

**Mission:** In response to the love of Christ, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. serves and equips vulnerable children and youth, assisting them in the process of becoming self-sufficient contributing members of society.

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. provides children and family services throughout the state of Mississippi. Licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and accredited by the Council of Accreditation (COA). Southern Christian is a member of the Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy (MACCA) and is an affiliate of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as well as a member of Disciples Care Network.

4735 Old Canton Road, Suite 111 • Jackson, MS 39211 • Phone: 601.354.0983 • Fax: 601.352.8638  
Email: [info@southernchristianservices.org](mailto:info@southernchristianservices.org) • [www.sunrisems.org](http://www.sunrisems.org)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



# OUR AMAZING DONORS

## ANGELS

AM First Insurance Co.  
Drs. Amanda and Lee Nicols  
Edwin E. and Ruby C. Morgan Foundation  
Ergon Foundation  
Fountain Family Foundation  
His Way, Inc.  
Larry and Michael Johnson Family Foundation  
MGR Management Solutions, LLC.  
Mrs. Carol Kirkland  
Puckett Machinery Co.  
Susan and Buster Wellington  
Trustmark National Bank  
Wellington Foundation

## SAINTS

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Commans  
Regions Foundation  
Van Farms, Inc.

## GUARDIANS

Ballew Wealth Management  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MS  
Flowood Baptist Church  
Fountain Construction Co., Inc.  
Kathie and Jimmy Young  
Morgan White Group  
Mr. and Mrs. David White  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Peets  
PineLake Church - Brandon  
Wheaton Foundation  
William Allan Eaton

## PROTECTORs

Atmos  
Biloxi Regional Medical Center  
CareSource  
Christian Community Foundation of Memphis  
Deb and Johnny Wray  
Dr. and Mrs. Carroll McCleod  
First Christian Church- Jackson

GranthamPoole, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gualano  
Mr. William Young  
Pivotal Management, LLC.  
Property Tax Associates, Inc.

## MENTORS

Delta Industries, Inc.  
English Learners Engage  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
First Christian Church-Tupelo  
First Commercial Bank  
Grenada Board of Realtors  
Independent Roofing Systems, Inc.  
Jennifer and Dave Scott  
Great Scott, LTD  
Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Himes  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nabors  
Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Gallaspy  
Mr. and Mrs. George C. Nicols  
Mr. and Mrs. Jameson Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Cheslek  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Rives  
Mrs. Rhonda Saul  
Nathan Cummins  
Norweida and Eddie Spencer

## FRIENDS

Adams Evans Waterproofing  
AGC of Mississippi  
Bob Burke  
Bryan Carraway  
Cannon Motors  
Disciples Women's Fellowship-FCC Meridian  
Fulton Coatings  
Hinds Community College  
Iron Clad, LLC.  
Joe Mcgee Construction  
Koinonia Baptist Church  
Luke Walker Thrash  
May & Company, LLP.

MMC Materials, Inc.  
Mockbee Ellis P.A.  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lamb  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Tipton  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Devere McLennan  
Mr. and Mrs. George Nicols  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Goldman  
Mr. and Mrs. W Arthur Stevens  
Mrs. Paige Payne  
Dr. Sara Porter  
Mrs. Sherry Miller  
Ross and Yerger Insurance, Inc.  
Telagen, LLC.  
Thrash Commercial Contractors, Inc.  
Vanguard Marketing Corporation  
Walters Construction Co., Inc.  
Wayne Whitley

## SUPPORTERS

Christine and Bob Knupp  
Bobby Croswell  
Brenton Brasher  
Karen and Ed Morgan  
Eric Bragg  
First Christian Church of McComb  
First Christian Church-Women's Fellowship  
Hardy & Associates Architect, PLLC  
Hayneville Christian Church  
Homan Forest Products Corporate  
Junior League of Jackson  
Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Carey Wiegand  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M Decker  
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Zito  
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hayman  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Garraway  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams  
Mr. Cole Stacy

## Our Mission

In response to the love of Christ, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. serves and equips vulnerable children and youth, assisting them in the process of becoming self-sufficient contributing members of society.

