# Tuesday's Children

Keep the Promise to Never Forget

## **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**





#### A Letter From The Executive Director











Dear Friends,

As we remain ever-committed to delivering life-changing programs to all those directly impacted by the events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Tuesday's Children continues to expand the scope and impact of our work to other communities in need. We are proud to report on an oustanding year of strengthening our expanded services in Newtown, CT, to military Families of the Fallen, and to an increasing number of international youth impacted by terrorism around the world.

In response to the recognized need for long-term support for Families of the Fallen, we have increasingly directed our focus towards those families whose loved one answered the call after September 11th and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Important healing has been found by bringing together Tuesday's Children family members with Gold Star families. Tuesday's Children has made significant progress in establishing ourselves in the military community and is proud to serve the families of our fallen servicemen and women.

Our peacebuilding initiative, Project COMMON BOND, has now united more than 500 young adults from 21 countries, receiving national news coverage year after year. Our program for international chaperones encourages leaders around the globe to take our lessons learned in the 14 years after September 11th, and to utilize our model for long-term healing in their own communities.

Tuesday's Children's expertise is also exemplified through our partnership with the Resiliency Center of Newtown, which has implemented our distinguished long-term healing model and will soon become a stand-alone organization.

Fourteen years after the tragic events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, some of the youngest children impacted are only 13 years old and still need our help. With the increase in global conflict, from the Middle East to Eastern Europe, the need for our work around the world will continue to grow.

Thank you for continuing to help us honor those left behind by standing up for them this year and supporting our vital resilience-building programs. Your dedication, generosity, and continued support for the work of Tuesday's Children indicate that we are all here to *Keep the Promise* we made 14 years ago.

Warm regards,

Terry Grace Sears

Executive Director, Tuesday's Children

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Tuesday's Children was founded to promote long-term healing in all those directly impacted by the events of September 11, 2001. Our mission today is to *Keep the Promise* to those children and families while serving and supporting communities affected by acts of terror worldwide.

Today, **14 years later**, Tuesday's Children continues to provide direct services and continuous outreach to more than 10,000 individuals. We have created an unprecedented level of trust with families, which experts view as a prerequisite to delivery of effective long-term services. Our roster of programs is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of the families we serve.

Unique in our approach, our experience proves that we know what works – good relationships lead to real interaction and open dialogue, which, in turn, lead to effective family engagement and trust.

In partnership with international organizations who share our vision, each year we bring together young adults from all over the world whose lives have been drastically altered by an act of terrorism. Together, we can provide an opportunity for peacebuilding, healing through community, and a forum for dialogue of hope, dignity and change.

"Tuesday's Children's efforts to be there for all the families, to institute thoughtful and meaningful programs, and to really listen to us makes the healing easier and, most importantly, of greater quality."

— A Tuesday's Children Mom

#### WHO WE SERVE

Tuesday's Children continues to serve every person who lost a family member on September 11, 2001, first responders and their families; military Families of the Fallen; international young adults who have been directly impacted by acts of terrorism; and local communities, such as Newtown, CT that have been impacted by loss, utilizing our long-term healing model.

#### WHAT WE DO

Through our experience over the last decade and more, we at Tuesday's Children have learned much not previously known about implementing healing and resilience-building programs. Our challenge now is to build upon our proven methodology, elevate our platform of programs and services, and establish new ways to broaden our organization's reach and impact. Only then can we help individuals who have been similarly affected by other tragic events to heal and recover.

#### THE FUTURE OF TUESDAY'S CHILDREN

For more than a decade, Tuesday's Children has successfully and impactfully implemented a long-term healing model for children and families impacted by September 11, 2001. We are in the process of compiling this model into a publication that will share our experience creating and providing long-term services post-disaster, our knowledge of community building and successful outreach, and the many other lessons we have learned throughout the evolution of our organization. It is our sincere hope that this will inform future program development for community-based organizations, corporate or employee assistance programs, government agencies, and other service providers seeking to deliver effective long-term recovery services in response to tragedies in their own communities.



## **HEART TO HEART**

Project Heart to Heart is a three-day program where widows from Tuesday, September 11th and military widows come together to heal, grow and build lifelong friendships. Women with a similar bond share their stories using the evidence-based life skills program, Creative Insight, as the foundation for the activities.

"Sometimes we don't laugh because we think we need to act a certain way. Especially when you're in it the first year, or even the first six months, you're supposed to act like a widow. The label is on — 'You're a widow' — so, that means you're not supposed to be smiling, [but] it's OK to laugh, it's OK to cry, it's OK to move on, and it's OK to live, because we're still left here on this earth to live. And that's what we need to do."

- Project Heart to Heart Participant Dana, Military Widow

"Thirteen years seems like a long time, but when you're dealing with grief and a national tragedy that comes up every year, having the support of people living that world with us is extremely important."

- Project Heart to Heart participant Christie, 9/11 Widow





# PROGRAMS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN

Families of the Fallen and wounded veterans face many of the same struggles that we have witnessed working with 9/11 families and first responder families, including trauma, grief, and bereavement. Our family-focused programs provide support, life management skills, and a community of new friends to help build resilience.

