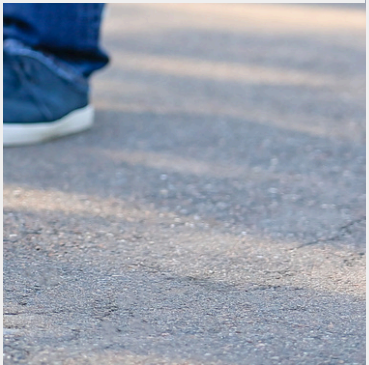


2024

# Annual Report



TGFF



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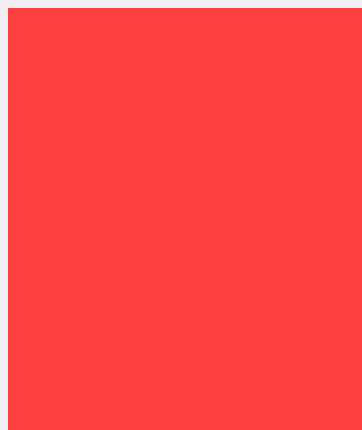
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# CEO Message

Sue and I are deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization and continue our family's legacy of making a positive impact. We say this often because we truly mean it; this work couldn't be done without our family or our partners in the field.

As a family, we can be proud of what we do. This annual report highlights TGFF's work together through philanthropy, but it does not show the philanthropic efforts to teach the next generation, the volunteer service hours spent on committees or boards, and this family's willingness to come together for a greater cause. As a family, we're making a difference one year at a time.

Thank you TGFF family members and philanthropic partners for your continued support and for being part of TGFF's journey to create a brighter future.



## Tracy Wasden

CEO - The Gibney Family Foundation

## Sue DiFatta

COO, Corporate Secretary - The Gibney Family Foundation



# Vision, Mission, and Donor's Intent

**Vision:** Sustainable Solutions for Independence

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

**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."



A photograph showing several hands of different skin tones holding white puzzle pieces, symbolizing teamwork and community.Two solid color blocks: a bright yellow one on the left and a dark blue one on the right.

# Areas of Focus

## Support for People with Visual Impairments

TGFF strives to empower individuals with visual impairments with independence, employment, and quality of life, which we strongly feel 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, Children, & Adults

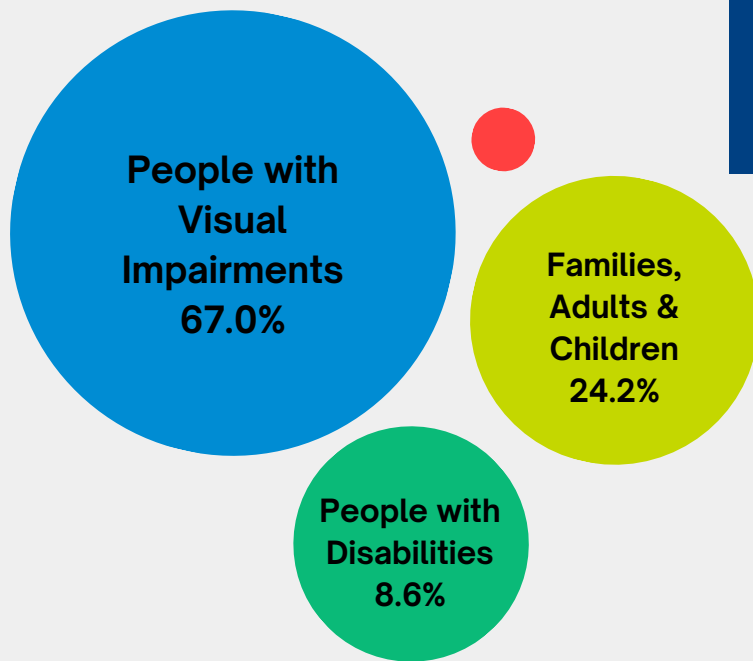
TGFF recognizes the importance of mental health, safe living conditions, food security, and other factors needed to support and strengthen families, adults, and children in our communities. A few areas we specifically support include: Programming, Mental Health Support, Domestic Violence/Crisis Centers,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