## Our Vision

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. envisions a community where all Mississippi youth have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.

## Core Values

The following core values inspire our staff and partners and drive everything we do-including, our approach to the work, the decisions we make, and the way we collaborate:

- Compassion
- Commitment
- Bold Leadership
- Continuous Training
- Optimism
- Responsiveness

159

children were served through our outpatient counseling clinic.

PALS youth moved into their very own apartments. We are living our mission!

20

75%

of PALS youth maintained their job for over a year.

adoptive families were served through Adoption Permanency Division

186

71

children were served through our statewide foster care home program

*"PALS has been life changing. PALS gives people like me a second chance to become something without having the burden of worrying about being homeless."*  
**-Maranda, PALS Program**

*"Counseling helped my family get stronger after what happened to us."*  
**-Outpatient Counseling Program Client**

*"The biggest thing I learned was to be less of an authoritarian parent but rather to listen and console more with my children to see why they are acting out verses just putting them in time out or taking immediate action."*  
**-Parent Strong Father**

*"When we think that we are having little to no impact on the residence here, time is the ultimate tell of how effective our program really is."*  
**-Joel Ingram, Group Home Residential Life Coordinator**

*"We love our children immensely; you can't tell the difference between our biological children and our adopted one."*  
**-The Hansen Family, Foster Care Family**



# SAVE THE DATE

## LOOKING AHEAD: EVENTS & IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES

### Mississippi Children's Promise Tax Credit

January 2026

You can help build brighter futures for Mississippi's children and receive valuable tax benefits (dollar-for-dollar credit) through the Mississippi Children's Promise Tax Credit. By designating your donation to Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc., you directly support programs that create brighter futures for vulnerable children and youth across the state. Join us in our mission to transform lives while enjoying the rewards of giving back. Learn more about this impactful opportunity at [www.scschy.org/children-s-promise-tax-credit](http://www.scschy.org/children-s-promise-tax-credit).



### 38th Annual Bottom Line for Kids Benefit & Auction

August 2026

Mark your calendar for an unforgettable evening of generosity and celebration at our 38th Annual Bottom Line for Kids Benefit & Auction. This signature event raises essential funds to support the children and youth we serve through our life-changing programs. Guests will enjoy live and premier auction items, a featured artist, and exclusive previews of our newest program videos. We invite you to partner with us as a sponsor or attendee to make this year's event our most impactful yet.



### 2nd Annual Camp Connection for Foster Families

September 2026

Camp Connection brings together children and families impacted by foster care and adoption for a weekend of healing, growth, and togetherness. Through play, art, swimming, rope courses, and intentional family time, participants strengthen relationships and build trust. Activities are guided by Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) principles, ensuring families leave refreshed, encouraged, and more connected than ever.

### 19th Annual Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament for Kids

October 2026

We are delighted to announce the 19th Annual Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament, a collaborative effort between Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. and Fountain Construction Company, Inc. This event holds special significance as it is named in loving memory of D.G. "Sonny" Fountain, a respected Jackson businessman, a founding board member of Southern Christian, dedicated philanthropist, and founder of Fountain Construction Company. The Sonny Fountain Memorial Golf Tournament for Kids is a testament to Sonny's legacy and his commitment to making a difference in the lives of Mississippi's children.



16

Foster children were adopted or reunited with their biological family.

children were served through the Respite Care program

539

478

parents were served through Parent Strong Prevention program

## OUR SERVICES

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth continues to make a significant impact in the lives of hundreds of children and youth each year. Through our broad network of statewide programs, we provide therapeutic residential care, child abuse and neglect prevention services, permanency and family reunification services, and foster care services.

