

# NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2022

# MCNABB CENTER CUTS RIBBON ON NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY FOR SENIORS



McNabb Center Senior Director of Adult
Outpatient, Mental Health and Recovery
Services, Michael Waltke; McNabb Center
Regional Vice President, Leann Hilliard;
Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health,
Rob Cotterman TDMHSAS; Knoxville
Mayor Indya Kincannon; Joe and Melinda
Connell; HRMF BOD Chair, David Ownby;
McNabb Center President, Mona
Blanton-Kitts; McNabb Center CEO, Jerry
Vagnier; McNabb Center Vice President of
Operations, Stephanie Carter; Knox County
Mayor Glenn Jacobs

n July 20th, 2022, the McNabb Center celebrated the opening of its newest building, cutting the ribbon at Dogwood Springs, a 50-unit rental housing complex, providing much-needed low-income housing to senior citizens in the Knoxville area.

"There is a significant need for affordable housing in Knoxville and the McNabb Center is proud to address part of that need," said Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO. "This project alone will not solve the housing crisis faced by our community, but it will provide comfortable, affordable apartments for 50 of our most vulnerable community members."

The nearly \$8.5 million project is possible because of the financial support of the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, Federal Home Loan Bank-Cincinnati, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and numerous private donors.

Dogwood Springs is a unique housing opportunity for senior citizens because it offers independent living with an option for additional supports that help them maintain their independence as they age. Each of the 50 units is equipped with a full-size kitchen, private bath and access to onsite laundry facilities.



he Dogwood Springs project would not have been possible without Joe and Melinda Connell who chaired the fundraising campaign. During the ribbon cutting, the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation was honored to dedicate this outdoor area to Joe and Melinda for their steadfast commitment and tireless effort to provide Knoxville's elderly with safe, supportive homes.

## INSIDE

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS** 

**FOUNDATION EVENTS** 

WELL MIND, WELL BEING.

## WELCOME 2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS



### Newly appointed board members include:

Mr. Clarence Vaughn Mr. David Wedekind

### 2022-2023 elected officers:

Mr. Wade Davies, Chair

Mr. George Kershaw, Chair-Elect

Dr. Amy Cathey, Past Chair

Mrs. Rebecca Ashford, Secretary

Mr. Mitch Steenrod, Treasurer



### Newly appointed board members include:

Mrs. Micki Martin

### 2022-2023 elected officers:

Mr. David Ownby, Chair

Mr. Wade Ewers, Chair-Elect

Mr. Ford Little, Treasurer

Mrs. Lindsey Boyd, Secretary

Mrs. Ashley White, Immediate Past Chair

### 2022-2023 CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Whit Addicks

Dr. Rebecca Ashford\*, Secretary

Ms. Eden McNabb Bishop

Mrs. Jenny Brock

Dr. Amy Cathey, Immediate Past Chair

Mr. Wade Davies, Chair

Dr. Jerry Epps

Mr. Scott Ferguson\*

Mr. George Kershaw, Chair-Elect

Mr. Randy Miller

Mr. Brian Rauch

Ms. Cheryl Rice

Ms. Cindy Sexton\*

Ms. Laura Shamiyeh

Mr. Mitch Steenrod, Treasurer

Mrs. Traci Topham

Mr. Carl Van Hoozier

Mr. Clarence Vaughn

Mr. Mickey Wade

Mr. David Wedekind

Ms. Andrea White

## HELEN ROSS MCNABB FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

he Helen Ross McNabb Foundation celebrated 50 years of supporting the McNabb Center on July 21, 2022, at The Quarry Venue in Knoxville.

Board members, supporters and friends had a wonderful evening recollecting the Foundation's history and success. Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO, and Houston Smelcer, Vice President of development and government relations, shared stories and updates while thanking all who contributed to the Foundations growth. Special thanks to First Horizon Bank, Home Federal Bank, Proffitt & Goodson, Pugh CPAs, The Trust Company of Tennessee and Truist for making the evening possible.



Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO



Andy Black, former McNabb Center CEO and Houston Smelcer, McNabb Center vice president of development and government relations



Ellie Kassem, daughter of Helen Ross Mcnabb; Mona Blanton-Kitts, McNabb Center president; Sara Cantrell, former board member

## 2022-2023 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Lisa Blakley

Ms. Linda Gay Blanc

Ms. Mona Blanton-Kitts, Ex-officio

Mrs. Lindsey Boyd, Secretary

Mr. Jason Bohne

Mr. Chris Castleberry

Mrs. Susan Conway

Mr. Joe Costner

Mr. Chris Devaney

Mr. Wade Ewers, Chair-Elect

Mr. Mike Fishman

Mr. Ted Flickinger

Mr. Pete Frederick\*

Mr. George Kershaw, Ex-officio

Mrs. Lucy Hand

Mrs. Debbie Jones

Mrs. Anne Lantry

Mr. Jason Lay, Ex-officio

Mr. Ford Little, Treasurer

Mr. John Luttrell

Mr. Richard Maples

Mrs. Micki Martin

Mr. Randy Overbey

Mr. Davis Overton

Mr. David Ownby, Chair

Mrs. Lisa Rottmann

Mrs. Claire Speight

Col. Joe Sutter

Mrs. Ashley White, Immediate Past Chair

## MONA BLANTON-KITTS TAKES REINS AS CEO



ona Blanton-Kitts has been a steady influence upon behavioral health and social services in the state of Tennessee for the last 30 years. On September 1st she began the next step of her career, becoming the McNabb Center's CEO.

For many years Mona served as a regional clinical vice president

and directed the largest division within the Center. When she joined McNabb in 1986 as an adult case manager, she quickly bought into the community-based care approach and has proliferated this ideology throughout her career.

No matter her role, Mona is always committed to clinical work and enjoys developing tomorrow's leaders to make sure they are confident in their clinical skills. Beyond clinical experience, Mona is business savvy and her strategic planning skills will be an asset to the Center. The Center is fortunate to have Mona as the new CEO and clients are well served by her clinical expertise. It is easy to look back over the last 30 years and see Mona's "fingerprints" on the Center's services, culture and leadership.

## MORE THAN TWO DOZEN OFFICERS GRADUATE CIT TRAINING



ore than two dozen law enforcement officers, first responders and medical staff recently graduated from Crisis Intervention Team training.

The graduating class included staff from American Medical Response, the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knox County Sheriff's Office, University of Tennessee Police Department Lenoir City Police Department, Morristown Police Department and the Knoxville Police Department.

CIT trained officers undergo 40 hours of intensive training, which helps them identify mental health resources to assist people in crisis. The training connects officers with mental health professionals and other community agencies to create a team that can provide support when a challenging situation occurs. In addition, officers learn verbal de-escalation skills and experience scenario-based training on responding to crises.

## BIG BBQ BASH RAISES \$72,000 FOR MILITARY SERVICES PROGRAM

he Helen Ross McNabb Foundation hosted the Big BBQ Bash at Founder's Square in historic downtown Maryville on June 24 and 25. The professional barbecue cook-off fundraiser was established as a legacy project by the Leadership Blount Class of 2007, and this marks its eighth year as a Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) sanctioned competition.

Since its inception, the Big BBQ Bash has raised nearly \$300,000, with this year topping \$72,000. All proceeds from the 2022 competition will benefit the McNabb Center's Military Services program.

KCBS sanctions barbecue and grilling contests across the U.S. and advocates barbecue as America's cuisine. Additionally, KCBS is the largest association of barbecue lovers worldwide and has a vast Certified Barbecue Judging program.





Adam and Taunya Dawkins, owners of Bad Rooster BBQ

# MORE THAN 850 ITEMS DONATED FOR CHRISTMAS IN JULY



hanks to many generous donors and local community partners, more than 850 new toys, clothes and hygiene products were donated to this year's Christmas in July Toy Drive!

Now in its fourth year, the

Christmas in July Toy Drive benefits the McNabb Center's Dear Santa program. Every item donated will go toward children in East Tennessee who have a need this holiday season.

Donors sent in toys from our Amazon wish list and dropped off gifts in-person at local credit unions around the region. Thank you to our partners, ORNL Federal Credit Union, Y-12 Federal Credit Union and Enrichment Federal Credit Union for helping us jump start the season of giving!

A longtime Dear Santa community partner, First Utility District, hosted the First Annual First Utility District Christmas in July Golf Tournament, which raised more than \$30,000! Proceeds from this tournament will allow them to expand their participation in Dear Santa. Fulfilling children's holiday wishes through Dear Santa and the Christmas in July Toy Drive would not be possible with the support of the community.

