

2023 Annual Report



Prepared by
Allison Rowley

TGFF Sustainable Solutions
for Independence



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CEO Message

As I reflect on 2023 and what the Foundation accomplished, I can't help but think of the words within TGFF's Donor's Intent "to cultivate the vision to rise above difficult issues and times". Gratefully, the vision to "rise above" made it possible for TGFF to prepare and navigate uncertain times, making strategic decisions with great care. Together we focused on preserving TGFF investments, becoming comfortable with TGFF's new governance structure, and being inspired by more generations actively involved in running the Foundation.

The Gibney Family Foundation remains committed to its funding priorities and continues to collaborate with other funders to make an impact in those areas. We recognise the gift this Foundation is to us and to others as we bring family passion and philanthropy together. The real thank you goes to our partners in the field who provide the programs and services directly to those we wish to support. Our work would be of little importance without you.

As we move forward, let's continue to work together to take care of what we've been given and do our best to bless the lives of others in a meaningful way.

~ Tracy Wasden, CEO



Mission & Vision

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

Vision: Sustainable Solutions for Independence

Donor's Intent: "Al Gibney's concept of a Family Foundation is that of a simple organization of family members who can jointly do more for each other and for others than any of us can do alone; to give us as a family some simple focus shared by all so that when we are together we can enjoy the satisfaction of creating something for the benefit of others whom we know have been less fortunate in life than we."





Areas of Focus

Support for People with Visual Impairments

TGFF strives to empower individuals with visual impairments, individuals with independence, employment, and quality of life, which we strongly feel that all should be able to enjoy. A few areas we specifically support include: Adaptive Sports, Assistive Technology, Employment Readiness, Transitional Services, Programming, Mental Health Support, etc.

Support For Families, Adults, and Children

TGFF recognizes the importance of mental health, safe living conditions, food security, and other factors needed to support and strengthen families, adults, and children in our communities. A few areas we specifically support include: Programming, Mental Health Support, Domestic Violence/Crisis Centers, Veterans, Food/Food Insecurity, etc.

Support for People with Disabilities

TGFF helps organizations put smiles on faces and build confidence through adaptive recreation, leadership and specialized programs that further independence. A few areas we specifically support include: Social and Recreational Activities, Programming, Employment Readiness, Transitional Services, etc.

Giving Statistics

Total Amount Awarded in 2023: \$778,239*

**Includes all Grants and Donations*

Grants by Area of Focus

Support for People with Visual Impairments

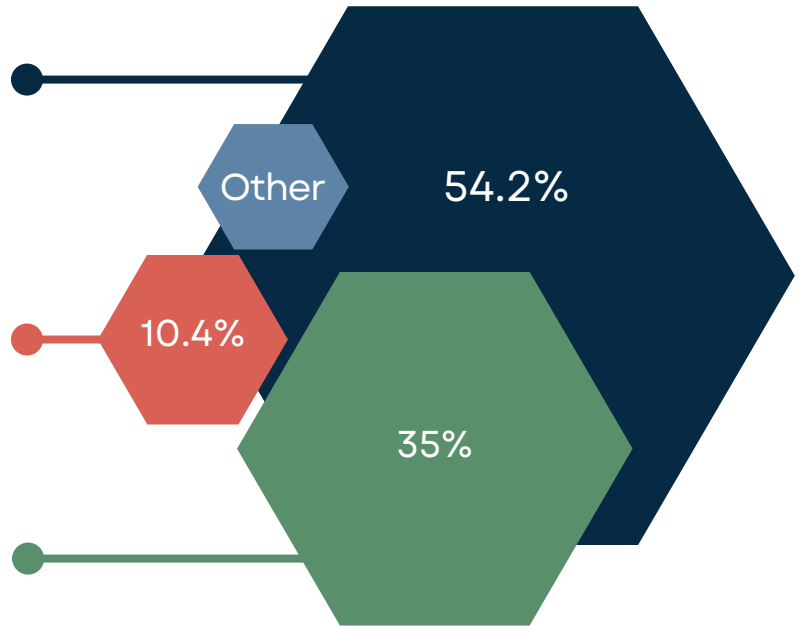
Adaptive Sports, Assistive Technology, Employment Readiness, Transitional Services, Programming, Mental Health Support, etc.

