



Advocate

December 2018

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December Is a Month of Celebration

The holiday season has begun, with the holiday that is probably best for our mental health, Thanksgiving. Celebration, like gratitude, is important to building resilience against life's stressors, and shared celebrations bring us together.

TCCY has a lot to celebrate this year. We welcomed two additional programs, with their staffers, into our fold: The state resource directory and information source, kidcentral tn (Jonquil Newland) and the Tennessee Child Wellness Council (Cory Bradfield).

We really have too much to list in a newsletter. Please remember to make sure your regional council membership is up to date to keep up with TCCY successes, as well as those of child advocates across the state, throughout the year.

Please join us in celebrating and take time in this season to celebrate your own work on behalf of children.

Campbell, P., *Psychology Today*, **Why You Should Celebrate Everything**, <http://bit.ly/2PWE5N3>.

Carmody, B., Inc., **3 Reasons Celebrating Your Many Accomplishments is Critical to Your Success**, <http://bit.ly/2Q0OG9B>.

Make any day year round a celebration with Kool and the Gang, **Celebration**, YouTube, <http://bit.ly/2Rqy1vI>.

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Smart Sharing

The end of the year most of us get requests for funding from agencies doing, or at least claiming to do, good work. Most of us in social services donate to agencies we know and love; however, the needs are great, as is our desire to help. Resources exist to help donors make sure their money is used effectively to address problems. [Charity Navigator](#) and [Charity Watch](#) evaluate nonprofit organizations' financial integrity.

[Organizations or individuals](#) (not employees) who obtain contributions solicited from the public for charitable purposes in Tennessee are required to file financial annual reports with the [Tennessee Secretary of State's](#) office, unless they are exempt from the law (religious and educational organizations, hospitals, etc.) or [raise less than \\$30,000 per year](#).

Financial statements for registered organizations, as displayed below, may be searched for on the agency website. Note especially the left column percentages. The percentage for "program services" should be the highest amount, and that for "Fundraising" should be much smaller.

Status: Registered
Expires: 11/27/2018

Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2016	Amount	Total	Percentage
Beginning Balance:		1,641,817	
Public Contributions	1,042,484		92%
Government Grants	0		0%
Program Fees	43,845		4%
Special Events	0		0%
Sales	0		0%
Other Revenue	46,274		4%
Total Revenue		1,132,603	
Program Services	-1,077,955		82%
Special Events-Expenses	-0		0%
Cost of Goods Sold	-0		0%
Management and General	-133,369		10%
Fundraising	-95,398		7%
Other Expenses	-0		0%
Total Expenses		-1,306,722	
Excess/Deficit		-174,119	
Other Changes to Balance		86,855	
Ending Balance		1,554,553	

A simple way to research groups you are thinking of giving to is to search the internet. As with any information found online, rely only on sources you recognize as legitimate.

Funds may be collected for emergency situations. Tennessee law requires anyone setting up an account to assist individuals facing a catastrophic illness to file with the Secretary State's Office. Any organization that solicited \$25,000 for disaster relief is also required to file.

Charity Navigator, **Giving is Good. Smart Giving is Great!** <http://bit.ly/2RjbUoe>.

Tennessee Secretary of State's Office, **Financial Reports for Registered Charities**, <http://bit.ly/2RiwDIR>.

Tennessee Secretary of State's Office, **Charitable Organization FAQs**, <http://bit.ly/2RpOOMs>.

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Funding Social Services

The economy, elections and changes in tax law all affect charitable giving. Research has found, despite the heralded big donations by the very rich, as a general rule higher income people give a smaller percentage of their income (1.3 percent) than do those in the lowest income quintile (3.2 percent). Higher income individuals are more likely to support arts and higher education rather than programs helping those with basic needs.

Changes in income distribution and the widening gap between rich and poor are contributing to an increase in the dollar amounts of donations by the wealthy and foundations as compared to those of middle and lower income individuals. Combined with cuts in government funding, this can have a negative effect on our communities' ability to help their most needy.

One response to these changes is the rise of social entrepreneurship. [Thistle Farms](#), which funds services to help women recover from prostitution, is perhaps the best known local social enterprise, although linking a business to services is as old as Goodwill thrift shops. [Belmont University](#) now offers an undergraduate degree in social entrepreneurship, and Vanderbilt hosts the [Turner Family Center for Social Ventures](#). Nashville is home to a chapter of the [Social Enterprise Alliance](#).

