President's Message Dear Members and Supporters, and to the Communities as a whole,

improving services for the deaf, deaf/blind and the communities . It is heartening to see how far we have come from a time when such resources were scarce or unavailable, and now, our efforts have created a more inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. These advancements not only enhance communication and

Missouri.

driven model.

and care.

At DEAF, Inc., interpreting services are more than operational—they are transformative. In 2024, our interpreting department responded to thousands of service requests with professionalism, cultural fluency,

to expectation—and building a more equitable future,

the communication gap for our ASL-using caregivers, which in turn enhanced their job

independence but also reaffirm our collective commitment to equity and empowerment. Thank you for your unwavering support in making these vital changes possible—together, we are building a brighter, more accessible future for all.

I am truly inspired to witness the remarkable progress our organization has made in expanding access and

Forrest Booth Jr. **Board President**

2024 in Review

Expanding Access. Deepening Impact.

always stood at the intersection of advocacy and community—and this past year, we leaned in even further to ensure access, equity, and opportunity for all members of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities across 2024 was a year of meaningful connection and growth. We partnered with organizations like St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis CITY SC, City of Wildwood, local history and art museums, to make public events more inclusive

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the momentum we've continued together. DEAF, Inc. has

departments, reinforcing our belief that accessibility should never be an afterthought—it should be the standard. Pink Wings of Hope experienced significant growth, both in educational outreach and community connection,

and accessible. We deepened our cross-sector collaborations with healthcare systems, schools, libraries, and city

reminding us how vital culturally and linguistically accessible cancer support is for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals. Services for DeafBlind Missourians made major strides, including active engagement in statewide advocacy efforts with the Sight And Sound Impaired of St. Louis, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and

Hard of Hearing, Helen Keller National Center, and Society for the Blind to expand visibility and push for lasting policy change. In response to the increasing needs of the community, we also expanded our internal team—welcoming a Community Educator, a Scheduling Coordinator, and officially transitioning our Youth & Family and Pink Wings of Hope Community Advocates into full-time roles. These changes not only strengthen our foundation, but they also

affirm our long-term commitment to building a sustainable and responsive organization. This past year has shown us what's possible when intention meets collaboration. Thank you to our partners, funders, volunteers, and community members. Your support fuels our mission and inspires our team every day. As we look ahead, we remain committed to breaking down barriers, amplifying underrepresented voices, and co-

creating a future where access is not earned—it is expected. With gratitude, Sarah Prechtel, Lasw

Sarah Prechtel **Executive Director**

DEAF, Inc.'s Access Services ensure communication is never a barrier. We provide licensed and certified ASL and Deaf Interpreters 24 hours a day, 365 days a year across Missouri. Our interpreters serve in a wide range of settings,

Each interpreting assignment reinforces our core belief: access to communication is a human right. Revenue from these services also supports the sustainability of our Community Programs—making it a vital part of our mission-

including hospitals, academic institutions, government agencies, workplaces, and community events.

Access Services

From emergency rooms to classrooms to public meetings, our interpreters make it possible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to engage fully and confidently in their daily lives. Whether it's facilitating life-saving communication in a medical setting or supporting parental involvement in education, our work affirms the principle that language access is essential to autonomy, dignity, and inclusion.

"We are proud to partner with you and DEAF, Inc. in our mission to see disabled people thriving. Your support is instrumental in helping us make sure But our impact goes even further. Each time we provide interpreting services, we challenge outdated systems and that the D/HH community is included as we work towards more accessible workplaces and an inclusive raise the bar for what accessibility should look like. This work is helping shift the narrative—from accommodation workforce."

Chief Financial Officer

Starkloff Disability Institute

one assignment at a time. "DEAF, Inc. had a profound impact on our Spotlight: ASL Interpreting business (Mercy Healthcare) by improving communication and inclusivity within our team. Their services allowed us to bridge

satisfaction and productivity. By providing View on YouTube reliable and professional interpreting services, DEAF, Inc. enabled us to create a more inclusive work environment where all team members could thrive. This collaboration also helped 17,460
Total Hours us better serve our patients who are deaf or hard of hearing, ensuring they received the care and support they needed. I would highly

Interpreting Requests of Services recommend DEAF, Inc.'s services to others. Their expertise in providing ASL interpreting services is unparalleled, and their commitment to fostering inclusive communication is evident in every interaction."

