

SENATOR BO WATSON VISITS MCNABB CENTER, TALKS WORKFORCE SHORTAGE



Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO; Ashley Kershaw, Volunteer Behavioral Health; Jimmy Catlett, Volunteer Behavioral Health; Senator Bo Watson; Phyllis Persinger, Volunteer Behavioral Health; Gayle Lodato, McNabb Center senior director of Greater Chattanooga Area services; and Carrie Robinson, Volunteer Behavioral Health.

Tennessee State Senator Bo Watson, R-Hixon, recently visited with McNabb Center and Volunteer Behavioral Health leadership to discuss issues related to the workforce shortage. Senator Watson, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, listened to the overall needs of community mental health organizations in the region.

“We are thankful for Senator Watson’s leadership and support,” said Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO. “Working together, we will be able to address the challenges community mental health centers are facing.”

MCNABB CENTER ACQUIRES PROPERTY, MOVING INTENSIVE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The McNabb Center recently acquired a new building in Chattanooga and will be relocating several community mental health services, including its peer support program. Located at 960 Airport Road, the new building will be renovated to provide a better, more accessible space for individuals seeking services.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to move these services to a new, more suitable location,” said Gayle Lodato, senior director of Greater Chattanooga Area services. “This change will allow us to continue to grow our services and find new ways to best meet the needs of the community.”

The Center’s peer support programming is funded through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and is designed to provide opportunities for adults with a mental illness to develop social skills in a community setting. Nearly 90 individuals are active members of the peer support services. Also moving is the TDMHSAS funded Tennessee Move Initiative, which provides up to one year of intensive wraparound services for individuals who have been hospitalized for 90 days or longer due to mental illness.

WELL MIND, WELL BEING.



McNabb Center staff help patients work toward recovery, obtain sustainable housing and connect to other community resources. The new location will also house the Center’s homeless outreach staff who go into the community to provide services to homeless individuals.

Architectural plans are being developed Summer 2022.

INSIDE

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

DEAR SANTA & 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

MCNABB STAFF, PROGRAMS HONORED AT TAMHO AWARDS



Image courtesy of Tony Young with Tony Young Photography.

The McNabb Center was proud to accept several awards at the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) annual conference in December.

Candace Allen, senior director of adult intensive mental health services, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes an individual for their extraordinary and long-standing dedication and service. Candace has spent more than 40 extraordinary years changing the face of behavioral health care and serving the community.

Under her leadership, the McNabb Center expanded its school-based services, implemented the area's first and only Program for Assertive Community Treatment and created the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Candace has been instrumental in bringing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to local law enforcement and ensuring the development of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center.

The McNabb Center is fortunate to benefit from Candace's knowledge and compassion.



Candace Allen, senior director of adult intensive mental health services, receives TAMHO's Distinguished Services Award. Image courtesy of Tony Young with Tony Young Photography.

The McNabb Center was also recognized with TAMHO's Outreach and Engagement Award for the suite of services the Center provides through partnerships with the University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC) and East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

In order to fill gaps in mental health care and substance use treatment, the McNabb Center develops community partnerships that benefit the people served. The Center established an Embedded Psychiatry program in 2019, which provides a McNabb Center psychiatrist directly in the UTMC and Children's Hospital emergency rooms to assist with evaluations and consultations to help ensure patients receive access to treatment resources.

The Center's Hope United program at UTMC connects individuals struggling with substance use disorders with community recovery resources. The McNabb Center's Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee has long-partnered with UTMC to provide forensic nursing to sexual assault crime victims.

Finally, the McNabb Center has become the hospital's preferred provider for behavioral health concerns. The vulnerable populations served through these programs have continued to receive care even in the midst of an enormous public health crisis.

Jerry Vagnier, CEO, and Paula Hudson, senior director of corporate compliance, were honored with President's Awards for their service to the TAMHO organization.

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NEARLY 150 LOCAL KIDS RECEIVE CHRISTMAS THANKS TO DEAR SANTA, 12 DAYS EVENT

Together, the Beth Haynes 12 Days of Christmas Auction, presented by The Boyd Foundation and The Home Depot, and the Dear Santa program provide support for children and families in need during the holidays.

The 2021 auction raised \$109,000 and thanks to our generous community partners, more than 2,300 children and families were supported through the Dear Santa program!

Because of partnerships with organizations, businesses and individuals in the Greater Chattanooga Area, nearly 150 children were served by local Chattanooga sponsors. Two groups, Real Estate Partners Chattanooga, LLC and Christ Church sponsored more than 100 local children combined.

“It is incredible to share the joy of Christmas with children in our community,” said Raquel Morris, Hamilton County children and youth program coordinator. “We are grateful for everyone who sponsored a child or donated in order to help these kids have a positive holiday experience.”

The holidays can be a difficult time for many, and the Dear Santa program helps make them a little brighter for those in need. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors for providing holiday joy to our clients!



Helen Ross McNabb FOUNDATION

Through the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation’s giving options, you have the opportunity to leave a legacy starting today. There are many ways you can create a brighter future for children, adults and families in East Tennessee by remembering the McNabb Center in your financial planning or giving through special events, programs and campaigns. For more information, please call the Foundation at (865) 541-6684.

Gifts from July 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

BETH HAYNES 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AUCTION

Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor
Heritage Center
Chattabrew Tour
Chattanooga Ghost Tours
Chattanooga Whiskey
Chattanooga Zoo
Creative Discovery Museum
High Point Climbing and Fitness
Hutton & Smith Brewing Company
Larimar Medspa
MF Restaurant Group
OddStory Brewing Company
Pedego Chattanooga
Public House Chattanooga
Ruby Falls

Southern Belle Riverboat
Surf's Up Car Wash
Tennessee Aquarium

DEAR SANTA

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Christ Church
Abby Ellis
Katelyn Elser
Patricia Makenzie
Marisa Ogles
Real Estate Partners Chattanooga

HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL FUND

Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga

KNOXVILLE CHALLENGER

Panera Bread

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