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Advocate

June 2018

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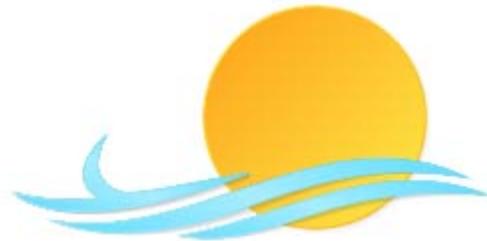
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Tennessee: Who Are Our Neighbors? TCCY: Stars Are Realigning, But the Mission Remains the Same

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Looking for Home

Wanting a better life for children to whom you have given life is universal. In many American families, this means working longer hours to earn more, not working to spend more time together or transporting children from one activity to another. For many in less developed countries, this means fleeing to perceived safety from violent gangs, oppressive governments or economic risks of living in chaotic places. The vision of the United States as a beacon of safety and opportunity has long been central to our national identity.



More than 200 child advocacy organizations are mobilizing to oppose a clearly stated federal immigration policy of separating children from parents seeking asylum or attempting to cross into this country. TCCY, along with other state and private agencies, has been working to protect children from the lifelong effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Separation from parents, by divorce or incarceration, especially at very young ages, has been recognized as an ACE since the original study. Separating children from their parents as punishment creates an adverse childhood experience, with all its negative results for individuals, neighborhoods and our world community.

Communities in Tennessee now fear disruption after an Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) raid disrupted Hamblen County, arresting and detaining family members of 60 children. Many of the East Tennessee children were left in the care of churches.

The effect of the fear caused by increased focus on immigration has contributed, as in Hamblen County, to families giving up access to education or health care out of fear. The day after the raid the local school district reported 550 absences, the result, one report said, “of a combination of fear, anxiety and confusion.” A quarter of the system’s students were Hispanic, as was 11 percent of the county population. Education and health systems affect us all, as the skills of our neighbors contribute to our community’s ability to attract and keep good jobs and individuals’ abilities to get good service.

The Tennessee General Assembly has twice considered and rejected allowing students brought into the country as children without documentation to receive instate tuition. This year, Gov. Bill Haslam allowed legislation requiring local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE to become law without his signature. The bill requires local law enforcement to detain people found without documents of citizenship for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Some law enforcement opposed the bill, saying their ability to solve crimes would be hampered if immigrant communities fear to come forward with helpful information.

Opposition to immigration reform is based on fear. Despite evidence to the contrary, people fear that immigrants raise crime and unemployment rates and lower wages. Economists attribute expansion of the U.S. economy to immigration.

Advocates search for ways to respond.

McCarthy, P., Annie E. Casey Foundation, **Policies Threaten Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families**, May 18, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2kwhsN8>.

Greenstone, M., and Looney, A., The Hamilton Project, Brookings Inst., **What Immigration Means for U.S. Employment and Wages**, May 4, 2012, <http://bit.ly/2Hc1UqM>.

Landgrave, M., and Nowrasteh, A., Cato Institute, **Criminal Immigrants: Their Numbers, Demographics and Countries of Origin**, March 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2lZLHLb>.

Maciag, M., **Analysis: Undocumented Immigrants Not Linked with Higher Crime Rates**, March 2, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2suzeUA>.

Stein, F., American Academy of Pediatrics, **AAP Statement on Protecting Immigrant Children**, Jan. 25, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2HbcNte>.

Blitzer, J., *The New Yorker*, **In Rural Tennessee, a Big ICE Raid Makes Some Conservative Voters Rethink Trump's Immigration Agenda**, April 19, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2lRd3TE>.

Martinelli, J., WPLN Nashville Public Radio, **Tennessee Town Grapples with Fear after ICE Raid Shakes Community**, April 16, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2lRd3TE>.

