

WOMEN'S FUND OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

CHATTANOOGAWOMENSFUND.ORG

WOMEN'S FUND OF

GREATER CHATTANOOGA

BOLD PHILANTHROPISTS. BRAVE ADVOCATES.

VISION: The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga will be the leading advocate and change agent in creating a community inspired to and engaged in helping women and girls live safe, just and economically secure lives.

MISSION: The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga improves the lives of women and girls in our region by driving social change, providing opportunity, and promoting economic self-sufficiency through

- education and advocacy
- empowered philanthropy
- collaborative partnerships
- strategic grantmaking

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**POLICY AND ADVOCACY
DIRECTOR**

Valerie Chandler
**PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS
MANAGER**

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Over the past 15 years,



the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga has built a legacy on bringing women together to pool their money and energy toward changing systemic issues in our community. The political and social landscape has changed plenty over those past 15 years, and the Women's Fund has been through many seasons of change, but one thing remains true—it's our connection to others and the close bonds we build between us that become the force that breaks down barriers and builds back resilience.

Through building a bond of connection and support with Dr. Monika in 2020, we became aware of the challenges folks have in our state when they are dealing with an abusive partner who is controlling their finances. We introduced a bill to add Financial Abuse to our state code in 2022, and we re-wrote and passed that bill in 2023. Now states across the nation are poised to codify Financial Abuse as well. When one woman reaches out to join hands with others and build a community of support, so much can be done.

This year we also hosted our first day on the hill, Bold & Brave, where a group of women, girls and nonbinary folks went to the state legislature to learn about how advocacy works. A group of girls sat in the seats of our state senators where they learned how to properly debate a bill. They shared the things they most wanted to see changed, like reproductive justice, domestic violence, childcare, while learning that changing them didn't have to feel so far away and impossible.

Through the generous support of the Nightingale Network, we were able to raise and give away a record-breaking \$17,280 to three incredible community programs that provide safety net services for women and children going through some of the toughest moments of their lives. Community care and support shouldn't be a rarity—it should be the standard, and the many Nightingales who contribute to that grant demonstrate for us that all women are worth investment.

As we close out the year, we want to take a moment to thank YOU for your generous support and belief in this work. Everything comes and goes, but the communities of care and support that we build are the ones that carry us through our biggest challenges.

Rachael Fanceman
BOARD CHAIR '23



BOLD AND BRAVE

BOLD & BRAVE is our Advocacy Day focused on building a more just, equitable, and inclusive Tennessee for all women and girls by empowering us to lead and succeed at the heart of our State.

April 12, 2023, our inaugural “Day on the Hill,” found a busload of intergenerational Chattanoogaans in Nashville! We held a brunch for the entire Legislative body (members and staff), followed by a mock legislative session, an educational exhibit on women’s suffrage at the Nashville Public Library, and a lunch hosted by board member and VOICES Co-Chair Nicole Watson, Esq. through Holland & Knight LLP.

It was an eventful day! We thank the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis and Young Ladies of Power for their support.



A WFGC DAY OF ADVOCACY
BOLD
And
BRAVE



A WFGC DAY OF ADVOCACY

BOLD *And* BRAVE



— 2023 T-Shirt Design Contest Winner —



As part of Bold and Brave, we asked high school students to create a T-shirt design based on our 2023 Legislative Priorities. The winning design was printed and the creator was given a monetary reward and a shirt! The winning design was created by a 15 year-old student who resonated with Human Trafficking legislation.

Why she chose to focus on Human Trafficking:

"I wanted to enter this contest not only because I feel the issues being addressed are important but also because of my interest in government. I have participated in events like youth in government that showed me the importance of speaking your mind to advocate for issues you feel passionately about. I think advocating for the protection of women should not be controversial but rather the standard. As a young woman I appreciate organizations like this in my local area that are fighting to protect women."