Support for People with Disabilities

Social and Recreational Activities, Programming, Employment Readiness, Transitional Services, etc.

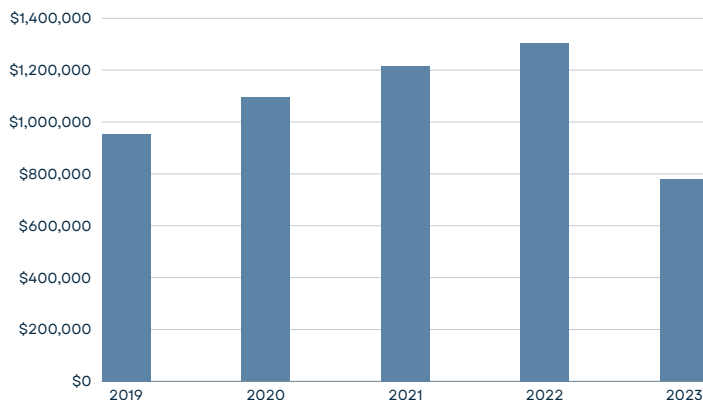
Support for Families, Adults and Children

Programming, Mental Health Support, Domestic Violence/Crisis Centers, Veterans, Food/Food Insecurity, etc.

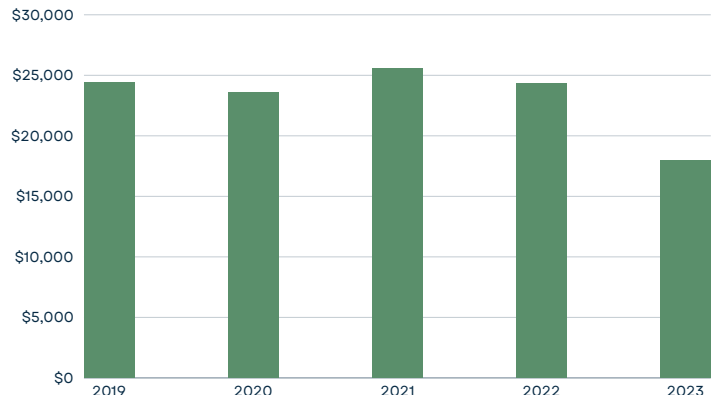


Total Awarded By Year

Grants and Donations Combined



Average Grant Size



2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

Achilles, CT Chapter | \$20,000 | Brandford, CT

Support the creation of a third paid position (part-time stipend/contractor) focusing on Event Production and Community Engagement.

Blind Institute of Technology | \$25,000 | Thornton, CO

Enable BIT's Student Support Services to offer group and individual coaching and social and emotional support services to 100-150 students as they prepare for professional careers.

Envision Foundation, Inc | \$25,000 | Wichita, KS

Support for Envision Pathways to create a pipeline between Envision's national Level Up Program, College Success Program, and Workforce Innovation Center to close the gaps associated with college and career transitions for students who are blind or visually impaired (BVI).

Kids Who Count | \$6,000 | Salem, UT

Funds to enable Kids Who Count to purchase a Spot Vision Screener to complete a required annual vision screening for every child who is referred and/or receives services through their program.

Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired - San Francisco | \$50,000 | Santa Rosa, CA

Ensure the continuity of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) services at EBC by expanding the O&M instructor staff by 1.0 FTE.

Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center | \$5,000 | Sarasota, FL

Contribute to a transportation fund to allow young adults with visual impairments access to programs and services.