## RUSSELL BIVEN CLAYFEST SURPASSES \$100,000

he annual Russell Biven Clayfest was a shooting success. This year, the event took place at a new location, Iron Mountain Sporting Clays in Kodak. More than 300 individuals participated in the two-day tournament, presented by Centriworks and Cherokee Distributing, in memory of Herb Ogle.

This year's tournament exceeded its target and raised more than \$100,000. Russell Biven hosts the tournament to benefit mental health, substance use, social and victim services provided by the McNabb Center in East Tennessee



## UPCOMING FOUNDATION EVENTS

he Foundation is thrilled to host the 2022 Knoxville Challenger, a seven day professional tennis event, held in Knoxville, Tennessee from November 8-13, 2022 at the Goodfriend Indoor Tennis Center. The Challenger series is part of the USTA Pro Circuit series, which is designed to provide opportunities to aspiring young international professional tennis players to advance to top levels of the game.

For more information, please visit knoxchallenger.com.



lease join us for the second annual Sunset Shenanigans
Cosmic Drive and Putt at The Club at Gettysvue on
October 24, 2022 to support programs and services
that serve thousands of children, adults and families in
our community. Sunset Shenanigans Cosmic Drive &
Putt Challenge is a one-of-a-kind event in East Tennessee
benefiting the McNabb Center.

For more information, please visit mcnabbfoundation.org/shenanigans.



tenefiting McNabb Center



## 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 April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022

### **BEN GOODSON GRATITUDE FUND**

Lee and Mary Jones

## **BETH HAYNES 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ONLINE**

Trust Company of Tennessee David and Gail Wedekind

### BIG BBQ BASH

Christy Adams

Art Swann Campaign Committee

Joy Bishop

Blevins Paint Center, Inc. Larry and Beth Brown

Burkhalter & Burkhalter Operating Trust Account

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Michael and Kathleen Reiss

Grant Rimback

Julie and John Rochelle

Rockford Manufacturing Co.

Rollin' Smoke BBQ Brenda Sellers

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Simmons Bank Single Barrel Events Jason Singletary

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Smith & Wesson Tracy Southard Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC

Square

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### **BLOUNT COUNTY CLINIC**

East Tennessee Foundation

### BOB KESLING AND BERT BERTELKAMP GOLF TOURNAMENT

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7 Title Alcopro Inc. Audi Knoxville Axle Logistics

Bacon & Company, Inc. Barnhart Crane & Rigging Co.

Barnhart Engineers and Constructors

Bass, Berry and Sims, PLC

Beaty Chevrolet

Henry F. and Sheila Bertelkamp III Henry F. and Sandy Bertelkamp, Jr.

Black Oak Logistics LLC James S. and Mary Bush Citadel Construction, Inc. Connell Properties Cumulus Media

Dead End BBQ Denark Construction, Inc.

Eagle Distributing Company, Inc. Jerry and Eleesa Epps, MD

First Trust FirstBank Hatcher-Hill

Hiller Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Company, Inc.

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City Of Knoxville

University of Tennessee Vans

Charles Vates

**DEAR SANTA** 

Lantry Family Foundation David and Gail Wedekind

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRANSITIONAL

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Brian and Martha Rauch

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Pugh CPAs

**GENERAL SUPPORT** 

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Miriam Kuhn

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Cheryl Rice **Grant Smith** 

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WOMEN'S RECOVERY HOUSING

Eleanor Kassem

PACT PROGRAM

Farragut Presbyterian Church

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SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER OF EAST TENNESSEE

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University of Tennessee Interfraternity Council

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Larry and Mitzi Bodie

Cumberland Wealth Management

J&D Properties

Stephen and Nancy Land

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Jack and Trish Mills

Patriot Investment Management

Smartbank

Stowers Machinery Corporation

Stowers Machinery Foundation

Joe and Geri Sutter

Trust Company of Tennessee

Wright Contracting, Inc.

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Akima Club

### THERAPEUTIC PRESCHOOL CAMPAIGN

#### - CHATTANOOGA

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Andy and Brenda Black

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. George Kershaw

Andy Puckett

 ${\it In honor of John and Judy Luttrell}$ 

George and Cheryl Kershaw In memory of Judy Morton

Linda Vaughn

In memory of Judy Morton

Rob and Deb Robertson In memory of Margaret O'Donnell

Tyler Allen

In memory of Stanley Pickering Sr.

Andy and Brenda Black
In honor of Mitch and Debby Steenrod

Henry and Lil Parr

In memory of Sarah Stowers



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