2023 LEGISLATION



7

CHAPTERED BILLS

7 OF THE BILLS WE
SUPPORTED THIS YEAR
BECAME CHAPTERED
LEGISLATION.

100%

AS OF 2023, THE WOMEN'S
FUND OF GREATER
CHATTANOOGA HAS PASSED
EVERY PROACTIVE PIECE OF
LEGISLATION IT HAS WRITTEN.

OUR PROACTIVE FINANCIAL ABUSE LEGISLATION

We continue in excitement and celebration of the passage of our Financial Abuse Bill (SB 979) which has become law. It provides a definition for Financial abuse, as well as opportunity for those impacted by domestic violence and/or who are considered vulnerable adults (seniors and those living with a disability) to seek support,

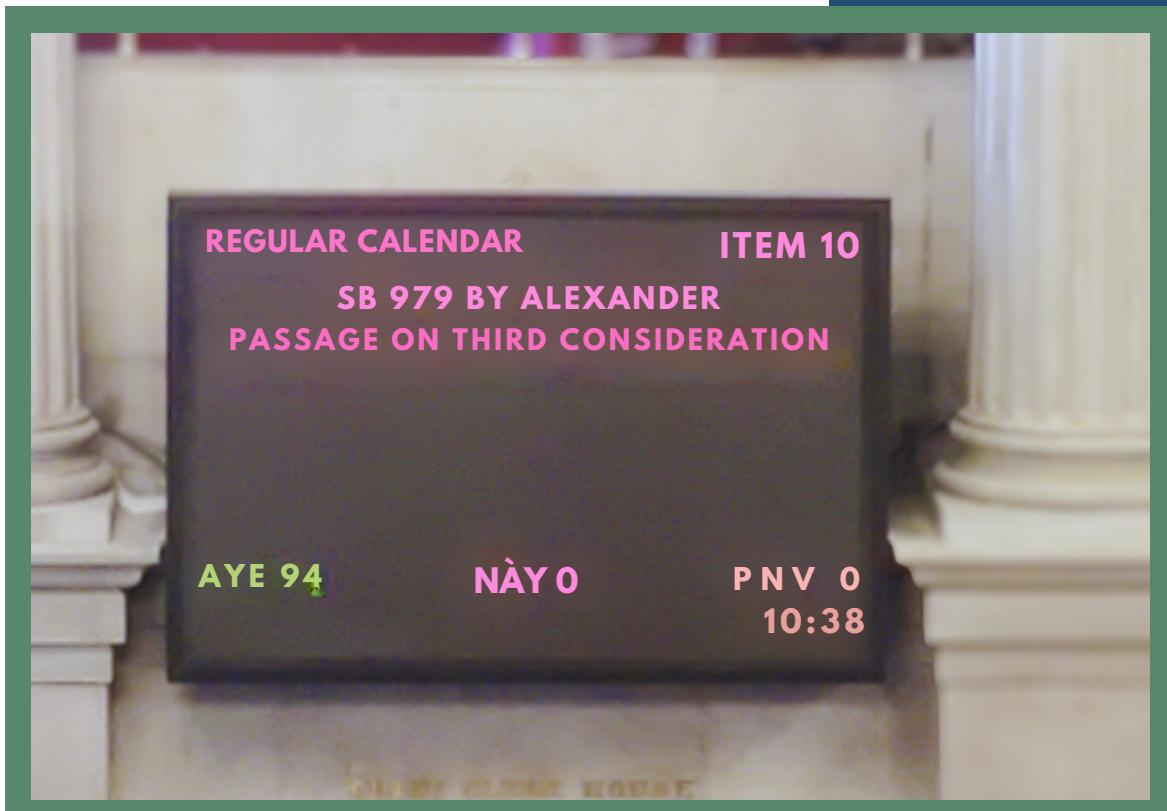
As of 2023, our bill is the most comprehensive financial abuse legislation in the country. We are proud to have written and passed this legislation with our team and advocates. We extend an extra special thank you to Senator Gardenhire and Representative Alexander who carried the bill. We also thank our Hamilton County Delegates who became sponsors.