MAB Community Services, Inc | \$25,000 | Brookline, MA

Enable MABVI to expand their mental health support statewide to help older adults with visual disabilities better cope with their eye disease and vision loss while also maintaining independence; and train families and caregivers how to better support and empower their loved ones who are living with vision loss.

National Ability Center | \$20,000 | Park City, UT

Program assistance to increase the scholarships for The Utah School of Deaf and Blind as well as expanding the adaptive recreation opportunities to veterans, service members, and their families.

2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

National Ability Center | \$20,000 | Park City, UT

Program assistance to increase the scholarships for The Utah School of Deaf and Blind as well as expanding the adaptive recreation opportunities to veterans, service members, and their families.

NewView Oklahoma, Inc | \$20,000 | Oklahoma City, OK

Support the expansion of NewView's MOVE program of vocational training that empowers blind individuals to win their goal of getting back to work, school, and life.

New Vision for Independence, Inc | \$5,000 | Leesburg, FL

Support for two inclusive summer camps 1.) age 6-13 and 2.) age 14-18 to build skills that will help students gain independence as they move towards adulthood.

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes | \$26,400 | Vancouver, WA

Funds for a new Program Manager in the Boise office who will be responsible for the expansion of programs and services in Idaho for individuals who are blind.

Rising Stars Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc | \$0 | Twin Falls, ID

Enhance the learning opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired who visit the Rising Stars Ranch by implementing tactile maps, signs, and learning material, as well as BVI training for staff.

The Iris Network | \$25,000 | Portland, ME

Funding to assist individuals with blindness or vision impairment in overcoming barriers to employment and ownership of a business, while helping those individuals become more economically self-sufficient.

The Research Foundation for SUNY, The College at Brockport | \$25,000 | Brockport, NY

Enable Camp Abilities - Brockport to assist other Camp Abilities programs that had to stop during Covid as well as assist new camps around the US. These new and revised programs will help the hundreds of children and youth with visual impairments who have been extremely marginalized due to Covid, learn new sports and become more integrated into society as a result.

2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

United States Association of Blind Athletes | \$25,000 | Colorado Springs, CO

Funding to add a Blind Soccer Coordinator to facilitate the holistic growth of blind soccer across grassroots sites, coach/official pipeline, and nationwide expansion.

Valley Adaptive Sports, Inc | \$4,700 | Victor, ID

Enable VAS to purchase an additional adaptive nordic ski to allow a second adaptive athlete, instructor, friend or family member to share a similar nordic skiing experience.

VIA | \$32,434 | Buffalo, NY

Provide funding for a pilot program to train seniors who are visually impaired in adaptive technology to maximize their independence and purchase adaptive technology.

SAAVI | \$40,600 | Tucson, AZ *

Funding to install various gates and fencing to enhance security at their new Tucson Training Center for the Blind.

Total Number of Grants with this Focus: 17

Total Sum of Grants with this Focus: \$339,534

2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for Families, Adults, and Children

American Heroes Project | \$15,000 | Spanish Fork, UT

Enable American Heroes Project to provide a minimum of 90 veterans and their families using TGFF funds with either a daylong or a four-day fishing trip to Strawberry Reservoir during the grant period.

Bags of Love | \$15,000 | Eugene, OR

Funding to help with the creation and automatization of bag tags as well as upgrade our warehouse facility and equipment.



2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for Families, Adults, and Children

Bridle Up Hope | \$20,000 | Alpine, UT

Funds to support the building of an All-Weather Covered Round Pen to accommodate an additional 100+ program participants per year.

Camp Hodia | \$8,000 | Boise, ID

Fund Camperships to enable children with diabetes with financial needs to attend specialty camp. Also, support their Community Programs by making them more accessible for families to take part in Hodia's offerings.

Camp Summit, Inc | \$27,489 | Dallas, TX

Enable Camp Summit to add a sensory room to create a safe place where campers with diverse needs could find comfort and support when needed, ensuring inclusivity for all and greatly enhancing the camp experience.

