

# TFACA Annual Report

*Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014*



The Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association (TFACA) is a nonprofit organization that functions as an advocacy support group for resource parents throughout the state of Tennessee. We provide programs and services that create an environment that encourages and motivates foster and adoptive parents, and other interested members of the community, to work together to promote the general welfare of foster children. We facilitate communication and interaction between foster and adoptive parents and others concerned with the growth and development of foster children. First and foremost we are spokespersons for foster and adoptive parents and the children under their care and custody.

## CONTENT

Page 2: Message from TFACA  
President Becky Rogers

Page 4: About Foster Care  
TFACA's Role

Page 5: TFACA Programs

Page 9: TFACA Budget

Page 10: Board of Directors

Page 11: Board Members





# Message from the President

TENNESSEE FOSTER ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

The Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association, Inc. (TFACA), being mission driven and expert led continues to support our resource parents and seeks solutions that promote a positive impact on the most vulnerable people, our children.

With a strong 20 year history and a legacy of innovative support to Resource Parents, the stage for the future has been set. This year thanks to our partnership with DCS and TNCSA , for the first time we have an infrastructure in place to deliver advocacy coverage in all twelve regions. Additionally we have made significant strides towards achieving the highest standards of service for our Resource Parents.



Another landmark effort in the past year has been the successful start of the Mentorship Program. Due to the effective collaboration between DCS, TNCSA and TFACA, after several years of working towards this goal, we are now moving forward. As of this time we have the Mentorship Program in place in three regions, with expectations of having it established in every region across the state by June 30, 2015. We are very excited about what this program has to offer our Resource Parents.

Along with upgrading operational systems and protocols, we have purchased updated computer equipment and software to bring our accounting systems current. Our new data base system, among other options, allows us to send by e-mail our newly revised newsletter "The Resource Parent Connection". Every TFACA member, as well as other community partners who have provided us with an e-mail address will receive a copy.

We have established a new website [www.TFACA.NET](http://www.TFACA.NET) to better serve our members. We are continually updating, adding information and providing resources to keep our membership informed and equipped. I want to invite you to look at our *Historical* section and our *Resources and Benefits of Membership* section, in particular, as you acquaint yourself with the site.

Our 7th annual "Walk Me Home" events in Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville continue to grow and improve each year providing resources for our Enrichment Fund. This support allows our children in state custody to participate in activities important to them and enjoy their life. Note on page #7 of this Annual Report the success of the fundraising and the distribution of scholarships.

For deserving students whose parents are members of TFACA, and have graduated from High School to move on to higher education, The Ken and Maxine Fox Scholarships continue to be distributed. The Silent Auction at each Annual Conference continues to grow and makes possible 6 scholarships annually. Our partnership with DCS and The Training Department provides an excellent, relevant and high-quality Annual Conference every year. In working with DCS to design the event, we seek to provide informative speakers and the best training that encourages and equips our Resource Parents.

## Message from the President, Con't

It is through the support of the TFACA Membership, the hard work and commitment of the TFACA Board of Directors, and the strong bonds of state and community partners that we are able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable citizens, our children. By continuing to work together in partnership monitoring gaps in services and identifying trends we will always seek to continue to improve their lives by supporting you, their Resource Parents.

We have had a banner year in continuing to formalize and professionalize TFACA, and in doing so we are delivering services and support better than ever. We are looking forward to a year ahead that will surpass even what we have accomplished this year.

It is a privilege to serve each of you in this role. To Resource Parents, I continue to be committed to your growth and support in your selfless role; to our partners, our very best effort to achieve together what we cannot achieve alone; and to our friends, a commitment to positive results as we know your support and contribution is pivotal to making us better.

It is for our children.

