



TDOT
Department of
Transportation

Annual Litter Grant Report

March 31, 2016





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Program Overview

Currently there are 94,768 miles of roadway in Tennessee. Of this amount, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) controls 13,898 miles of roadway and 3,961 miles of this are classified as scenic. Litter prevention and pickup efforts are critical to maintaining the scenic beauty of Tennessee.

TDOT estimates that it spends approximately \$15 million annually on litter cleanup and litter prevention efforts. These costs include the programs described in this report in addition to roadway maintenance contracts for right-of-way mowing that includes litter cleanup.

In 1981, the Soft Drink and Malt Beverage Industries took a comprehensive, proactive approach to prevent their bottles and other trash from becoming litter along Tennessee roadways. As good corporate citizens, the industry lobbied to establish a tax on their products to help fund litter prevention in Tennessee. Thanks to the Soft Drink and Malt Beverage Industries litter funds are generated through a tax on soft drinks and malt beverages. In 1983, these funds were used to establish TDOT's Litter Grant Program, which supports a variety of programs and activities that help reduce litter on Tennessee roads.

TDOT began issuing Litter Grants in 1983. Through the efforts of our county partners the Litter Grant is responsible for removing an average of 11,800 tons of litter each year. Over the 32 year history of the program (1983 to 2015) this equates to the removal of more than 300,000 tons of litter from our roadways.

TCA 67-4-402 and TCA 57-5-201 establish funding for the TDOT Litter Grant Program. The law gives TDOT discretion on how to best use the funds to clean up and prevent litter, and matters related to litter, such as recycling or litter in storm water runoff.

This is the annual report required by law regarding the collection and use of funds under the TDOT Litter Grant Program, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 (FY 2015).



***TDOT began
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Accounting

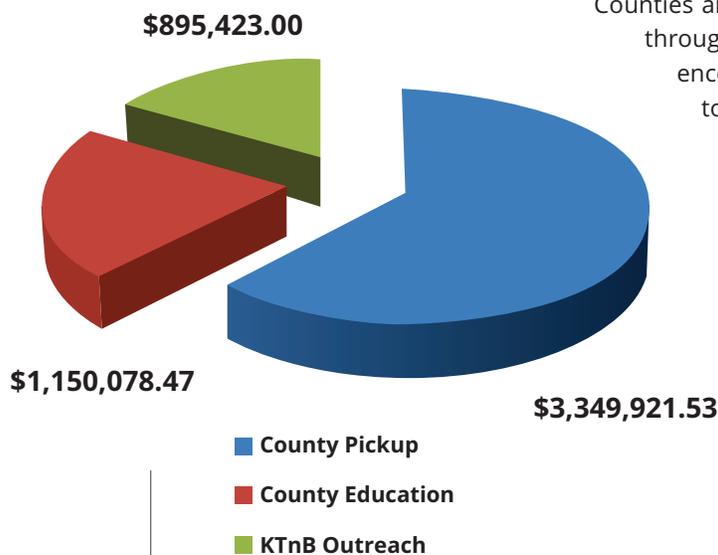
TDOT managers take care to maintain a balanced budget for the Litter Grant Program.

TDOT managers take care to maintain a balanced budget for the Litter Grant Program. In FY 2015, tax revenue dedicated to TDOT's litter abatement program totaled \$6,667,718.90, which is up by \$634,532.46 from FY 2014.

In FY 2015, TDOT awarded grant contracts totaling \$4,500,000 to Tennessee county governments for programs encompassing litter pickup and recycling activities along with activities that educate Tennessee citizens concerning the importance of keeping Tennessee clean and litter free.

Table 1 illustrates a breakdown of the \$5,395,423 that TDOT distributed for litter prevention activities in FY 2015. Of the \$4,500,000 in Litter Grant funds made available to the counties in FY 2015, \$1,150,078 went to litter prevention education efforts. The remaining \$3,349,922 went to county litter cleanup activities. Additionally, in FY 2015, a grant contract for \$895,423 was awarded to Keep Tennessee Beautiful, which is an adjunct service of the University of Memphis.