Tuesday's Children's Families of the Fallen initiative provides programming, community support, and engagement to military Families of the Fallen. Like we did with the 9/11 community, we have begun providing family-focused support services addressing a variety of issues, including PTSD, trauma, and grief. Support services include community and family engagement, wellness programs, caregiver webinars, and family-focused physical activities, all of which promote healing and resilience-building while strengthening family dynamics.

### PROJECT COMMON BOND

Project COMMON BOND brings together teens, ages 15-20, from around the world who share a 'common bond' — the loss of a family member due to an act of terrorism, violent extremism or war. Launched in 2008, Project COMMON BOND has created an international community of teens and young adults from 21 countries and territories. In January 2016, Tuesday's Children will begin offering a Winter Session in conflict negotiation for alumni.

Through Project COMMON BOND "Our Past is Changing the Future." Participants in our summer peacebuilding symposium and our yearlong webinars engage in a dialogue of healing and community building, collaborate to promote the dignity of all, and learn conflict negotiation and peacebuilding skills, all to create positive change in their lives and communities.

#### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

- Healing through Community building resilience in youth affected by trauma
- Transformation through Education conflict resolution, dignity & peacebuilding skills
- Leadership Development –
   fostering positive change in home communities

## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES INCLUDE:

Algeria, Argentina, Croatia, England, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Morocco, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United States, with additional countries engaged for distance learning.











"To me, Project COMMON BOND is not only a place where I can feel safe with who I am and how I am feeling but a place where I can talk about the problems around the world without feeling judged and angry. PCB brings hope to everyone who joins the program. PCB is a lifetime memory. PCB is home."

– 2015 Project COMMON BOND Participant









### **HELPING HEALS**

"Those who engage in volunteer work experience a significant improvement in emotional well-being, self esteem, self worth and self efficacy. Importantly, volunteers develop a greater sense of purpose in life, achieve increased mastery over their lives and improved life satisfaction."

-Dr. Marylene Cloitre,
Professor of Child and
Adolescent Psychiatry at the
NYU Child Study Center and
a member of our Professional
Advisory Board

The Tuesday's Children Helping Heals program is a community service initiative that gives individual the transformational and rewarding experience of giving back to other communities in need. Research indicates that giving something back to the community helps improve psychological mental health.

Through this program, Tuesday's Children has connected youth and families with international, domestic and local community service projects and disaster relief programs. Participants learn craftsmanship skills from qualified professionals providing hands-on guidance and education, while making a measurable difference in communities in need.

## PAST PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Over the past few years, children and adults have participated in Helping Heals volunteer efforts for communities in need in Costa Rica; New Orleans, LA; Charleston, SC; Bay St. Louis, MS; and Austin, TX. Adults and teens have also participated in New York metropolitan area community service projects through New York Cares, Children for Children, CitiARTS, the annual September 11 National Day of Service, Veteran's Day of Service, NY Says Thank You, Philadelphia Children's Hospital, Make a Difference Day, and other notable organizations.





## CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

The Career Resource Center services are designed to provide young adults with tools and resources necessary to navigate the college, internship, and career processes. Throughout the year, participants may take part in a variety of programs to help start their professional life.

A number of major corporations have committed to offer internship and career opportunities for qualified applicants and have partnered with Tuesday's Children as career mentors. Our workshops in college prep, career planning, resume and cover letter writing, and interview techniques help students strengthen their college and job search process and help them to put their best foot forward. Each participant receives career advice specific to their career interests.





#### PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Seminars and workshops to build skills and share resources
- Internship, job placement, and shadow day opportunities
- One-on-one and group career coaching opportunities
- Networking opportunities with peers and mentors
- Exclusive LinkedIn community toolkits and resources for skill building
- Participation in our annual Take Our Children to Work Day

#### TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

In partnership with a diverse group of organizations, Tuesday's Children's Take Our Children to Work Day program is held each year. This program offers a unique opportunity to participate in a valuable workplace experience that allows a young person to envision their future through a practical, hands-on work day at a venue of their choosing. Since its inception, over 1100 children and 110 corporate partners have come together for a day of opportunity, creativity and inspiration.

"I learned a lot at the last seminar that I can use in my career. Each workshop taught me new skills and made me more relaxed about the whole interviewing process. It was very interesting to hear about the panelists' career paths and undergrad experiences. Each of them served as a tremendous career inspiration. Thank you for connecting me with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney where I will be working this summer!"

- Megan, Hired by Morgan Stanley for a summer internship after a skill-building workshop









## YOUTH MENTORING

The Tuesday's Children Youth Mentoring Program is designed to encourage and support mutually beneficial, longstanding relationships between adult role models and children ages 7-18. Having a mentor enables children to grow emotionally and socially, build resilience, and develop coping skills while encouraging them to make healthy choices. Mentors and mentees have fun engaging in community-based activities at least twice a month. Tuesday's Children also hosts mentoring events to encourage group dynamics, team building and community service throughout the year. The Tuesday's Children Youth Mentoring Program has served nearly 200 children in the years since September 11, 2001.