99%

The approximate amount of domestic violence cases IN WHICH financial abuse also occurs.

15.9K

General average of coerced and fraudulent debt in a survivor's name each year.



The following is a semi-comprehensive look at the legislative wins in 2023. An in-depth look at our 2023 priorities can be found on our website.

SB 979/HB 944 | Financial Abuse | Senator Gardenhire & Representative Alexander | Defines Financial Abuse and attributes that definition to domestic abuse and abuse against those who are considered “vulnerable adults.” (Written and lobbied for by the WFGC as our proactive legislation.) **Chaptered.**

Special thanks to the following Co-Sponsors,

*Hamilton County Delegates

Senate: Campbell, Yarbrow, Briggs, Jackson, Massey, Rose, Walley, Watson **House:** Hardaway, Crawford, Helton-Haynes, Littleton, Davis, Vital, Hakeem



SB 1458/HB 983 | Maternity Leave for Local Education Agencies | Senator White & Rep/Spkr Sexton | A Better Balance | Expands leave for adoption or birth for education employees. Passed. **Chaptered.**

SB 276/ HB 324 | Paid Family Leave | Senator Lamberth & Rep Johnson | A Better Balance | Expands leave options for adoption or birth for state employees.

Chaptered.

SB 745/HB 883 | Medical Procedures for Pregnant Women | Senator Briggs and Representative Helton-Haynes" | Replaces the affirmative defense of “proving an abortion was necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman”; and instead provides that it is not an offense for a physician to perform an abortion under circumstances that are substantially similar to those required to establish the affirmative defense under present law. **Chaptered.**

SB 394/HB738 | Senator Lamar & Representative Love | Creates the Doula Advisory Committee, which will advise on training requirements for doulas to be TennCare providers and on equitable reimbursement rates. **Chaptered.**

SB 1205/ HB 686 | Victim Confidentiality | Senator Campbell & Senator Freeman | Senator Campbell & Representative Freeman | Prohibits an advocate from disclosing any communication received from a victim, or the location of their shelter, unless the victim waives this right by written consent. **Chaptered.**

SB 419/HB 557 | Increase Age for Forensic Youth Interviews | Senator Haile & Representative Littleton | Children's Advocacy Centers| Increases the age for the admissibility of statements during a forensic interview from 13 to 17 and would allow statements describing abusive or violent contact with or on the child, instead of just sexual contact. **Chaptered.**

SB 346/ HB 933 | Highschool Heads-up for Voter Eligibility | Senator Campbell & Representative McKenzie | This bill was promoted by high schoolers! Requires each high school to inform each high school senior that upon reaching the age of 18 the student may be eligible to vote and provide information from the secretary of state about voter eligibility and how to register to vote. **Chaptered.**

We are glad the following bills did not progress as we OPPOSED them:

SB 603/HB 571 | Mandating Cultural Incompetence in Medical Education and Practice | Senator Hensley & Representative Carringer | Would, among other things, prohibit medical education institutions from requiring diversity equity, and inclusion (DEI) training and education for purposes of the issuance of a degree. Taken off notice for cal in s/c Higher Education Subcommittee of Education Administration.

SB 1222/HB 267 | State Mandated Mental Health Barriers to Economic Success | Senator White & Senator Terry | Would require a child seeking to expunge their record to undergo a favorable mental health evaluation. Held in committee (some sponsors withdrew!)



PERIOD POVERTY AWARENESS

In continuation of our work to raise awareness on the issue of Period Poverty, we participated in Period Poverty and Menstrual Health Awareness week May 22nd-May 26th. We want to take another moment to share our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Period Product Drive. **Over 10,000 period products were donated to help stock the Hamilton County Schools Care Closets!**

In addition to creating a Digital Toolkit to share with partner organizations, we hosted a Webinar titled Let's Talk: Period Poverty + Menstrual Health. The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis co-hosted as a Tennessee Women's Fund Alliance event.

