: ASL Interpreting
View on YouTube

"I just wanted to let you all know just how impressed I am with this Interpreting Department! You all truly work together as a team and make sure that everything is completed in a timely manner. The system you have works extremely well! I have so much confidence in this team that it makes it difficult not to work with you!"

Outreach Coordinator
Starkloff Disability Institute

7437
Sign Language Interpreting Requests



Within this service realm lies **Visdio**, an inclusive platform offering ASL and English translation services, complemented by captioning. Moreover, Visdio expands to encompass additional professional video production services. This service is frequently utilized by history and art museums in the St. Louis area but is available to any business or organization that wishes to make their visual products accessible to all.

ASL interpretation for videos is one of the services that (Visdio) provides for our museum to overcome language barriers. By providing ASL interpreted videos, our museum communicates effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing visitors, ensuring they receive the same information and experience as hearing visitors. With ASL videos, Deaf and hard of hearing visitors can fully engage with the exhibitions, and understand the context, history, and significance of the displays. This leads to a more enriching and enjoyable experience, like what hearing visitors experience.

DEIA Coordinator, Missouri History Society

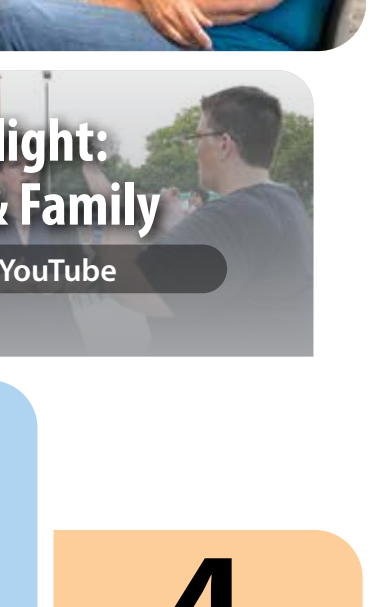
Spotlight: Visdio
View on YouTube

3
MO-TAP Consumer Served

DEAF, Inc. proudly serves as a designated **MO-TAP (Missouri Technology Assistance Program) Demonstration Site**, providing a platform for individuals with hearing loss to engage in hands-on exploration and testing of various assistive telecommunication devices.

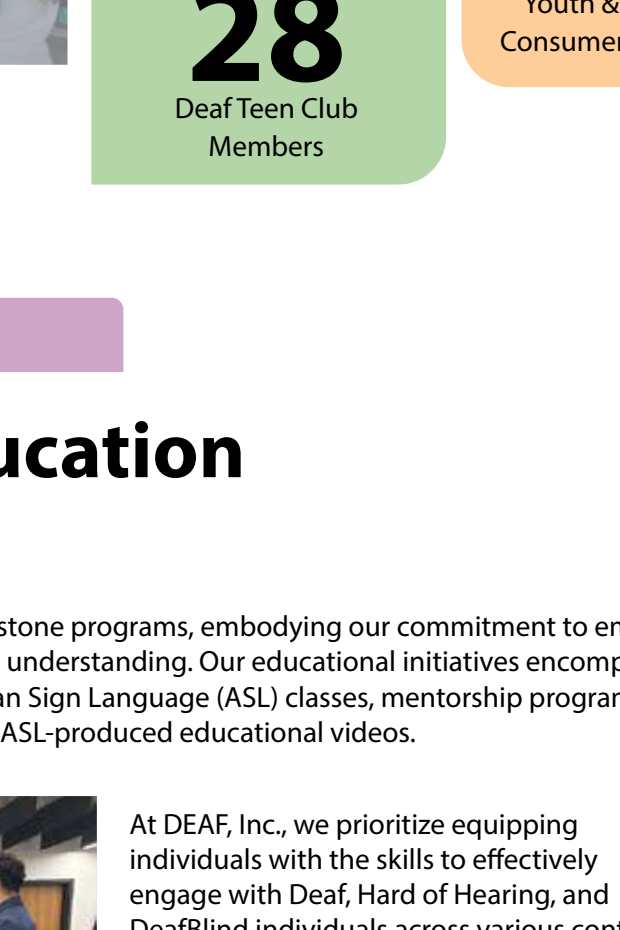
Spotlight: MO-TAP
View on YouTube

Community Programs



Community Programs encompass two vital services: Advocacy and Specialized Programs. Advocacy provides consultation, information and referrals, and direct support services. Specialized Programs include Pink Wings of Hope and Youth & Family, both tailored to meet specific needs by fostering support, education, and a sense of community among participants.