Every day, we work to help children and youth become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. With compassion and commitment, Southern Christian strives to ensure that every child in Mississippi has a safe place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.

## RESIDENTIAL CARE

### Therapeutic Group Homes

Our Therapeutic Group Homes embody Southern Christian's dedication to building brighter futures for vulnerable children and youth. These homes provide a nurturing, family-style environment for those who have experienced abuse, neglect, or emotional and behavioral challenges that make living with biological family unsafe.

The Joe Rowland Group Home for Boys in Grenada serves older youth who have struggled to remain in foster placements or are at risk of aging out of care without permanent family connections.

Our Sunrise Home provides a safe, supportive environment for adolescent girls ages 12–21 who are survivors of human trafficking. Residents receive specialized, evidence-based therapeutic care for up to two years, with a focus on healing, trust-building, and preparing for a stable, independent future.

Both homes share a common goal: to equip youth with the tools and confidence they need to successfully transition into foster families, reunite with biological family members, or move toward independent living.

## SPOTLIGHT STORY: The James Family

### Finding Hope and Independence with JAMES FAMILY

The James Family's story is a powerful testament to love, faith, and the transformative impact of foster care.

In partnership with the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc., Robert and Julie James opened their hearts and home in October 2022 to foster Dixie, supporting her journey toward reunification with her mother, Trisha. Their dedication not only helped a family heal but also strengthened their own sense of purpose.

But their story didn't end there. The James family later welcomed Edward, a baby boy with Down syndrome and significant health challenges, into their lives. On July 16, 2025, Edward's adoption was finalized, officially making him Edward Dozier James, a forever member of the James family.

With four children of their own, Robert and Julie felt called to create space for more love. Their compassion has extended beyond their home as they now help lead the Heart of Compassion Orphan Care Ministry at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, inspiring others to serve children and families in need.

And Trisha, a resilient and devoted mother, continues to inspire through her courage, growth, and steadfast love for her daughter Dixie.

The James Family's journey is a beautiful reminder that foster care is not just about placement, it's about hope, healing, and the creation of forever families.

Scan the QR code to watch the inspiring video of the James Family's story.



See the Video!



# CAMP CONNECTION

## A Weekend Built on Purpose and Play

From the energetic Crash & Bump activity (a fun regulation exercise) to family art projects, swimming, games, arts and crafts, scrapbooking, and a ropes course adventure, every part of Camp Connection was designed to promote trust, teamwork, and self-expression.

“Every activity at Camp Connection has a purpose,” shared Kelsey Neeley, Camp Director. “Whether it’s a playful game or a quiet art project, we aim to foster trust, build connection, and strengthen the sense of community for families navigating the unique challenges of foster care and adoption.”

Children learned new ways to express themselves while caregivers gained tools and techniques rooted in TBRI to help them better understand and meet their children’s needs. As one foster parent reflected, “Camp Connection gave us time to reconnect as a family in a way that everyday life doesn’t always allow. Watching my child open up and feel safe enough to have fun again was a blessing.”

