

TFACA Annual Report

The Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association (TFACA) is a nonprofit organization that functions as an advocacy support group for foster 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.

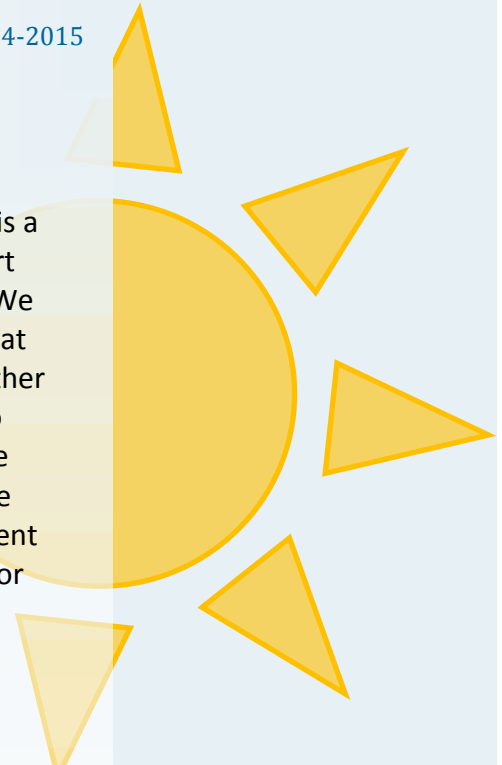


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Message from the President



Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

As this year comes to an end, I will be stepping down as your President. The last four years have been a roller coaster of emotions for me. I've experienced emotions of anger, fear, sadness, happiness, excitement and most of all love. I was ANGRY at the situation as I stepped into the President's position. The situation was no fault of one but of many. I was FEARFUL of upsetting the apple cart by asking difficult questions and challenging the answers. I was SADDENED to see the loss of interest in making and keeping our state and local associations great. I am HAPPY to have been able to build relationships with our partners and many individuals which will benefit all participants, especially our children. I am EXCITED to see TFACA moving forward, putting an infrastructure in place that will sustain and grow

not only our statewide association, TFACA, but local associations in each region. I feel great LOVE for the work we all do, as I have traveled across the state.

The Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association has worked diligently with the Department of Children's Services and Tennessee Community Services Agency to implement the new Mentorship program across Tennessee. We've worked in partnership to restructure our Advocacy Program providing greater services to our Foster Families across the state.

The Tennessee foster Adoptive Care Association and partners have continued to grow the Walk Me Home 5K Events across Tennessee providing benefits to foster families and to our children through the Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund. This program also spreads awareness about foster care in to the communities.

The TFACA Board has restructured the state association, providing better operations and services to our members. Mission driven and expert led, we continue to grow and improve as we move forward with LSLS: Local Associations, Statewide Mentorship Program, Leadership Institute and Strategic Plan.

I can relate to children as they come into foster care, as the emotions I have felt are much like those of children taken into custody. ANGRY at the situation they have been put in, FEARFUL of the unknown and the new home they will be sharing, SADDENED at the loss of their parents, home, friends, everything, HAPPY to have safety and security, EXCITED for the new things they receive, but most of all they feel the LOVE they receive from YOU, their foster parents.

As we go on with the work we do in whatever capacity you may be, a foster parent, a worker, the low man on the pole or the highest in the sky do so with a Positive Attitude. Whatever happens in life is a small part of what happens to you and a great part of how you react to it. "Everyone brings joy to this area, some by entering and some by leaving." Attitudes are contagious! Is yours worth catching? Today is the tomorrow that worried you yesterday and all is well! Life can be likened to a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you depends on you."

Your life is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God!

Thank you for having allowed me to serve as your President for the past four years.

Sincerely,

Becky Rogers

President, Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association, Inc.





TFACA's Role in Foster Care

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

With local associations under our umbrella, TFACA has the infrastructure in place to support Foster Parents across our great 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 that 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. Our partners, among others, include our local associations, the Department of Children's Services, and Tennessee Community Services Agency.

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 1,051 children in full-guardianship, but the majority were in pre-adoptive homes. Of the foster homes in Tennessee, 3,336 were DCS homes and 2,624 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)*

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-six 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.

