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**December 2019**

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# Advocate



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The holiday season is a time of goodwill and stress. It is a time of giving and receiving, both of which bring happiness, but may be a source of anxiety. The end of the year heralds a period of reflection on the successes and lost opportunities of the past year but opens the door to opportunities of the coming year.

All too many of us use this time to plan New Year's resolutions that don't make it to Valentine's Day. Evaluating past success may provide a foundation for successful behavior change. However, seeking to find joy every day might be the best resolution.

In 2018, 119 million of our fellow U.S. citizens traveled to Tennessee looking for some joy. A lot of free things to do are just around the corner, but many Tennesseans miss them.

TCCY wishes everyone joyful holidays and a 2020 of growth and fun.

Shersher, J.E., *Social Work Licensure. Self Care Tips for Social Workers*, <http://bit.ly/34fLIXo>.

University of Chicago News Office, ***Looking for satisfaction and happiness in a career? Start by Choosing a Job That Helps Others***, April 17, 2007, <http://bit.ly/35xfSQF>.

Weinschenk, S., *Psychology Today*, **The Science of Why New Year's Resolutions Don't Work: And How to Use Behavioral Science to Create Resolutions That Actually Work**, <http://bit.ly/2rlh7ns>.

*Atlas Obscura*, **Guide to Tennessee: 97 Cool, Hidden and Unusual Things to Do in Tennessee**, <http://bit.ly/2DhBmVO>.



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## **kidcentral Information: Volunteering Benefits the Entire Family**



Children and adolescents who volunteer often become great leaders, are confident and empathetic. Visit [kidcentraltn.com](http://kidcentraltn.com) to learn how volunteering can have a positive impact on youth that'll last a lifetime!

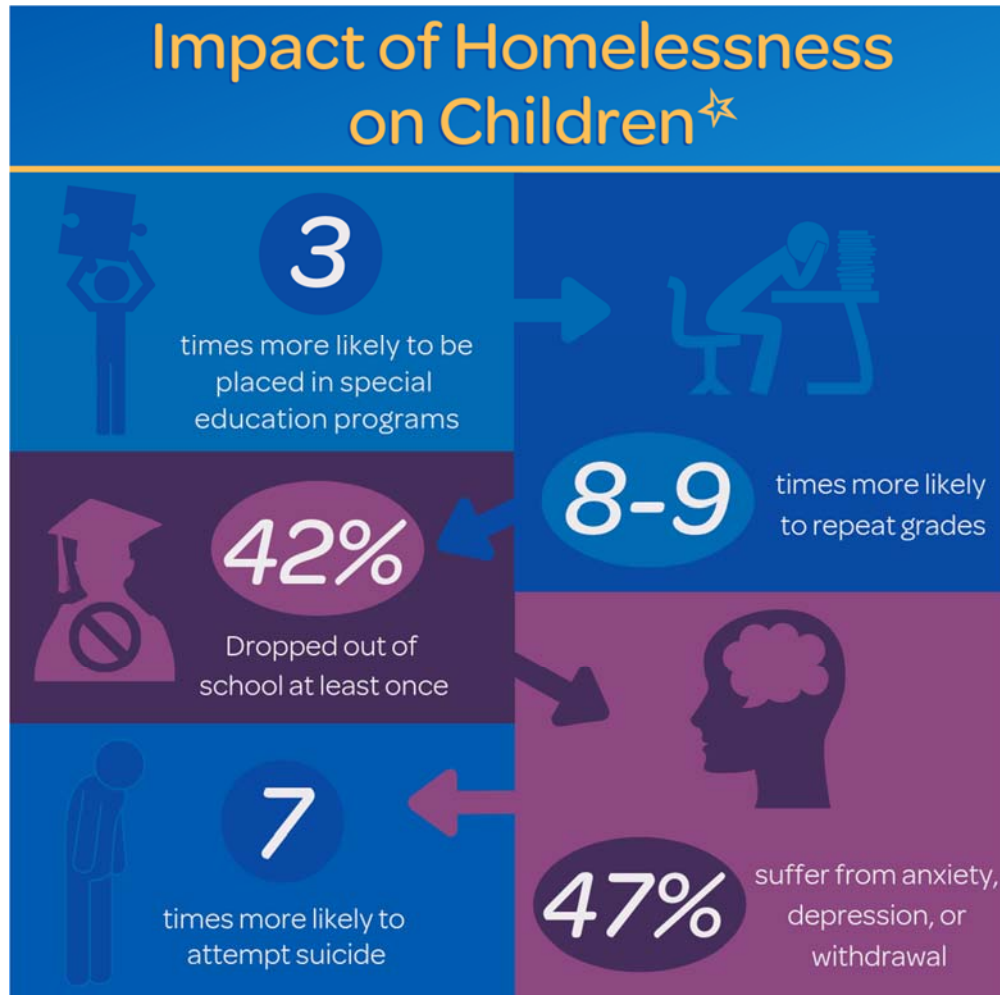
kidcentral tn, **Volunteering Benefits the Entire Family**, <http://bit.ly/2OmuzAx>.