Advocacy is at the heart of DEAF, Inc.'s mission. Our dedicated staff members work tirelessly to advocate on behalf of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community, striving to eliminate communication inequality.



213
Advocacy Information & Referrals

Spotlight: Advocacy
View on YouTube

35
Advocacy Consumers Served

"Rachel (Community Advocate) is a phenomenal human being that has brought so many different opportunities to enlighten and engage students with DEAF, Inc. Through her constant correspondence, we have been able to introduce students from not only ASL classes, but also Baking & Pastry as well as Sports Literature classes to members of the DEAF Inc. community. She is gracious, reasonable, and dependable. Her enthusiasm and drive are contagious. I look forward to working with her in the future as I have been so very blessed working with her and others at DEAF, Inc., in the past."

Teacher, Lafayette High School

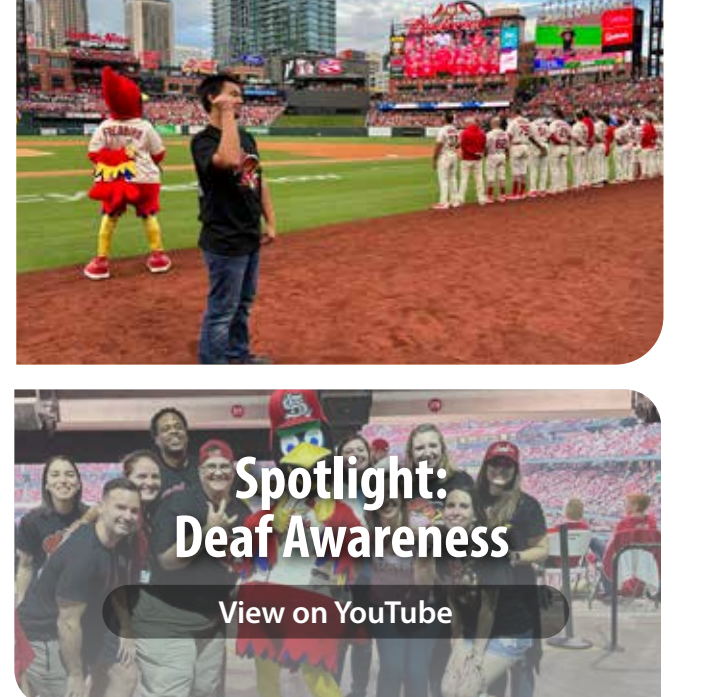
Since 2009, **Pink Wings of Hope** has been a cancer support program that serves individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind and are affected by cancer. Pink Wings of Hope offers one-on-one direct support services.

Spotlight: Pink Wings of Hope
View on YouTube

14
Pink Wings of Hope Consumers Served

8
Pink Wings of Hope Information & Referrals

The **Youth & Family** program provides resources, advocacy, and direct support services to families with youth from birth through 18 years of age who have hearing loss. It also serves children with deaf adults (CODAS). The program's focus is to ensure that every family can communicate, connect, and thrive together.



Spotlight: Youth & Family
View on YouTube

39
Youth & Family Information & Referrals

4
Youth & Family Consumers Served

Spotlight: Deaf Teen Club
View on YouTube

28
Deaf Teen Club Members

4
Tuition Waivers for Participants with Hearing Loss

369
ASL Class Participants

Education

Education stands as one of DEAF, Inc.'s cornerstone programs, embodying our commitment to empowering individuals through knowledge and understanding. Our educational initiatives encompass a diverse range of offerings, including American Sign Language (ASL) classes, mentorship programs, community workshops, training sessions, and ASL-produced educational videos.

