April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize the importance of communities working together to prevent child abuse. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are imperative for the development of strong brain architecture. Nurturing “serve and return” interactions between adults and children literally construct the architecture of the developing brain, shaping future learning, behavior and health. Children who experience chronic abuse, neglect or family dysfunction deal with toxic levels of stress that damage the developing brain and body and substantially increase the odds for social, emotional and physical health difficulties.
Resilient societies support the development of resilient children. High-quality, affordable child care; evidence-based home visiting, and access to nutritious foods are just a few examples of good public policy that support optimal child development. Beyond advocating for good public policy with your representative, Prevent Child Abuse America has a myriad of ways that you can work to support great childhoods. For more, click here http://preventchildabuse.org/great-childhoods-2018/.

Individuals and agencies can be part of the Tennessee Child Abuse Prevention Month observances by purchasing kits with pinwheels and signs.

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee lists Child Abuse Prevention Month events. Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee also participates in the month’s activities.

Thanks to Jenn Drake-Croft for this article.

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Children's Advocacy Days

Engaging speakers, including the ACE Awareness Foundation's Renée Wilson-Simmons (shown above), invigorated TCCY's Children's Advocacy Days this year. We thank all the speakers, especially those whose flexibility helped the program move smoothly. We also thank Commission members, our sponsors and others who helped TCCY staff make Children's Advocacy Days succeed.

Videos and PowerPoints from the presentations are available on the TCCY website.

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A.C. Wharton, former mayor of Memphis and of Shelby County, was given the Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award for his efforts on behalf of child safety and violence prevention.

Debbie Miller, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services received the second annual Linda O’Neal Lifetime Achievement Award.

Twelve-year-old former foster child Aiden Lee Reece, of Gainesboro, received the Youth Excellence Award for his work to help fund wells in India.

Kristen Rector, CEO of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, was recognized with the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award.

Two journalists working in local journalism to share information on efforts to solve community problems were honored. Larry Bowers, general news reporter for the Cleveland Daily Banner, Cleveland, received a John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT Media Small Market Print Media Award for his 57 years of journalism and coverage of local communities.

Lynette Wagster, general manager of the Weakley County Press, and her staff were also honored with a John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT Media Small Market Print Media Award.

Our Kids Center received a John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT New Media Award for its video and social media campaign, “What if I told you?”

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee honored Unsung Heroes at the event. Recognized were Wanda Newland of East Tennessee, Michelle Williams of Middle Tennessee and Ethel Johnson of West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Education presented a special recognition to Jan Bushing for her advocacy and support for Family Resource Centers.

TCCY is always seeking to improve. Please help us make this newsletter more useful by telling us what we can do to make it more useful. Please help us by filling out a short survey.

The TCCY Legislative Report is available at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf.

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](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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**Funding-Community Foundations**

Communities can establish tax-exempt public charities called community foundations. These foundations are funded by donations. Community foundations invest these donations to benefit a specific geographic area. In addition to administering and managing grant making for its endowment funds, community foundations also manage donor-advised funds. These are funds established by individuals who want to support specific services to help the community but who don't want to manage the paperwork, etc., involved. Some community funds also provide technical assistance to nonprofits. [Tennessee community foundations](https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocacy-policy/federal-advocacy-issues/leg-listserv.html) cover much of the state.

- Appalachian Community Fund
- Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga
- Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
- East Tennessee Foundation
- The Generosity Trust

Grantmanship Center, Community Foundations

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**Update**

TCCY Southwest Regional Coordinator **Rodger Jowers** was recognized at Children's Advocacy Days for his many years with TCCY and for his work for the children and agencies in his region. Jowers will be retiring this summer.

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Mark Your Calendar

April 4, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT, **Upper Cumberland Addiction Summit**, Life Church, 2223 N. Washington Ave., Cookeville. This event is directed toward the faith community. Register: [http://bit.ly/2TD7CNE](http://bit.ly/2TD7CNE).


April 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Council on Children's Mental Health**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1441 12th Ave S, Nashville. Contact: Melissa.McGee@tn.gov.


May 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network present "**Safeguarding Our Children & Youth,**" May 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cookeville Higher Education Campus. Fees: $20, non-UCCCY members; $15, UCCCY members. Day-long workshop to strengthen awareness and knowledge on suicide. Register: [http://bit.ly/2JnHnGf](http://bit.ly/2JnHnGf).

May 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., May 10, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Meeting**, Tennessee Tower, Nashville Room., 312 Rosa L Parks Blvd., Nashville. Contact: Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov.

In the News


Research Information

Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Victims of Maltreatment by Age  
Victims of Maltreatment by Type

http://bit.ly/2Jm04Kt  


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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