Legal Marisa Hiatt Performance **Interpreting Requests** Requests **Disability Inclusion Operations Human Resource** Certified Deaf **Interpreting Requests**

DeafBlind 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. Spotlight: Visdio View on YouTube

Our Specialized Programs—Pink Wings of Hope and Youth & Family—are designed to meet the unique needs of individuals and families by fostering connection, education, and empowerment. Together, these programs reflect our commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive community. **Advocacy: Championing Access and Empowerment** Advocacy is at the heart of DEAF, Inc.'s mission. Our team of Community Advocates work directly with individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind to address access barriers and promote self-determination. Whether it's navigating medical appointments, legal situations, education systems, or employment barriers, we provide hands-on support to ensure

people can advocate for themselves and their rights.

In 2024, our advocacy team assisted individuals across a wide range of situations—from urgent housing issues and inaccessible court proceedings to workplace discrimination and health care miscommunications. Each case reinforces the

need for systemic change—and our role in helping individuals

"When I first connected with PWOH

that the role I had taken on actually has a name—I'm a caregiver. I had no

idea there was an official term for the

Stephanie helped me understand the

responsibilities I'd been managing.

Through this journey, I've come to

realize that my own well-being is just

as important. It's okay to acknowledge my struggles and seek support. I've

been supporting my parents for some

were resources, a community, and real

I recognize and accept my role as a

caregiver."

Pink Wings of Hope

Care Packages

do for our kids."

"We kept saying what a fun time we had [at Social

and dad too. Every time we come to one of the

"ASL Storytime at St. Louis Public Library, in

Deaf Teen Club

Members

Impact: Building Capacity for the Future

individuals.

within reach for all.

Although community workshops and interpreter mentorship

As we look toward 2025, DEAF, Inc. is focused on restoring and strengthening our educational program—ensuring that communication equity and cultural understanding remain

> Spotlight: Community Training

> > View on YouTube

"The instructor was fantastic. She took

her time and really made sure the class

was understanding. She also gave helpful

medical terms to make sure we could help

our patients and that was HUGE. Thank you

Practice Manager, BJC Medical Group

Jennifer Thompson

feedback and tips. She also took a list of

Spotlight: ASL Classes

Spotlight: Deaf Awareness

View on YouTube

"At St. Louis CITY SC, our mission is to be an

mission, we want everyone who joins us on

matchday to have the best experience possible. That's why it is important to us to make

sure that our home, Energizer Park, is open and

welcoming to all of our neighbors. We're proud

to partner with DEAF, Inc. and other leading

accessibility organizations to ensure that our

matchdays are inclusive for fans with hearing loss and different abilities. Together, we're working to ensure that CITY SC is for all of St.

We also raise awareness about Deaf culture, history, sign language, and the communities we serve by presenting at schools, ASL clubs, colleges, and

"Overall, my impression of the Deaf Visual Arts Festival St. Louis is very positive: it provided a chance for exposure to Deaf art, an opportunity to meet and interact with members of the St. Louis Deaf community, as well as a foundation to strengthen the pride and self-esteem of the St. Louis Deaf community. It was a true celebration of Deaf culture and how art contributes to Deaf identity. The Deaf Visual Arts Festival St. Louis is a signature event and an

important community builder for Deaf people

in St. Louis; it should be continued, preferably

annually, and remain a mainstay in the culture

of the St. Louis Deaf (and hearing) community."

Number of Deaf Visual

Arts Program Events

Our inclusive events create safe and welcoming spaces for individuals of all ages to connect socially and interact with others using sign language—opportunities that may not exist in their neighborhoods, schools, or workplaces. These gatherings also offer meaningful support for parents and family members who are learning more about hearing loss, helping them build community and feel empowered on

Ana Cruz, PhD.