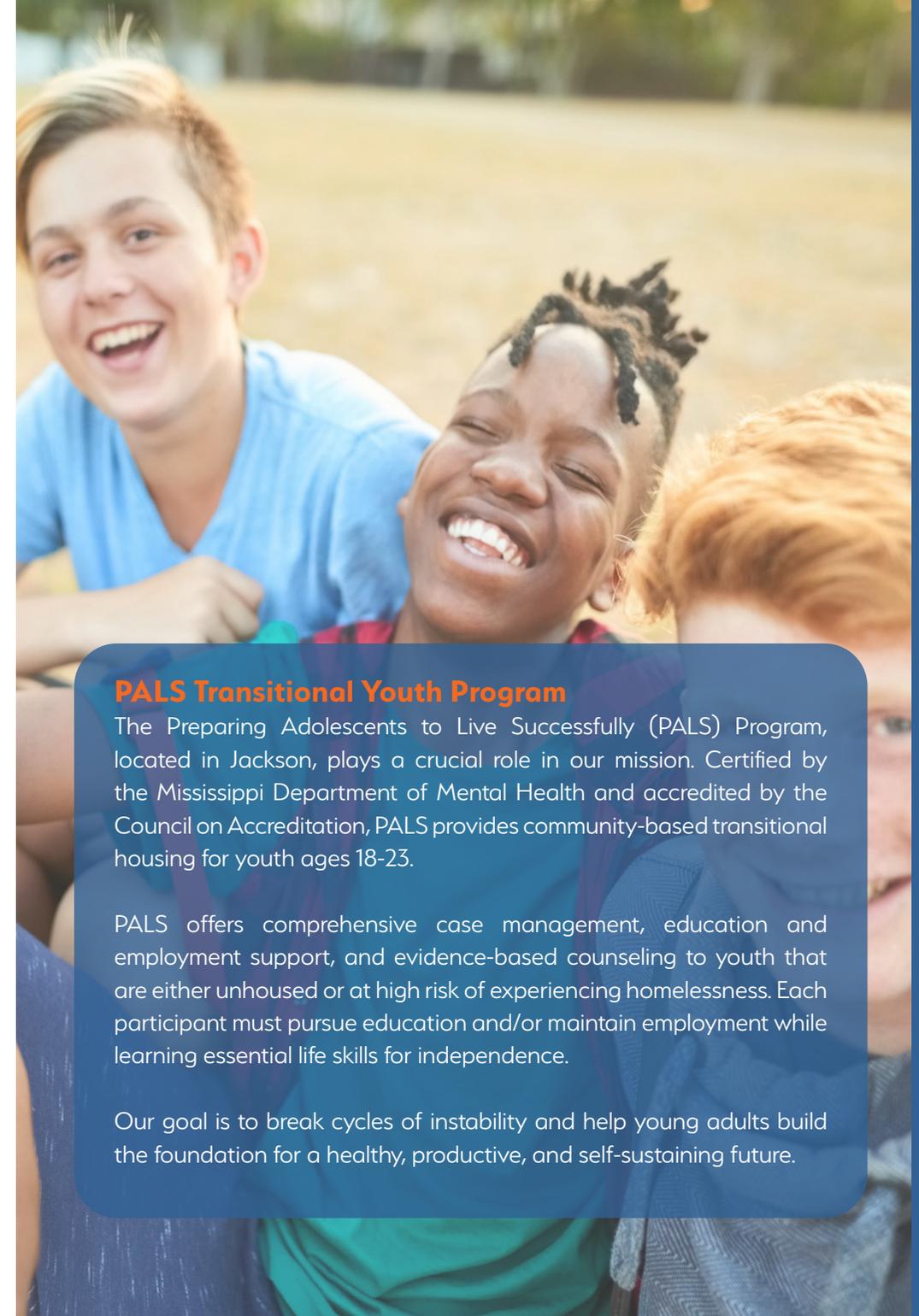
A Buddy volunteer added, “It was incredible to see the transformation in just a few days. These kids reminded us all what resilience and hope truly looks like.”

## The Heart of Southern Christian Services

Camp Connection embodies the mission of Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. - serving and equipping vulnerable children and youth as they move toward becoming self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

Through programs like Camp Connection, Southern Christian provides families with the resources, relationships, and spiritual support needed to heal from trauma and build brighter futures.

“Camp Connection isn’t just a weekend - it’s a reminder that healing happens through relationship, and that God’s love shows up in the simple moments of laughter, trust, and connection.”



## PALS Transitional Youth Program

The Preparing Adolescents to Live Successfully (PALS) Program, located in Jackson, plays a crucial role in our mission. Certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and accredited by the Council on Accreditation, PALS provides community-based transitional housing for youth ages 18-23.

