



TFACA

TENNESSEE FOSTER ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION



Annual Report

2018-2019

Table of Contents

Message from the President & Executive Director	3
Our Vision & Mission	4
Foster Care in Numbers	5
Programs	6
Financials	7
Board of Directors	8



Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association

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It is hard to believe that my first year as President of the TFACA has come and gone. I would never have imagined in 2016 when I joined the TFACA as the Knox Regional Director, that I would be able to serve our foster, adoptive and kinship parents in this capacity. I have been able to represent our membership on a national level at the National Foster Parent Association's Council of States Affiliates. With our Walk Me Home program, we continue to be the best organization in the United States to use Walk Me Home to consistently raise money to give back to the foster families and the children they serve. That is a tremendous accomplishment. In 2018, the TFACA was given a 10 year participation award by the NFPA for our faithfulness to the program. I have enjoyed developing deeper relationships with DCS, Harmony and the other private agencies by working on panels and workgroups. This combined effort worked toward creating more efficient procedures and curriculum for the foster parents in our state.

I promise in my next year as president to move forward the vision of TFACA for our members- that the children who come into care in the state of Tennessee will have the same advantages and opportunities as those children who do not experience the foster care system. Thank you for all you do every day. You truly are amazing parents.



Most sincerely,
Marion Rhines

One of the highlights of my position as Executive Director is being able to distribute almost \$10,000 in Walk Me Home Enrichment Funds to foster children throughout the state for extra-curricular activities and financial support in a variety of ways. These funds help fuel our mission to enrich the lives of foster children with opportunities.

We were also excited this year to announce the new policy change in our membership to extend our memberships for one full calendar year, no matter when you join! This new software will streamline our organization and serve as a way for you to view when your membership fees are due, update your information and find our applications and event registrations.

We could not do what we do without our members and always want to hear from you and the needs of your organization. We are grateful for all the work you do and want to help your local association grow and support your needs. We are here for you!



Sincerely,
Grace Davis

Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association exists to support and encourage Foster Parents so they can provide safe, secure, loving homes for the children who come into their care.

Our Vision

...is for children who come into care in the State of Tennessee to have the same advantages and opportunities as those children who do not experience the foster care system.

Our Mission

...is to help Foster Parents feel they are not alone. We motivate and support them to keep them fully engaged in the fostering community. It is also our Mission to recruit and retain Foster Parents.

TFACA is passionate about bettering the lives of foster children in Tennessee. We know that supporting the Foster Parents who parent those children is paramount in the success of each placement.

TFACA works closely with DCS to support their work to educate, support, and retain Foster Parents across the state. We encourage and motivate foster and adoptive parents, as well as any other interested member of the community, to work together to promote the general welfare of foster children. We assist in communication between foster and adoptive parents and others concerned with the growth and development of foster children. We serve as spokespeople for foster and adoptive parents and the children under their care and custody in Tennessee.

In our work with local associations, TFACA has the infrastructure in place to support Foster Parents across our state. TFACA's presence across the state allows us to identify trends and provide programs and services to address issues our Foster Parents are facing. With a commitment to strong partnerships to benefit Foster Parents, we work alongside them to address and resolve problems as well as seize opportunities to help our foster children grow. Our partners, among others, include local associations, the Department of Children's Services, and Tennessee Community Services Agency.

Active members must pay annual dues and have the right to vote and be eligible for election as officers or directors of the TFACA. Funding for operations also comes through a contract with the Department of Children's Services, Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign, individual and corporate donors, and through a series of "Walk Me Home" annual walks operated under the umbrella of the national Walk Me Home.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services: Foster Care in Numbers

8,368
Children in Custody

3,833 males
Ages 0-10 2,657
Ages 11-18+ 1,876

3,833 females
Ages 0-10 2,223
Ages 11-18+ 1,610

Above numbers as of
8/15/2019

2,474
Provider Homes

2,709
DCS Homes

Above numbers as of
8/12/19

Every DCS and Private Agency Foster Parent has the right to Advocate support and representation. The Advocacy Program offers trained and experienced Foster Parents to assist in advocating on behalf of other Foster Families in times of need. Advocates are available to answer questions, assist with concerns, and provide representation in order to protect and support Foster Parents and promote the safety and well-being of children. Advocates serve in one of twelve Department of Children's Services regions throughout Tennessee and also serve Foster Families should they be in need of representation during a SIU, Special Investigation. During this fiscal year Advocates fielded over 15,000 calls, emails, and texts. They also appeared over 1,235 times at Department of Children's Services meetings and court hearings to support foster/kinship parents and assisted with 685 SIU inquiries.