We also were invited to present on the topic of Period Poverty to Chattanooga City Council by Councilwoman Carol Berz.



NIGHTINGALE NETWORK

The Nightingale Network of the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga awarded \$10,000 to **Chattanooga Room in the Inn's** "Shelter to Stability" program. The Shelter provides a safe and supportive place to live for women and children to without homes. They also provide resources that help support these families move toward stability and find permanent, safe housing. The ultimate goal of the program is for women and children to never be homeless again.

Thanks to a generous donor, Deb Hulse, and increased 2023 Nightingale Network membership, therefore exceeding our goal, we were able to give the other two finalists, **Chambliss Center for Children** and **Signal Centers: Family Forward** program, mini-grants of **\$3,640 each** to support their missions as well.

We are partnering again with **Chattanooga Girl's Leadership Academy** for the Student Nightingale Network. **Joanna Theolene**, our Advocacy and Policy Director, will spend one Friday afternoon a month with a group of students from November 2023 to April 2024 teaching them about philanthropy and advocacy.

Thanks to our **Edna level members**, the students will get to award **\$500** to one of the grant applicants who were not chosen as finalists through the 2023 grant cycle. We look forward to continuing to growing this network



NIGHTINGALE NETWORK COMMITTEE

CHAIR

KATHLEEN NOLTE

ALAYNA BEST

LINDA MURRAY BULLARD

COLLEEN KIRK

KATY SPURLOCK

ASHLEY VALENCIA

HALEY WILSON

2023 NIGHTINGALE NETWORK MEMBERS

MALALA

ASHLYN HIRST
ABIGAIL HOLLY
SAMMY JACOBS
SUSHIE PENTIAHA

RUTH

CORY ALISON
ANN COULTER
MANDY CROWLEY
KATEY DAILEY
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BETTY PITTARD
RACHAEL SAUCEMAN

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LEA ANNE WILES

HALEY WILSON

MARGARET WORTHAM

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GLORIA

ANN HOWELL

DARDENELLE LONG

FLORENCE

CONNIE CAVETT

EVA DOYLE

SARAH NELS

CAROLYN SMITH

TRACY WOOD

EDNA

SHARON ALEXANDER

KELLY ALLEN

ALAYNA BEST

MELISSA BLEVINS

SHELLY ELLIOTT

FRAN FLUKER

ALEX FOOTE

DEB HULSE

SUZANNE IGOE

PAULA IRWIN

COLLEEN KIRK

MARIA KRYSA

ANA MANCEBO

STACY MARTIN

KATHLEEN NOTLE

MARLENA PALMER

ELAINE PATTERSON

HUNTER SMITH

CHLOE SMOTHERMAN

KATY SPURLOCK

EDNA VARNER

VOICES 2023

We can't thank our **VOICES** sponsors, donors, speakers, and attendees enough for making this year's event a huge success! We're amazed and deeply grateful for the unwavering support we received from the Chattanooga community. Because of you, we were able to spread awareness of our mission to improve life for women and girls across the region.



This year, the program included powerful and personal stories from three local women-**Amanda Leming, Dr. Monika, and Tangela Johnson**. They highlighted key legislative priorities addressed by WFGC including human trafficking and financial abuse. By sharing their own lived experience and the power of advocacy, our speakers inspired us to continue to come together to create space for all women and girls to thrive.