Percentage by Area of Focus

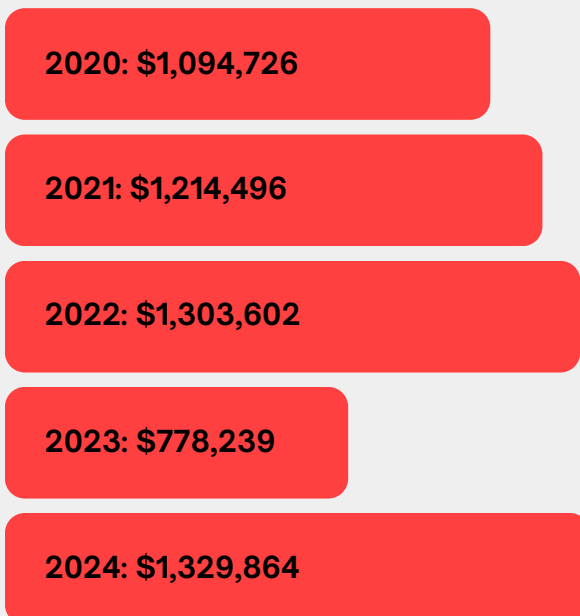


Total Amount Awarded in 2024

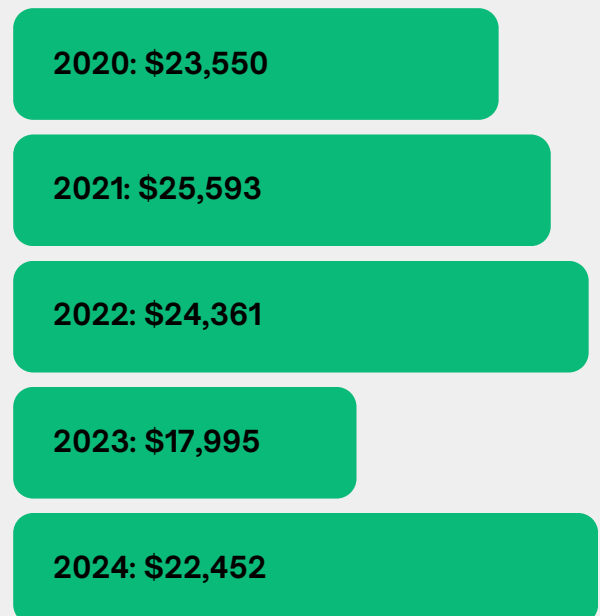
**\$1,329,865**

\*Includes all Grants & Donations

Total Awarded by Year



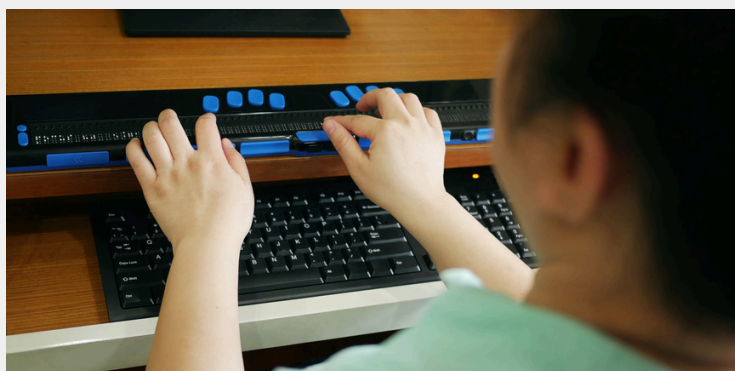
Average Grant Size \*Grants Only



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

<p><b>American Printing House</b> <i>Louisville, KY</i></p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>Assist APH by elevating individual, parent, educator, and professional awareness, application, and peer sharing of the APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub and Job Seeker’s Toolkit through the provision of in-person training delivered by APH ConnectCenter professional staff.</p>
<p><b>Blind Children’s Center, Inc.</b> <i>Los Angeles, CA</i></p>	<p>\$35,000</p>	<p>Support for the addition of new staff to serve more toddlers at the Blind Children's Center.</p>
<p><b>Blind Institute of Technology</b> <i>Thornton, CO</i></p>	<p>\$35,000</p>	<p>Support to hire a full-time Digital Accessibility Project Lead to teach Digital Accessibility Analyst class and oversee the BIT apprentices working on accessibility projects.</p>
<p><b>Bridge II Sports Inc</b> <i>Durham, NC</i></p>	<p>\$9,730</p>	<p>Assist Bridge II Sports in purchasing two e-assist motor recumbent tandem bicycles for individuals with visual impairments.</p>
<p><b>Camp Abilities Tucson</b> <i>Tucson, AZ</i></p>	<p>\$4,851</p>	<p>Partially fund the cost of room and board for individuals with visual impairments and disabilities to attend Camp Abilities in Tucson and experience sport, physical activity, and wellness education.</p>
<p><b>Computers for the Blind</b> <i>Richardson, TX</i></p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Provide funding to Computers for the Blind to address the issue of digital equity by significantly expanding the training opportunities for clients who purchase affordable computers, as well as for their support team, i.e., family, friends, etc.</p>
<p><b>Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired</b> <i>Daytona Beach, FL</i></p>	<p>\$35,000</p>	<p>Enable Tactile Creations to provide blind students with opportunities for artistic expression, creativity, and sensory exploration through tactile art experiences.</p>



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

<b>Foundation for Blind Children</b> <i>Phoenix, AZ</i>	\$20,000	Funding to enable FBC to repair a backlog of about 200 Perkins Braille Writers for students to use.
<b>Future in Sight</b> <i>Concord, NH</i>	\$50,000	Support FIS in expanding its Volunteer Program to serve individuals who are blind and visually impaired across all corners of the state. Providing essential transportation and companionship will give these individuals the support they need to face their disability with confidence and assert their desire for independence.
