



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 ~ 2023

EMPOWERING PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR
HARD OF HEARING, THROUGH EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

NCBEGIN.ORG

Notes from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Diane Doak
Executive Director
BEGINNINGS

As we move into 2024, I am pleased to see our growth continue and look forward to meeting the needs of more parents in our state!



Visit our
website:
ncbegin.org

BEGINNINGS continues to GROW! During FY 2023 we had a significant increase in services to families. The largest increase was in our new families served. As compared to last year, our staff met with 94 more families whose children were recently identified with hearing loss to help them understand the diagnosis and navigate through new vocabulary and interventions. We also attended 54 more school meetings than in the previous year. Our most significant increase is that we were able to help 19 more families navigate the transition from the infant/toddler program to preschool services.

We have embraced our new hybrid structure for providing services to families. Overall, we provided 56% of services in person. Seventy-two percent of first-time meetings between parents and our Parent Educators were in person. This is a wonderful option for parents who are learning a tremendous amount of information about their child's new diagnosis, and it allows Parent Educators to be supportive while parents process their emotions. A slim majority of 51% of all school services were provided virtually. Parents appreciate the opportunity to have these meetings virtually so they can attend without leaving their place of work.

I am proud of the amount of work staff has done to help families mitigate educational losses due to COVID. The Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) has allowed our staff to provide support beyond our traditional service delivery. We offered four one-day workshops for parents to give them an opportunity to learn and connect with other families while their children were supervised by our Parent Educators.

We collaborated with the Council for Children's Rights to provide instruction on educational law and New Leaf Behavioral Health to help parents understand the impact COVID stress has had on each of us. Additionally, we provided six, weekly virtual American Sign Language (ASL) classes for families whose primary language in the home is Spanish. A trilingual instructor (English, Spanish, and ASL) was able to communicate with these families in Spanish while they learned a new language for their child. We plan to continue this service for these families.

2022~2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We served the largest number of new families ever in one fiscal year.

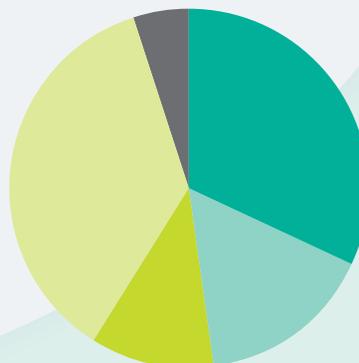
The largest number were in Wake County, followed closely by Mecklenburg County (Charlotte area). Other very active counties included Buncombe, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, and Onslow Counties.

BEGINNINGS developed a new information brochure titled "Helping Your Child with the Effects of the Pandemic" in both English and Spanish. We co-organized a Western NC Transition to adulthood event in April 2023 and a Parent IDEA Advocacy event in May 2023 in Wilmington.

In FY 2023, we served
1,350 FAMILIES:
762 returning families
and 588 new families

917 Home visits provided

**433 School meetings in
90 counties supported**



Age at Identification

- Birth-3 months 32%
- 4-12 months 16%
- 13 months-3 years 11%
- 3-10 years, 11 months 36%
- 11-21 years 5%

All statistics regarding the services we provided to families refer to Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023).

Message from the BOARD PRESIDENT



Wade Monroe
President,
Board of Directors
BEGINNINGS

The year 2022–23 saw BEGINNINGS return to pre-COVID levels of activity, thanks to the hard work of the staff and funds from the federal ESSERF grant. We know from learning experts that children and families are still feeling the effects of the pandemic, but we are confident that BEGINNINGS is helping Deaf and Hard of Hearing children catch up to where they need to be.

I give my thanks to my fellow Board members who help us all support BEGINNINGS and the amazing staff of administrators, leaders, and Parent Educators throughout the state. We look forward to more opportunities in 2023–24 to raise funds and awareness of the important work that BEGINNINGS does, along with finishing our two-year ESSERF activities and beginning to see the results of a new two-year grant from the State of North Carolina.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022–23

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



SUPPORT BEGINNINGS!

Please go to www.ncbegin.org to learn more about the programs and services BEGINNINGS offers, and to make a gift in support of this important work!

78%: Amount of income spent DIRECTLY ON NC FAMILIES needing services



FY 2022–2023 FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Audited)

REVENUE

State Contracts
\$1,004,216

Released Grants (ESSERF)
\$484,834

Public Support
(Events/Individual Giving)

- Donors Unrestricted
\$28,565
- Donors GTP restricted:
\$5,899
- Events:
\$66,642

Earned Income
\$24,432

TOTAL: \$1,614,588

EXPENSES

Admin/Fundraising:
\$307,590 (21%)

Services to Families:
\$1,143,880 (78%)

Grants to Parents
\$11,484 (1%)

TOTAL: \$1,462,954



GRANTS to PARENTS

During 2022–23, BEGINNINGS awarded 17 grants to parents for a total of \$11,483.95. The Sertoma Club of Raleigh, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), and other supporters make these grants possible; they are 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 an internal committee decides the amount of the awards. Here are just a few of the grants made during the year:



Isis

The Arden, NC family of Isis Raelynn Marie Mosely-Brown, who is now 2 years old, received a grant to help with the cost of her trips to the audiologist. Isis’s mom wrote, “She has a severe hearing loss in her left ear. One of her achievements is that she is very social and loves people. I think her upcoming cochlear implants will continue to help her develop and learn new things.”



Chase

The Creedmoor, NC family of Chase Lincoln Kastler, age four, received a grant to help with hearing aid maintenance and trips to the audiologist. Chase’s mother wrote, “We do not qualify for other funding sources. Chase is a very smart little boy who thrived with speech therapy. He is now signing and speaking about 200 words and started pre-Kindergarten. The grant would pay for speech therapy bills as well as any upcoming ear molds, batteries, and hearing related appointments.” In 2022, Chase’s little sister was also born with hearing loss, which increased the family’s needs for a grant.



Emma

The family of three-year-old Emma Massey lives in Lenoir, NC. They sought a grant to help her travel to auditory and ENT appointments in Hickory. According to her mother, Emma “has a wonderful speech therapist, but we pay out-of-pocket costs. Emma is thriving under the new techniques we have learned from the therapist, and the grant will help offset the cost.”

2022–23 Events for BEGINNINGS

BEGINNINGS held many fundraising and parent education events, including a Gala at North Raleigh Country Club; an Oyster Roast/BBQ at North Hills Club, Raleigh; and Meet ‘n’ Greets in Wilmington and Asheville.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Attendees at the spring 2023 Gala; Board Member Cayt Kirkman, ED Diane Doak, and Board Members Matt Archer and Denni Haywood enjoying the 2022 Oyster Roast; guests learning more about BEGINNINGS at a gathering at New Belgium Brewery in Asheville.

STAFF 2022–23

- Diane Doak, Executive Director
- Joanna Chantemerle
Director of Programs
- Kelleigh Bland
Lead Parent Educator
- Ellen Fort, Director,
Development and Marketing
- Deborah Stroud, Business Manager
- Mary Beth Sholar, Program
Administrator/ESSERF Coordinator

PARENT EDUCATORS

- Joan Burton
- Ale Casapia
- Sheri Little
- Erin Lucas
- Toni Malone
- Gheydis Paredes
- Wilma Rivera
- Karen Thomas