

# The Gibney Family Foundation

2016 Annual Report





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission and Values	3
Annual Messages	4
Summary of Grants Paid	7
Areas of Impact	
Blind and Visually Impaired	8
Family and Children	10
Disabled Population	11
Grantee Feedback	12
Celebrating 25 Years	13



# MISSION

Partnering with others to develop sustainable resources for organizations that foster independence, primarily for those who are blind.



## INVOLVE

At TGFF, we involve ourselves in the grant making process, including a close partnership with our grantees.



## INVEST

At TGFF, we invest in the future with our time and resources to achieve sustainable solutions.



## INSPIRE

At TGFF, we are inspired by who we help and what they accomplish. We tell stories to inspire others.



## INNOVATE

At TGFF, we look for innovative solutions that can be modeled or shared.



Congratulations to all who have invested time to make TGFF's Vision their Vision. It was a great 25th year. I don't know of any private foundations who have involved their families more completely, or for this length of time, in pursuit of their Donor's Intent.

None of this success would have been possible without Joanie and Suzi accepting Dad's challenge to make it happen. Of course, it still wouldn't have happened without the rest of you following their lead either. A huge THANK YOU to Joanie and Suzi for all their support of Dad's Dream and me. As we celebrate their "emeritus status" going forward, thanks to them for remaining on as Senior Members of the Board.

Frank "Gib" Gibney  
President and CEO



## Recognition for Exemplary Service: Emeritus Board Members



I am proud to have been involved with TGFF since it's inception in 1991 and now as a Founding Member Emeritus. I look forward to the next generations taking more steps to ensure that TGFF will continue to make the world a brighter place for those less fortunate, particularly those with impaired vision.

Joanie Gibney Whittaker



In this new position as Founding Member Emeritus, I feel grateful and privileged to be able to continue to contribute, along side each of you, to the mission and successes of TGFF, which brings hope and fosters independence to countless others.

Suzi Gibney Young





# SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE

TGFF Vision Statement

***Accomplishment will prove to be a journey, not a destination. -Dwight D. Eisenhower***

As a family, The Gibney Family Foundation works together in accomplishing their journey to achieve sustainable solutions for independence. It is exciting to report that our family continues to make a difference in carrying this foundation forward to new heights. In our 26th year of excelling at our mission, we are grateful to the organizations we have partnered with for sharing their knowledge, lessons learned, success and efforts for the benefit of their clients. This helps TGFF better understand the needs, and to partner for solutions.

Today, our family continues to embrace a narrow focus to preserve at least 51% of TGFF grant disbursement to benefit of those who are blind and visually impaired. Being engaged in this cause enables us to promote new accessible technologies, eliminate gaps of services, and help individuals live independently. TGFF also works daily to keep apprised of areas of need in the organizations we serve and to improve our internal process. A memorable journey wouldn't be memorable without a lot of effort. This effort has brought us where we are today.

Tracy Wasden  
Chief Operating Officer

# Areas of **IMPACT**



## BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

- ◇ Empowering visually impaired individuals with independence, employment and quality of life which all should be able to enjoy.
- ◇ Focusing on the individual while helping them realize their full capacity.



## DISABLED POPULATION

- ◇ Mentoring those who are transitioning through life stages, furthering their independence along the way.
- ◇ Putting smiles on their faces and confidence in their souls to reach for the stars through sports and recreation.



## FAMILY AND CHILDREN

- ◇ Hard work, focused education, and an “it takes a village” approach helps at-risk youth to see their potential.
- ◇ Strong families are a pillar of our society and we are committed to helping these families survive and thrive.



