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Advocate

April 2019

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Child Abuse Prevention Month

The future prosperity of Tennessee depends on our ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation. When we invest wisely in children and families, the next generation will pay that back through a lifetime of productivity and responsible citizenship.

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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TCCY Honors Advocates, Others

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.

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Help Us Be Better

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](#).

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TCCY Legislative Information is Available

Tennessee General Assembly tool: **Find Your Legislator**: <http://bit.ly/2Qm77WM>.

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

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>.

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'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](#) 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>.

April 9-13, **Child Welfare League of America** (CWLA) presents its **2019 National Conference**, "Advancing Excellence in Practice and Policy: Meeting the Challenge of the Family First Prevention Services Act," Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Register: <http://bit.ly/2MQSQKR>.

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, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** and Building Strong Brains Tennessee present "**Trauma-Informed Approach: Key Principles: A New Understanding of Trauma**," Madison Police Precinct, 400 Myatt Dr., Madison. Guest speaker Becky Haas, trauma-informed administrator, Ballad Health. 5 NASW-TN CEUs available. Register: <http://bit.ly/2V3jsx4>.

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>.

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.

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In the News

Blad, E., *Education Week*, **Schools Grapple with Student Depression as Data Show Problem Worsening**, March 14, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2JnLqIW>.

Denton, C., *Cleveland Daily Banner*, **Larry Bowers Earns Seigenthaler Award**, March 14, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2Jp3ETZ>.

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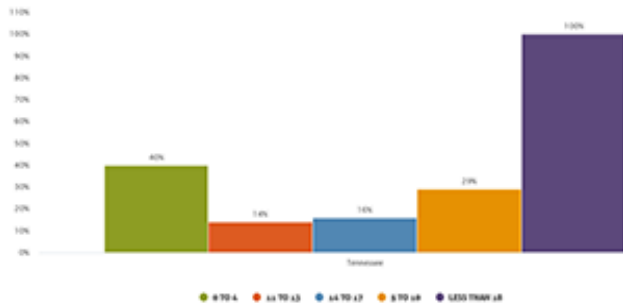
Research Information

Podesta, K, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Research and Education Accountability, **Students in Tennessee Instructed by Consecutive Ineffective Teachers**, March 2019, <http://bit.ly/2Jr2RSz>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

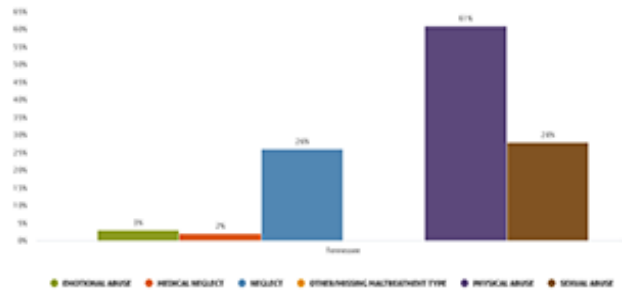
Victims of Maltreatment by Age



Children Who Are Confirmed By Child Protective Services As Victims Of Maltreatment By Age Group (Percent) - 2016

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

Victims of Maltreatment by Type



Children Who Are Confirmed By Child Protective Services As Victims Of Maltreatment By Maltreatment Type (Percent) - 2016

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

<http://bit.ly/2Jm04Kt>

<http://bit.ly/2Jnd6Hr>

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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