"The group really enjoyed the information you provided, and I believe we all learned more than we thought we would! The volunteers and organizations that we work with during disasters and emergencies realize the services are so very important to our "whole community" approach to serving our community. We hope to continue building on the information that you provided to us during your visit and expand our abilities to widen our communication pathways within our community. I am hoping DEAF Inc. can continue to provide such a valuable service to our response agencies throughout Jefferson County."

Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management

At DEAF, Inc., we prioritize equipping individuals with the skills to effectively engage with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals across various contexts. Our **community trainings**, including our highly acclaimed Sensitivity Training, cater to a broad spectrum of participants. Notably, our Sensitivity Training sessions provide invaluable insights and strategies for first responders to navigate encounters with Deaf individuals with confidence and respect.

"I think that Stephanie is the best teacher I have had in any class I have taken, and not just ASL. I have never been so engaged in a class and so joyfully entertained. I am glad to have signed up and will refer others. I have had a lot of classes, being a physician, and through all this training. And she stands out."

Derah Jensen, MD
Regional Dermatology, LLC

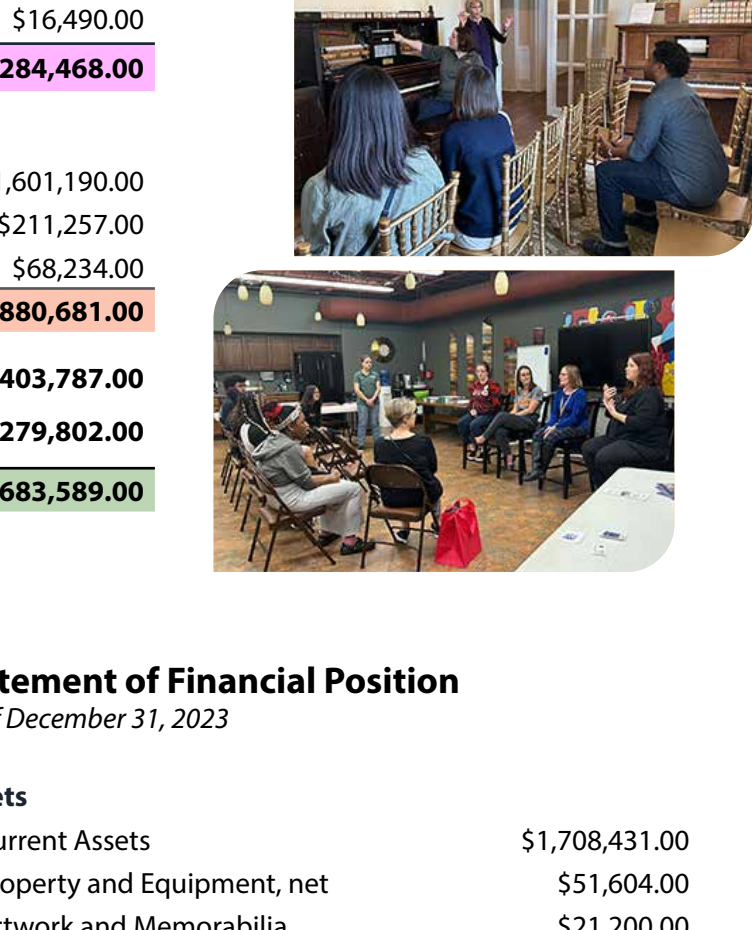
Spotlight: ASL Classes
View on YouTube

Spotlight: Community Training
View on YouTube

30
Trainings provided

259
Training Participants

ASL holds immense potential to foster greater awareness and sensitivity towards the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community. Our **ASL classes** serve as vibrant hubs of learning, catering to individuals from various walks of life. Whether it's for individuals seeking to communicate with a deaf person, parents eager to connect with their babies, or individuals simply intrigued by a new language, our ASL classes offer an enriching and immersive learning experience.



