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Advocate

November 2018

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November Is Adoption Month

Children need families, stability and security. Families can be created in a number of ways; formal adoption gives families, those drawn together by love, permanency.

November is Adoption Month! One of every 25 U.S. families with children has an adopted child. About 140,000 children are adopted by American families each year. National Adoption Month raises awareness of adoption and the need for permanent families for children in the U.S. foster care system.

National Adoption Month 2018, <http://1.usa.gov/1XNwTwK>.

U.S. National Library of Medicine, *MedlinePlus*, **Adoption,** <http://bit.ly/2F0vCn8>.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, *Adoption Triad, In their Own Words: Lifting Up Youth Voices*, <http://bit.ly/2ERNoso>.

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Tennessee Children Are Looking for Families

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) has custody of children who need families. A lot of information about adoption in Tennessee is on the agency's website.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services, **Adoption**, <http://bit.ly/2EOu13u>.

Tennessee Children Looking for Families:

Heart Gallery of Tennessee, <http://heartgalleryoftn.com/>

American Kids Belong: Tennessee, <http://americaskidsbelong.org/tn/>

AdoptUSKids, **Tennessee Foster Care and Adoption Guidelines**, <http://bit.ly/2ES6Q8C>.

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Youth Transitions Advisory Council Report

TCCY's Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC), convened to address issues faced by people aging out of foster care, released its annual report to the Tennessee Legislature. Foster youth transitioning to adulthood face greater challenges because they often lack the important emotional and financial support nurturing parents provide their adult children. YTAC members represent groups working to help fill this lack.

The report lists accomplishments and recommendations for improvements.

[Youth Transitions Advisory Council Annual Report, October 2018](#)

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Permanent Guardianship

Adoption is not an option in some situations, but children need to know someone is going to be there to care for them. In Tennessee, children may enter permanent guardianship. Permanent guardianship is a good alternative when it is desirable for children to maintain contact with their families of origin. According to the Child Welfare Information Gateway of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, permanent guardianship may be established in Tennessee if:

- The child has been previously adjudicated dependent and neglected.
- The child has been living with the proposed permanent guardian for at least 6 months.
- The permanent guardianship is in the child's best interests.
- Reunification of the parent and child is not in the child's best interests.

The family may be eligible for a subsidy if certain conditions are met, including that the child is defined as a relative and has been with the family for six months and the family has met requirements as a resource home.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services, **Subsidized Permanent Guardianship**, <http://bit.ly/2ENHqbW>.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services, **Subsidy Manual for Adoption Assistance and Subsidized Permanent Guardianship**, September 2018, <http://bit.ly/2P0I0ru>.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau, HHS, **Kinship Guardianship As a Permanency Option** (accurate through 2014), <http://bit.ly/2JoFDJ5>.

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Is Adoption for Your Family

Adoption is love in action. It builds families that contribute to communities and helps both adults and children heal from loss. However, adults need to be sure adoption is right for them and assure they are working with a supportive adoption agency. DCS recruits foster and adoptive parents to help the children in its care and lists private adoption agencies. You can seek out adoptive families to ask about their experience with the process.

Equally important is for extended families, faith groups and communities to be supportive of parents and as welcoming of children joining a family through adoption as they are those born into a family. Families may be eligible for adoption assistance.

DCS, **Adoption Assistance: Helping Tennessee's Adoptive Parents and Children Succeed**, <http://bit.ly/2qmtGLb>.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services, **Subsidy Manual for Adoption Assistance and Subsidized Permanent Guardianship**, September 2018, <http://bit.ly/2P0I0ru>.

Fitzgibbons, P., *Scary Mommy*, **20 Things I Wish I Had Known Before Adopting**, <http://bit.ly/2AA09Uv>.

Angel Adoption, **Self-Assessment Adoption Quiz**, <http://bit.ly/2Jt7t6U>.

Davenport, D., *Creating a Family*, **23 Crucial Questions to Ask When Adopting from Foster Care**, <http://bit.ly/2AAemAO>.

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TCCY Legislative Advocacy Information

Steve Petty, TCCY policy advocate, shares information about legislative action during the General Assembly and other information. TCCY has added a new resource, a Federal Policy Information Listserv. Emails are sent year round with information on congressional actions. TCCY shares expertise of its national advocacy partners using this resource.

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 [Budget Recommendations](#).

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>.

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Update



Cory Bradfield has joined TCCY to staff the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council, moving with it from the Department of Health (DOH). A lifetime resident of Tennessee, Cory holds a B.S. from Middle Tennessee State University and has over a decade of public policy experience. After several years as a staffer at the Tennessee Senate, Cory led the Tennessee Disability Coalition to craft the Autism Plan, which was later formally adopted by the Tennessee Legislative Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders as a guiding document. From 2014-18, Cory served as program director of Project LAUNCH. Cory lives in Cottontown with his wife Sarah and two young children.