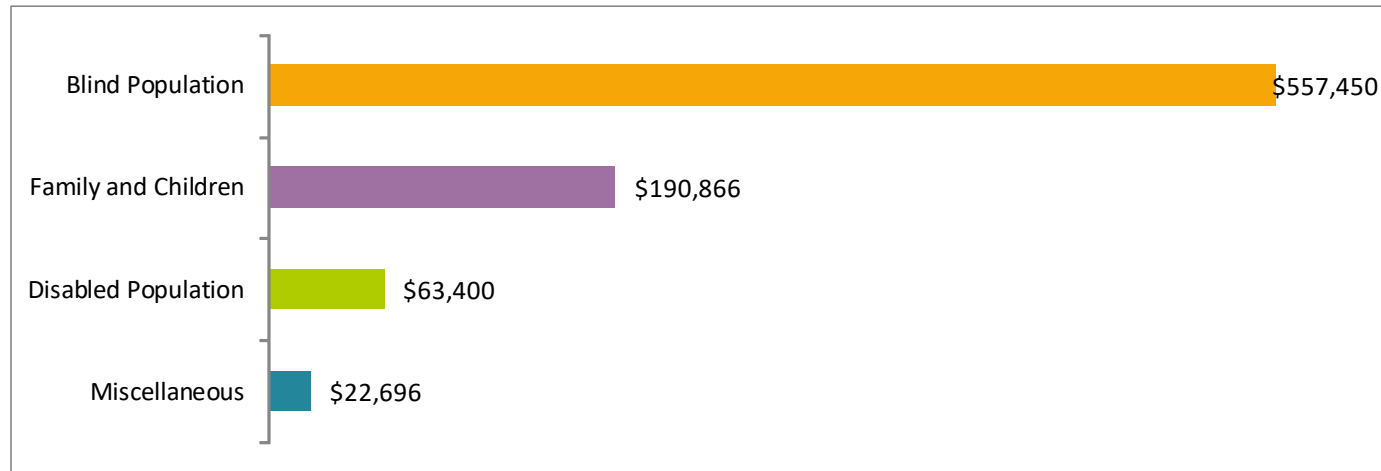
## MISCELLANEOUS

- ◇ Supporting the family’s individual passions to help others who are experiencing challenges.

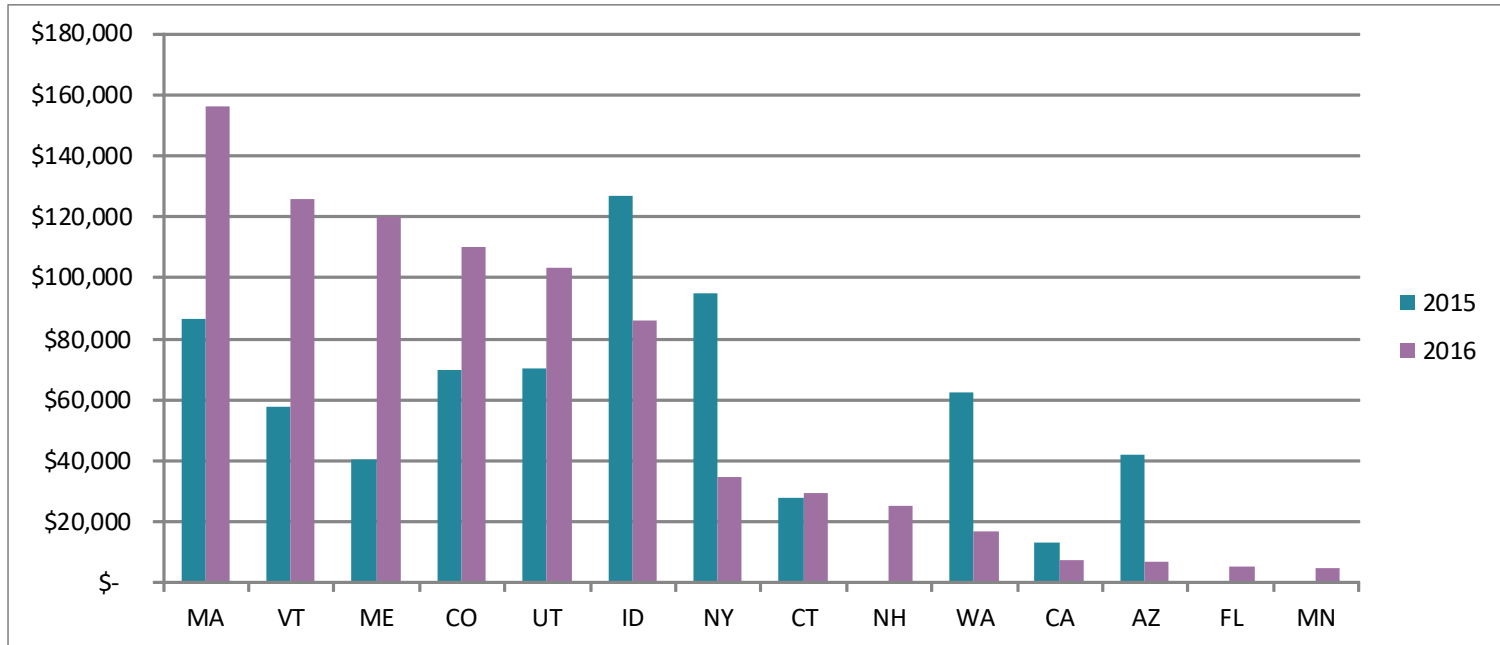
# 2016 Total Grants Paid: \$829,762

\*Includes Donations and Council on Foundation dues

## By Areas of Impact



## By State





# BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**Blind Children's Center** **\$7,200**

Los Angeles, CA

A Social Skills pilot program, in phase two, will be developed and the curriculum will be perfected, collated, then published into a kit that can be sold for additional revenue.

