

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION TENNESSEE

Courtney Aldrich Lawson, Director

Much of Project Transformation's ministry centers around the three C's:

- Children: Our summer and afterschool programs support children in literacy and holistic activities that engage the mind, body and spirit.
- College-age young adults: Planning and leading these programs are our talented young adult staff, who serve as mentors and role models to our children. All the while, they are developing as principled, Christian leaders and exploring various vocations in ministry and service.
- Churches: We partner strategically with neighborhood congregations to provide safe spaces to cement new relationships that invest both in our young people and our community.

If we look at the three C's separately, each is navigating significant challenges, socially-constructed barriers that can steal their joy and God-given promise. And yet, each has been uniquely gifted with significant strengths, just waiting to be discovered, affirmed, honed, and unleashed.

Project Transformation ignites the potential of young people by creating space for these three C's to converge. Through books, nutritious meals, playtime, and just plain silliness — but more importantly through meaningful mutual relationships grounded in caring and respect — young people are reminded of their belonging, their belovedness, their God-given potential. That is what inspires our approach. Our vision is a world that is rooted in love, pursues the equity of all people, and amplifies God's call on every life. If we believe, magnify, and replicate that, imagine what our world would become!

Across 10 years at Project Transformation Tennessee, we have much to celebrate:

- 4,330 children have participated in our programs, with 98% improving or maintaining their reading
- 378 young adults have served on staff and 81% continue to be engaged in some type of ministry or service
- Nearly 6,300 volunteers have invested themselves in the potential of these children and young people
- Four new PT chapters have launched, as young adults who have served with us in Tennessee have gone on to replicate our model in Indianapolis, Washington DC, North Georgia, and Arkansas
- In 2022, we celebrate two young adults — who once were youth participants in our summer program in West Nashville — and who are serving with us as young adult staff members this year.

That's a lot of relationships, and relationships have always been our focus. But now more than ever, as we emerge from a season of isolation, our understanding of the need and hunger for authentic relationship is deeper than we could ever have anticipated. Today, God's faithfulness towers over the deep waters of anxiety, fear, trauma, and grief — and beckons us toward new relationships that comfort, encourage, celebrate, and inspire.

As we begin our 11th year of ministry, we are taking intentional steps to drive our mission. First, we are complementing our literacy program by continuing to grow our emphasis on social-emotional health so that our children develop into problem-solvers who are relational, empathetic, and optimistic. Second, we are embedding practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion into the fabric of our organization. And third, we are partnering with parents, youth, and neighbors to align our ministry to the unique assets of each of our communities.

Board of Directors: Samuel Ballesteros, Star Brumfield, Jennifer Carlat (chair), Mary Clark, John Collett, Cynthia Davis, Steve Flora, Drew Lamb, Theresa Masnik, Scott Medsker, Zach Moffatt, Tabitha Mundy, Deborah Owens, Livia Ramirez, Deborah Smith, Haley Smith, Mike Waldrop, Kathi Whalen, Lacy Wilson, Ellen Zinkiewicz, *Jeff Rice, *Lynn McAlilly, *Gary Hawkins, *Janie Luna, *Vona Wilson (*non-voting members)

Clarksville Advisory Council: Doug Austin, Robin Brumblay, Pam Carlson, Anne Finley, Pat Freudenthal, Jessica Harris, Quentin Humbert, Vanna Humbert, Joe Pitts, Donna Richardson, Haley Robinson, Lyn Whittinghill, Lacy Wilson (chair)

Stones River Advisory Council: LeNoir Culbertson, Gena Dix, Jennifer Hall, Kathy Huddleston, Chip Hunter, Theresa Johnson, Greg Lyles, Sally Millsap, Beth Morris, Dorothy Murphy, John Pearson, Mary Ann Rogers, Kim

Shannon, Ronda Spivey, Leslie Trail, Mike Waldrop (chair), Becky Waldrop, Robin Wills, Shay Underwood, Jackie Vaughn, Chris Warren

Memphis Advisory Council: Ruthie Bernabe, Cynthia Davis (chair), Karen Goff Thomas, Autura Eason-Williams, Marie Milam, Deborah Smith, Kim Wicks, Matt Wiggins