<b>Helen Keller Services</b> <i>Brooklyn, NY</i>	\$25,200	Enable Helen Keller Services to offer two paid internships for O&M/VRT students.
<b>Higher Ground USA Inc</b> <i>Ketchum, ID</i>	\$35,000	Support for the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind's Higher Ground winter partnership programs to include a new initiative for the school's blind/VI department.
<b>Jump the Moon</b> <i>Logan, UT</i>	\$5,002	Assist Jump the Moon in purchasing a braille printer and adaptive art supplies to provide visually impaired students the opportunity and tools to express themselves through art.
<b>Lighthouse for the Blind and Low Vision</b> <i>Tampa, FL</i>	\$23,870	Funding to replace a vehicle used to transport community members who are blind to orientation and mobility training sessions to gain greater independence.
<b>LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired - San Francisco</b> <i>San Francisco, CA</i>	\$50,000	Funding to support the salaries of LightHouse Orientation & Mobility Specialists to train people who are blind or have low vision to safely, independently, and confidently travel at home, in their neighborhoods, and throughout their communities and beyond.



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

<b>MAB Community Services</b> <i>Brookline, MA</i>	\$40,662	Funding to support comprehensive services for Massachusetts’ older adults who experience difficulty adjusting to vision loss, which can lead to depression, anxiety, and reduced independence.
<b>NewView Oklahoma, Inc.</b> <i>Oklahoma City, OK</i>	\$32,400	Provide scholarships for 8 students to attend NewView’s MOVE program, which is a vocational training program that empowers blind and low-vision individuals to return to work, school, and life.
<b>Northwest Association for Blind Athletes</b> <i>Vancouver, WA</i>	\$16,160	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.
<b>Outdoors for All</b> <i>Seattle, WA</i>	\$24,000	Funding for Outdoors for All to provide adaptive recreation programs to individuals with disabilities, including those who are blind or have visual impairments.
<b>Safe Toddles</b> <i>Fishkill, NY</i>	\$5,000	Support to provide Pediatric Belt Cane for toddlers that are blind or low vision, learning how to walk and navigate their surroundings.
<b>Seedlings Braille Books for Children</b> <i>Livonia, MI</i>	\$20,000	Support for Seedling’s B4B Program, an invite-only program for early intervention programs, to receive two print-braille-and-picture books for each pre-braille reader (ages birth-3) who is enrolled.
<b>Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired</b> <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	\$50,000	Funding to achieve complete access to certification privileges and enable SAAVI to provide professional development and training on a national scale.



