TN VOICES

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating 40 Years of Trailblazing Innovation*



FY 25-26

TN VOICES

Mental Health Services From Firsthand Experiences

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Dear Friends,

A trail starts with someone willing to walk where no path exists.

Forty years ago, a small group of Tennessee parents, advocates, and providers, led by Tipper Gore, did just that. Children with emotional and behavioral challenges often went without appropriate care and were rarely asked what they needed. Our founders believed something revolutionary for the time: families are not problems to be managed but essential partners in care. They envisioned a system where families drive decisions, youth have a meaningful voice, and services are rooted in communities and honor each family's cultural, linguistic, and individual needs.

*There was no map,*
*so they made one,*
*one family at a time.*

Family-driven care, peer support, and hiring people whose lived experience lets them walk alongside families once made TN Voices an outlier. Today, thanks in part to our services and advocacy, they are bedrock principles of mental health in Tennessee. And our commitment to giving families a voice has grown into a broader belief: every person, at any age or in any circumstance, deserves to be heard and to help shape their own care.

Beneath it all runs prevention, the root from which every better outcome grows. The right support at the right time can change a child's life, strengthen a family, and sometimes stop a crisis before it begins. Not every challenge can be prevented, but every chance to intervene early can change what comes next.

Once a trail is well worn, though, it's easy to stop exploring. Trailblazing takes boundless curiosity and fearless humility: questioning what we think we know, admitting what we don't, and recognizing when our work isn't good enough yet. Today's challenges won't be solved by doing a little more of the same.

One of leadership's greatest responsibilities is never growing so comfortable with success that we stop questioning it. Every approach we use today was once an untested idea, and better ones will come. As long as people struggle to find healing and wholeness, we owe them the curiosity to explore new models of care, partnerships, and emerging treatments, grounded in rigorous evidence of safety and effectiveness. Innovation without evidence is reckless; clinging to familiar practices when evidence points elsewhere is stagnation. We refuse both.

You can see that balance in this year's work. In Cheatham County, we partnered with local organizations to turn four community gardens into hubs for health and connection, a reminder that prevention can start with bringing neighbors together and eating fruits and vegetables. Through the Reconstruct Thriving Youth Challenge, we were selected to pilot support for young adults leaving foster care: someone to call, clinical tools to use, and a safe person to connect with. Meanwhile, we served 6,251 people across all 95 counties and welcomed more than 9,600 students, educators, professionals, and parents to our trainings.

Forty years in, looking back down the trail, we see more than a path. Every family who trusted us, every staff member who showed up in a hard moment, and every partner and donor who believed in our direction planted something along the way. Together what they have planted has grown into something larger than any one person or program: a canopy of hope sheltering all those still to come. Thank you for being part of it.

The next forty years will bring problems we can't yet name, and we won't have every answer. I'd worry about us if we thought we did. But we'll do what we always have: go where families are, listen to their needs, and start walking alongside them.



Rikki Harris
**CEO, TN Voices**

# *Celebrating 40 Years of Trailblazing Innovation*

**1986** — **TN Voices founded by former Second Lady Tipper Gore.**

**1990** — **Statewide Coalition Formed**
Formally organized as a statewide coalition to promote children's health and education services.

**1999** — **Nashville Connection Launches**
First of five SAMHSA system-of-care grants: 98% success rate keeping children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) in their communities. Followed by MuleTown, JustCare, K-Town, and Early Connections.

**2009** — **National Recognition**
Awarded the Karl Dennis Unconditional Care Award and the International Heroes of Hope Award.

**2017** — **Growth and Accreditation**
Outpatient therapy services launch and TN Voices earns three-year CARF accreditation.

**2019** — **Adult Services Added**
TN Voices expands to serve adults alongside children and families.

**2020** — **Medication Management Added**
Outpatient medication management services launch.

**2021** — **ILS Expands to West TN**
Independent Living Skills services expand into Jackson.

**2022** — **ILS Expands to East TN**
Independent Living Skills services expand into Chattanooga.

**2023** — **CARF Recertification**
TN Voices earns three-year CARF recertification, affirming continued quality and accountability.

**2025** — **Merger with Nurture the Next**
Strengthens the Pregnancy & Early Childhood area of care with two new Evidence-Based Home Visiting programs.

## Mission

To advance lifelong wellbeing for children, adults, and families through integrated behavioral health care, support services, advocacy, and transformative community partnerships.

