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Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2013

Open to Public
Inspection

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
 ▶ Do not enter Social Security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
 ▶ Information about Form 990-EZ and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A	For the 2013 calendar year, or tax year beginning _____, and ending _____	
B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	C Name of organization SPHERE, INC	
	Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite P.O. BOX 1136	
	City or town	State ZIP code
	RIDGEFIELD	CT 06877
	Foreign country name	Foreign province/state/country Foreign postal code
	D Employer identification number	22-2968009
	E Telephone number	(203) 775-1651
	F Group Exemption Number ▶	

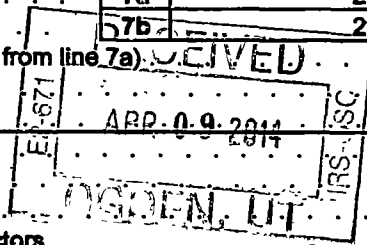
G Accounting Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual Other (specify) ▶ _____	H Check <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).
I Website: ▶ www.spheredct.org	
J Tax-exempt status (check only one) — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)() (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527	
K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. ▶ \$ **152,536**

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

	Description	Code	Amount
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	138,384
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	11,190
	4 Investment income	4	260
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	0
	6 Gaming and fundraising events		
	a Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
b Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b		
c Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	0	
Expenses	7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a	2,702
	b Less: cost of goods sold	7b	2,064
	c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	638
	8 Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8	
	9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	150,472
	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	9,550
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	8,860
14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14		
15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	4,838	
16 Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	57,806	
17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	81,054	
Net Assets	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	69,418
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	293,473
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	362,891

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Part II Balance Sheets. (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	228,933	311,263
23 Land and buildings		
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	64,540	51,628
25 Total assets	293,473	362,891
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)		
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	293,473	362,891

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III.)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III.

Expenses

(Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts, optional for others)

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED ADULTS
 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

28 <u>ADVOCATES AND RUNS PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ADULTS. PROGRAMS FOCUS ON DEVELOPING SOCIAL AND LIVING SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HOUSING</u> (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	28a	81,054
29 _____ (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	29a	
30 _____ (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	30a	
31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O) _____ (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	31a	
32 Total program service expenses. (add lines 28a through 31a)	32	81,054

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated – see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (If not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
Valerie Jensen Pres	Hr/WK 5.00			
Lori Berisford Chair of Board	Hr/WK 5.00			
S. Michael Steele Treas	Hr/WK 5.00			
Emily Pambianchi Director	Hr/WK 5.00			
Ruth Choplinski Director	Hr/WK 5.00			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			
_____	Hr/WK			

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V.

Table with columns for question number, question text, and Yes/No response boxes. Rows include questions 33 through 45b regarding organizational activities, financials, and compliance.

46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I. Yes No 46 X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51. Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II. Yes No 47 X
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E. Yes No 48 X
49 a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? Yes No 49a X
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization? Yes No 49b X
50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 5 columns: (a) Name and title of each employee, (b) Average hours per week devoted to position, (c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC), (d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation, (e) Estimated amount of other compensation. All entries are NONE.

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 3 columns: (a) Name and business address of each independent contractor, (b) Type of service, (c) Compensation. All entries are NONE.

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? Note. All section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A. Yes No [X] Yes [] No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here Signature of officer: S. Michael Steele Date: 3/20/2014 Title: Treasurer

Paid Preparer Use Only Print/Type preparer's name, Preparer's signature: SELF-PREPARED RETURN, Date, Check self-employed, Firm's name, Firm's EIN, Firm's address, Phone no.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions. Yes No [] Yes [] No

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No. 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization

SPHERE, INC

Employer identification number

22-2968009

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 2 A school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii). (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii). Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv). (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See section 509(a)(2). (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See section 509(a)(4).
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See section 509(a)(3). Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I b Type II c Type III—Functionally integrated d Type III—Non-functionally integrated
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box.
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?
 - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?
 - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of monetary support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									

Total **0**

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	20,324	60,979	54,295	131,069	109,574	376,241
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	20,324	60,979	54,295	131,069	109,574	376,241
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						148,920
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						227,321

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	20,324	60,979	54,295	131,069	109,574	376,241
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	101	104	513	583	260	1,561
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						0
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						377,802
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	15,857
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2013 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	60.17%
15 Public support percentage from 2012 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	58.85%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2013. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2013. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2013

Open to Public
Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

SPHERE, INC

Employer identification number

22-2968009

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Meals and entertainment: 199

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Fundraising: 4,151

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Equipment rental and maintenance: 1,190

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Supplies: 873

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Depreciation: 12,912

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: BANK FEES: 340

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: WEB SITE SUPPORT: 15,440

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: COMMUNITY PROGRAMS: 375

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: FILM FESTIVAL SUBMISSIONS & SUPPORT: 182

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: ADMISTRATION: 2,384

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: PROGRAM EXPENSE: 2,023

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: INSURANCE: 9,730

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: PUBLICITY: 475

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: HONORARIUMS: 1,500

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: MISCELLANEOUS: 1,916

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: BUS EXPENSES: 4,116

Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 24, Other Assets: 22 Passenger Bus: Beginning of year: 64,540, End

of year: 51,628