



TFACCA

TENNESSEE FOSTER ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



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Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association

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Members, Partners and Friends

As I look back at the past year, I feel very encouraged and excited about the work TFACA is doing in the Foster Care Community. And I am tremendously aware of the fact that we could not have accomplished all we did without our partners and friends.

As our 3-year Strategic Plan is about to close, I can say that we accomplished most of our goals! We are on a path of excellence in supporting our Foster Families across the state. We will be working on a new Strategic Plan in the coming months. I encourage you to reach out and share your ideas about how TFACA could better support you and other families in the state.

This is my last Conference as President of TFACA. I will move on to the Immediate Past President position and continue to support the organization as needed. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve you all. You are all my REAL LIFE HEROES!

All the Best,

Myra Cooper, Board President



What a gift it has been to serve in this capacity for the past year. It has been an honor to be able to help play a role in awarding \$12,000 in Walk Me Home Enrichment Funds to Tennessee's foster children and help them attend school functions, summer camps, football camp, soccer camp and more! We are delighted to see membership grow this year by 50% and are grateful to have each of you contribute to empowering the voices of foster families across our state.

A highlight of this past year was having an absolute blast at the Jaeckle Center last fall and learning cattle roping. We are thankful for their generosity and desire to raise awareness about the needs of foster care.

I look forward seeing us build on this year's momentum as we seek more ways to enrich, empower and support the work of our Foster Families.

Thank you for all you do,

Grace Davis, Executive Director



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 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

- 625 new foster homes approved as of June 30, 2017
- 567 new foster homes approved as of June 30, 2018
- 7,760 total number of foster care children in custody
- The total breaks down to 3,633 are female and 4,126 are male
- Ages 0-5= 2,844
- Ages 6-15= 3,671
- Ages 16-18+= 1,245
- As of 7/30/18 Mega report:
Full Guardianship 1,019
Partial Guardianship 286

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 14,000 calls, emails, and texts. They also appeared over 1,240 times at Department of Children's Services meetings and court hearings to support foster/kinship parents and assisted with 591 SIU inquiries.



"The advocate was very kind, encouraging and knowledgeable. We are thankful he was there for us."

the Mentorship Program



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. Almost 448 mentor/mentee matches were made in 2017-2018, an increase of 54 from the previous year. In addition, 52 new mentors were trained in 2017-2018.

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.

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 three 5K walks across Tennessee this year to educate others about fostering issues and raise donations for the Fund. Over \$12,000 was awarded to foster children, an increase of 50% of the previous year. This year, TFACA was awarded the National Foster Parent Association's 10 Year Participation Award.



Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2018

Membership Dues	\$15,437.00
Walk Me Home Events	\$24,792.00
Government Grants	\$25,000.00
Silent Auction	\$5,312.00
Conference Sales & Raffle	\$1,663.00
Contributions	\$1,440.00
Total Public Support	\$73,644.00
Expenses	
Walk Me Home Grants	\$12,166.00
Ken and Maxine Fox Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Walk Me Home Expense	\$5,584.00
Administration	\$12,975.00
Membership Services	\$12,975.00
Conference Expenses	\$4,977.00
Conference Scholarships	\$4,777.00
Board Meetings	\$5,487.00
NFPA Conference and Other Training	\$1,634.00
Travel	\$1,346.00
Operations	\$5,858.00
Promotional Expenses	\$1,796.00
Total Expenses	\$71,575.00
Increase in net assets	\$2,069.00
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$47,163.00
Net Assets End of Year	\$49,442.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

Myra Cooper, President	Tricia Sholar, Mid-Cumberland Regional Director
Marion Rhines, Vice President	Esther Peters, Northeast Regional Director*
Becky Rogers, Immediate Past President	Jean Southall, Northwest Regional Director
J.P. Peach, Secretary	Christy Johnson, Shelby Regional Director
Cheryl Hultman, Treasurer	Susan Spalding, Smoky Mtn. Regional Director
Vacant, Member At Large*	Vacant, South Central Regional Director*
Maria Troche, Davidson Regional Director	Johnna Burton, Southwest Regional Director*
Vacant, East Regional Director*	Chris Cook/Sandra Holder, TN Valley Regional Director*
Kristy Nenninger, Knox Regional Director*	Vacant, 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 to coordinate the 5K walk in their area, benefitting the Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund.

BOARD LIASIONS

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:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of TN

Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign

The Jaeckle Center

Jinks Concrete

Individual Donors



TFACA is proud to partner with:



Department of
Children's Services



**PARTNERING TOGETHER
FOR A BETTER TENNESSEE**

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