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## **Homeless Youth: What You Can Do**

Families can be a big source of holiday stress, but being without a family means not only lacking family financial supports but lacking emotional supports. An estimated 4.2 million young people, including youth (13-17 year-olds) and young adults (18-25 year-olds) experience homelessness each year. The Youth Transitions Advisory Council is made up of agencies working to help reduce

homelessness in youth who have aged out of foster care and are at higher risk of becoming homeless.



Source: Family Promise

Some Tennessee colleges are working to help homeless youth deal with the special challenges they face as explained in this article from the American Youth Policy Forum, **Homeless for the Holidays: Why We Must Tackle the Housing and Food Insecurity Crisis for College Students**, Nov. 19, 2019, <http://bit.ly/37ALiYm>.

**Youth Transitions Advisory Council Annual Report**, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/ytac/yt-ar-19.pdf>.

HUD Exchange, **Ending Youth Homelessness: A Guidebook Series**, <http://bit.ly/37APFmf>.

Rush, J., Santos, M., True Colors Fund and the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, **State Index on Youth Homelessness, 2018**, <http://bit.ly/2L7FEU7>.

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## Legislative News

Budget hearings were held by Gov. Bill Lee the week of Nov. 11 with representatives of Tennessee Departments. These hearings are [available online](#).

**House Finance, Ways and Means Committee Budget Hearings** were held the week of Nov. 18. These hearings are also online. Additional budget hearings will be held during the week beginning Dec. 16. Below are links to hearings, with lists of the agencies whose budgets were included in each hearing.

**Monday, November 18, 2019 – HHR I –**

**([http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=463&clip\\_id=19968](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=463&clip_id=19968))**

- Education
- State Board of Education
- Books from Birth
- TN Higher Education Commission
- Education Lottery

**Tuesday, November 19, 2019 – HHR**

**II ([http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=463&clip\\_id=19970](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=463&clip_id=19970))**

- Commerce and Insurance
- Economic and Community Development
- Labor and Workforce Development
- Financial Institutions
- Bureau of TennCare

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 – HHR III -**

**([http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=463&clip\\_id=20005](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=463&clip_id=20005))**

- Revenue
- Health
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
- Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Commission on Aging and Disabilities
- Health Services & Development Agency

**Thursday, November 21, 2019 – HHR I –**

**([http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=463&clip\\_id=20040](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=463&clip_id=20040))**

- Agriculture
- Environment and Conservation
- TN Historical Commission
- TN Wildlife Resources Agency
- Tourist Development
- Commission on Children and Youth

**TCCY's Budget Recommendations** for the Tennessee Fiscal Year 2021.

Tennessee General Assembly tool: **Find Your Legislator**.

The **TCCY Legislative Summary of Bills Enacted** during the first year of the 111th General Assembly is available.

**Sign up to receive TCCY federal policy information** by following the instructions online. 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>.

## Funding and Support Information

AmeriCorp and other volunteer programs are underutilized in poorer rural areas, in part because the stipends and other supports, like housing, they provide are inadequate, according to the Pew Charitable Trust. Efforts are underway to make these programs more available.

The [Rebuild Rural America Act](#) proposes the creation of a Rural Future Corps to help rural communities improve child care, health services and job training, among other things. A bill summary says, "specific efforts would be included to retain the Corps members in the rural areas after their service." If passed, this could provide resources for rural service providers.

Simpson, A., Pew Charitable Trust, *Stateline*, **Rural Areas Hope to Get More from National Service Programs**, <http://bit.ly/2pJgbsy>.

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## Update

TCCY is pleased to welcome **Jennifer N. Jones** as a new executive administrative assistant. Jennifer loves being a servant leader. She has worked in a variety of different sectors and have learned a lot from each experience over her seven years as an executive assistant. She comes to TCCY from the private sector. A native to Atlanta, GA, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in Sports Management and Mass Communication and a masters of arts degree in Administration.



**Jones**

Gov. Lee has appointed new TCCY Commission members: **Ella Bentley** from Dyersburg, Hamilton County Juvenile Court **Judge Robert Philyaw** and youth member **McKenzie Johnston** of Cottontown. (More information on these public-spirited people will be forthcoming.)

