



Charity Partner Testimonial Series: The S.E.A.L. Foundation

Kerry Peroni, President & Founder of The S.E.A.L. Foundation (KP): The mission and the vision of The S.E.A.L. Foundation is to help those who learn differently reach their true potential. We work to really put systems in place and work with administration and teachers to train them so that they know how to work with kids who learn differently.

Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, ED., Special Education Consultant at The S.E.A.L. Foundation (EF): I have the opportunity to come to The S.E.A.L. Foundation and have been able to do professional development opportunities for a lot of different schools and most recently I come to Trinity as a leadership coach for the principal. Then I also do a little bit of instructional coaching for the faculty.

Jennifer Roy, Head of School at Trinity Catholic Academy (JR): The impact of our partnership with The S.E.A.L. Foundation was immediate. With administrators, it's been working on our systems, making sure everything works together. With our literacy coach, working with teachers. And then of course, direct support for our students has been amazing; to see their growth in organization, in reading skills, in math skills. They're happy in school and we love that.

EF: Every child wants to do well. And all children do well when they can. So when they can't do well, there's a reason for that, and it's our job to figure out what that reason is and then help to program around that.

Lisa DeMarco, Special Education Teacher at The S.E.A.L. Foundation (LD): Well I work with students who have difficulty or struggle with reading. I was able to go through training and I do use this training when I work with students from 4th to 6th grade who are really struggling with basic reading skills. I wouldn't have been able to do those trainings without Rodman for Kids.

EF: Down at the lower campus, we have a little one. He always had the right answers; he's a great student academically. He just has really big emotions. So we worked with the teachers to put some things in place so that he could help himself manage his own emotions. There's a certain pride and dignity imbedded in really being able to take care of yourself.

KP: What you gain from being a partner with Rodman for Kids is unbelievable support. You can collaborate with other organizations that are bigger than yours, more seasoned, and you can learn from them. You can participate in different professional developments that they have that can help you personally and that can help your organization. They're able to help us raise funds so that we can, in turn, not have to say "no" when a child needs something.