TCCY Commission member **Hailey Brooks**, a member appointed to represent youth served by TCCY as a federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention state advisory group, was honored by the Light of Hope Award by Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. Hailey, a former foster youth and a junior at Belmont University, is a peer advocate for Youth Villages and a member of the Children's Advisory Council of the Department of Children's Services. She is also a Jim Casey Young Fellow.



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Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 8, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County invites parents and community to **Calling All Parents: Empowered Parents Forum**, Orange Mound Community Center, 2572 Park Avenue, Memphis. The Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County invites parents and community leaders to Empower Parents in the Orange Mound community. Food provided. Register: <http://bit.ly/2IPEX9b>.

Nov. 9, 8:30 a.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Annual Meeting and Training**, James E. Ward Agricultural Center, East/West Building, 945 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon. Speakers include Lisa Brookover, DCS, Mid-Cumberland regional administrator; Richard Kennedy, TCCY executive director; and Jenn Drake-Croft, TCCY director of Early Childhood Well-Being. 2 NASW CEUs available. Register: <http://bit.ly/2P2p8rF>

Nov. 9 to 11, **Tennessee Counseling Association Annual Conference**, Nashville Airport Marriott, 600 Marriott Dr., Nashville. Register: <http://bit.ly/2zCHdUq>.

Nov. 9, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Northwest Council on Children and Youth Fall Conference and Provider Fair, "Building Resilient Communities: Take Heart, Take Part, Take Action,"** Ballroom, Boling University Center, U.T. Martin. Preregistration for the event is required. A \$15 fee

for the lunch must be prepaid. Contact: Dana.Cobb@tn.gov or 731-571-7271. Co-sponsored by Women's Resource and Rape Assistance Program.

Nov. 9, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** presents a screening of the documentary on Adverse Childhood Experiences, *Paper Tigers*, at a **Lunch and Learn**, Regional Health Building, 1100 England Dr., Cookeville. Contact: Kristi.Paling@tn.gov or 615-646-0955. Register: <http://bit.ly/2EVJyhU>.

Nov. 14 to 15, **Rural Health Association Tennessee Annual Conference**, Music Road Hotel & Resort, Pigeon Forge. Information: rhat@rhat.org.

Nov.16, **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Annual Southeast Fall Conference**, Abba's House, 5208 Hixson Pike, Hixson. Social work continuing education credits, including ethics credits available. Register: <https://conta.cc/2puMQOK>.

Nov. 17, **National Adoption Day**.

Nov. 27-30, **Coalition for Juvenile Justice hosts 2018 National DMC Conference**, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. Draft [agenda](#) online. [Registration](#) ends Nov. 12.

March 12-13, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov

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In the News

Brooks, D., *New York Times*, **The Neighborhood Is the Unit of Change: No, Starfish Are Not Saved One by One**, Oct. 18, 2018, <https://nyti.ms/2NQoOYj>.

Blumenthal, D., *Wall Street Journal*, **In the Battle Over Health-Care Costs, Food Could Be a Weapon**, Oct. 17, 2018, <https://on.wsj.com/2R2XO9X>.

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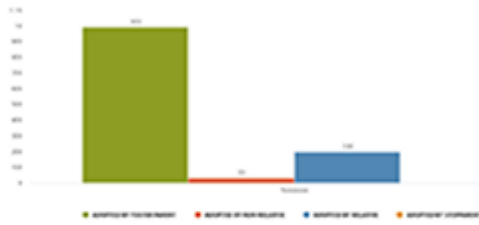
Research Information

Bevins, J., Economic Policy Institute, **The Unfinished Business of Health Reform**, Oct. 10, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2QWqTDK>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Children in Foster Care Adopted: Relationship with New Parent

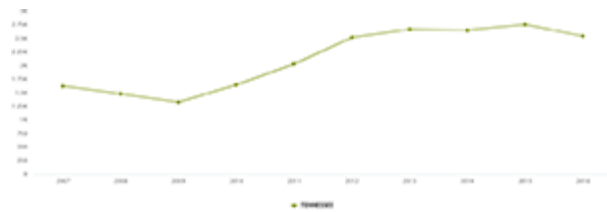


Children In Child Welfare System Who Have Been Adopted By Pre-adoptive Relationship With Adoptive Parents

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

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

Children in Foster Care Waiting for Adoption



Children In Foster Care Waiting For Adoption

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

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

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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