PALS offers comprehensive case management, education and employment support, and evidence-based counseling to youth that are either unhoused or at high risk of experiencing homelessness. Each participant must pursue education and/or maintain employment while learning essential life skills for independence.

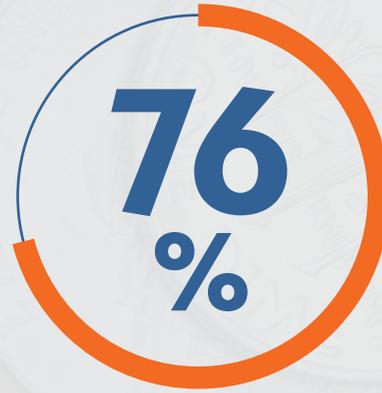
Our goal is to break cycles of instability and help young adults build the foundation for a healthy, productive, and self-sustaining future.



### Foster Care

Our Foster Care Program provides loving, temporary homes for children who cannot remain with their families. Through careful recruitment, training, and matching foster parents, we ensure children are placed in nurturing environments where they can heal and grow. We remain steadfast in our commitment to permanency whether that means reunification with birth families or adoption. Southern Christian always prioritizes stability and the child's long-term well-being.

## REVENUE



Government Agencies



Public Support



Other Income



Programs



Administration



Development

# FINANCIALS

2024-2025

Preliminary Statement of Activities  
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

## REVENUES

Government Agencies	\$ 4,807,991
Public Support	\$ 1,384,367
Other Income	\$ 154,366
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,346,724</b>

## EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 4,775,167
Administration	\$ 238,650
Development	\$ 264,694
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 5,278,511</b>
<b>Increase in Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,068,213</b>

## Adoption from Foster Care

The Adoption from Foster Care Program is devoted to finding permanent, loving homes for children experiencing foster care. We train and support families who are ready to make a lifelong commitment to these children, ensuring they are fully equipped to meet their needs.

Our Post-Adoption Program continues that commitment by offering support services that help families remain strong and stable. Services include crisis management, training, support groups, information and referrals, and respite care, allowing caregivers to rest and recharge. Together, these programs help prevent re-entry into foster care and promote lasting family success.



## Respite Care

Respite Care offers short-term, planned caregiving to provide relief for primary caregivers of children with emotional or behavioral challenges, or those in foster or adoptive placements. This service helps prevent caregiver burnout, promotes family stability, and strengthens long-term placement success.

## Sunrise Counseling Clinic

The Sunrise Outpatient Counseling Clinic is a cornerstone of our effort to promote healing and self-sufficiency. We provide evidence-based therapy to children and youth ages 3–23 who have experienced trauma and been victims of crime, as well as counseling for parents and caregivers navigating their own challenges.

Located in Jackson, Sunrise Counseling Clinic offers both in-person and telehealth sessions, ensuring accessibility to families across the state at no charge. Every individual we serve receives compassionate, professional care to support mental and emotional well-being.

Our goal is to ensure that every child impacted by crime, abuse, and/or neglect receives the care, safety, and healing they deserve, helping them rebuild hope and reclaim their futures.

## Parent Strong

(Training and Support Groups)

Our Parent Strong Prevention Program aims to reduce the number of children entering the foster care system by strengthening families identified as high risk for foster system involvement. Using evidence-supported models endorsed by the American Psychological Association, Parent Strong empowers parents with the knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes.

Through online and in-person parenting classes as well as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Parent Strong serves court-mandated, community, teen, and expectant parents, helping families learn to meet their children's developmental needs and build healthy, positive relationships.

By equipping parents with tools for success, we help prevent child maltreatment and create stronger, more resilient families across Mississippi.