## Vision

To be a transformational leader in behavioral health.

TN VOICES

# AREAS OF CARE



## Pregnancy & Early Childhood

We support families with young children (ages 0–8) through home visiting, family coaching, and early childhood classroom support. By strengthening parents' and educators' skills and focusing on children's social-emotional development from the start, we prevent crises before they begin.



## Youth & Family Support

Through peer support, youth engagement, and family advocacy, we help people navigate schools, systems, and stress. These programs build resilience and reduce isolation, especially for those who feel unseen or overwhelmed.

## Clinical Services



We provide therapy, psychiatry, housing support, and wraparound care for children, youth, and adults with mental health needs. Services are trauma-informed, accessible, and personalized to meet people where they are.

## Education & Advocacy



We train professionals, influence policy, and lead collaborations across Tennessee. This work improves how services connect and ensures families are included in decisions that shape care.

# FY 25-26 SNAPSHOT

**9,414**

Referrals received for TN Voices Programs

**6,251**

Individuals served across programs

**57,711**

Client Encounters

**5,870**

Client Admissions (New Program Enrollments)

**2,409**

Community-Based Training Attendees

**7,240**

School & Classroom-Based Training Attendees

**45,733**

People reached through TNV outreach initiatives

**513,054**

Social Media impressions on TNV channels

**95 counties**

Clients served in all 95 TN counties

**5,181**

Hours of Intern Support







# INNOVATION UPDATES

## *Rural Health Transformation Program*

TN Voices has partnered with The Ark Community Resource Center and West Glow Farm to transform four community gardens in southern Cheatham County into hubs for health, connection, and wellness. Shaped by community feedback, the initiative pairs garden improvements with nutrition education, therapeutic gardening, and wellness programming to address physical and behavioral health together. Workshops, community meals, and hands-on education are turning these gardens into spaces where kids, families, older adults, and neighbors find nourishment, connection, and peace of mind.




## *Reconstruct Thriving Youth Challenge*

TN Voices has been selected to launch an innovative pilot through the Reconstruct Thriving Youth Challenge, supporting young adults transitioning out of foster care in Tennessee. The first-of-its-kind model combines trauma-informed therapy, certified peer mentors with lived experience, digital wellness tools, and safe transitional housing. Designed to help youth heal, grow, and build a future on their own terms, the pilot works toward ensuring no young person leaves care without someone to call, tools to use, or hope for what's next.



# Mission Moment

## SOMEONE IN HER CORNER

In the first days of her baby's life, a young mother faced a sudden family crisis. Scared and unsure where to turn, she reached out to the TN Voices home visitor who had been supporting her. The first words she heard back were simple: don't panic, we are going to get through this together.

She later shared that it was the first time she had ever felt like someone was truly in her corner.

That steady support became a plan. On her own, she began counseling to care for her mental health. Through TN Voices, she completed Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training, learning how to build connection with her baby and respond to her baby's needs with calm and confidence. Her home visitor walked her through each next step, advocated for her along the way, and kept visiting mother and baby together so their bond could keep growing.

Moments like this are why we do this work. When families have someone steady beside them, a crisis doesn't have to be the end of the story.

*"Don't panic. We are going to get through this together."*



# Mile Markers
## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

## By Service Area

### Youth & Family Support

**4,035** new enrollments • 24,210 encounters

### Pregnancy & Early Childhood

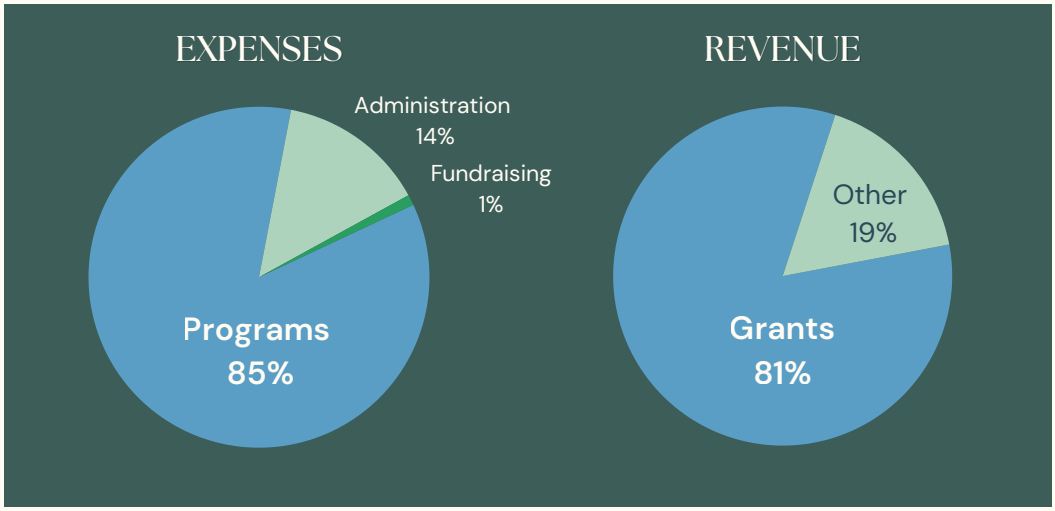
**549** new enrollments • 10,521 encounters