Spotlight: Deaf Awareness
View on YouTube

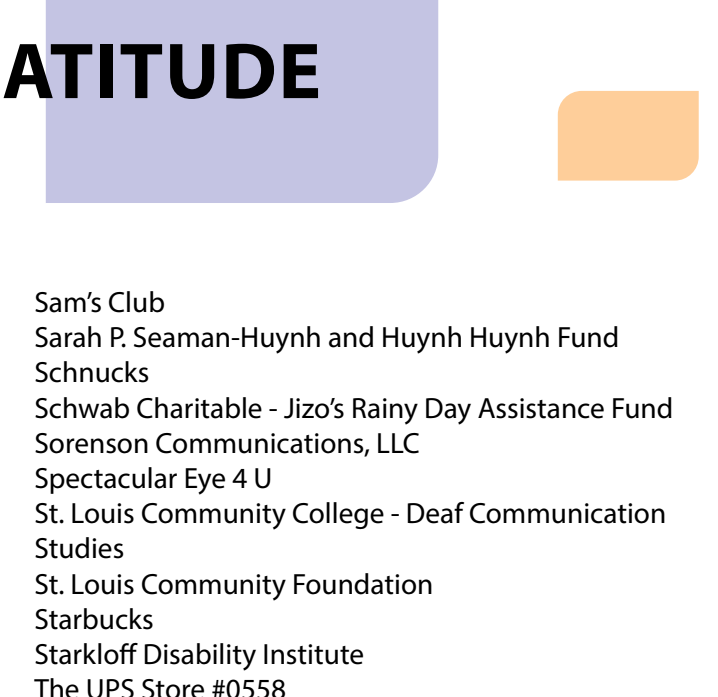
Other ways we raise awareness about deaf culture, deaf history, sign language, and the communities we serve is by presenting at schools, ASL clubs, colleges, and businesses.

5
Deaf Awareness Presentations

199
Deaf Awareness Days Participants

Spotlight: Deaf Visual Arts
View on YouTube

Our **inclusive events** are safe places for children to connect socially and interact with peers using sign language—an opportunity that they may not have in their neighborhood or even at their school. Additionally, it creates a welcoming place for parents who are just learning more about their child's hearing loss to build their own support network.



59
Children Participated in Breakfast with Signing Santa event

12
Families participated in The Great Pumpkin Patch event

Spotlight: Community Representation
View on YouTube

DEAF, Inc. staff act as ambassadors, advocating for the interests of the organization and the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community to foster positive transformation within the local community.

Our Team



Sarah Prechtel
Executive Director

Board of Directors

President Linda Baker
Forrest Booth Jr.
Vice President Michael Boyd
Ante Colic
Robert Crowell
Secretary Becky Davis
David Wasserman
Laura Shapiro
Treasurer William Sheldon
Valerie Mondesir
Art Silverman

Dedicated Staff



Top L to R:
Lydia Kline, Interpreter Coordinator
Devon Whitmore, Community Advocate
De Linda Brito, Director of Community Programs
Marena Kaminsky, Interpreting Dept. Manager
Tony Nitko, Marketing Director

Bottom L to R:
Matthew Lieberman, Admin. Assistant
Leslie Brown, Interpreter Coordinator
Rachel Koch, Staff Interpreter
Sarah Prechtel, Executive Director
Alexandra Tweedy, Interpreter Coordinator
Stephanie Wilcox, Community Advocate
Hope Shrake, Media Specialist

Financial Summary

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2023

Public Contributions and Revenue

Contributions	\$792,622.00
Grants	\$22,500.00
Special events	\$34,373.00
Program Service Fees and Misc. Revenue	\$1,418,483.00
Investment Income	\$16,490.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,284,468.00