**Champlain Community Services** **\$34,000**

Colchester, VT

School2Work will provide career development and jobs for students facing a variety of disabilities, changing the way students transition from high school to the workplace.

**Colorado Center for the Blind** **\$10,000**

Auburndale, MA

Support to help track graduates of the Independence Training Program to ensure students are apprised of the center's continued support and enhance alumni fundraising.

**Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind** **\$6,130**

Gooding, ID

Preparing, educating and exciting visually impaired/blind high school seniors for employment by implementing a work readiness/transition camp.

**The Iris Network** **\$40,000**

Portland, ME

Providing transformative, comprehensive rehabilitation and vocational training center which will promote employment opportunities. In addition, this grant has been leveraged into another matching challenge.

**Lighthouse of Manasota** **\$974**

Sarasota, FL

Demonstrated an increase in their independent living program at the annual retreat.

**MAB Community Services, Inc.** **\$25,000**

Brookline, MA

MAB's chief objective is to help individuals overcome barriers and live independently in their own homes and communities by supporting them to accomplish everyday tasks. Accomplished by 1) program support for MAB which focuses on promoting volunteerism and independence; and 2) management and support for the United In Stride database.

**MAB Community Services, Inc.** **\$50,244**

Brookline, MA

Expanding existing programs to help individuals overcome barriers which enable them to live healthy active lives, increase self-sufficiency, and independence in their own homes and communities.

**National Braille Press** **\$77,702**

Boston, MA

Funding two years of the Touch of Genius Award, which promotes innovative new technologies supporting the literacy efforts among blind people. The Tactile Caliper and the B2G, a braille notetaker are recent recipients of the award and these two products have been developed for market.

**New Hampshire Association for the Blind** **\$25,000**

Concord, NH

Addressing the unmet need of low vision services with a new vision care center while instituting a sustainable business model.

**Northwest Association for Blind Athletes** **\$14,750**

Vancouver, WA

Funding to support the growth of our Sports Outreach Program will improve the quality of life for individuals with visual impairments.

**Olmsted Center for Sight** **\$34,650**

Buffalo, NY

Supporting 40 new blind and physically disabled students in employment training. 83% of graduates are expected to be placed in permanent employment, and 40 returning graduates will receive job retention, re-placement and/or job advancement services.







**Puppets in Education** \$5,000  
 Burlington, VT  
 Offering four puppet presentations to create an awareness of challenges and abilities of people who are blind and visually impaired to elementary children.

**ReSource** \$5,000  
 Burlington, VT  
 Assisting with placing individuals with disabilities in internships with state agencies to improve job readiness and gain professional skills.

**Ski for Light** \$4,700  
 Minneapolis, MN  
 Initiating recruiting efforts for a new young generation of skiers and guides at national conferences for blind and visually impaired population to help the organization be sustainable for many more years to come.

**US Association for Blind Athletes** \$100,000  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 To provide Team USA Men's National Goalball Team a full-time residency living space while living, training and developing their careers in Ft. Wayne, IN, where all aspects of an elite training environment can be established and managed.

**Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired** \$25,000  
 Burlington, VT  
 Designated to help teenage students to receive more extensive training (addressing skills not addressed in schools, such as college prep, budget, utilizing public transportation, etc) so they will be able to succeed academically, professionally, personally, and more importantly autonomously.

TOTAL FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOR 2016

**\$467,591**

# FAMILY AND CHILDREN

**Children's Home Society of Idaho** \$20,000  
Boise, ID  
Leveraging funding will provide an on-going income stream to sustain an ever-increasing need for at-risk children needing mental health care.

**Citizens Against Physical and Sexual Abuse, CAPSA** \$30,000  
Logan, UT  
Matching our seed money, CAPSA raised an additional \$215,000 to expand their children's center therapy services to meet the growing needs and to empower clients to rebuild their lives.

**Future for Kids** \$5,000  
Scottsdale, AZ  
Providing middle school students, who are facing adversity, positive adult interaction through mentoring and academic assistance.

**My Sister's Place** \$28,772  
Hartford, CT  
Employment services will be developed for women at the shelter to become employable at levels which can sustain themselves and their families, thus becoming self-sustaining and secure in their housing.

**Special Needs Adoption Services, SNAPS** \$25,000  
Boise, ID  
Support during organization transition to ensure the organization will be a consistent strength to the State of Idaho and the children who need it the most.

**Swiftsure** \$20,000  
Bellevue, ID  
A summer program offering at-risk youth learn life skills through immersion in a therapeutic ranch setting goals and developing self-esteem.



TOTAL FOR FAMILY AND CHILDREN FOR 2016

\$190,866



# DISABLED POPULATION

## Common Ground Outdoor Adventures

\$20,000

Logan, UT

Continuing grant to support the Youth Leadership Program enabling youth to gain leadership, hard skills, and experience needed to successfully gain employment, higher education and internship opportunities in the outdoor/natural resources field.