Sincerely yours,

*Becky Rogers*







## About Foster Care

On any given day, there are approximately 397,000 children in foster care in the United States. In 2012, about 640,000 spent time in U.S. foster care. The average age of foster children is 9. Children remain in state custody for nearly two years on average and 9% are there for five or more years. In 2012, more than 23,000 young people aged out of foster care with no permanent home or family. These teens are more likely to become homeless, unemployed, a single parent and/or incarcerated as adults. *(from Children's Rights 2014: www.childrensrights.org)*

As of June 30, 2014, there were 8,008 children in Tennessee state custody. Of those, 2,350 were teens over the age of 16. There were 1051 children in full-guardianship, but the majority were in pre-adoptive homes. Of the resource homes in Tennessee, 3336 were DCS homes and 2624 were private provider homes. The biggest challenge is securing homes for teens, larger sibling groups (3+ children), and homes in rural areas. *(from John Johnson, Director of Foster and Adoption, DCS)*

## TFACA's Role

TFACA is passionate about bettering the lives of the foster children in Tennessee. We know that supporting the Resource Parents who parent those children is paramount in the success of each placement. We are committed to, and recognize the importance of Resource/Adoptive Parents and we are the spokespersons for them and the children under their care.

With 65 local associations under our umbrella, TFACA has the infrastructure in place to support Resource Parents across our great state. Our Regional Directors are entrusted with the tasks of supporting the local associations in each region and in supporting the 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 that our Resource Parents are facing. With a commitment to strong partnerships to benefit Resource Parents we work with them to address and resolve problems as well as seize opportunities. Our partners, among others, include our local associations, the Department of Children's Services, and Tennessee Community Services Agency.

In partnership and support from the Department of Children Services, and in consultation with Center for Nonprofit Management, TFACA is striving to professionalize and formalize the organization and the Board of directors to insure our ongoing ability to serve Resource Parents well into the future.

# TFACA Programs

Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association, Inc., is passionate about bettering the lives of the foster and adoptive children in Tennessee. We are committed to and recognize the *importance of foster/adoptive parents* in promoting the general welfare of our children. Our Advocacy Program began in 1997. This is the same year that the Tennessee Foster Parent Bill of Rights became law, which influences the way resource parents are treated in the State of Tennessee. The Advocates are experienced Resource Parents who are continually trained in order to provide up to date and relevant assistance, support and representation to resource parents in grievances and appeals with DCS. Currently, all 12 regions across the state have at least



Advocates are independent of, but work in partnership with DCS and TFACA.

Through TFACA's partnership with DCS and TNCSA, the *Advocacy Program* has been one of our banner programs. Though it has been around for some time, we feel that this year it has settled into a program that benefits the Resource Parents of Tennessee better than ever before. This is largely due to the contract with TNCSA and the diligent work they have done to strengthen the program. We value their continued efforts in helping us raise the level of integrity, honesty and openness in the Advocacy Program. Their transparent approach has delivered a professional program that is effective, with greater coverage in the state, and diligent service to our Resource Parents. Being Mission driven, TFACA sees this program as key to promoting the general welfare of foster/adoptive families and the children they serve.

*The Mentorship Program* is coming to life this year! In partnership with TNCSA and DCS, we have rolled out the program in three regions, and plan to have trained Mentors in all twelve regions by June 30, 2015. TFACA sees the Resource Parents as the most valuable asset in the lives of the foster children. Through this program we are committed to recruiting, supporting, and retaining good Resource Parents by educating them, partly through communication, relationship and active engagement with their Mentor.

one Advocate who is available to the Resource Parents should they have questions about DCS policy and procedures or should they need representation in an SIU. Under the direction of TNCSA, the

**TNCSA** is a public nonprofit, quasi-governmental agency created by legislation to respond to the needs of individuals, families and communities by coordinating and providing services across Tennessee under contract to state and local governments.

## Experience

Twenty-five years of delivering a broad range of quality programs.

## Convenience

Can contract directly with state and local governments without a lengthy bureaucratic process.

Can provide programs statewide or can customize local programs to meet community needs from their offices located in Chattanooga, Cookeville, Jackson, Johnson City, Knoxville, Memphis, and Union City.

## Accountability

Governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor with representatives from across the State. Under the oversight of the Department of Finance and Administration; audited by the Comptroller's office and by each department for which contract services are provided.