Professor, STLCC

David Vedder, Director of Live Experience

St. Louis CITY SC

exceptional club and neighbor. As part of that

were paused this year, demand for our Deaf Culture & Sensitivity Training remained strong across sectors. With a dedicated Community Educator now in place, we are poised to reintroduce and expand training opportunities that empower service providers, educators, and organizations to better support Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

partnership with DEAF, Inc., has created a welcoming,

hearing families can enjoy stories together. Families

inclusive space where Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and

Connections]. Jackson loved exploring all the things

at Myseum. It was really nice to talk to another mom

events it helps us feel supported and not alone in our

journey. It means a lot to us that there is such a great

deaf community here and are glad to get Jackson a

part of it early on... Thanks again for everything you

time, but until now, I didn't realize there

help available for people like me. Today,

Matthew

PWOH Consumer

Pink Wings of Hope

Outreach

Emily

Mother of a DeafBlind Child

Stephanie Reynolds

Youth & Family

Consumers Served

SLPL - Carpenter Branch

in search of information, I learned

Community Programs

DEAF, Inc.'s Community Programs encompass two vital areas: Advocacy and Specialized Programs. Through Advocacy, we provide consultation, information and referrals, and direct support services to individuals navigating barriers in

communication access, public systems, and everyday life.

Consumers Served

as a grassroots initiative has grown into a vital national resource-

In 2024, Pink Wings of Hope expanded its reach and impact through

face a diagnosis alone or without access to critical information in their

survivor stories, and critical health information. What began as a small

effort quickly became a vital tool for outreach and engagement—

With a full-time advocate in place, we've been able to respond to

a growing number of community members—those navigating a

diagnosis themselves or caring for a loved one. Through one-on-

This year's progress reflects the deep need for connection,

View on YouTube

DEAF, Inc.'s Youth & Family program is dedicated to

learning, and cultural identity development, this

every stage of their journey.

supporting Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and CODA (Children of

Deaf Adults) youth from birth through age 18, along with

their families. By creating opportunities for connection,

program empowers families to thrive together through

In 2024, we expanded inclusive activities and deepened

partnerships that foster early language development,

Impact Story: Partnering with St. Louis Public Library - Making Literacy Visual and Accessible

For the second year, DEAF, Inc. partnered with the St.

Louis Public Library – Carpenter Branch to bring ASL

Storytime to families across St. Louis City. This bilingual

series, led by Deaf storytellers and interpreters, provides

reflected and every family feels welcomed in the learning

experience.

social engagement, and family support—ensuring children grow up confident in both their identity and

one support, educational presentations, and digital outreach, Pink

Wings of Hope continues to fill a critical gap in culturally responsive,

reaching individuals far beyond our local region.

language-accessible cancer support.

dedicated staffing and targeted outreach—ensuring no one has to

offering education, advocacy, and direct support to individuals

affected by cancer, as well as their caregivers.

Information & Referrals

Spotlight: Advocacy The Cocoon View on YouTube **Pink Wings of Hope** At the intersection of health equity and language access, Pink Wings of Hope provides culturally and linguistically responsive cancer support for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community. What began

navigate those challenges.

true meaning of being a caregiver **Expanding Support, Deepening Impact** and why that recognition matters. DEAF, Inc.'s Pink Wings of Hope program experienced transformative Supporting my mom through growth—thanks in part to a \$10,000 grant and the creation of a fullcancer, while also caring for my dad's time position dedicated to the program. Together, these investments health issues, has been emotionally made it possible to expand support for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and challenging at times—bringing DeafBlind individuals affected by cancer in ways that are accessible, feelings of worry, stress, and occasional meaningful, and lasting. uncertainty about how to cope. I've often pushed my own feelings aside The grant helped propel our educational initiatives, including a video to stay strong for my family, without series in American Sign Language that shares wellness resources, realizing the weight I was carrying.

