



# TFACCA

TENNESSEE FOSTER ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2016-2017



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**MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It is such a delight to be serving in this position. After ten years with the Georgia General Assembly as a Policy Analyst and over three working in an orphanage in rural Mozambique, it is a pleasure to be settled back in the South. I hope to bring my experience working in orphan care and extensive knowledge of state government to the round

table of TFACA, where everyone is welcome and all have a voice. It is an honor to work amongst the heroes that are the State of Tennessee's Foster Families. I love getting to see this selfless work firsthand. I am excited to serve in this new role and want to help TFACA grow and enhance our Mentorship and Advocacy Programs. I want to play a role in increasing awareness and raising funds so our foster kids will not be denied any opportunity to learn, grow and have fun!

TFACA has a unique opportunity to have the respect and listening ear of the Department of Children's Services. We are all working toward a common goal of providing the best possible care for our children. I love hearing from you. It is out of our complaints, concerns and identifying the broken parts that we can find solutions and repair our system to make it better. I also love hearing your stories. TFACA serves as a platform for you to have voice. It is your messages of hope and restoration that will draw others to get involved and support Foster care. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together.

Warm regards-



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 child-focused and our desire it to communicate to the world how important good foster care is to a child's future.

**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 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 are spokespeople for foster and adoptive parents and the children under their care and custody in Tennessee.

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.

With local associations under our umbrella, TFACA has the infrastructure in place to support Foster Parents across our state. Our Regional Directors are entrusted with the tasks of supporting the local associations and Mentorship Program in their region. Our Advocacy program provides support as-needed when our families are in crisis or under a SIU. TFACA presence across the state allows us to identify trends and through programs and services, address issues our Foster Parents are facing. With a commitment to strong partnerships to benefit Foster Parents, we work with 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.



Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
Foster Care in Numbers

\*930 approved Foster homes in 2016

\*724 approved Foster homes as of July 2017

\*8,853 children in custody as of July 2017 +/- 522 (children in and out same day)

- 2,392 children 0-5
- 2,400 ages 6-12
- 3,988 ages 13-19
- 1,094 children have full guardianship and 244 are under partial guardianship. (8/2017)

# Profit & Loss

## July 2016 – June 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
43400 - Direct Public Support					
43410 - Corporate Contributions	3,316.61				
43450 - Individ, Business Contributions	3,506.42				
Total 43400 - Direct Public Support	<u>6,823.03</u>				
44000 - Direct Public Support - WMH					
44100 - WMH Nashville Sponsors	6,416.00				
44110 - WMH Nashville Donations	785.00				
44200 - WMH East Sponsors	1,575.00				
44210 - WMH East Donations	542.00				
44220 - WMH East Registration	120.00				
44300 - WMH Memphis Sponsors	1,143.00				
44320 - WMH Memphis Registration	233.00				
44400 - WMH Chattanooga Sponsors	4,050.00				
44410 - WMH Chattanooga Donations	200.00				
44420 - WMH Chattanooga Registration	360.00				
Total 44000 - Direct Public Support - WMH	<u>15,424.00</u>				
44800 - Indirect Public Support					
44830 - TECC, Contributions	769.98				
Total 44800 - Indirect Public Support	<u>769.98</u>				
46400 - NFPA 80/20					
46430 - Silent Auction	7,534.21				
46440 - TFACA T-shirts	560.50				
46400 - NFPA 80/20 - Other	2,897.60				
Total 46400 - NFPA 80/20	<u>8,094.71</u>				
47200 - Program Income					
47230 - Membership Dues	8,778.21				
47240 - Corporate Membership	240.00				
47250 - Annual Conference	6,500.00				
Total 47200 - Program Income	<u>15,518.21</u>				
Total Income	<u>49,627.53</u>				
Expense					
60910 - Bank Fees	-10.00				
60930 - PAYPAL FEES	123.44				
62100 - Contract Services					
62150 - Contract Services - Website	1,201.25				
Total 62100 - Contract Services	<u>1,201.25</u>				
62800 - Facilities and Equipment					
62840 - Equip Rental and Maintenance	130.96				
Total 62800 - Facilities and Equipment	<u>130.96</u>				
65000 - Operations					
65010 - Books, Subscriptions, Reference	125.00				
65020 - Postage, Mailing Service	116.08				
65030 - Printing and Copying	775.75				
65050 - Telephone, Telecommunications	157.10				
Total 65000 - Operations	<u>1,173.93</u>				
65100 - Other Types of Expenses					
65110 - Other Expenses					
65111 - Annual Dues	190.47				
65112 - Annual Fees	80.00				
65110 - Other Expenses - Other	0.00				
Total 65100 - Other Expenses	<u>270.47</u>				
Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses	<u>270.47</u>				
65200 - Walk Me Home Program Expenses					
Total 65200 - Walk Me Home Program Expenses	<u>14,500.23</u>				
67000 - Ken and Maxine Fox Scholarship	3,500.00				
68300 - Travel and Meetings					
68310 - Conference Expense	8,562.79				
68320 - Board Meeting Travel	5,282.61				
68300 - Travel and Meetings - Other	2,736.69				
Total 68300 - Travel and Meetings	<u>16,582.09</u>				
Total Expense	<u>37,472.37</u>				
Net Ordinary Income	<u>12,055.16</u>				
Net Income	<u>12,055.16</u>				

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 the Tennessee Employee 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.

## PROGRAMS

The **Advocacy Program** offers trained and experienced Foster Parents to advocate on behalf of other Foster Families in times of need. Advocates are available to answer questions, assist with concerns, and provide support and representation. Every DCS and Private

Agency Foster Parent has the right to Advocate support and representation. Advocates serve in one of twelve Department of Children's Services regions throughout Tennessee. These Advocates work to protect and support the rights of Foster Parents and promote the safety and well being of children. Advocates serve Foster Families should they be in need of representation during a SIU, Special Investigation. During this fiscal year Advocates fielded almost 19,000 calls, emails and texts. They appeared over 1,000 times at Department of Children's Services meetings and court hearings to support foster/kinship parents and assisted with 636 SIU inquiries.



"My Advocate is one of the most encouraging and caring people I know. She is always available and gets back to you ASAP."

The **Mentorship Program** recruits, supports and retains good Foster Parents. Its goal 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 have been there and understand the process and are an invaluable resource to new foster families. TFACA is committed to serving our foster families well through education and experienced advisors. 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 400 mentor/mentee matches were made in 2016-2017. This number has increased by 171 since the last fiscal year. 25 new mentors were trained in 2016-2017.

**the  
Mentorship  
Program**



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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. An average of 6 students receive a \$1000 scholarship each year.

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 hosts four 5K walks across Tennessee each year to educate others about fostering issues and raise donations for the Fund.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myra Cooper, President	Vacant, Northeast Regional Director
Becky Rogers, Immediate Past President	Jean Southall, Northwest Regional Director
J.P. Peach, Secretary	Christy Johnson, Shelby Regional Director
Tammy Beaty, Treasurer	Susan Spalding, Smoky Mtn. Regional Director
Cheryl Hultman, Member At Large	Cheyenne Beal, South Central Regional Director
Maria Troche, Davidson Regional Director	Johnna Burton, Southwest Regional Director
Vacant, East Regional Director	Christopher Cook, TN Valley Regional Director
Marion Rhines, Knox Regional Director	Vacant, Upper Cumberland Regional Director
Ami Smith, Mid-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



TFACA is proud to partner with:



PARTNERING TOGETHER  
FOR A BETTER TENNESSEE