Another effort to increase funding for services, [Giving What We Can](#), asks people to pledge to give 10 percent of their income. It also has options for people who cannot meet this goal. Donors can allow their names to be listed as part of the community and as a spur to fulfill their pledges.

Stern, K., *The Atlantic*, **Why the Rich Don't Give to Charity**, April 2013, <http://bit.ly/2PYiCTP>.

Rooney, P., *Nonprofit Quarterly*, **The Growth in Total Household Giving Is Camouflaging a Decline in Giving by Small and Medium Donors: What Can We Do about It?** Nov. 21, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2PYmW5E>.

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From kidcentral tn: Adaptive Toys for Children with Disabilities

Adaptive toys allow children with disabilities the opportunity to have experiences they may not be able to otherwise. As technology has improved, there are methods of adapting toys so that children

with disabilities can enjoy and interact with a toy that many may not have thought possible. Finding or adapting your current toys isn't as hard as you'd think! Each year, [the Technology Access Center](#) in Nashville hosts a Toy Adaption Day. The event takes place each December, just in time for holiday gifts!

When a child with disabilities is having trouble using a particular toy, it may be time for some toy adaptations. For example, switches. A [switch](#) works like an on/off button. It's connected to a battery-operated toy or electrical appliance and lets a child safely and easily turn the item on or off. Many different types of toys can be adapted for use by children with differing abilities. In order to connect to an electrical appliance, such as a lamp or a fan, additional hardware is needed. You can find a few examples of this kind of hardware by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

Almost any kind of book or puzzle can be adapted for children with special needs. For example, books with sturdy pages, also known as board books, can have page turner tabs and bookstands added to help children with disabilities read on their own. When it comes to arts and crafts, parents are encouraged to use large crayons and markers while utilizing hand grips. Click [here](#) for more ideas on adaptive art supplies.

Excerpted from kidcentral tn's "Adaptive Toys for Children with Disabilities and General Toy Safety."

Newland, J., kidcentral tn, Adaptive Toys for Children with Disabilities and General Toy Safety, <http://bit.ly/2RfmKLQ>.

NOTE: Your one stop source for information on state services for children and helpful information for parents and caregivers is [kidcentral tn](#).

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KIDS COUNT Report Looks at Youth Transitioning from Foster Care Nationally and in Each State

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released *Fostering Youth Transitions*, a data brief that highlights the most comprehensive data set ever collected across all 50 states to assess how young people fare as they transition from foster care to adulthood. The brief gives a snapshot of how young people are served during foster care and leading up to this transition.

Among the findings, the data show that young people transitioning from foster care across the country are lagging their peers in completing high school and gaining employment.

Fostering Youth Transitions is available at <https://www.aecf.org/resources/fostering-youth-transitions/>.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council Annual Report, October 2018 is available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/ytac/yt-ar-18.pdf>.

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Children's Advocacy Days: CAD Tennessee: Ideas Worth Sharing



The 2019 Children's Advocacy Days will be March 12-13, 2019. Its focus will be "Ideas Worth Sharing, Advocate, Collaborate, Educate." TCCY will be recognizing several people, including with the Youth Excellence award for youth who have successfully moved past their contact with juvenile court and the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award.

Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award Nomination:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/cad/aw-pryor19.pdf>.

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TCCY Legislative Advocacy Information

Governor-elect Bill Lee is building his team, including retaining Human Services Commissioner Danielle Barnes and Marie Williams, commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

The 111th General Assembly of the Tennessee State Legislature will reconvene on January 8. Thirty-two of the 132 members, 28 House members and four senators (including Brenda Gilmore, who previously was a representative), will be new, with two more to be added. Voting will begin in January to replace Sen. Mark Norris, whose appointment to a federal judgeship has been confirmed. Another new senator will be appointed to serve out the rest of Sen. Mark Green's term. Green was elected to Congress.

TCCY will be at the Capitol observing these changes and sharing information with advocates.

Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee **legislative updates** and the **Advocate** at

<https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

Sign up to receive TCCY **federal policy information** by following the instructions at

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocacy-policy/federal-advocacy-issues/leg-listserv.html>.

TCCY's **Budget Recommendations** are also available.

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Update



Drake-Croft



Paling

Jenn Drake-Croft, TCCY's director of Early Childhood Well-Being was honored by the Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education with the TACEE Service Award, which recognizes proven advocates for children.

Kristi Paling, Upper Cumberland regional coordinator, was recognized for her "leadership, dedication and advocacy in child passenger safety" at the 31st annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and The Governor's Highway Safety Office.