Fiscal Policy Institute, May 22, 2018, **[Refugees as Employees: Good Retention, Strong Recruitment](http://bit.ly/2knSuzq)**, <http://bit.ly/2knSuzq>

Jones-Taylor, M., Zero to Three, **Separation of Babies from Families at the Border** (video), <http://bit.ly/2sysJjN>.

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Changing of the Guard at TCCY



For the first time in 30 years, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will be saying farewell to an executive director and welcome to a new one. Linda O'Neal, who has led the agency through many advances, is retiring. She has served for nearly half of the agency's 63 years. Richard Kennedy, TCCY's associate director, will step into the role.

The picture of O'Neal and Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Timothy Irwin to the right is not that relevant, but it is a fun picture to remember.

TCCY expanded its work under O'Neal's guidance. TCCY celebrated the 30th Children's Advocacy Days this year. The legislation recreating TCCY in 1988 required the agency to compile an annual

report on the state of Tennessee children. In 1992, TCCY became a grantee of the recently created KIDS COUNT Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

O'Neal shepherded into being the Ombudsman for Children and Families, the Council on Children's Mental Health, Home Visiting Leadership Alliance, Resource Mapping of state expenditures on behalf of children and the Second Look Commission. The Youth Transitions Advisory Council was transferred to TCCY from the legislature's Select Committee on Children and Youth at the demise of the committee.

The state's *Building Strong Brains Tennessee* to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and the resulting trauma has been a major effort of TCCY for the past three years. The state's ongoing efforts to reform juvenile justice have also benefited from O'Neal's participation. O'Neal has led advocacy efforts on a number of issues related to child well-being by serving on professional organizations.

During her years at TCCY, O'Neal's family has expanded to include her son-in-law and two grandsons.

Kennedy began with the agency in 2000 as an ombudsman and has been associate director for the past seven years.

O'Neal will continue to work with TCCY until June 15. You may email your memories to her at letterstolindaoneal@gmail.com. Words of welcome and encouragement can be sent to Kennedy at Richard.Kennedy@tn.gov.

TCCY will be celebrating on June 15.



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Keeping Children Safe and Active

A new Tennessee initiative designed to keep young athletes safe began in May. The Tennessee Department of Health and The Program for Injury Prevention in Youth Sports at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt are working together to encourage youth sports leagues to aspire to high safety standards. Leagues can be recognized for achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold Star levels.

Young athletes, who are rapidly growing physically and mentally, can be at risk of dangerous allergic reactions, broken bones, concussion, heat exhaustion, weather-related injuries and sudden cardiac arrest. Leagues achieve levels by adopting safety procedures, doing background checks on staff and training coaches and other adults to respond to health emergencies. The program is offered free.

Tennessee Department of Health, **The Safe Stars Initiative**, <http://bit.ly/2sxQclj>.

Safe Stars Parents Brochure, <http://bit.ly/2Jaoa6p>.

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Summer Safety Means Turning Down the Heat



National Weather Service, **Heat Safety Tips and Resources**, <http://bit.ly/2Ha9bHV>.

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Major Changes Coming in 111th General Assembly

The Governor has signed most of the legislation passed in the last year of the 110th General Assembly. All members of the Tennessee House of Representatives and half the State Senate members are up for re-election. There are contested elections, either in party primaries or general elections in all but 10 of the 99 House members and all but three of the 18 state Senate races.

The 111th General Assembly, with the newly elected members will reconvene in January. TCCY plans to welcome our legislators and new governor and continue providing information to child advocates including the legislatively required budget recommendations, information about legislation on children as it is filed and weekly updates.

2018 Legislative Guidance, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance2.pdf>.

2018 State of the State Address, <http://bit.ly/2npTcCy>.

2018 Budget Recommendations: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-budget.pdf>.

Legislative Report: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

2017 Legislative Guidance: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance1.pdf>.

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Update



TCCY's Superwoman, Executive Director Linda O'Neal, "caped" as she is added to the **Tennessee Justice Center (TJC) Hall of Fame**. The Tennessee Department of Health also awarded O'Neal a recognition of her contributions to child well-being.