Committee on Temporary Shelter | \$25,000 | Burlington, VT

Flexible support for Housing Navigators working with households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Eye to Eye | \$15,000 | New York, NY

Support to provide near-peer mentoring for Colorado middle school students with learning differences and professional learning for the educators and school staff who support those students.

Gifts of Love | \$20,000 | Avon, CT

Support Gifts of Love as they bridge the gap for Seniors with various challenges by providing mobile food pantry deliveries twice a month.

Healing Meals Community Foundation | \$20,000 | Bloomfield, CT

Empower Healing Meals to add operational capacity to its staff by hiring a seasoned, culinary-trained Executive Chef. With this addition, staff assignments will be adjusted to meet operational needs, and the CEO will be able to focus on strategic resource development and advocacy efforts.

Hope Community Services, Inc | \$20,000 | Glendale, AZ

Support HCS's unique SuRGE program for young victims of sex trafficking; assist with the necessary training and licensing for 10 therapists, support for their clinical interventionist, and provide boarding, feeding, and care for the horses used in equine therapy.

2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for Families, Adults, and Children

Idaho Youth Ranch | \$30,000 | Boise, ID

Funds to directly support the Idaho Youth Ranch YOUTH WORKS Program which helps at-risk youth and young adults find a job and keep a job. This program includes career readiness and financial literacy training.

Northwest Children's Home | \$20,000 | Lewiston, ID

Assist NCH build a trauma recovery unit (TRU) to serve residential youth, ages 5-17, who have complex trauma and experience intense dysregulation. This will enable NCH to provide services to more local youth with higher acuity behavior, who are currently placed in out-of-state facilities away from their families.

Special Kids Special Families | \$4,996 | Colorado Springs, CO

Funds to purchase sensory and educational materials for our center for children with developmental disabilities.

The Joy Bus | \$5,000 | Phoenix, AZ

Funds will allow The Joy Bus to purchase bags and biodegradable containers to serve 5172 meals to homebound cancer patients. In addition, "Smart Dining" placemats with information about the healing properties of the meal will be included.

Veterans Community Project | \$10,000 | Kansas City, MO

Funds to outfit two tiny homes with appliances, furnishings, home goods, and supplies for veterans and their families. Furnishing provided by TGFF will be theirs to keep when they transition to permanent housing.

Youth Full Maine | \$5,000 | Biddeford, ME

Provide funding for Youth Full Maine to build a walk-in refrigerator in order to accept and store more fresh produce, meats, and dairy items for our school food pantries and community-wide free food distributions throughout York County.

Total Number of Grants with this Focus: 16

Total Sum of Grants with this Focus: \$260,485

2023 Grantees

Focus: Support for People with Disabilities

3 Bluebirds Farm | \$6,000 | Raleigh, NC

Provide funds to purchase, ship, and assemble a Spanish Arch/Temple Bar PLUS produce stand in which our campers and young adults will sell produce they grow at 3 Bluebirds Farm.

Horizons, Inc | \$5,105 | South Windam, CT

TGFF funds will be used specifically to replace the current carpet (from 1990) with durable flooring material to enable an existing room to be used by young adults with disabilities to engage in multiple activities.

Northeast Passage, Program of the University of New Hampshire | \$28,700 | Durham, NH

Support Northeast Passage to provide individuals with physical disabilities improved emotional and physical well-being through Recreational Therapy. This will be done through a continued partnership with area rehab hospitals and disability service organizations

Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf | \$5,000 | Greenville, SC

Funds for PROJECT 1000, an adaptive golf therapy program that will bring cognitive, physical, psychological, psychosocial, and therapeutic benefits to youth, adults, and veterans in the Carolinas.

Utah Assistive Technology Program | \$11,000 | Logan, UT

Support UATP in purchasing emergency power banks and creating resource information for people with disabilities.