VOICES COMMITTEE

AMANDA LEMING, CO-CHAIR
NICOLE WATSON, CO-CHAIR

KATHERINE ROBERTS BURGER
POWER OF THE PURSE CHAIR

AVERY PATTEN BARRON
MEG JACOBS
STACY MARTIN
CARA MCGOWAN
BECKY MONTGOMERY
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Mary Chastain



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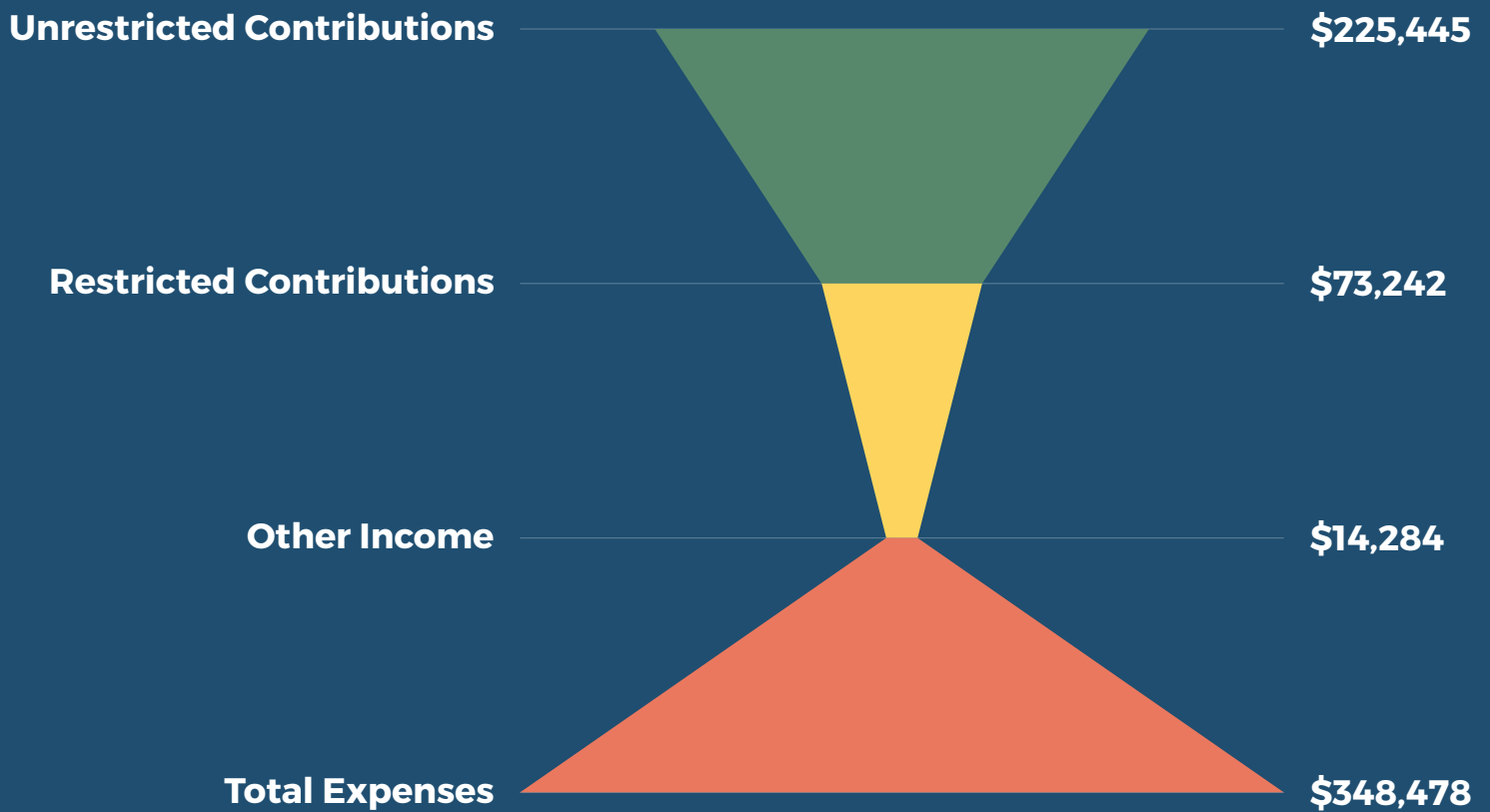
Girls Preparatory School
Heron DesignHHM
Husch Blackwell
Juli Bacon
Signal Centers
UTC Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Thank you to our generous Power of the Purse™ donors and to for their in-kind donations.