	County Pickup	County Education	KTnB Outreach	Total
FY 2015	\$3,349,922	\$1,150,078	\$895,423	\$5,395,423



Counties are using the majority of funds they are given through the Litter Grant program. Perhaps most encouraging is the high percentage of funds used toward environmental education efforts. The fact that counties used 96% of their funds in this category means that students across Tennessee are receiving valuable information regarding the importance of environmental stewardship, and the negative impact litter has on their communities.

FY 2015 Litter Funding Distribution by County

Table 2: FY 2015 County Distributions

ANDERSON	\$44,400	LAUDERDALE	\$35,300
BEDFORD	\$43,200	LAWRENCE	\$49,200
BENTON	\$34,800	LEWIS	\$33,700
BLED SOE	\$33,700	LINCOLN	\$43,800
BLOUNT	\$62,400	LOUDON	\$40,600
BRADLEY	\$55,000	MCMINN	\$46,900
CAMPBELL	\$40,800	MCNAIRY	\$39,900
CANNON	\$33,700	MACON	\$35,600
CARROLL	\$41,100	MADISON	\$55,200
CARTER	\$42,400	MARION	\$34,100
CHEATHAM	\$36,500	MARSHALL	\$37,200
CHESTER	\$33,700	MAURY	\$54,400
CLAIBORNE	\$41,000	MEIGS	\$33,700
CLAY	\$33,700	MONROE	\$44,900
COCKE	\$41,100	MONTGOMERY	\$70,600
COFFEE	\$43,800	MOORE	\$33,700
CROCKETT	\$33,700	MORGAN	\$33,700
CUMBERLAND	\$52,500	OBION	\$41,500
DAVIDSON	\$154,600	OVERTON	\$37,100
DECATUR	\$33,700	PERRY	\$33,700
DEKALB	\$33,700	PICKETT	\$33,700
DICKSON	\$45,400	POLK	\$33,700
DYER	\$40,400	PUTNAM	\$49,700
FAYETTE	\$43,100	RHEA	\$35,100
FENTRESS	\$34,000	ROANE	\$44,400
FRANKLIN	\$42,300	ROBERTSON	\$47,400
GIBSON	\$48,900	RUTHERFORD	\$95,100
GILES	\$44,100	SCOTT	\$33,700
GRAINGER	\$34,500	SEQUATCHIE	\$33,700
GREENE	\$57,800	SEVIER	\$58,300
GRUNDY	\$33,700	SHELBY	\$230,700
HAMBLÉN	\$40,300	SMITH	\$33,700
HAMILTON	\$108,900	STEWART	\$33,700
HANCOCK	\$33,700	SULLIVAN	\$71,900
HARDEMAN	\$38,600	SUMNER	\$70,300
HARDIN	\$40,400	TIPTON	\$44,700
HAWKINS	\$47,500	TROUSDALE	\$33,700
HAYWOOD	\$35,100	UNICOI	\$33,700
HENDERSON	\$40,600	UNION	\$33,700
HENRY	\$43,500	VAN BUREN	\$33,700
HICKMAN	\$41,300	WARREN	\$41,900
HOUSTON	\$33,700	WASHINGTON	\$61,000
HUMPHREYS	\$35,000	WAYNE	\$38,400
JACKSON	\$33,700	WEAKLEY	\$45,200
JEFFERSON	\$44,300	WHITE	\$36,800
JOHNSON	\$33,700	WILLIAMSON	\$74,100
KNOX	\$144,600	WILSON	\$60,900
LAKE	\$33,700		

TDOT provides Litter Grant funds to all ninety-five counties based on a formula of road miles and population.

Pounds of Litter Removed by Fiscal Year

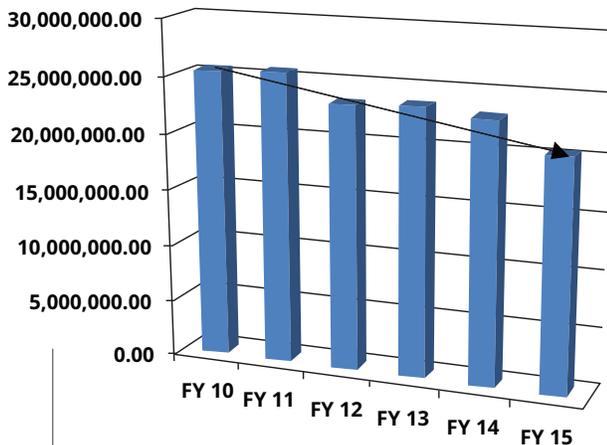
Dedicated county government partners are on the frontline of litter cleanup and litter prevention. The positive impact of the Litter Grant Program is amplified because local government partners invest additional resources and citizens contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours to promote these efforts.