## Board of Directors

Mr. George C. Nicols-Chair  
Mr. Ralph Clark-Vice Chair  
Dr. Amanda Nicols-Secretary  
Mr. Scott Rives-Immediate Past Chair

Rev. Dr. Mark Benson  
Mrs. Karen Carlisle  
Mrs. Jamie Christian  
Mr. David Ellis  
Mr. Chris Fountain  
Mrs. Tori Heard  
Mr. Chris Lamb  
Mrs. Reagan Peets  
Ms. Mia Pollman  
Dr. Sara Porter  
Mr. Steve Simmons  
Mrs. Anne Marie Tipton  
Mr. Felix Walker  
Mrs. Beth Zito



Jamie C. Himes, LPC  
President and CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on this past year, we are humbled and grateful for the countless ways our community has helped Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth continue demonstrating the unconditional love of Christ. Every day, our mission calls us to walk alongside Mississippi's most vulnerable children and youth, offering safety, hope, and the care they need to grow into self-sufficient, contributing members of society. Because of your support, that mission is thriving.

This year, we witnessed transformative change across our programs. Youth experiencing homelessness moved into their own apartments through PALS, families found strength and stability through Parent Strong, and children healing from trauma received compassionate care through our group homes, foster homes, and outpatient counseling services. Our teams worked with steadfast commitment, guided by our core values of compassion, bold leadership, optimism, continuous training, and responsiveness, to ensure that every young person we serve could have a brighter future.

The numbers in this report tell a powerful story: hundreds of children, youth, and families were supported, encouraged, and equipped because you chose to support us with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Yet behind every number is a face, a name, and a future made brighter by the work we share. From adoptive families finding hope at Camp Connection to young adults securing stable employment and housing, to parents learning new ways to nurture and attach with their children - each success reflects the deep impact of our collective effort.

Our vision remains clear: a Mississippi where every young person has a safe place to call home and the opportunity to reach their full potential. With your partnership, this vision becomes more real every year.

Thank you for believing in this mission, for investing in these lives, and for ensuring that hope continues to grow in communities across our state. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate Mississippi - one child, one youth, and one family at a time.

With Grateful Hearts,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie C. Himes'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George C. Nicols'.

George Nicols  
Chairman of the Board

Mr. David Riley  
Mr. Jimmy Mohler  
Mr. R. Keith Gordy  
Mr. Ted Kendall  
Mrs. Ann Roberson  
Mrs. Brooks Mosley  
Mrs. Don Moreau  
Mrs. Falvia Plumpp Roberts  
Mrs. Gwen Owen  
Mrs. Julie Jefferson  
Mrs. Kyle Ward  
Mrs. Laura Meacham  
Mrs. Letha Smith  
Mrs. Linda Livingston  
Mrs. Martha Rogers  
Ruth and Tommy McMillin  
Mrs. Teresa Haynes  
Mrs. W. E. Walker, Jr.  
Ms. Mia Pollman  
Parkway Baptist  
Reconciled Consulting Group, LLC.  
Rev. Jeffrey Murphy  
Ronald Russell, CPA  
Russell Folk  
T. H. Kendall  
Thomastown Christian Church  
Tri-State Lumber Company  
United Way of Greater Nashville  
United Way of the Capital Area, Inc.  
Utica Christian Church  
W. Everett Carraway  
Webster Groves Christian Church  
Wilkins Patterson Attorneys at Law

## CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sweat  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F Livingston  
Mr. and Mrs. George Ritter  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Strong  
Mr. Bill Sabbatini  
Mr. Charles Kihm  
Mr. Joseph Morris  
Mr. Mark Hodges  
Mr. Michael Wallace  
Mr. Robert Bradford  
Mr. Tommy Lyle  
Mrs. Alicia Porter  
Mrs. Anita Shorter  
Mrs. Ann Brace  
Mrs. Brenda Deen  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hooper  
Mrs. Gina Myrick  
Mrs. Jeanine Pickering  
Mrs. Jessica Brown  
Mrs. Kim Gilliam  
Mrs. Maureen Oriol  
Mrs. Patricia Simpson  
Mrs. Patsy Parker