## Common Ground Outdoor Adventures

\$35,000

Logan, UT

Matching grant to expand it's mission at the new Adaptive Center at Beaver Mountain which will propel the organization to reach remarkable heights for it's participants.

## SPLORE

\$5,000

Salt Lake City, UT

Scholarships for participants with disabilities to enjoy outdoor recreation programming.



# MISCELLANEOUS

## Camp Hobe

\$5,000

Salt Lake City, UT

Helping to simplify their processes with technology thus reducing administrative hours so more focus can go towards mission-related activities.

## Wyakin Warrior Foundation, Inc.

\$13,796

Garden City, ID

Funds the pathfinder class, the initial five Wyakin Warriors, four of whom are visually impaired, for the remainder of their college experience, resulting in their graduation and successful placement in positions with career potential.

## Council on Foundations

\$3,800

Arlington, VA

Dues for our annual subscription which helps us to be on top of trends, legislation, and legal aspects of grantmaking.

# 5 Star Ratings from Our Grantees

“It truly feels like my sponsor wants us to be successful with our proposed project and the outcomes.”

“I really felt like it was a partnership [with TGFF].”

“We have found TGFF to be one of the more hands-on and collaborative foundations we work with. We appreciate the care the foundation takes in working closely with us as a grantee.”

“Absolutely love the connections we have with our sponsor!”

“Compared to other grants we have applied for, TGFF is intuitive...I personally like the direction and the one-on-one communications that make it easy.”

“Thank you for being so thoughtful about your processes and your relationships with your grantees. It is so refreshing and so appreciated.”

“I wish every foundation were as involved and passionate about what they do as TGFF. We are incredibly appreciative of TGFF's time and kindness. It does make a tremendous difference in our constituents' lives.”

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION  
for the  
**Blind and Visually Impaired**

the  
**Iris**  
network  
Vision with no limits.

  
**KOSTOPULOS**  
**DREAM**  
FOUNDATION

**COMMON**  **GROUND**  
Outdoor Adventures

**national:braille**  
press

**USA:A**  
United States Association of Blind Athletes



# Look How Far We've Come



	1991	2016
Family Members	18	56
Board Members	4	10
Grant Dollars Given	\$75	\$829,762
Number of Grantees	1	50

- Family's first introduction to TGFF: 1992
- Number of retreats since: 12
- First grant: Purchase dog food for Southeast Guide Dogs







*Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so  
much.*

-Helen Keller



## Board of Directors:

Frank Gibney, President, Founding Member  
Joan Whittaker, Founding Member  
Sue Young, Founding Member  
Tracy Wasden, Vice President, Corporate Secretary  
Rob Whittaker, Vice President  
Brian DiFatta, Treasurer  
Sue DiFatta  
Diane Muhr  
Ken Wasden  
Joleen Widmark

## Grant Officers:

Joleen Widmark, Chair  
Frank Gibney  
Sue Young  
Tracy Wasden  
Sue DiFatta  
Diane Muhr  
Molly Whittaker  
Celeste Beazer  
Mallory Bair

## Staff:

Frank Gibney, CEO, CIO  
Tracy Wasden, COO  
Joleen Widmark, Chief Grant Officer  
Madi Whittaker, Family Correspondent  
Sue DiFatta, Assistant Secretary  
Andrew Young, Assistant Treasurer

## TGFF Family:

Frank Gibney and Diane Muhr  
Chris and Joan Whittaker  
Stan and Sue Young  
Rob and Molly Whittaker  
Brian and Sue DiFatta  
Jerry and Jennifer Boyd  
Ken and Tracy Wasden  
Adria Sumsion  
Rob and Joyana Samsel  
Todd Young  
Andy and Lisa Young

Jackson and Celeste Beazer  
Mason and Kenzie Summers  
Cache and Aubrey Summers  
Chris and Natalie Hansen  
Tate and Mallory Bair  
Tyler Samsel  
Bailey Dyson  
Ashlyn Sumsion  
Allison Wasden

*"I see the family uniting with a common goal, despite being geographically dispersed, to enable others who have life-altering challenges to more fully live up to their potential. Success stories from these efforts will inspire and encourage further family commitment."*

**-Al Gibney, Founder**



*"Embrace the concept of a narrowly-focused mission as an opportunity to encourage a geographically-scattered family to maximize successes as we work together toward a common goal. These unified efforts and resulting successes will allow passion to grow. The narrow focus will also honor the dedicated and inspirational efforts of the Donor's mother and aunt who spent many hours enabling blind children to read through their efforts to translate children's books into Braille."*

-Donor's Intent