representation, and accessible information in health-related spaces. We are proud of the growth we've achieved and look forward to building on this foundation in 2025 and beyond. Pink Wings of Hope Pink Wings of Hope Consumers Served Information & Referrals **Spotlight:** Pink Wings of Hope

communication access. Spotlight: Youth & Family View on YouTube

learn ASL signs for repeated words in books, such young children—especially those who are Deaf or Hard as "I am thankful" or "bear," making the experience of Hearing—with a fully accessible and engaging way to interactive and accessible for all ages. It is a rare and develop early literacy skills. meaningful opportunity for Deaf children, teens, and adults to experience storytime in a library setting. Through expressive visual storytelling, ASL Storytime We've seen families travel long distances to attend, fosters language development, strengthens family and many return month after month to engage, learn, connections, and brings cultural visibility into shared and connect." public spaces. This partnership goes beyond reading books aloud—it ensures every child sees themselves

By bringing American Sign Language into library Spotlight: Deaf Teen Club settings, we're not only expanding access—we're deepening the impact of early literacy programming in our community. We are proud to continue this meaningful series into 2025. View on YouTube "I was really excited to hear about how the chaperones would be helping the teens navigate new spaces. My teen really loves making friends and feeling

Youth & Family

Information & Referrals

Education

Anna

accepted as they explore their identity."

Mother of a Deaf Teen Club Member

Education remains a core pillar of DEAF, Inc.'s mission to foster inclusion through awareness and communication. While limited funding led to a temporary slowdown in training activity in 2024, we took a meaningful step forward by creating a new staff position dedicated to revitalizing our community education and ASL instruction. This investment positions us to rebuild and grow our educational offerings with greater capacity and focus in the year ahead.

"Very well presented. I like how it was geared to all job-related incidences/interactions we may face." **University City Fire Department**

Sensitivity Trainings

participants

Sensitivity Trainings

provided

professional interest. Our classes offer more than language instruction—they create opportunities for cultural connection, inclusion, and lifelong learning. In fact, four individuals who originally enrolled out of personal curiosity were so inspired by their experience that they went on to pursue ASL studies at the college level. This kind of transformation underscores the lasting impact that early exposure

With the addition of a dedicated Community Educator, we are

engagement between the Deaf and hearing communities.

excited to grow our ASL offerings and continue fostering meaningful

Participants

expanding public awareness and strengthening partnerships that promote accessibility, equity, and representation

From cultural events and health fairs to sports arenas and city agencies, our outreach connects communities and raises the bar for what true inclusion looks like. These efforts not only build visibility for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities—but also inspire organizations to take meaningful action in making their spaces more

and community-based instruction can have.

Tuition Waivers for Participants with

Hearing Loss

across sectors.

League Soccer.

and Hard of Hearing fans.

ASL Classes: Creating Connection Through Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is a powerful tool for bridging communication and building understanding across communities. In 2024, DEAF, Inc.'s ASL classes continued to serve as welcoming spaces for individuals from all backgrounds—whether they were learning to communicate with a Deaf family member, building early language with their child, or exploring ASL out of personal or

In 2024, we proudly hosted our first Deaf Awareness Day with St. Louis CITY SC—a celebration of our growing partnership and the Deaf community. While the event itself wasn't unprecedented, what sets this collaboration apart is St. Louis CITY SC's ongoing commitment to accessibility at every home game. CITY SC is currently the only MLS team to offer ASL interpretation, live captioning, and a signed

performance of the National Anthem at each home match.

Together, we're working to introduce innovations such as

picture-in-picture interpretation on the stadium's match

Through collaboration and intentional design, our partner-

ship continues to set a powerful example of what inclusive

sports entertainment can look like. We're proud to help

make Energizer Park a place where accessibility isn't an

afterthought—it's part of the fan experience.

