



Empowering Parents
of Children Who are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing,
Through Education
and Support

NCBEGIN.ORG

Annual Report

2023 / 2024



Notes from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo by Ken Demery

Diane Doak
Executive Director

Each event has allowed us to reach out to more families, professionals, and individuals who are interested in learning more about how we serve parents.

BEGINNINGS experienced many changes during FY 2023–2024! Early in the year we engaged in strategic planning to look at succession planning and sustainable growth. We found our successes to be related to the building and sharing of resources for our staff and families. The decision was made to lean into our strength and our Statewide Relationship Building Strategic Plan was established.

As a state-wide nonprofit, we wanted to create opportunities to network in multiple regions of the state. Our goal is to bring together families, staff, our Board of Directors, professionals, related agencies, and stakeholders for a time of sharing together. We built on the structure of our Raleigh event, which was traditionally attended by our Board of Directors, staff, and stakeholders. We engaged Parent Educators to reach out to the parents they serve and the professionals that they collaborate with in the Raleigh area. We extended invitations to local leaders and existing and new stakeholders. We experienced an increase in attendance and an energy and excitement that was not always present at past events.

We have replicated this event in Durham and Asheville and are planning for events in Charlotte and Greensboro. Each event has allowed us to reach out to more families, professionals, and individuals who are interested in learning more about how we serve parents.

Our next task is to build a Board of Directors that includes interested parties from all regions of the state. We need to have a Board of Directors that reflects the diversity of the families we serve and the professionals that collaborate with us. This is a big task because we live in and serve a big state. But I feel the excitement growing at each event we host. Please reach out to **BEGINNINGS** if you are interested in joining our collaboration.

2023~2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



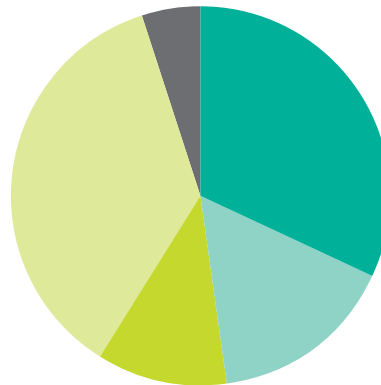
In FY 2023–24,
we served a total of
1,324 FAMILIES

between July 1, 2023
& June 30, 2024.

Returning Families: **776**

New Families: **548**

We provided **800** home visits and supported **378** school meetings in **89** counties.



Age at Identification

- Birth–3 months 32%
- 4–12 months 15%
- 13 months–3 years 13%
- 3–10 years, 11 months 33%
- 11–21 years 7%

ESSERF Grant Concludes with Impressive Family Support and Information

BEGINNINGS received a two-year (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2024) reimbursement grant from the Federal Government titled the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) to help families cope with the after effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this period, **BEGINNINGS** provided a variety of services, including family support services for children of all ages; IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) family workshops statewide in both English and Spanish; virtual training sessions for families on topics like conflict resolution and Level 2 ASL Spanish; distribution of our “Helping Your Child with the Effects of the Pandemic” print pieces (English and Spanish); and staff development activities like conferences and webinars.

All statistics regarding the services we provided to families refer to Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).

Message from the BOARD PRESIDENT



Dr. Tom Young
President, FY 2024–25
Board of Directors

This past year was another successful one for BEGINNINGS. The support from the state legislature remains strong and bipartisan. The federal ESSERF program has just ended, with BEGINNINGS effectively using the additional monies to help overcome the challenges of hearing-impaired children and their families brought on by COVID-19. An exciting new initiative has begun to bring our story directly to other areas of the state: “Community Connections” events have been held in Durham, Charlotte, and Asheville, and more are being planned. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of talented parent educators and administrators who are dedicated to the mission of BEGINNINGS. And thank you to my fellow board members who volunteer their time and expertise in support of this remarkable organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023–24

Wade Monroe, President
Matt Peterson, Vice President
Mark Appleby, Treasurer
Kelly Day, Secretary
Matt Archer
Denni Haywood
Cayt Kirkman
Joe Patterson
Oktawian Rybinski
Dr. Thomas Young
Diane Doak, Staff

SUPPORT BEGINNINGS!

[NCBEGIN.ORG](https://www.ncbegin.org)

Visit our website for more about our services,
as well as information on how you can help.



FY 2023–2024 Financial Information (Audited)

REVENUE

State Contracts:
\$1,504,216

Released Grants (ESSERF):
\$463,000

Public Support
(Events, Individual Giving)

- Donors Unrestricted:
\$22,743
- Donors GTP restricted:
\$28,355
- Events:
\$30,872

Earned Income:
\$13,575

TOTAL \$2,062,761

EXPENSES

Admin/Fundraising:
\$344,010 (20.9%)

Services to Families
\$1,296,706 (78.7%)

Grants to Parents
\$7,337 (.4%)

TOTAL: \$1,648,053



Grants to Parents

During 2023–24, BEGINNINGS continued its active Grants to Parents program thanks to funding from various organizations, including the Sertoma Club of Raleigh, the Junior League of Raleigh, and the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA).

These grants have historically been intended to cover hearing-related costs for children that are not usually covered by insurance. Our Parent Educators encourage families to complete the application process, and then an internal committee decides the amount of the awards.

During fall 2023, BEGINNINGS received a large grant from the Ragland Family Foundation to take an in-depth look at the way we process and award our grants. This relied upon staff, parent recipients, and public input, and resulted in an online English and Spanish portal that was easier to access and understand for those applying. We also moved from quarterly grants to making grants every other month, so that funds could truly go quickly to our parents in need. More information on Grants to Parents as well as application guidelines may be found at ncbegin.org.



ABIGAIL PROCTOR



REAGAN KASTLER



DOMINIC RUIZ

Just a few of the grants made during 2023–24:

Abigail Proctor, Randleman, NC

Abigail is 3 years old and has hearing loss in her left ear. Her family received a grant to help with travel costs for her visits to UNC audiologists.

Reagan Kastler, Creedmoor, NC

Reagan is 18 months old and is the youngest of three children. Her older brother wears hearing aids and is seen at UNC-CH Audiology. Her family received a grant to help with out-of-pocket expenses for her ENT/audiology appointments.

Dominic Ruiz, Burlington, NC

Age 5, Dominic has hearing aids to help with his developmentally significant hearing loss, which was preventing him from responding to spoken language. His audiologist recommended hearing aids in both ears. His family received a grant to cover his hearing-aid related accessories (earmolds and fees, batteries, and dehumidifier).



ENGLISH

YOU CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED!

Please scan the QR code or visit www.ncbegin.org to learn more about the programs and services we offer and make a gift in support of this important work!



SPANISH

BEGINNINGS Embraces Community Connections Events

In 2023, we replaced our annual fundraising gala with a series of smaller events held throughout the state to raise awareness, involve families, and raise funds for general operating expenses. These events have been big successes! The goal is to hold one each quarter; our Board, staff, and the families we serve are part of the planning process.

We held a 4th annual Oyster Roast/BBQ in Raleigh (Nov. 2023), followed by a well-attended BBQ & Brews event in Durham in Jun. 2024.

A similar event was held at Highland Brewing Company in Asheville in Aug. 2024.

The 5th Annual Oyster Roast/BBQ in Raleigh was held in Nov. 2024.

Newest on the calendar are an event at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in Charlotte to be held on Mar. 2, 2025 and a similar event in Greensboro in early spring.

Check ncbegin.org frequently for details.



Kids activities at Durham event

BBQ & Brews Event in Durham



Community Connections events featured popular children's activities, as shown here at the Durham "BBQ & Brews" event.