TFACA Programs

Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association, Inc., committed to and recognize the **importance of foster/adoptive parents** in promoting the general welfare of our children. Our Advocacy Program began the same year that the Tennessee Foster Parent Bill of Rights became law, 1997. This law influences the way foster parents are treated in the State of Tennessee.

Advocacy

The Advocacy Program has been one of our banner programs. It is designed to help in times of crisis or special needs. The Advocates are highly trained experienced Foster Parents who are available to answer questions, assist with concerns that a Foster Parent may have, and advocate on their behalf. They receive specialized training to assist other Foster Parents in communicating effectively with their DCS family service worker. On those rare occasions when communications fails, Advocates will assist Foster Parents in filing grievances and appeals.

Currently, all 12 regions across the state have at least one Advocate who is available to the Foster Parents should they have questions about DCS policy and procedures or should they need representation in an SIU. Under the direction of TNCSA, the Advocates are independent of, but work in partnership with DCS and TFACA. Through TFACA's partnership with DCS and TNCSA, the Advocate program is paramount to promoting the general welfare of foster/adoptive families and the children they serve. It should also be noted that this program has been recognized outside of the State of Tennessee, and other States have modeled or adapted similar programs based on the work that was begun by TFACA in 1997.

Something new that was developed in 2015 for the Advocacy Program is a position call an Advocate Relations Specialist. This position is responsible for the public relations initiatives for the Advocacy and Mentorship Programs. The Advocate Relations Specialist will work in conjunction with DCS, TFACA, and TNCSA to create, manage and implement PR activities with the goal of expanding statewide foster parents' knowledge of the Advocacy and Mentorship Programs. Our goal is to locate two qualified persons to fill this position by the end of 2015. Anyone that is interested is urged to contact the Advocacy and Mentorship Program Director, Jennifer McGhee, at 865-314-9422.



Mentorship

The Mentorship Program is designed to guide new Foster Parents through the rocky waters of the DCS tidal wave, sort of like white water rafting! Despite the thrill of rafting there are always rocks lurking underneath the water. An experienced guide can maneuver around the rocks while allowing the "rafters" the pleasure of being on the water. Mentors basically do the same thing. They explain the pitfalls, heartaches, and joys of foster parenting and demonstrate proper ways to navigate the waters while enjoying the parenting process.

The goal of the Mentorship Program is to recruit, support and retain good foster parents by educating them, actively engaging with them and partnering as a Mentor. This program is available statewide for all new foster parents. Its' focus is to match new Foster Parents with seasoned Foster Parents who can help them understand the foster care system and how to best work with DCS. The Mentors develop relationships with the new Foster Families and help them to grow more knowledgeable and assured 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 Foster Parents. 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 Foster Parents of Tennessee.

Led by TNCSA and the TFACA Regional Directors in each region, the Mentorship Program is the place for foster families to gain confidence in their work with foster children. As of September 2015, the Mentorship Program is fully operational in 6 regions. Training of mentors is taking place in the other 6 regions and will be fully operational by the end of 2015. There have been 102 foster parents trained as mentors since January 2015, and we hope to double that number in 2016.



Scholarships

The **Kenneth and Maxine Fox Scholarship Fund** is awarded each year to eligible foster children and/or an eligible birth/adopted children of TFACA members. 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.



Enrichment Grants



The **Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund** directly impacts the lives of Tennessee’s foster children by providing a source of funding for enriching activities and emergency needs, such as school trips, music lessons/instruments, athletic fees and therapeutic camps. TFACA hosts four 5K Walks across the state each year to educate the public about fostering issues and raise donations for the Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund. The 2015 walks raised over \$20,000 and TFACA has awarded over \$13,000 in Walk Me Home grants.



Nashville - The first walk of the year was again held at Bicentennial Mall. Our emcee, Teron Carter, did a great job. *Jaime Fox and the Desert Okies* provided music during the event. Rachel Rodriguez provided a wonderful children’s program with her own music and Davidson Resource Linkage donated door prizes for all the children. The weather was beautiful and we had over 200 in attendance.



Chattanooga - Tennessee Riverpark – Hubert Fry Center was the location of this walk. The kids enjoyed popcorn, snow cones and face painting. Sandy Holder, RA for Tennessee Valley, was there to participate in the walk and hand out awards.