2023 FINANCIALS

INCOME + EXPENSES

NOVEMBER 1, 2022-OCTOBER 31, 2023

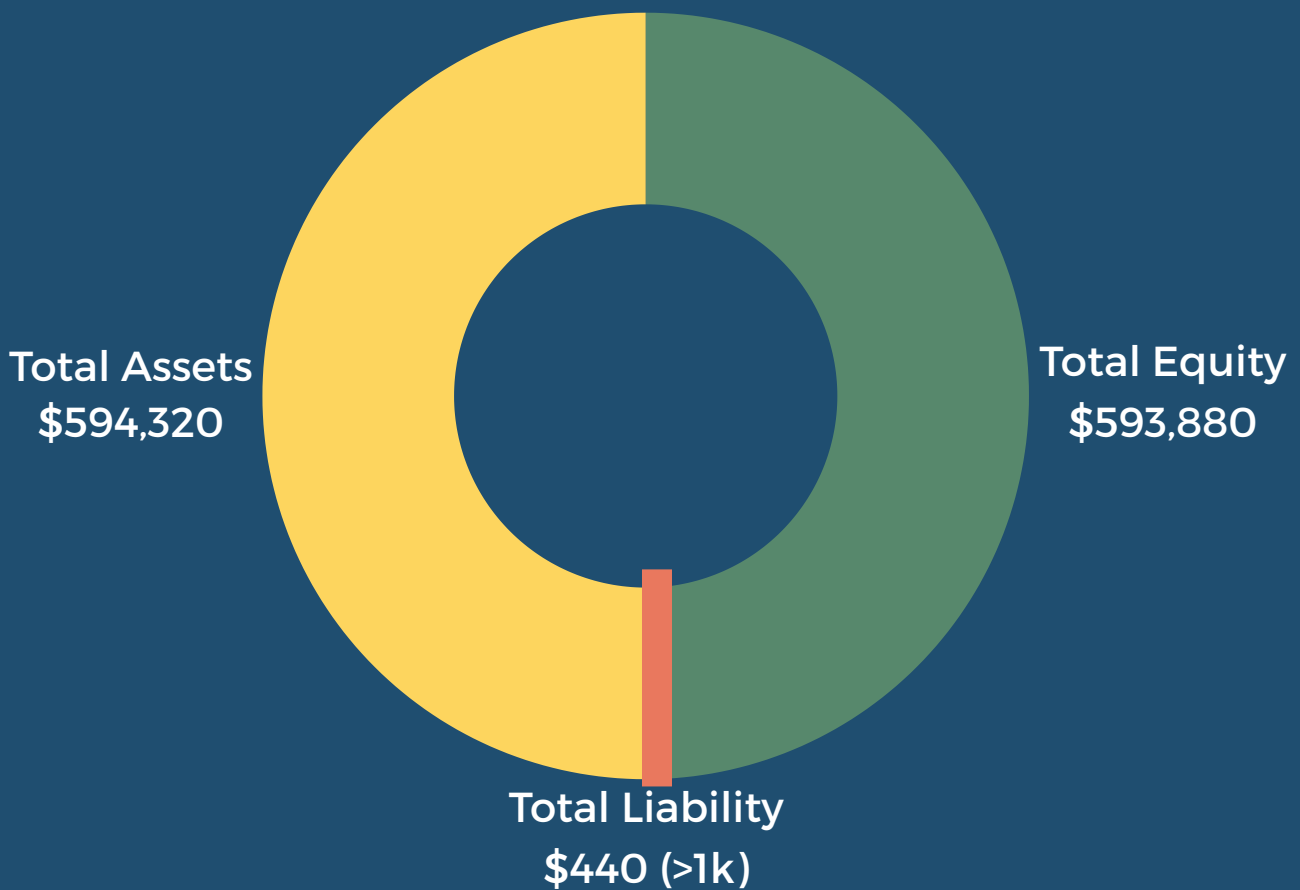


Total Income: **\$312,971**
Total Expenses: **\$348,478**

2023 FINANCIALS

LIABILITIES + EQUITY

AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023



DONOR'S CIRCLE

A Sincere **THANK YOU** to our Donors*
*Donations received November 1, 2022-October 31, 2023