Through the Litter Grant Program in FY 2015, county governments removed over 20 million pounds of litter from over 400,000 miles of Tennessee roadways and 6.3 million pounds of this roadside debris was recycled. Additionally, county governments used funding from the Litter Grant Program to cleanup over 4,000 illegal roadside dumps in FY 2015.

This volume of litter removal demonstrates the power of partnerships and the success of these joint endeavors. However, as the graph below illustrates, the Litter Grant Program continues to remove a high volume of litter, year-after-year.

Table 3: Litter Removal

Pounds of Litter Removed by Fiscal Year	Pounds	US Tons
FY 10	25,523,888.92	12,761.94
FY 11	25,723,869.00	12,861.93
FY 12	23,382,890.00	11,691.45
FY 13	23,618,931.57	11,809.47
FY 14	23,033,511.83	11,516.76
FY 15	20,440,956.86	10,220.48



The majority of this litter comes from unsecure loads and people intentionally littering from vehicles. Nevertheless, there is reason to feel optimistic because the statistics indicate progress. TDOT is collecting less litter with the same level of cleanup effort; therefore, this trend demonstrates that litter cleanup and education efforts are having a positive impact.

As Table 2 illustrates, the volume of litter removed for Tennessee roadways is down. This trend is also seen in the lower number of reported incidents of littering through the Litter Hotline. These combined results point toward an overall reduction in roadway litter.

Citizen's Litter Prevention Hotline

Tennesseans care about preserving the scenic beauty of their communities. TCA 54-1-401 through 54-1-406 authorizes TDOT to establish a system for citizens to report acts of littering from motor vehicles. As part of its response, TDOT sends alleged offenders a letter discouraging littering behavior and informing them of the potential legal consequences of littering.

Table 4: Litter Hotline Reports

Year	Reports
2012	3,680
2013	3,082
2014	2,848
2015	2,646

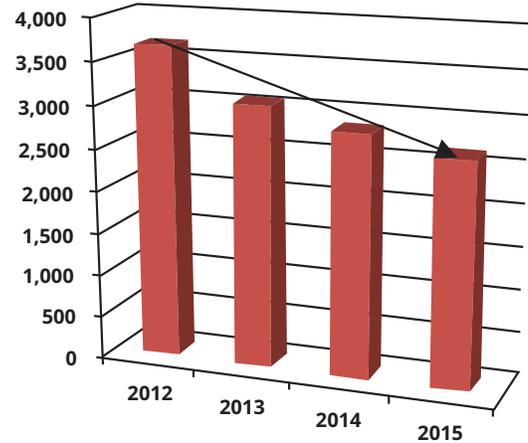
The entire program is anonymous. No records are kept regarding the person who made the report or the person who received the letter. The program is an educational tool to remind those who engage in littering that their actions hurt the state.

The entire Citizen's Litter Prevention Hotline Program is anonymous.

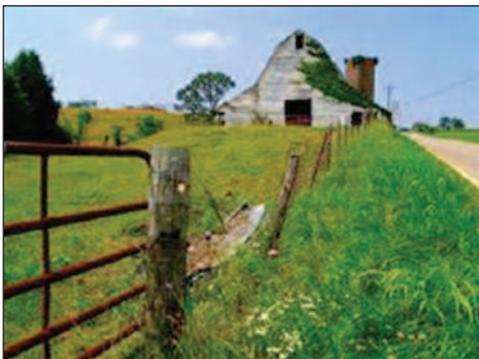
TDOT maintains a toll-free hotline at 1-877-8-LITTER (877-854-8837). Additionally, citizens may report littering online at www.stoplitter.org.

