

Project Transformation Tennessee
Board of Directors, Project Transformation Tennessee

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman

We believe everyone has unique gifts, passions, and talents endowed by God, and so, at Project Transformation, we spend a lot of time with these words of Howard Thurman. In community, our young adults are invited to explore what makes them come alive as they live in intentional community, practice servant leadership, and grow in their understanding of vocation—the journey in which God invites us to discover our most authentic self and how God is inviting us to make our greatest contribution.

The mission of Project Transformation Tennessee is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. Since our founding in 2011, Project Transformation has ignited the potential of young people in partnership with local churches. Our summer and afterschool programs provide literacy and social-emotional interventions that equip children to be healthy, whole, and successful leaders themselves. Planning and leading these programs are our college-age young adult interns, who serve as mentors to children. All the while, these young adults are exploring various ministry-related vocations and serving as the high-energy glue to cement new relationships in changing neighborhoods.

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

- More than 4,440 children have participated; 98 percent of children improved or maintained their reading level;
- 413 young adults have served on staff and, today, 75 percent continue to engage in ministry or service;
- Nearly 6,400 volunteers have invested themselves in the potential of these children and young people;
- And dozens of churches have connected with their neighborhoods in new and powerful ways.

This year marks a significant transition for Project Transformation Tennessee. In March 2023, Courtney Lawson resigned from her role as founding Executive Director. We are grateful for her visionary leadership, and our Board of Directors is honored to shepherd Project Transformation’s ministry to its next faithful chapter.

As we begin our twelfth 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 and trauma-informed care, so that our young people develop into problem-solvers who are relational, empathetic, and optimistic.
- Second: We are partnering with parents, youth, and neighbors to align our ministry to the unique assets of each of our communities.
- And third: We are working diligently to identify the right individual to lead us into our next chapter of transformation, and we will have more to share soon.

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