Waypoint Adventures, Inc | \$24,000 | Lexington, MA

Empower Waypoint Adventures to grow an open enrollment outdoor adventure program for the general public alongside those with a disability.

Total Number of Grants with this Focus: 6

Total Sum of Grants with this Focus: \$79,805

Grantee Spotlights



NewView Oklahoma

NewView's mission is to empower individuals who are blind or have low vision, maximizing their opportunities for independence through all stages of life. They accomplish this through specialized low-vision exams and rehabilitation therapies, workforce development, enrichment programs, and personal growth opportunities to help low-vision individuals pursue independent lives.

A significant component of NewView's mission is vocational training and life-readiness skills offered through NewView's MOVE Program, which stands for More Opportunities through Vocational Evaluation. This full-time, 90-day program provides comprehensive training opportunities for individuals with vision loss, empowering them to pursue full-spectrum career training, enter the workforce, and achieve meaningful livelihoods for themselves and their families.



MOVE student enrollment is rising, and individual student needs are expanding. As the program grows, TGFF funds will allow NewView to serve more students better by providing MOVE scholarships for low-vision training while supplementing a student's travel, lodging, and individual equipment costs, as needed.

Veterans Community Project

The mission of Veterans Community Project (VCP) is "Veterans housing Veterans, armed with the strength and support of the community". Founded by Combat Veterans in Kansas City, Missouri, Veterans Community Project is a unique and highly effective transitional housing and supportive services program for Veterans and their families.



VCP Villages provide Veterans who are experiencing homelessness transitional housing and intensive case management services. Unlike traditional transitional housing programs, a tiny home provides the Veteran with privacy, a sense of security, and the ability to reintegrate at a comfortable pace. Each tiny home features a bed, a small kitchen, and a bathroom.

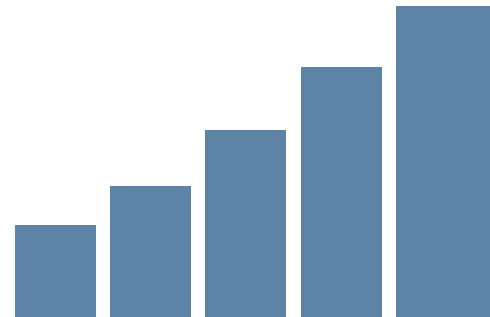
VCP of Longmont, Colorado was the first expansion site outside of Kansas City with a Veterans Outreach Center that has served more than 450 Veterans across Northern Colorado and helped more than 89 find permanent housing since 2020. VCP of Longmont launched a mobile outreach program and built a VCP Village of 26 transitional tiny homes that opened in September 2023. Once constructed, two tiny houses were fully transformed into tiny homes outfitted with appliances, furnishings, home goods, and supplies provided by TGFF and will be theirs to keep when they transition to permanent housing.

Family Donations



Bridle Up Hope, Brighter Together, Inc, Cast for Kids, Committee on Temporary Shelter, Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired*, Connecticut Radio Information System Inc*, Exponent Philanthropy, Eye2Eye*, Future in Sight*, Game Changers Idaho, Inc., Guiding Eyes for the Blind*, Guiding Eyes Outdoors*, Inc, Healing Meals Community Project, Higher Ground Sun Valley, Inc*, Himalayan Cataract Project, Inc*, HomeShare Vermont, Inc, Horizons, Inc, Lucky To Ride, MAB Community Services Inc*, National Braille Press*, National Center for Family Philanthropy, New Vision for Independence, Inc*, Northwest Association for Blind Athletes*, Pacific Foundation for Blind Children*, Ski for Light, Inc*, Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired*, Special Kids Special Families, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, Teton Adaptive Sports, The Refuge Utah, United States Association of Blind Athletes*, Utah Valley Refugees, Inc, Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports*, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, Vermont Lions Charities*, Veterans Community Project, VisionServe Alliance, Visually Impaired Preschool Services*, Youth Full Maine

*Denotes support to a Blind and Visually Impaired Organization



Leadership



TRACY WASDEN
CEO

As CEO of The Gibney Family Foundation, Tracy oversees the operations of a narrowly focused mission. She intuitively sees the opportunity to grow the Foundation in perpetuity, engages the next generation as future leaders and brings the family together grounded in values. Tracy strives to give the Foundation a credible voice with partners in the field and leads a team that works hard to stay current on strategic initiatives.