## Cost-Effectiveness

Offers cost-effective services with no direct state appropriations and no profit motive.

The goal of this program is to match new Resource Parents with seasoned Resource Parents who can help them understand the foster care system and how to best work with DCS. The Mentors develop relationships with the new Resource Families and help them to grow their knowledge in parenting foster children. The more these families feel supported, the more likely they will have positive experiences in fostering and in turn will remain Resource Parents.



Led by TNCSA and the TFACA Regional Directors in each region, the Mentorship Program looks is the place for resource families to gain confidence in their work with the children. Through Encouragement, Education and Support, parents gain a supportive resource in their Mentor, as well as competence. TFACA is committed to improving the knowledge and skills of the Resource Parents of Tennessee. We believe that a positive fostering parenting experience leads to positive outcomes for the foster children of the state of Tennessee.

*The Kenneth and Maxine Fox Scholarship Fund* is one of TFACA's banner programs. The Fox Scholarship is awarded each year to an eligible foster child and/or an eligible birth/adopted child of a TFACA member. The fund is a direct result of the money raised from the silent auction at each annual Conference. On average, 6 students receive a \$1000 scholarship each year. And this year we are awarding scholarships to 7 very deserving youth.



*Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund* continues to support our Resource families. Our 5K Walk Me Home events are a fun-filled way for us to raise the money for kids across our state. Last year we answered 21 requests for funds to help our kids with special items or events that are important to them. Please find the WMH Enrichment fund information on our website, [www.tfaca.net](http://www.tfaca.net).







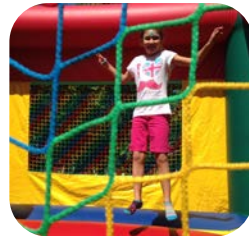
## Walk Me Home...to the place I belong

Created by the National Foster Parent Association, *Walk Me Home...to the place I belong* is the signature fundraising and awareness event for foster care in America. TFACA has participated in the Walk Me Home program for seven years by hosting four 5K Run/Walk events statewide. Monies netted by the walks are placed in TFACA's Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund, which provides financial assistance to Tennessee's foster children for enriching activities like school and church trips, musical instruments/lessons, and summer camps.

**Chattanooga** The Chattanooga Walk was at Riverside Park. Though the weather was quite wet, we still had a good crowd of all ages. Sandy Holder, RA from Tennessee Valley did a great job as our emcee. Face painting, animal balloons, door prizes, Fire Department and Highway Patrol with Mascot also made the walk a lot of fun for the kids. Several vendors in support of Resource Parents were there to represent their organizations. Jim Myhan, Regional Director Hamilton, made and posted signs to keep everyone on track and Kathy Thompson, Region Director Tennessee Valley kept the registration table moving. Eric Miller from DCS led the walk with a lot of enthusiasm. We had super help from DCS at the T-shirt table and Samantha Carroll brought a sorority volunteer group from Tennessee Wesleyan College to help with popcorn and snow cones. We want to thank Kathy Thompson and Sharon Putnam for their coordination and hard work in making this walk a success.



**Knoxville** In September 2013, the Knoxville walk was at Victor Ashe Park. We had a large number of participants and vendors in attendance. Several Regional Administrators attended and participated in the Walk. Kasey Beaty, Treasurer and Tammy Beaty, with TFACA manned the registration table. The Fire Department engaged the children and there were snow cones, popcorn, bouncy houses and balloons for the kids to enjoy. We experienced a challenge with WMH T-shirt distribution, but we have learned from the experience and have placed communication processes and procedures in place to prevent another occurrence. The experience paid off in 2014 and we want to share the great success.



In July 2014, Knoxville had another Walk at Victor Ashe Park. Though it occurred after the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, we feel that its success warrants mentioning in this report.