Deaf Awareness Days

Participants

Deaf Awareness

Presentations

screen board—enhancing visibility and access for Deaf

Impact Story: Raising the Bar for Accessibility:

Since the inaugural 2023 season, DEAF, Inc. has partnered with St. Louis CITY SC to advance communication accessi-

bility at Energizer Park. What began with the inclusion of American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation has evolved into one of the most inclusive accessibility models in Major

DEAF, Inc. and St. Louis CITY SC

"While I have previous experience with ASL translation services for museum tours, the Deaf Docent project represents a significant advancement in accessibility and cultural engagement. By training Deaf artists and

docents to lead tours in American Sign Language, the program ensures that content is delivered in visitors'

native language, creating a more authentic and

meaningful experience for the Deaf community. Through this collaboration, I have personally grown in my understanding of how true accessibility goes beyond basic accommodation to embrace cultural competency and representation. The presence of Deaf docents has enriched our museum's programming

and fostered a more inclusive environment.

Number of Artists

Benefitting Economic

Opportunities

Michelle Dezember

Total Number of ASL

Tour Attendees

Deaf Visual Arts Festival

Attendees

their journey.

Director of Learning and Engagement Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

Presentations

Spotlight:

Community Representation

View on YouTube

Children Participated in **Inclusived Events**

President Forrest Booth Jr. **Vice President** Ante Čolić Secretary **David Wasserman**

> Sarah Prechtel **Executive Director**

Debbie Kendall, Community Educator

Lydia Kline, Scheduling Coordinator

Sarah Prechtel, Executive Director

Matthew Lieberman, Admin. Assistant

Daymion June, Community Advocate Stephanie Wilcox, Community Advocate Hope Shrake, Digital Media Specialist

Rachel Koch, Staff Interpreter

Statement of Activities

Public Support and Revenue

As of December 31, 2024

Contributions

Administration

Total Expenses

Change in Net Assets

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year

Net Assets, End of the Year

Fundraising

Roberta Thompson, Scheduling Coordinator

Leslie Brown, Lead Scheduling Coordinator

Top L to R:

Grants \$30,000.00 **Special Events** Program Service Fees and Misc. Revenue \$1,606,915.00 Investment Income \$25,895.00 **Total Support and Revenue** \$2,580,979.00 **Expenses Program Services** \$1,852,310.00

62%

Corporations & Foundat

Brighton Collectibles

California Pizza Kitchen

Swoboda Deaf Center

Chick Fil-A - Sunset Hills

Deaf Organization Fund

Jefferson Foundation

Missouri Art Council

Kaldi's Coffee - Kirkwood

Lighthouse for the Blind - St. Louis

Missouri Council for the Blind

Missouri Historical Society

New England Deaf Disc Golf

PayPal Giving Fund

Post Pouring Co.

Individuals

Nancy Ambacher

Randall Anderson

Emily Bach Ermitano

Melvin & Martha Bastean

Michael & Donna Boyd

Corinne Austin

Linda Baker

Cara Barrett

Judith Benton

Antonina Biondo

Forrest Booth Jr.

De Linda Brite

Janice Brite

Leslie Brown

Rita Childers

Sallie Collins

Gael Connell

Becky Davis

Dave Eaker

Tim Eck

Rachel Ebner

Carol Ellison

Susan Eshbaugh

Alan Florendo

Karyn Houston

Sue Hebel

Melissa Fears-Henley

Eric and Sherri Gjerdingen

Joe & Mary Rose Hennessy

Robert Crowell

Debbie Crowell

Gerard Buckley

Mary Burgesen

Stephanie Clemens

Ante & Marla Colic

Kimberly Compton

Sam & Cathi Culbertson

Bev Ball

Ruth Adams

Allen Alvord

Nothing Bundt Cakes - Brentwood

Lush Cosmetics - West County Center

DeafLEAD

Fix St. Louis

Google

American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.

Chicago Area Catholic Deaf Center Foundation DBA

Current Liabilities

Artwork and Memorabilia **Total Assets**

Liabilities and Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Total Liabilities and Net Assets 1%

Schnucks Fidelity Charitable Donor Advised Fund – Horn Fund Southwestern Illinois College Greater St. Louis Association of the Deaf St. Louis Blues St. Louis Cardinals St. Louis CITY SC Studies St. Louis Community Foundation Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Starbucks Starkloff Disability Institute Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project The UPS Store #0558 **UK Online Giving Foundation** Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign Walmart - Maplewood National Technical Institute for the Deaf