"

I will never forget my first trip to Van's house. On the ride there, all I could think was I hope this works out, I hope Van and his family like me, and I hope I can provide that extra support Van needs in his life. I am happy to say that the first year couldn't have gone any better. I owe many thanks to Tuesday's Children ... who provided me with the knowledge and tools I needed to succeed as a mentor for TC.

Today, I can comfortably say that I am a part of Van's family, and what a privilege it is to be part of such a caring and loving team. Like all mentor and mentee relationships, I have been able to provide Van the support he needs so that he can make the necessary steps to move forward in his life. Teachers have reported a tremendous improvement in his social skills, he made the honor roll for the first time and most importantly, Van has shown great improvement in his self-confidence and self-esteem. And, I almost forgot, not only did Van join the drum line, he was recently appointed section leader!

Thanks to Tuesday's Children for letting me be a part of such a great cause and I urge everyone to join forces with Tuesday's Children and help provide the support that is needed for many more families affected by acts of terror worldwide.

- Chris, Tuesday's Children Mentor





## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Engagement events are designed to strengthen resilience by building a community among families with similar experiences and introduce families to other Tuesday's Children programs and services. Tuesday's Children has partnered with many influential organizations to host programs, including family fishing trips, baseball events with the New York Mets and Yankees, ice skating events with the New York Islanders, basketball events with the New York Knicks, and special event initiatives with the New York Giants and Jets.

We see community outreach and engagement as our biggest success. Tuesday's Children's effective model to support a bereaved and traumatized population brings services directly to families within their social networks. Tuesday's Children has made a long-term commitment to support families at "each stage of life and recovery," and we have found that this family-focused approach is most effective in healing the community.

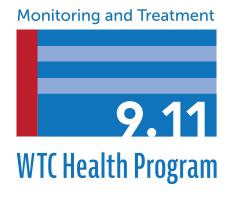
# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tuesday's Children offers crisis counseling, consultations, and referrals to all 9/11 children and families, and bridges mental health services and our wellness programs. Our services for children, adolescents, and adults include psychological assessment; individual and family counseling; support groups; and referrals to community resources.

# LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Tuesday's Children is here to help address the issues families face. We offer support programs for adults, including stress and life management programs, mental health and wellness workshops, parenting workshops, financial planning workshops, and career counseling.

Our renowned Creative Insight program helps participants develop personal and interpersonal skills for challenging life situations, encourages creative problem solving and enhances communication skills. This program was vital to the 9/11 community, and will serve the same purpose for the Families of the Fallen. Our parenting programs, developed in collaboration with nationally recognized leaders, address relationships between parent and child, as well as the unique needs of single parents caring for young children and adolescents, and parents functioning as caregivers to their spouses.



## THE FIRST RESPONDER **ALLIANCE**

The Tuesday's Children First Responder Alliance helps to address the ongoing and emerging needs of the September 11 responders and their families through innovative programs and services.

We have found that when we connect our First Responder families to other members of the 9/11 community there is a profound and positive impact on collective healing — many of our programs assist families in forming connections, developing support systems and assisting families in coping with chronic mental and physical concerns.









## RESILIENCY CENTER OF **NEWTOWN**

The Resiliency Center of Newtown is a program of Tuesday's Children, formed in the aftermath of the December 14, 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT. After three years of work together, the Resiliency Center will soon become a standalone organization, utilizing our Long Term Healing Model.

The Center was founded by a community member to help with the healing process and provide the resources so that every individual reaches their fullest potential. The Center is a welcoming place where people feel comfortable connecting with others and have access to appropriate services to assist in the healing process.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

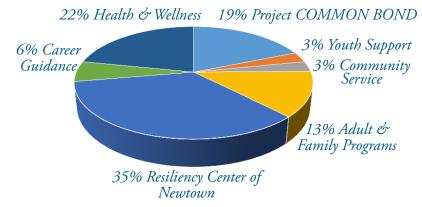
	2015	2014
Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$370,015	\$251,863
Contributions receivable	-	\$26,592
Grants receivable	\$89,942	\$60,971
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$46,317	\$20,277
Total	\$506,274	\$359,703
Liabilities and Net Assets Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued expenses Deferred revenue	\$79,173 \$2,100	\$92,637 \$608
Net Assets: Unrestricted Total Net Assets	\$425,001 <b>\$506,274</b>	\$266,458 <b>\$359,703</b>

## ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31	2015	2014
	Unrestricted	
Support and Revenue:		
Special Events Revenue	\$634,814	\$694,459
Less: Direct Costs	(\$243,440)	(\$325,761)
Net Revenues From Special Events	\$391,374	\$368,698
Contributions and grants	\$1,593,489	\$1,083,644
In-Kind Contributions	\$380,627	\$297,951
Program Revenues	\$48,967	\$64,362
Other Revenues	\$8,635	\$8,256
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,423,092	\$1,822,911
Expenses:		
Program Services	\$1,801,240	\$1,481,272
Management and General	\$134,110	\$144,468
Fundraising	\$329,199	\$258,704
Total Expenses	\$2,264,549	\$1,884,444
Change in Net Assets	\$158,543	(\$61,533)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$266,458	\$327,991
Net Assets, End of Year	\$425,001	\$266,458



## Leadership

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