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Mark Your Calendar

June 9, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) Tennessee State Advocacy Summit**, followed by reception at 6 p.m., Thistle Farms Education Center, 5122 Charlotte Pike, Nashville. Event for all who believe in the importance of expanding access to high-quality early learning programs. Register by May 25 at <http://bit.ly/2rb9zzM>.

June 13, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., **National Human Services Assembly "Essential Conversations on Human Services" 2018 Annual Convening**, FHI 360 Conference Center, 13th Fl., 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington. Information: <http://bit.ly/2qACXiE>. Free. Register at <http://bit.ly/2qDXGlX>.

June 14, 1 p.m. to June 15, 12 p.m., **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth**, Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor, Nashville. Contact Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov.

June 14-15, **Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association West Grand Division Mini Conference**, Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, 1770 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson. Non-member registration fee: \$20. Contact 731-423-6140 X 7115 or mrferguson@madisoncountyttn.gov.

June 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council and Council on Children's Mental Health Combined Meeting**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1443 12th Ave. South. Contact Steve.Petty@tn.gov or Melissa.McGee@tn.gov.

June 27, Annie E. Casey Foundation *2018 KIDS COUNT National Data Book* release. Contact TCCY at 615-741-2633 or [Rose Naccarato](mailto:Rose.Naccarato) for more information.

June 27-30, **2018 CJJ Annual Conference, "At the Intersections: How Federal, State, and Local Partners Can Work Together to Improve Juvenile Justice,"** Hyatt Regency Washington. DC. Information and registration: <http://bit.ly/2AIlkKs>.

June 28 to 29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, **2018 Music City Social Emotional Learning Conference**, Cane Ridge High School, 12848 Old Hickory Blvd, Antioch. Information: <http://bit.ly/2qStccy>. Register at <http://bit.ly/2qNtcCY>.

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In the News

Wade, D., *Memphis Daily News*, **Evidence to Action ACE Foundation educating public, responding to experiences of toxic stress**, May 31, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2J2p4pB>.

Dare, D., WATE-6, **Education, screening keys in mental health treatment**, May 21, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2kDUiLi>.

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Research Information

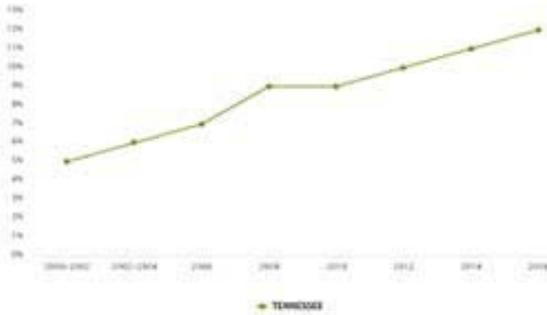
National Center for Children in Poverty, **Tennessee Early Childhood Profile**, <http://bit.ly/2IERx4q>

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, *Notables*, **New report shows prevalence of autism rising in U.S.**, <http://bit.ly/2sbodaH>

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Children in Immigrant Families in Tennessee

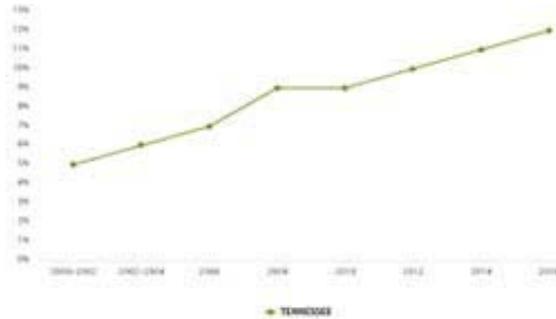


Children In Immigrant Families

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

<http://bit.ly/2H6ucD4>

Children in Immigrant Families who Are Citizens



Children In Immigrant Families

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

<http://bit.ly/2H3tF4M>

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

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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