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,601,190.00
Administration	\$211,257.00
Fundraising	\$68,234.00
Total Expenses	\$1,880,681.00

Change in Net Assets \$403,787.00
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year \$1,279,802.00
Net Assets, End of the Year \$1,683,589.00

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

Assets

Current Assets	\$1,708,431.00
Property and Equipment, net	\$51,604.00
Artwork and Memorabilia	\$21,200.00
Right of Use Asset	\$82,164.00
Total Assets	\$1,863,419.00

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$179,830.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,548,655.00
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$134,934.00
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,863,419

WITH GRATITUDE

Corporations & Foundation

AmazonSmile Foundation
American Chiropractic Foundation, Inc.
Bieg Plumbing Company
Chick Fil-A
DeafLEAD
Enterprise Bank & Trust
Google
Greater St. Louis Association of the Deaf
Hamra Noodles, LLC
Hearing Loss Association of America - St. Louis Chapter
Jefferson Foundation
Kaldi's Coffee
Lighthouse for the Blind - St. Louis
Mastercard Impact Fund
Mid-MO Deaf Club
Missouri Art Council
Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Network for Good
Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.
PayPal Giving Fund
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews
Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis
Relay Missouri
Rochester Institute of Technology

Sam's Club
Sarah P. Seaman-Huynh and Huynh Huynh Fund
Schnucks
Schlitz Charitable - Jizo's Rainy Day Assistance Fund
Sorenson Communications, LLC
Spectacular Eye 4 U
St. Louis Community College - Deaf Communication Studies
St. Louis Community Foundation
Starbucks
Starkloff Disability Institute
The UPS Store #0558
Thompson Cabum LLP
Toyota Motor Manufacturing, ToyotaAbility BPG
Union Pacific Foundation
Walmart
Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences

Individuals

Ruth Adams
Sabina Alam
Craig Allen
Craig Aslin
Camille Aquino
Bridgett Bango
Ante & Maria Colic
Sunshine Cowan
Jane Cridland
Kristen Crossen
Debbie Crowell
Robert H. Crowell
Kathleen Crowley & William Dupor
Samuel Culbertson
Nader Dhilli
Eric & Regina Drisjill
Jan Drobena-Schinsky
Rachel Ebner
Sue Ebner
Mark Edgehill
Tetiana Eichelberger
Carol Ellison
Ena Engelbreisen
Susan Eshbaugh

Mindy Fay
Alan Florendo
Pam Fontana
Mark Gersten & Laura Shapiro
John Giambuvo
Cindy Gill-Asby
Eric & Sherri Gjerdigen
Rachel Kinshell
Elaine Laird
Carol Lieberman
Matthew Lieberman
Sabrena Lillybridge
Susan Love
Sonette Magnus
Karen Malone
Marcy Molzan
Gerald Nicolaus
Anthony & Veronica Nitko
Anthony Nitko, Jr.
Blake Nitko & Sara Blick-Nitko
Lisa Ottinger
Michelle Petke
Noel Posson
John & Leslie Prechtel
Victor & Sarah Prechtel
Rebecca Pursley
Kevin & Anna Quinby
Bridget Rapp
Rylan Rapp
Sally Rapp
Tom Rapp

Kayla Raquel
Taylor Renieri
Jennifer Repa
Marissa Rideaux
Elizabeth Saak
Kelly Sanderfer
Richard Schoeffler
Ryan Scott
Melinda Spurllock
Meemakshi Srpal
Alison Steele
Michele Steele
Heather Stonestreet
Shayla Thompson
Gloria Thrift
Kay Tucker
Lindsay Tuttle
Levi & Alexandra Tweedy
Christopher Van Stapley
Yoanna Vuteva
Maxwell Walea
Cathy Walsh-Creath
Aaron Warner
David Wasserman
Grace Wayant
Jennifer Weiser
David & Emma Whaley
Courtney Whitaker-Gardner
Stephanie Wilcox
Alan Wolf
Grace Wolf
Tamara Woods
Candace Woodside