Jennifer McGhee from TNCSA, Program Director of the Advocacy and Mentorship programs, was our emcee. Kathy Thompson, TFACA Treasurer and Tammy Beaty, TFACA Corresponding Secretary, kept the registration table moving. It was pouring down rain, but we still had over 200 in attendance. We had a marching band and cheer squad cheering on the large group of walkers who persevered through the rain. Three Regional Administrators, Sherry Hale, April Anderson, and Julie Rotella were in attendance and competed on who had the most DCS employees present. It was a close race and the winner, Sherry Hale got her photo taken with a pig. Peggy Carroll, TFACA Advocate for this region and several others, mingled with and gave out her contact information to attendees. The local fire department and several vendors were there to add to the festive atmosphere of the rainy day. Ashley Westaway, title, led the walk and motivated everyone with lots of energy. This walk raised the most Enrichment Funds for our children. We attribute much of this Walk's success to our Coordinators Jennifer McGhee, with TNCSA, Jennifer Stamper, with DCS.

**Memphis** With the Shelby Regional Administrator, Merlene Hyman, and numerous DCS employees present, we had the largest crowd in the history of the Memphis walk. Willie Justice supplied the music going to keep everyone moving. The ISNS, Step Aside youth dance group entertained following the walk. Shelby County Sheriff and Fire Departments made their presence known. Tennessee State Trooper's also showed up with their mascot, Tenny C. Bear. Mr. Crutison and Shirley Richardson, a wonderful Resource Parent, kept things going at the registration table. Great job Memphis!



**Nashville** At the Bicentennial Mall, with over 200 in attendance, the Nashville Walk was a large success this year. We are grateful to J.P. Peach, TFACA Davidson Regional Director, for her leadership and attribute much of the success to her tireless efforts. For the seventh year in a row, wonderful music from the stage was provided by Jaime Fox Hardwick, while J.T. Cooper kept the show moving as emcee. Cindy Hogan, TFACA Mid Cumberland Regional Director and Tammy Beaty, TFACA Corresponding Secretary, manned the registration table. Stephanie Sexton and Odessa Krech with DCS, led the warm ups with their usual exuberance. Buddy Hooper from National Foster Parent Association brought his family to enjoy the activities of the day. Kay Overbey, Program Coordinator and John Johnson, Director of Foster Care and Adoption with DCS, participated in the walk and chatted with Resource Parents along the way. From bouncy houses to face painting and popcorn, fun was had by all.



*A special thanks to TFACA President, Becky Rogers and WMH State Wide Coordinator, Jack Coleman, for your work to keep the Walk Me Home program going.*

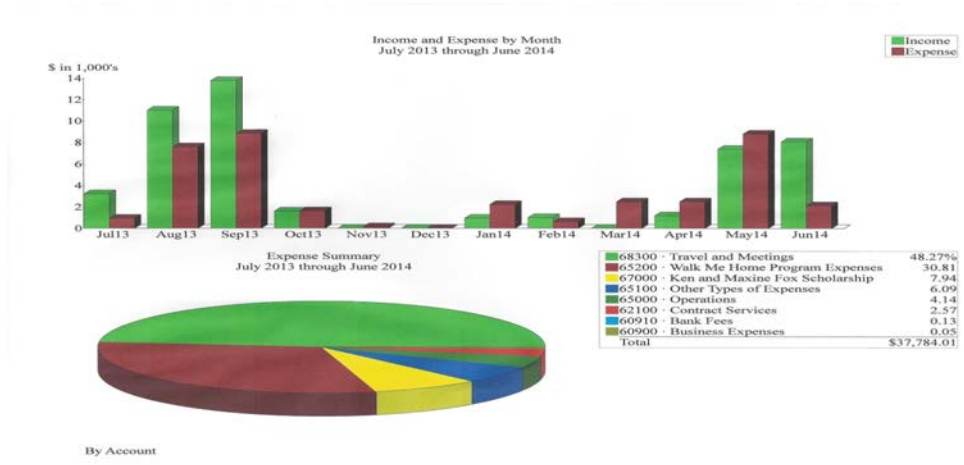


# 2013-2014 Financials

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Accrual Basis

## Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association, Inc Profit & Loss July 2013 through June 2014