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Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., "**The It City and Its Schools: How Nashville Made and Remade Inequality**," University School of Nashville, 2000 Edgehill Ave., Nashville. Columbia University Associate Professor Ansley T. Erickson shares from her book, *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits*. Free. Information: 615-327-3877.

Dec. 6th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., **Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council** and the Memphis/Shelby County Juvenile Justice Board will host a **Legislative Reception**, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Memphis Juice Plus+ Technical Training Center. Speaker: Dr. Altha Stewart, the first African-American president of the American Psychiatric Association (APA). Refreshments provided Boys and Girls Club's Culinary Arts Program. Register: <http://bit.ly/2QNFuBY>.

Dec. 7, 8:15 a.m. to 12 noon, **Northwest Council on Children and Youth "How to Maintain, Sustain and Regain Yourselves and Your Employees,"** 2nd Floor Ballroom, Boling University Center, U.T. Martin. Dustin Keller, guest speaker. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15. Presentation begins at 8:45. Free to council members. \$20 registration fee includes council membership. Information or registration: Dana.Cobb@tn.gov.

Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Legislative Breakfast**, Cookeville Higher Education Campus, Noble Cody Hall, 1000 Neal St., Cookeville. The program will focus on advocacy information and tools. Register: <http://bit.ly/2B50GOB>. Info: Kristi.Paling@tn.gov or 931-646-0955.

Dec. 11-12, **Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations Annual Conference: Technology and Behavioral Health: "The Good, The Bad, The Unknown";** Marriott Cool Springs Hotel; Franklin. Information: www.tamho.org/tamho-2018-annual-conference. Register: <http://bit.ly/2K6odBp>.

Dec. 14, 8 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., **East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth Legislative Breakfast**, Kingston Hall, Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Rd., Knoxville. Breakfast buffet included. Featured speakers include Judge Tim Irwin and TCCY Executive Director Richard Kennedy. Sponsored by Cornerstone. Register at <http://bit.ly/2KaR4Vr>.

March 12-13, **Children's Advocacy Days, "CAD Tennessee: Ideas Worth Sharing,"** War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov

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In the News

Mason, D., *Nonprofit Quarterly*, **Yes, You Can-and Should! Nonprofit Advocacy as a Core Competency**, Nov. 8, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2PTMBfM>.

Mozes, A., WebMD, **"Sharp Rise Seen in Kids' Mental Health ER Visits,"** Nov. 2, 2018, <https://wb.md/2R4yDEw>.

Weathersbee, T., *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **"Expensive Jail Calls Are a Crime Against Children of Incarcerated Parents,"** <http://bit.ly/2RwNcAS>.

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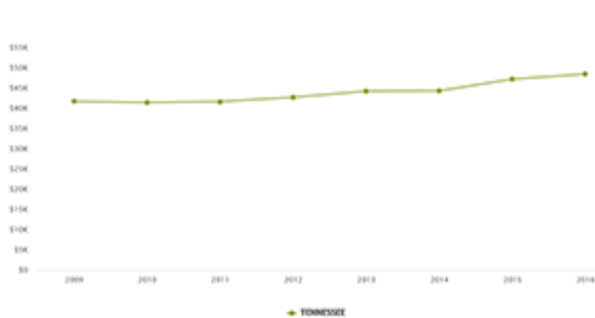
Research Information

Luchner, J., Child Care Aware of America, **The US and the High Cost of Child Care: A Review of Prices and Proposed Solutions for a Broken System**, Nov. 9, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2QObp5n>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Tennessee Median Household Income

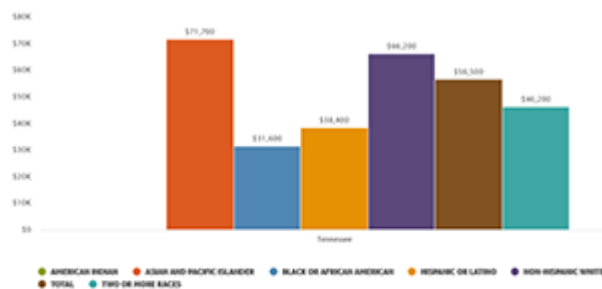


Median Household Income

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://bit.ly/2Q0mh3M>

Tennessee Median Household Income by Race



Median Family Income Among Households With Children
By Race And Ethnicity

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://bit.ly/2Q1aMcl>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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