The information that is necessary to report a littering incident includes:

- License plate number (Tennessee plates only)
- Type and make of the vehicle
- Day and time the incident occurred
- Location where the incident occurred
- Type of item tossed or blown from the vehicle



When citizens notify TDOT of a littering incident that they observed, TDOT will mail a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle along with a StopLitter™ car trash bag or portable ashtray and other anti-litter information. The letter is a gentle reprimand reminding the recipient that littering is against the law and punishable by a fine.



Tennessee citizens often contact the Governor and TDOT about litter issues because Tennesseans recognize that litter has a negative impact on their quality of life. In calendar year 2015, citizens reported 2,646 incidents of littering; this is a decrease of 7% from the previous year.

County Highlights

Throughout the state, local counties work hard to keep Tennessee beautiful and litter-free.

Throughout the state, local counties work hard to keep Tennessee beautiful and litter-free. Every county makes significant contributions to the statewide reduction of litter, and TDOT appreciates these important efforts. Some of the more innovative and notable accomplishments of local counties are highlighted below.

Carter County

Carter County used Litter Grant funding to purchase a mobile recycling bin. The recycling bin has proven to be a highly visible and effective means of litter prevention and environmental education. Built by high school students, the bin is taken by staff to high school sporting events. Not only are attendees encouraged to prevent litter by properly disposing of waste, but they are also given an opportunity to recycle it quickly and conveniently. Volunteers take all the collected materials to a recycling facility the following day.



Carter County is also home to the Clean Teens, a grass roots program composed of upper classmen from high schools around the county. These students are specially selected by the Sheriff's Department School Resource Officer based on recommendations from teachers and the principal. These student volunteers work hard to spread the litter-free message throughout the County. They raise community awareness through their participation in the Elizabethton Christmas parade. This year's float won first place, and definitely captured the attention of spectators and sponsors alike.

The Clean Teens are also highly involved with student education; many elementary and middle school students look forward to their creative and innovative skits and programs.

Thanks to the Clean Teens' strong volunteer efforts, young people in Carter County learn from a young age the importance of keeping the mountains and valleys that they call home clean and free of litter.

County Highlights (continued)

Trousdale County

Trousdale County used FY 15 Litter Grant funds to help local businesses with recycling efforts. The county provided recycling receptacles to a variety of businesses and government offices, and arranged for collections each week. This innovative community engagement strategy not only provided a useful and environmentally friendly service, but also served to educate members of the community on the availability of recycling options in the area.

As part of its education outreach efforts, Trousdale County held a recycling contest for students at the elementary school in Hartsville. This highly successful campaign inspired students to collect as many recyclable items as possible in order to win a classroom pizza party. The students accepted the challenge and surpassed even the highest expectations; in March, students collected a combined 14,407 pounds of recyclable items. Such programs undoubtedly helped students develop a love for the rolling hills and river lands that make Trousdale County uniquely beautiful, as well as an understanding of the importance of keeping their home-county clean and litter free.



Dickson County



Dickson County used FY 15 Litter Grant funds to bring the litter free message to residents at major events throughout the year. Located within Dickson County, scenic Montgomery Bell State Park attracts thousands of visitors each year. One of area residents' favorite events is the annual Spooks in the Park event. Organizations sponsored and decorated cabins throughout the park. Dickson County chose to promote litter abatement and recycling through this program. Volunteers and staff packed over 1,000 bags filled with candy, treats, and information on the environmental impact of litter, and distributed them to visitors during the festival.

County Highlights (continued)

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The Dickson County litter program also participated in the Dickson Christmas parade. They designed a float with a litter-free message, and were helped by a crew of volunteer elves who distributed candy bars and information about recycling and litter prevention to the public. County coordinators noted the high level of staff enthusiasm and spirit despite the cold and rainy conditions on the day of the parade.



McMinn County



McMinn County used litter grant funds to sponsor the first annual Tennessee Wetlands Festival. This event featured wildlife exhibits and lectures, craft vendors, and educational booths where residents learned about the effects of litter on waterways, wildlife, and the health and safety of community residents. Partners with Keep McMinn Beautiful handed out litter bags, recycling information, children's materials, and information on disposing of hazardous waste to more than 800 attendees.