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Visual Impairments

<b>The Carroll Center for the Blind</b> <i>Newton, MA</i>	\$45,000	Funding for an Employment Specialist who will implement a multifaceted approach that addresses both systemic challenges and individual empowerment to adults with disabilities to gain employment.
<b>The Research Foundation for SUNY, The College at Brockport</b> <i>Brockport, NY</i>	\$21,000	Funding for new or restart 4-5 Camp Abilities summer camps for those with visual impairments and blindness to learn how to stay active and healthy, be independent, and self-advocate for inclusion.
<b>United States Association of Blind Athletes</b> <i>Colorado Springs, CO</i>	\$25,000	Funding to add a Blind Soccer Coordinator to facilitate the holistic growth of blind soccer across grassroots sites, coach/official pipeline, and nationwide expansion.
<b>University of Massachusetts Foundation</b> <i>Newton, MA</i>	\$103,269	Support to recruit, retain, and provide partial tuition support to a cohort of up to 38 diverse scholars to complete a graduate certificate in Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment or Deafblindness.
<b>Utah Foundation for the Deaf and Blind Education</b> <i>Ogden, UT</i>	\$20,000	Enable USDB to provide new technology programs and assistive devices to blind students to aid in independence.
<b>VIA</b> <i>Buffalo, NY</i>	\$24,148	Provide funding for a pilot program to train seniors who are visually impaired in adaptive technology to maximize their independence and purchase adaptive technology.
<b>VisionServe Alliance</b> <i>Brentwood, MO</i>	\$50,000	Funding to support a meta-analysis conducted by TTI Health Research Economics, which will review existing, published research on the value of vision rehabilitation services.
<b>Total Grant Funds to BVI</b>	\$855,202	





# VisionServe Alliance

The Gibney Family Foundation supports VisionServe Alliance, a consortium of US and Canadian organizations and leaders working together to advance the field serving people of all ages living with blindness and low vision.

For decades, leaders, direct service agencies, other organizations, and policymakers have lacked fundamental data that not only confirms the incidence of blindness and low vision in the US but also elucidates the tremendous impact of vision loss across all social determinants of health. Big Data Project Reports highlight the astounding differences in health, education, career, income, disability, and quality of life among adults with blindness and vision loss versus their fully sighted peers.

Additionally, although agencies have long recognized that vision rehabilitation services provide life-changing benefits, VisionServe, again with the support of The Gibney Family Foundation, is conducting a comprehensive meta-analysis of more than 100 studies to yield data that fully supports the impact and effectiveness of vision rehabilitation services.

Tragically, less than 10% of adults who could benefit from vision rehabilitation services receive them. Government and non-profit agencies will use this data to conduct vital service needs assessments and advocate for increased funding so that millions more adults living with blindness and low vision can benefit from vision rehabilitation services.

# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for Families, Adults and Children

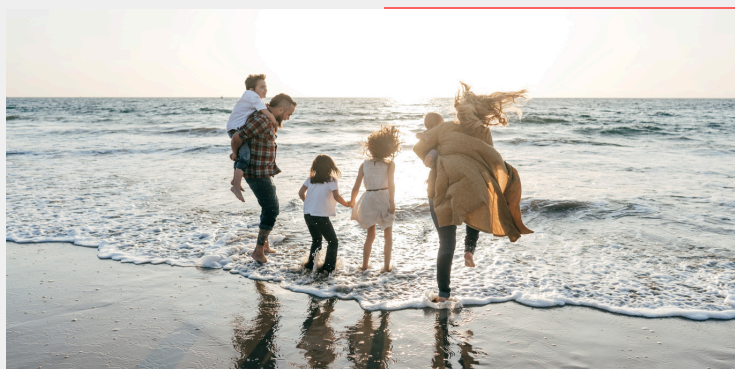
<b>Camp Summit, Inc</b> <i>Dallas, TX</i>	\$34,744	Funding to create a Sensory Garden that will be rich in sensory experiences to promote relaxation, curiosity, and enjoyment while being large enough for the campers to participate together.
<b>Children’s Home Society of Idaho</b> <i>Boise, ID</i>	\$40,000	Funding for approximately half of the cost of a trainer/supervisor for their new Nature & Animal Assisted Therapy program for children and families.
<b>Healing Meals Foundation Corporation</b> <i>Weatogue, CT</i>	\$25,000	Support HM to deepen engagement with Spanish-speaking clients through the work of a bi-lingual Community Liaison, who will build bridges to directly deliver resources to people and organizations who join on a journey to health.
<b>HomeShare Vermont, Inc</b> <i>South Burlington, VT</i>	\$20,000	Enable HomeShare to reach more hosts through an engagement with a marketing consultant to develop an effective and appealing marketing strategy.
<b>Hope Community Services Inc</b> <i>Glendale, AZ</i>	\$30,500	Assist HCS in expanding its Specialized Trauma Therapy program for children and youth who have experienced extraordinarily complex, ongoing trauma by providing animal-assisted therapy.
<b>Idaho Diabetes Youth Programs</b> <i>Boise, ID</i>	\$8,000	Funding to support family camps where parents, siblings and youth with diabetes will be able to receive social and diabetes support in an overnight setting.
<b>Idaho Youth Ranch, Inc.</b> <i>Boise, ID</i>	\$20,000	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.
<b>Kids on the Move</b> <i>Orem, UT</i>	\$4,715	*TGFF Annual Meeting Service Project* Provide funds and hands-on help to make over a respite care room for children who need calming, focusing, and stimulation while away from their caregivers.



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for Families, Adults and Children

<b>Minding Your Mind</b> <i>Armore, PA</i>	\$20,000	Support Minding Your Mind to provide 40 mental health education and suicide prevention programs in Maine and Rhode Island to students, teachers, and parents.
<b>Northwest Children’s Home</b> <i>Lewiston, ID</i>	\$29,083	Funding to supply three essential components of a therapeutic treatment model for the new NCH Psychiatric Treatment Facility: construction of a gazebo, renovation of an interior atrium, and furnishings for a family apartment.
<b>Project Read</b> <i>Provo, UT</i>	\$20,000	Support to meet the immediate educational needs and build a foundation for sustainable growth so that Project Read is better positioned to provide continued development in literacy and employment readiness.
<b>Ralston House</b> <i>Arvada, CO</i>	\$10,000	Support for salaries and benefits of Forensic Interviewing staff who provide specialized interviews of children who have been abused or witnessed a crime.
<b>Saratoga Shredders, Inc</b> <i>Porter Corners, NY</i>	\$5,000	Funds to introduce an inclusive Learn-to-Ride Program to empower students with cognitive disabilities from grades 1-12 to learn the fundamental skills of bike riding using balance bikes.
<b>Shelter to Soldier, Inc</b> <i>San Diego, CA</i>	\$5,000	Support to train and provide psychiatric service dogs, rescued from shelters, to veterans to improve their quality of life, relationships, confidence, and sense of security to integrate back into society and find their post-military purpose.
<b>The Joy Bus</b> <i>Phoenix, AZ</i>	\$20,000	Financial support towards the purchase of a temperature-controlled van that is used to deliver shelf-stable and frozen meals to 100 cancer patients each week.
<b>Youth Full Maine</b> <i>Biddeford, ME</i>	\$10,000	Funding to build a year-round community greenhouse to supply fresh produce for food-insecure families through Youth Full Maine programs.
<b>Total Grant Funds to Families, Adults and Children</b>	\$302,042	





# Bridge II Sports

Bridge II Sports creates opportunities for youth, adults, and Veterans with physical disabilities to ‘find the player within’ through the power of sports. These opportunities develop a culture of empowerment that fosters respect for all abilities and has a life-changing impact on all humanity.