Memphis - Overton Park was the site for the west side walk this year. There was a DJ for music, ISNS Step Aside youth dance group and bounce houses for entertainment. Merlene Hyman, RA for Shelby Region, and Tammy Williams, Deputy RA, were in attendance and joined in the walk and the dancing. Great walk Memphis!

East – This was the first year that Springbrook Recreation Center in Alcoa was the venue for the East WMH event, and it was a wonderful success. There was a dunking machine, face painting, lots of donated food, lots of enthusiastic walkers and several vendors to fill the park. Kim Hansard from STAR 102.1 was on hand to emcee the day.

TFACA would like to recognize Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee for their sponsorship of all four Walk Me Home events. The SelectKids program is vital to our fostering community and we appreciate BCBST’s participation and support of Walk Me Home.

2014-2015 Financials

Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Care Association, Inc. Profit & Loss July 2014 through June 2015

	<u>Jul '14 - Jun 15</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43410 · Corporate Contributions	6,044.93
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	
43460 · Walk Me Home Designated	24,171.43
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions - Other	194.49
Total 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	<u>24,365.92</u>
43400 · Direct Public Support - Other	125.00
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	<u>30,535.85</u>
46400 · Other Types of Income	
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue	14,276.79
46400 · Other Types of Income - Other	147.12
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	<u>14,423.91</u>
47200 · Program Income	
47230 · Membership Dues	13,221.91
47240 · Corporate Membership	25.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	<u>13,246.91</u>
Total Income	<u>58,206.67</u>
Gross Profit	58,206.67
Expense	
60900 · Business Expenses	
60920 · Business Registration Fees	22.25
60900 · Business Expenses - Other	72.25
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	<u>94.50</u>
60910 · Bank Fees	74.20
62100 · Contract Services	
62150 · Contract Services - Website	431.80
Total 62100 · Contract Services	<u>431.80</u>
65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	141.00
65030 · Printing and Copying	2,741.18
65040 · Supplies	630.86
Total 65000 · Operations	<u>3,513.04</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65110 · Other Expenses	
65115 · T-shirts	798.00
65110 · Other Expenses - Other	3,600.13
Total 65110 · Other Expenses	<u>4,398.13</u>
65160 · Other Costs	567.00
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>4,965.13</u>
65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses	
65210 · WMH Requests	14,495.44
65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses - Other	6,276.35
Total 65200 · Walk Me Home Program Expenses	<u>20,771.79</u>
67000 · Ken and Maxine Fox Scholarship	5,000.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,267.39
68315 · Annual Conference	6,122.56
68320 · Travel	5,567.84
68300 · Travel and Meetings - Other	8,497.59
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings	<u>21,455.38</u>
Total Expense	<u>56,305.84</u>
Net Ordinary Income	1,900.83
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
80000 · Ask My Accountant	65.80
Total Other Expense	<u>65.80</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-65.80</u>
Net Income	<u>1,835.03</u>

Board of Directors



Becky Rogers



Myra Cooper



Kathy Thompson



Nancy Woodall-Grooms



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

Welcome Cheryl Hultman!
Board Member at Large



Board Liaisons

John Johnson, DCS Director of Foster Care and Adoptions

Tyran Copeland, Program Coordinator, DCS Liaison

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

Cheryl Gillenwater, Program Consultant, Tennessee Community Services Agency

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

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".

Participate in and coordinate our Mentorship program

This program is fairly new to our support list for foster parents. Regional Directors work with TNCSA and the Department of Children Services to identify seasoned foster parents who are able to mentor new foster 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 foster families have the resources they need to support growth and development of the foster children of Tennessee.

Walk Me Home Event Coordination

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. The Regional Directors work with TFACA to coordinate a 5K walk in their area, benefitting the Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund.

Regional Directors

Davidson — J.P. Peach

East — Vacant

Knox — Megan Sooter

Mid-Cumberland — Cindy Hogan

North East — Jerry Taylor

North West — Robert Gilliam

Shelby — Maurice Crutison

Smokey Mountain — Susan Spalding

South Central — Vacant

South West — Maxine Chapman

TN Valley — Anna Protano-Biggs

Upper Cumberland — Vacant



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