SUE DIFATTA
COO, CORPORATE SECRETARY

As COO, Sue is an inspirational leader who incites action. She is grounded in the information that best supports the Foundation while helping to oversee significant strategic outcomes. Sue leads mainly by example, bringing balance and expertise in legal, organizational, and corporate aspects critical to running a smooth family philanthropic foundation. Sue also serves as the Foundation's Corporate Secretary.



BRIAN DIFATTA
TREASURER

As Treasurer, Brian is committed to his fiscal stewardship of the Foundation. By helping oversee wise investment, accounting, and financial practices, Brian continues to play a pivotal role within the Foundation. He reaffirms his commitment by serving in other capacities such as a TGFF Board member and on the Investment Committee.



MALLORY BAIR
GRANT MANAGER

TGFF's Grant Manager, Mallory Bair, is a fourth-generation family member with the background and expertise to cultivate family passions and grant partnerships. Mallory has served within the Foundation for several years working as a Next Gen Leader, Grant Officer, and most recently a TGFF Director. With a degree in social work as well as life experience, Mallory professionally executes TGFF's grantmaking process and brings new ideas to the table.

Leadership



TRACY WASDEN
CEO



SUE DIFATTA
COO, CORPORATE SECRETARY



BRIAN DIFATTA
TREASURER



MALLORY BAIR
GRANT MANAGER

Boards, Committees, & Staff



MEMBERS

Joan Whittaker, Founding Member
Sue Young, Founding Member
Frank Gibney, Founding Member

Tracy Wasden
Sue DiFatta



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Celeste Beazer
Jennifer Boyd
Brian DiFatta
Natalie Hansen

Rob Samsel
Ken Wasden, Board Chairman
Molly Whittaker



GRANT OFFICERS

Mallory Bair, Grant Manager
Amber Bernard
Hayden DiFatta
Sue DiFatta
Frank Gibney

Natalie Hansen
Diane Muhr
Allison Rowley
Tracy Wasden
Chris Whittaker



INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Brian DiFatta
Sue DiFatta
Frank Gibney

Tracy Wasden
Chris Whittaker
Stan Young



SUPPORT STAFF

Brian DiFatta, Treasurer
Riley DiFatta, Family News Correspondent
Allison Rowley, Publication and Design Specialist
Molly Whittaker, Logistics Coordinator

Boards, Committees, & Staff



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Frank Gibney, Founding Member

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Family Members

1ST GENERATION, FOUNDER

Albert Gibney

2ND GENERATION & FOUNDING MEMBERS*

Chris and Joan Whittaker*

Stan and Sue Young*

Frank Gibney* and Diane Muhr

3RD GENERATION

Jerry and Jennifer Boyd

Ken and Tracy Wasden

Jim and Adria Kolsen

Rob and Molly Whittaker

Brian and Sue DiFatta

Rob and Joyana Samsel

Todd Young

Andrew and Lisa Young

4TH GENERATION

Jackson and Celeste Beazer

Mason Summers

Cache and Aubrey Summers

Chris and Natalie Hansen

Tate and Mallory Bair

Tyler Samsel

Brayden and Ashlyn Weeks

Bailey Dyson

Dillan and Allison Rowley

Hayden DiFatta

Beau and Amber Bernard

Brooke Jensen

Ryan Sumsion

Justin and Madison Reid

Nathan Wasden

Ethan Sumsion

Lillian Young

Heidi Young

Riley DiFatta