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## Mark Your Calendar

TCCY lists relevant state and national events on its [website](#). TCCY sponsored events are listed here.

Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth presents **"How to Maintain, Sustain, and Regain Yourselves and Your Employees,"** Family and Children's Services, Honey Alexander Center, 2400 Clifton Ave., Nashville. Guest Speaker: Dustin Keller, CEO, Camelot Care Services. Registration fee: \$30, includes MCCY membership. Register by Dec. 2: <http://bit.ly/2qBeVrF>.

Dec. 6, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Northwest Council on Children and Youth presents **Stress and Humor Conference: "I Can't STRESS This Enough...Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much,"** Boling University Center, Second Floor Ballroom, UT Martin. Speakers include comedian and father DJ Pryor. Preregister by contacting [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov) or 731-571-7271 by Nov. 22.

Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Southeast Council on Children and Youth Legislative Breakfast**, Family Justice Center, 5705 Uptain Rd., Chattanooga. Register and RSVP no later than Nov. 30

at <http://bit.ly/33ZGrha>. Program includes state Rep. Mike Carter. (For information only, registration ended Nov. 30.)

Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council** and the Nurse-Family Partnership presents a **Legislative Forum**, 600 Jefferson Ave., Memphis. Registration and information: [Gwendolyn.Wright@tn.gov](mailto:Gwendolyn.Wright@tn.gov).

Dec. 12-13, **Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations 2019 Conference**, Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, <http://bit.ly/34JUS9m>.

Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** hosts its **annual Legislative Breakfast**, Cookeville Higher Education Campus, 1000 Neal Street, Cookeville. Speakers: John Rust, TCCY director of Field Operations; Cheri Richards, DCS regional administrator; Kristin Trivett, program coordinator, Isaiah 117 House, and Dr. Marvin Thompson, chief of staff, Motlow State Community College. Register at <http://bit.ly/2KSV3Hr>.

March 10-11, 2020, **Children's Advocacy Days**. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

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## In the News

TCCY news releases are available on TCCY's [website](#).

Newland, J., TCCY, **Roots and Wings** podcast. New issues focus on comedian and serve and return advocate D.J. Pryor and grandparents functioning as parents.

Williams, P., WTVF-News Channel 5, **Broken: TN juvenile justice system**, Nov. 2019, <http://bit.ly/2XRy0SL>.

Yoo, P.Y., et al., Wallace Foundation, **Putting Data to Work for Young People: A Ten-Step Guide for Expanded Learning Intermediaries**, Oct. 17, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2ObXCGD>.

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## Research Information

*Medical News Today*, **How Does Generosity Benefit Health? Brain Study Sheds Light**, Aug. 31, 2018, <http://bit.ly/346L3C3>.

Science Daily, **Generous People Live Happier Lives**, July 11, 2017, <http://bit.ly/348vtWv>.

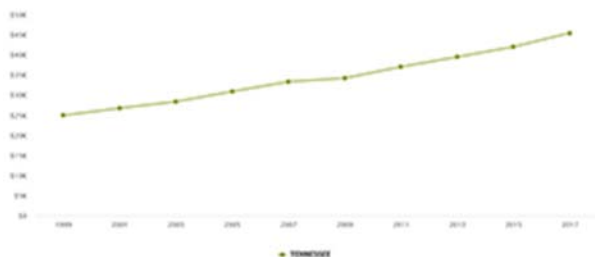
Wong, J., et al., Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkley, *Greater Good Magazine*, **How Gratitude Changes You and Your Brain**, June 6, 2017, <http://bit.ly/3340ARR>.

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# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

URLs below graphics link to larger versions of each. More data on Tennessee child well-being is available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

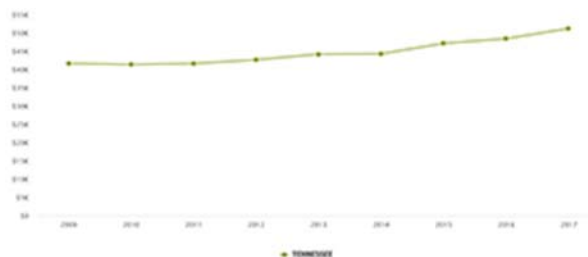
## Per Capita Personal Income



Per Capita Personal Income (Currency)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.tn.gov  
A project of the Anne E. Casey Foundation

## Median Household Income



Median Household Income (Currency) - 2009-2017

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.tn.gov  
A project of the Anne E. Casey Foundation

Also available: <http://bit.ly/2KH67YkN>.

Also available: <http://bit.ly/2Xze3A9>

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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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