	Jul '13 - Jun 14
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43410 · Corporate Contributions	7,152.00
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	
43460 · Walk Me Home Designated	14,200.86
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions - Other	10,039.32
<b>Total 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions</b>	<b>24,240.18</b>
<b>Total 43400 · Direct Public Support</b>	<b>31,392.18</b>
47200 · Program Income	
47230 · Membership Dues	16,726.42
<b>Total 47200 · Program Income</b>	<b>16,726.42</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,118.60</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>48,118.60</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
60900 · Business Expenses	
60920 · Business Registration Fees	20.00
<b>Total 60900 · Business Expenses</b>	<b>20.00</b>
60910 · Bank Fees	49.00
62100 · Contract Services	
62820 · Insurance Expense	971.25
<b>Total 62100 · Contract Services</b>	<b>971.25</b>
65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	32.00
65030 · Printing and Copying	717.29
65040 · Supplies	815.47
<b>Total 65000 · Operations</b>	<b>1,564.76</b>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65110 · Other Expenses	
65115 · T-shirts	1,802.00
65110 · Other Expenses - Other	497.88
<b>Total 65110 · Other Expenses</b>	<b>2,299.88</b>
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>2,299.88</b>
65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses	
65210 · WMH Requests	5,513.00
65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses - Other	6,126.60
<b>Total 65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses</b>	<b>11,639.60</b>
67000 · Ken and Maxine Fox Scholarship	3,000.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	2,601.98
68315 · Annual Conference	5,523.29
68320 · Travel	1,392.20
68330 · Advocacy Travel	1,114.02
68300 · Travel and Meetings - Other	7,608.03
<b>Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>18,239.52</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>37,784.01</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>10,334.59</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>10,334.59</b>



# Board of Directors

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

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

We currently have 65 local associations throughout the state who are under the TFACA Umbrella. The local associations provide a forum for resource 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 resource parents across our state.

## *Educating and motivate the resource parents*

Regional Directors informing our resource parents about changes in policy, programs and other pertinent information keeps them current with changes in the system. This is done at the local level and through our Newsletter, "The Resource Parent Connection".

## *Participate in and coordinate our Mentorship program*

This program is fairly new to our support list for resource parents. Regional Directors work with TNCSA and the Department of Children Services to identify seasoned resource parents who are able to mentor new resource parents in their walk through the process of fostering. While this program has been rolled out in three regions, it will be moving across the state in the coming year.

## *Growth and Development*

The Regional Directors are paramount in making sure that our Resource Families have the resources they need to support growth and development of the foster children of Tennessee.

## *Walk Me Home Enrichment*

The Walk Me Home Enrichment fund helps foster children with special things such as medical equipment not covered by TennCare, summer camps, band instruments, etc. TFACA currently hosts four 5K Walks across the state to help raise funds for this Enrichment fund. The Regional Directors help coordinate and facilitate each walk in their area.

# Board Members



**Becky Rogers**  
*President*



**Myra Cooper**  
*Vice President*



**Kathy Thompson**  
*Treasurer*



**Nancy Woodall-Grooms**  
*Immediate Past President*



In Support to the Board of Directors  
**Tammy Beaty**, *Corresponding Secretary*

## Regional Directors

**J. P. Peach**  
*Davidson*

**Dennis Armes**  
*East*

**Jim Myhan**  
*Hamilton*

**Catrina Beck**  
*Knox*

**Cindy Hogan**  
*Mid Cumberland*

**Vacant**  
*North East*

**Jack Coleman**  
*North West*

**Anntoinette Johnson**  
*Shelby*

**Vacant**  
*South Central*

**Maxine Chapman**  
*Southwest*

**Kathy Thompson**  
*TN Valley*

**Pat King**  
*Upper Cumberland*

## Board Liaisons

- John Johnson**, DCS Director of Foster Care and Adoptions
- Ronya Faulkner**, DCS Director of Customer Services, Resource Parent Training
- Cheryl Gillenwater**, Program Consultant, Tennessee Community Services Agency
- Jennifer McGhee**, Program Director, TNCSA, Advocacy and Mentorship Programs





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<https://www.facebook.com/TFACA>