McMinn County also coordinated a "Trash Bash", including an industry challenge for local

companies to become more directly involved in county-wide clean-up efforts. Johnson Controls won this year's events, with 15 employees collecting nearly 400 pounds of litter near the plant. Local businesses consider their participation in this event a point of pride, and work hard to earn the Trash Bash Traveling Trophy each year.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful



Keep America Beautiful honored TDOT with a National Partnership Award for work with Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) in FY 2015. This is an award for state departments of transportation and receipt demonstrates that TDOT is recognized as a national leader in litter prevention. In addition, KTnB won a State Affiliate Diamond Award for their FY 2015 work, highlighted by the ongoing partnership with TDOT in programs such as the Tennessee Litter Grant Program, Great American Cleanup, and America Recycles Day.

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In addition to litter cleanup, litter prevention education is also an important component of litter control. Education efforts save money because when the littering behavior is stopped, we avoid the expense of litter cleanup.

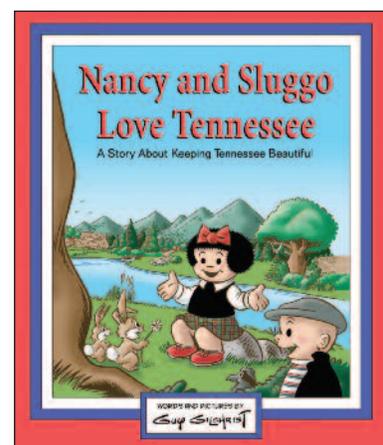
TDOT provides Litter Grant funds to all 95 counties in Tennessee, so the majority of funding for litter abatement efforts goes to local government partners. However, KTnB is the cornerstone of TDOT's litter prevention education and outreach program. KTnB has statewide education and outreach responsibilities, with the goal of stopping littering behavior.

KTnB provides expertise in litter prevention education, litter law enforcement, community enhancement through beautification, and volunteer recruitment and management. TDOT spends a significant amount of money each year on litter pick up and prevention activities. In order to reduce those costs, Tennesseans need to understand the negative impacts of litter on their quality of life, the negative effect on the scenic beauty of Tennessee, and the financial costs associated with litter.

TDOT acts as the liaison with the Governor's Office concerning his appointment of the 14 members of the KTnB Advisory Council. The Advisory Council guides the work of KTnB and ensures that the Governor's priorities are accomplished.

KTnB has recently launched the following initiatives:

1. "Nancy and Sluggo Love Tennessee: A Story About Keeping Tennessee Beautiful" is a hard-bound children's book, illustrated and written by Guy Gilchrist. The 45 page full colored book, published September 15, 2015, highlights Tennessee's most popular tourist attractions through the eyes of Nancy and her friends, who tour the state in their homemade recycled rocket, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural resources by not littering and cleaning up the environment. Proceeds from the sale of Nancy and Sluggo Love Tennessee go to the Keep Tennessee Beautiful Foundation,



Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

KTnB's mission is to keep Tennessee clean and beautiful year round.

to establish scholarships/grants for students seeking degrees in the environment/sustainability field and to provide community environmental education grants in the areas of litter prevention, beautification and recycling. Sponsors for Nancy and Sluggo Love Tennessee include the Beverage Association of Tennessee, The Malt Beverage Association, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. . Copies of the book have been donated to every public library in the state of Tennessee (282 total). Copies of the book can be purchased at www.keeptnbeautiful.org



2. The 2015 TDOT/KTnB Conference was held in Franklin on September, 15-16, 2015, at the Marriott Franklin Cool Springs. A total of \$44,000 was awarded by TDOT during the Awards of Excellence Ceremony, held on the first day of the conference. Former University of Tennessee Football Coach Phillip Fulmer served as keynote speaker during the Awards Luncheon. The Awards of Excellence are presented every two years. Award applicants must be a Tennessee resident, organization, business, or government. To view all winners, and learn more about the competition, visit www.keeptnbeautiful.org/about-us/awards/ .



3. Plant the State Green is a statewide initiative in recognition of the 2016 Great American Cleanup/Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month. Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed March as "Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month", but KTnB's mission is to keep Tennessee clean and beautiful year round.