TFACA is committed to serving our foster families well through education and experienced advisors. The Mentorship Program recruits, supports, and seeks to retain good Foster Parents. The goal of this program is to partner new Foster Parents with seasoned ones to offer support and expertise. Understanding the foster care system and the role of the Department of Children's Services can be daunting. Mentors understand the various processes and can be an invaluable resource to new foster families. Led by TNCSA and the TFACA Regional Directors, the Mentorship Program is the place for foster families to gain confidence in their work with foster children. 418 mentor/mentee matches were made in 2018-2019. In addition, 33 new mentors were trained in 2018-2019.



The Kenneth and Maxine Fox Scholarship Fund is awarded each year to eligible foster children and/or eligible birth/adopted children of TFACA members. The scholarship is funded by the silent auction held at the Tennessee Foster Parent Annual Conference. In 2018-19, 14 students were each awarded \$1,000 for their continued studies.

The Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund offers a source of funding for extracurricular activities for foster children. TFACA wants all Tennessee foster children to have opportunities to grow, learn, have fun and express their unique self. The fund has covered athletic registrations, camps, musical instruments and a variety of lessons. TFACA hosted four walks across Tennessee this year to educate others about fostering issues and raise donations for the Fund. Almost \$10,000 was awarded to foster children.



Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2019

Revenue	
Membership Dues	7,344
Walk Me Home Events	27,298
Government Grants	25,000
Silent Auction	6,089
Conference Sales & Raffle	1,307
Contributions	5,587
Total Public Support	\$72,625
Expenses	
Walk Me Home Grants	9,969
Ken & Maxine Fox Scholarships	12,000
Walk Me Home Expenses	5,815
Administration	15,344
Membership Services	15,080
Conference Expenses	4,242
Board Meetings	5,053
NFPA Conference & Other Training	1,374
Travel	797
Operations	2,807
Promotional Expenses	777
Total Expenses	\$73,258
Increase in net assets	-633
Net Assets Beginning of Year	52,146
Net Assets End of Year	\$49,189

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Marion Rhines, President	Tricia Sholar, Mid-Cumberland Regional Director
Myra Cooper, Immediate Past President	Kiana Johnson, Northeast Regional Director
Chris Cook, Secretary	Jean Southall, Northwest Regional Director
Christy Johnson, Treasurer	Troy Wallach, Shelby Regional Director
Cheryl Hultman, Member At Large	Susan Spalding, Smoky Mtn. Regional Director
Susan Pneuman, Member At Large	Tammy Titus, South Central Regional Director
Maria Troche, Davidson Regional Director	Vacant, Southwest Regional Director
April Meyers, East Regional Director	Sandra Holder, TN Valley Regional Director
Danielle Bernard, Knox Regional Director	Candace Gossett, Upper Cumberland Regional Director

The TFACA Board of Directors is made up of the association officers and 12 Regional Directors - one for each Region recognized by the Department of Children’s Services. These Regional Directors have been charged with:

- **Building and supporting local associations in their area**

Local associations provide a forum for foster parents to obtain direction, education and support. The Regional Directors attend the local association meetings in their area and support, encourage and motivate in an effort to retain good foster parents across our State.

- **Educating and motivating foster parents**

Regional Directors inform our foster parents about changes in policy, programs and other pertinent information, keeping them current with changes in the system. This is done at the local level and through our Newsletter, “The Foster Parent Connection.”

- **Participating in and coordinating our Mentorship program**

Regional Directors work with TNCSA and the Department of Children’s Services to identify seasoned foster parents who are able to mentor new foster parents in their walk through the process of fostering.

- **Walk Me Home Event Coordination**

The Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund helps foster children and youth with extracurricular activities and special needs. The Regional Directors work alongside TFACA.

Board Liaisons

Odessa Krech, DCS Program Director, Foster Care

Anna Wiginton, Director of Foster Care and Resource Eligibility, DCS

Ronya Faulkner, DCS Director of Customer Services, Resource Parent Training

Jennifer McGhee, Program Director, TNCSA, Advocacy and Mentorship Training



We would like to extend a special thank you to our donors this year:

The Service Guyz

Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign

Jinks Concrete

Individual Donors

Walk Me Home Sponsors, Donors and Participants

TFACA is proud to partner with:



PARTNERING TOGETHER
FOR A BETTER TENNESSEE

This project is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee.

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