### Clinical Services

**1,192** new enrollments • 8,954 encounters

### Adult Services

**14,026** encounters • 94 new enrollments




**TOTAL REVENUE:**
**$24,315,684**

## FUNDING BREAKDOWN BY AREA OF CARE





# Education & Advocacy

## STATEWIDE PREVENTION

Prevention doesn't only happen in a therapy session. It happens when a teacher spots a struggling student, when a parent learns a new way to respond, and when lawmakers hear directly from families.

**604** trainings delivered

**9,649** people trained

## IN SCHOOLS

**481 sessions** reaching **7,240** students, educators, and support staff.

| | |
|---|---|
| Educator & staff trainings | 3,497 |
| Classroom presentations | 3,299 |
| Small-group sessions | 444 |

Attendees; one person may attend more than one session.

**1,008**

certificates earned in parenting and family courses like Strengthening Families and Nurturing Parenting

## IN COMMUNITIES

**123 trainings** for **2,409** parents, providers, and neighbors. Most attended:

| | |
|---|---|
| Domestic Violence Awareness | 413 |
| Youth Mental Health First Aid | 367 |
| Adult Mental Health First Aid | 262 |
| System of Care Trainings | 208 |
| QPR Suicide Prevention | 190 |

**7,197**

professionals and parents received direct support and consultation

AT THE CAPITOL

## HOPE Treatment Act

We helped pass a law that lets Tennessee research institutions join FDA-authorized clinical trials of ibogaine, a treatment being studied for addiction and trauma.

It passed 31–1 in the Senate and 84–1 in the House.



# Our Hope Society Who Made This Possible

## $50,000+

GoodRx Helps

The Urban Child Institute

## $25,000+

KΔ

James R. Meadows Jr. Foundation

HCA Healthcare Foundation

Memorial Foundation

Robert Finley Stone Foundation

Brown & Brown

## $15,000+

TJX

Dettwiller Foundation

ECON Club of Nashville

## $10,000+

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee, HealthMap Solutions, 3LS, Inc, Boedecker Foundation, Middle TN Electric, CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company, Amazon, Carolyn Smith Foundation, Weldon F. Osborne Foundation

## $5,000+

Kappa Delta Rhodes College, University of Memphis Kappa Delta - Zeta Omega Chapter, United Way of Greater Nashville, Regency 360, Kappa Delta MTSU, Windrose Health Investors, Old National BANCORP, HCA, Edward Jones

## $2,500+

Junior League Nashville, Nikole Douglass, Deloitte, CERECORE, St. Henry Catholic Church, Nashville Kappa Delta Alumnae Chapter, Vanderbilt Kappa Delta - Beta Tau Chapter, Wirtgen, Baker Tilly, Oakworth Capitial Bank, Acumen Technology

## $1,000+

The Dorothy Cate and Thomas F. Frist Foundation

# Special Thanks to Our Voices in Bloom Supporters

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Pure Sweat Studios

# Thank You

## *For Walking With Us*

Forty years ago, a small group of parents and advocates set out on a path no one had mapped. Every step since has been possible because of people like you.

To our donors, funders, and community partners; to the volunteers who give their time and the staff who show up in the hardest moments; and to the families who trust us with their stories: **thank you.** Because of you, 6,251 people across Tennessee found support this year, and we can look toward the next forty years with hope.

*A special thank you to our Hope Society members, whose generous, sustained giving keeps this work growing year after year.*

Learn more at tnvoices.org/hope-society.

## Get in Touch

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