4. KTnB's 2015 Cigarette Litter Prevention Program was a great success in Tennessee. This program was implemented in Cocke County, Maury County, and Putnam County. The program was coordinated by KTnB and \$10,000 of funding was provided by KAB to make the initiative possible. Each county received 44 ash receptacles to combat cigarette litter, as well as 250 pocket ashtrays, 200 auto cup holder ashtrays, and 500 brochures to pass out at education events throughout the campaign. Cigarette waste was reduced by as much as 75 percent in some areas. Each affiliate installed the receptacles in parks, downtown areas, and local businesses, as well as recycling centers. Plans are in place to work with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development to implement the program at every rest area in the state, as well as with new involvement from our Keep America Beautiful Affiliates in Williamson County, Chester County, and Fayetteville/Lincoln County. In the future, it is expected that this program will grow as other KAB affiliates also implement this successful campaign.

Special Litter Grants

In 2012, TDOT offered an additional multi-year (FY 2014 – 2016) funding opportunity totaling one million dollars of grant funds for Special Litter Projects that go beyond routine maintenance. Each winning proposal was eligible for a total grant amount of \$25,000 to \$100,000.



TDOT invited any local government, community organization or non-profit entity to apply. Eligible projects included any activity (pickup or education) that would cleanup or prevent litter in Tennessee. Recycling programs were also eligible.

The recipients of the Special Litter Grant received a three year grant contract that runs through June 30, 2016. Many of these projects are now completed. However, a few of these

special projects are still underway. Below is just one example of a Special Litter Grant.

Keep Morristown Hamblen Beautiful partnered with Keep Bristol Beautiful, Keep Greene Beautiful, and Keep Kingsport Beautiful, and used a special TDOT Litter Grant to fund an Environmental Mobile Classroom. This 7x14 trailer was created using recycled materials and solar energy to power the two touch screen education ports and a large flatscreen TV that continuously displays an anti-litter message to all. This system engages children and adults and has been displayed in at least five counties and two States.

The classroom has been in parades, conservation camps, school functions, festivals, and featured at state conferences as an educational tool. Locally, the classroom reaches large audiences. Over 25,000 participants and spectators at the Morristown Christmas Parade had an opportunity to learn about recycling and litter prevention. At the Mountain Makins Festival, another 7,000 visitors were afforded the same opportunity.



TDOT invited any local government, community organization or non-profit entity to apply.

TDOT expects to offer a new Special Litter Grant opportunity in 2016 to 2017. Through such grants, TDOT hopes to attract a variety of applicants who have fresh perspectives and innovative ideas for reducing litter and increasing citizen awareness of its harmful environmental impacts.

Conclusion

Excessive litter can become a road hazard and litter can present a danger when mowing right-of-way. Litter can send an unintentional message that citizens do not care about their community and this fosters other criminal activity, which could endanger public safety and property.

Over the 32 year history of the Litter Grant Program, more than 300,000 tons of litter have been removed from Tennessee roadways.

Excessive litter hurts economic development. Tennessee is a tourist destination and litter detracts from the scenic beauty of the state, which has negative financial consequences for private enterprises and the state. Furthermore, a community with excessive litter may have a more difficult time recruiting new business and industry.

Over the 32 year history of the Litter Grant Program, more than 300,000 tons of litter have been removed from Tennessee roadways. TDOT intends to initiate new outreach and education efforts in the hope that motorists will recognize that littering is something that should never happen in the first place. Through the collaborative efforts of TDOT, local county governments, non-profit affiliates such as Keep Tennessee Beautiful, and a concerned citizenry, there is no doubt that such efforts will be successful and have a lasting impact on Tennessee's naturally beautiful landscape.



LITTER PREVENTION

It takes just one person, one school, one business, one organization to positively impact the behavior of others in your community. What's your role?

[Learn More >](#)



RECYCLING

Recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy and reduces the need for landfills and air-polluting trash incineration.

[Learn More >](#)



GREENING

Our Greening efforts make Tennessee a more beautiful place to live, and create stronger, more cohesive communities.

[Learn More >](#)



GET INVOLVED

Every Tennessean can make a difference. Click below to learn how you can get involved in your community.

[Learn More >](#)



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