West County Spa

ZP Better Together

With Gratitude

Terri Johnson **Daymion June** Wanda Juste **Tracey Kaminsky** Marena Kaminsky Dr. Thomas Horjes & Kate O'Regan Debbie Kendall Jennifer Knies Mike & Janet Kolmer Richard & Nadia LaFlam Matthew Lieberman Sabrena Lillybridge Robert Loewenstein **Robert Lograsso** Cady Macfee Karen Malone Kara McFadden **Daniel Molloy** Laurie Monahan

Jennifer & Stacie Hudgens

John Hsu

Phil Jacob

Rory James

Dr. Sarah Jensen

View on YouTube Outreach DEAF, Inc.'s outreach efforts are rooted in collaboration, visibility, and systems-level change. In 2024, we focused on

for all."

The **Deaf Visual Arts Program** advances DEAF, Inc.'s mission **Spotlight:** by promoting awareness of Deaf history, culture, and artistic expression, while also contributing to the growth and **Deaf Visual Arts** inclusivity of Missouri's broader arts and culture landscape. View on YouTube

businesses throughout the region.

Louis."

DEAF, Inc. staff serve as ambassadors for the organization and the communities we represent—advocating for the rights and interests of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals to promote positive change throughout the local community. Our Team Peam

> \$911,766.00 \$6,403.00

\$67,916.00 \$1,956,006.00 **Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** \$155,284.00 \$2,179,206.00

36%

1%

Contributions

Program Services

Special Events and Other

Grants

Linda Baker Michael Boyd Robert Crowell Laura Shapiro William Sheldon Art Silverman

Board of Directors

Bottom L to R: Rebecca Lackey, Staff Interpreter

Treasurer Valerie Mondesir **Dedicated Staff**

De Linda Brite, Director of Community Programs Anna Paul, SSP Scheduling Coordinator Kirsten Collier, Scheduling Coordinator Devon Whitmore, Community Advocate Marena Kaminsky, Interpreting Dept. Manager Tony Nitko, Marketing Director **Financial Summary**

> \$73,051.00 \$2,153,278.00 \$427,701.00 \$1,683,589.00 \$2,111,290.00 **Statement of Financial Position** As of December 31, 2024

> > \$2,106,166.00

\$2,179,206.00

\$51,840.00

\$21,200.00

\$227,917.00

Assets

Current Assets

Property and Equipment, net

Pub Décor – West County Center Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis Relay Missouri / T-Mobile Rochester Institute of Technology Sam's Club – Maplewood Sarah P. Seaman-Huynh and Huynh Huynh Fund Schwab Charitable - Jizo's Rainy Day Assistance Fund Sisters in Style / Reineck Enterprise Sorenson Communications, LLC

St. Louis Community College - Deaf Communication

Washington University School of Medicine, Program in **Audiology and Communication Sciences** Tamiko Rafeek Kay Raquel Tim Rarus

Robert & Renee Ritchey

Bill & Nancy Rogers

Elizabeth Roth

Nancy Rourke

David Morley Gerald Nicholaus Veronica and Anthony Nitko Blake Nitko & Sara Blick-Nitko **Anthony Nitko** Arlene & Tim O'Connell Jason & Christina Oatis Missy Owoe **Thomas Paley** Julie Peterson Janet Phifer **Elaine Poland** Leslie and John Prechtel

Victor & Sarah Prechtel **Preston Priest** Anna Quinby

Meenaskshi Sripal **Chris Strub** Tracy Tao Moore Ivanito Tauscher **Alexzander Teitsort Thomas Toma** Amanda Votrian Yoana Vuteva **Grace Wayant** Jennifer Weiser David & Emma Whatley Stephanie Wilcox Caleb Wisinger **Tamara Woods** Candace Woodside Wendy Zilda

Lori Sampson Steve Sandy Richard & Rene Schoeffler Daniel & Donna Schreiner **Ashley Schwickert** Ryan Scott Carol Seidman William Sheldon **Debbie Shubin** Katie Sienko Arthur Silverman Craig Smith Kimberly Smith **Adam Sommer Chris Soukup** Meena Sripal