Bridge II Sport is about people development. Sport is the tool that is used to build confidence, self-control, independence, and expectation of ability. Too often, the focus is on the limits of a disability rather than the abilities and potential. Founder and CEO Ashley Thomas felt there needed to be a shift in viewpoint:

“It was important to me to provide an alternate approach based on potential where the focus was on living life fully with a disability, not living disabled. At Bridge II Sports, we expect something amazing to happen.”

In 2024, TGFF family members partnered with Bridge II Sports to help fulfill a request for a tandem recumbent e-bike to provide an athlete with visual impairments and new balance issues, the confidence and ability to continue riding. Having an e-bike as part of their fleet will also enable other athletes to experience the trails of North Carolina, as the e-assist will help them tackle the hills more easily. In addition to serving their athletes, Bridge II Sports partners with the Governor Morehead School for the Blind to provide events and clinics for their students.

The new tandem recumbent bike will benefit many over the years.

# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Disabilities

<p><b>Friends in Action</b> <i>Durham, NH</i></p>	<p>\$14,820</p>	<p>Enable FIA to offer cost-free family events and new programming to participants to help increase inclusion and decrease the feeling of isolation.</p>
<p><b>Game Changers Idaho, Inc.</b> <i>Boise, ID</i></p>	<p>\$3,850</p>	<p>Support Game Changers to purchase additional sports equipment and supplies for their Little Game Changers program.</p>
<p><b>Horizons, Inc</b> <i>South Windam, CT</i></p>	<p>\$9,400</p>	<p>Funding to enable Horizons to renovate a space to create a designated Hobby Center that is more user-friendly, functional, and accessible for their campers.</p>
<p><b>Kids Who Count</b> <i>Salem, UT</i></p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p>*TGFF Annual Meeting Service Project* We hold a Family Activity Night Annually. This year the event will be at a local elementary school. We will be serving dinner for the children and families receiving services. We will have activities and games and anticipate a fun night.</p>
<p><b>Miracle League of Connecticut Inc</b> <i>West Hartford, CT</i></p>	<p>\$5,000</p>	<p>Support for the iCan Bike program that teaches children with developmental and physical disabilities to ride a typical 2-wheel bicycle.</p>
<p><b>Ride for Joy Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc.</b> <i>Caldwell, ID</i></p>	<p>\$11,000</p>	<p>Support Ride for Joy’s Instructor-in-Training program as they guide applicants through a certification process, provide a paid internship for their teaching hours, and reimburse the final exam cost.</p>



# 2024 Grants

## Area of Focus: Support for People with Disabilities

<b>Special Kids Special Families, Inc</b> <i>Colorado Springs, CO</i>	\$10,000	Funding to support low-income children at Zach’s Place Program for children with developmental disabilities and high needs.
<b>Special Surfers</b> <i>Saco, ME</i>	\$15,000	Enable Special Surfers to purchase additional wetsuits to accommodate their growing number of participants and a new trailer to store all of their gear.
<b>Waypoint Adventures, Inc</b> <i>Lexington, MA</i>	\$24,000	Provide funding for staff and direct costs related to Open Enrollment Programming, Marketing, & Outreach Support.
<b>Zebra Crossings</b> <i>Dover, NH</i>	\$5,000	Scholarship support for children with Down Syndrome to attend camp with their families to develop skills, boost independence, and reduce anxiety related to their medical condition.
<b>Total Grant Funds for People with Disabilities</b>	\$100,070	

