

# PATRICIA M. SEARS

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

#### Public Affairs, Media Relations, Communications.

- Skilled advocate for coordinated strategies and unified communications.
- Extensive experience in connecting media to program goals, outcomes and organization's mission.
- Successful in pitching stories to internationally and nationally recognized newspapers, radio, television and internet news outlets, including but not limited to the BBC, Canadian News Service, *New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, National Public Radio, TV networks, and CNN.

*I have had stories placed in international, national and local media on topics ranging from post-tsunami reconstruction in Indonesia to women's healthcare in coffee-growing communities in Mexico to economic and community development of the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.*

#### Partnering for social change.

- Strong ability to build effective executive, staff, peer and partner relationships.
- Proficient in multi-cultural and competitive environments.
- Extensive experience in forming partnerships to leverage funding for key programs, and representing projects, programs and organizations to donors, the US and foreign governments, multilateral organizations, and the media.
- Designs and implements strategic advocacy campaigns locally, statewide, nationally and overseas.
- Deep knowledge of the US and UN political environments and key players.

*At the UN I led the coordination of international organizations during several UN Special Sessions on women and children; in Vermont, I co-chaired the Vermont Women's Fund's statewide anniversary event working with the event committee and corporate sponsors while managing statewide media relations.*

#### Results oriented.

- Recognized for organizational development and concrete results.
- Outstanding planning, organizing, monitoring, and follow-up skills.
- Proven track record of working in challenging environments, bringing diverse groups and cultures together for a purpose.

*While living in Indonesia for three months in 2005, I led the management of media relations, dignitaries' visits and special events for the one-year anniversary of the tsunami for International Save the Children Alliance member countries.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Northeast Kingdom Tamarack, Inc /dba/ NEKTI Consulting Lowell,VT 2001 – PRESENT

*Clients are socially responsible organizations working for social change*

- Newport City Downtown Renaissance Project
- Grounds for Health, Waterbury, VT
- Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT
- Save the Children – US, Westport, CT
- Vermont Public Television, Colchester, VT
- Federal Women’s Program Council of Vermont, Montpelier, VT
- Population Action International, Washington, DC
- Kell & Associates, Washington, DC
- Town of Lowell, Vermont
- Johnson State College, Johnson, VT
- Communications Consortium Media Center, Washington, DC
- Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center, St Johnsbury, VT
- Newport Community Justice Center, Newport, VT
- Centre for Population and Development Activities (CEDPA), Washington, DC
- Alabama AIDS Association, Birmingham, AL

Centre for Population and Development Activities (CEDPA)	Senior Advisor, Public Affairs & Special Projects	Washington, DC	1997 – 2001
Population Action International	Deputy Director, Media Relations	Washington, DC	1989 – 1997
Case Design & Remodeling	Director, Public Relations	Bethesda, MD	1988 – 1989
Special Olympics New York	Field Director	Rochester, NY	1987 – 1988
Wyoming State Training School	Public Relations Director	Lander, WY	1985 – 1987
Tri-Star Publications	Sales Manager	New York, NY	1982 - 1985
Fine Art Acquisitions	Sales Representative	New York, NY	1978 - 1982

## EDUCATION

1971 - 1975 St. Francis College, Loretto, PA

### Volunteer Experience: BOARD of DIRECTORS

Grounds for Health	Waterbury, VT	Elected	2004 – 2006
The Vermont Women’s Fund	Montpelier, VT	Elected, appointed Communications chair	2002 – Present
Northeast Kingdom Collaborative	Newport, VT	Elected, chair of the board	2002 – Present
Northeast Women’s Environmental Network	Montpelier, VT	Elected, member of steering committee	2002 – Present
Friends of Lowell’s Kids	Lowell, VT	Appointed coordinator	2002 – Present
Lowell (VT) Historical Society	Lowell, VT	Elected, secretary	2001 – Present
White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood	Washington, DC	Appointed, member of steering committee	1999 – 2003

*References upon request*