**Total Grants Funded for 2024: \$1,257,314**

**Total Grants Awarded in 2024: 56**



# 2024 Family Donations



Best Buddies-AZ, Cast for Kids, Committee on Temporary Shelter, Exponent Philanthropy, FLUD Inc, Girls on the Run-Capital Region, Guiding Eyes Outdoors Inc\*, Healing Meals Foundation Corporation, Himalayan Cataract Project Inc\*, Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind Foundation Inc\*, Jump the Moon\*, Kids on the Move, Kids Who Count, MAB Community Services Inc\*, Miracle League of CT Inc, National Ability Center, National Braille Press\*, National Center for Family Philanthropy, Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany Inc\*, Northwest Association for Blind Athletes\*, Outdoors for All, Ralston House, Ride for Joy Therapeutic Riding Program Inc, Rising Stars Therapeutic Riding Center Inc, Rocky Mountain Innocence Center, Saratoga Shredders Inc, Seedlings Braille Books for Children\*, Ski for Light Inc\*, Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired\*, Special Kids Special Families Inc, Special Olympics Utah Inc, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, Teton Adaptive Sports, The Joy Bus, The Refuge Utah, The Road Home, Tucson Breakfast Lions Club Foundation\*, United States Association of Blind Athletes\*, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Inc, Utah Foster Care Foundation Inc, Utah School for the Deaf and Blind Education Foundation\*, Valley Adaptive Sports, 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\*, Wasatch Adaptive Sports Inc, Waypoint Adventures Inc.

\*Denotes a Blind and Visually Impaired Organization

# Boards & Committees

## Members

Joan Whittaker, Founding Member  
Sue Young, Founding Member  
Frank Gibney, Founding Member  
Tracy Wasden  
Sue DiFatta



## Staff

Tracy Wasden, CEO  
Sue DiFatta, COO, Corporate Secretary  
Mallory Bair, Grant Manager  
Brian DiFatta, Treasurer  
Molly Whittaker, Logistics Coordinator  
Allison Rowley, Publication and Design Specialist  
Riley DiFatta, Family News Correspondent

## Directors

Ken Wasden, Board Chairman  
Celeste Beazer  
Jennifer Boyd  
Brian DiFatta  
Natalie Hansen  
Rob Samsel  
Molly Whittaker



# Boards & Committees

## Grant Officers

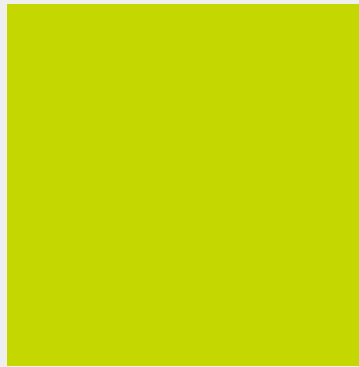
Mallory Bair, Grant Manager  
Amber Bernard  
Hayden DiFatta  
Sue DiFatta  
Frank Gibney  
Natalie Hansen  
Allison Rowley  
Tracy Wasden



## Investment Committee

Jennifer Boyd  
Brian DiFatta  
Sue DiFatta  
Frank Gibney  
Tracy Wasden  
Chris Whittaker  
Stan Young





# TGFF Family

## 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

### Age 18+

Jackson and Celeste Beazer  
 Mason Summers  
 Cache and Aubrey Summers  
 Chris and Natalie Hansen  
 Tate and Mallory Bair  
 Brayden and Ashlyn Weeks  
 Tyler Samsel

Bailey Dyson  
 Dillan and Allison Rowley  
 Justin and Madison Reid  
 Ryan Sumsion  
 Nathan and Kendra Wasden  
 Beau and Amber Bernard  
 Lillian Young  
 Ethan Sumsion

Brook Jensen  
 Hayden DiFatta  
 Riley DiFatta  
 Heidi Young  
 Gwen Young  
 Dane Jensen  
 Adyson Young