CHAMPION

ORGANIZATIONS

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
Lyndhurst Foundation
Women's Foundation for a Greater
Memphis
UNUM

INDIVIDUALS

Deb Hulse
Sarah Lorberbaum

SUSTAINER

ORGANIZATIONS

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Bobby Stone Foundation
Chattanooga Professional Women for Good
EPB
First Horizon Bank
Truist

INDIVIDUALS

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Kelly Fitzgerald
Marcy Porter

CHANGEMAKER

ORGANIZATIONS

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Girls Preparatory School
Hamico, Inc.
Henderson Hutcherson & McCullough, PLLC
K :: A Boutique by Katherine Roberts
Lexus of Chattanooga
Miller and Martin Women's Network
Husch Blackwell LLP
The Patten Group
Q Strategies

INDIVIDUALS

Ann and Bill Aiken	Kristina Montague
Cory Allison	Carla Morgan
Kelly Allen	Ashlee Patten
Charlie Brock	Karen Persinger
Joseph Davenport	Rachael Sauceman
Karen Elliott	Beth Simon
Shelly Elliott	Rebecca Stimson
DeDe Engsberg	Tom Jenkins
Leah Gerbitz	Emily and Teo Valdes
Vicky Gregg	Lea Anne Wiles
Jennifer Harper	Dakasha Winton
Michelle Hunter	
Mary Kilbride	
Cindy Lee	
Norma & Olan Mills	

COLLABORATOR

ORGANIZATIONS

Chattanooga City Council
 McCallie School
 Signal Centers
 UTC Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

INDIVIDUALS

Juli Bacon	Rebecca Klein
Krissa Barclay	Stacy Martin
Autumn Witt Boyd	Daisy Maurya Ballard
Shelton Chambers	Margaret Oehmig
Mary Chastain	Marlena Palmer
Bradley Cobb	Virginia Anne Sharber
Andrea Crouch	Luke Soules
Sally Faulkner	Julie Taylor
Hope Flammer	Edna Varner
Councilwoman Jenny Hill	Katie Warren
Dawn Hjelseth	Senator Bo & Nicole Watson
Nancy Jolley	Sue Anne Wells
Meaghan Jones	Liz Wilson
Ann Keown	

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ORGANIZATIONS

BeCaffinated
 Lil' Mama's Chicago Style Hoagies
 ErikaBMarketing
 The Rosecomb

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Amy Andrews	Wendy Caswell
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Steve Blankenship	Melissa Curtis
Mattie Bono	Storme Davis
Dominique Brandt	Robin Dern
Anne Bright	Emily Dockery
Susu & Paul Brock	Kori Ellis
Lynn Bryant	Stephanie Fitch
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Kitty Caldwell	Meredith Gaddis
Tiffanie Campbell Robinson	Liz Grant
Elizabeth Carriger	Kathi Grant Willis

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Rosemarie Hill
Taylor Hixson
Tiffany Holland
Diane Homrich
Paul Jullienne
Melissa Kirby
Kirsten Lankford
Katy Larue
Amanda Leming
Thyais Leonard
Ana Mancebo
Melissa Manner
Stefanie Mansueto
Amye McCallie
Cathy McDonald
Cara McGowan
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Darcy Meals
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Anca Rader
Emily Ramsey
Rebecca Rolston Raymond
Rachel Ruiz
Jeanne Rybolt
Tekisha Sampson
Amanda Senn-Simmons
Melody Shekari
Kim Shumpert
Priscilla Simms-Roberson
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Max Taylor
Terri Rigsby Thomas
Rachel Troute
Angela Watts
Ashley Weidlich
Elizabeth Williams
Alexis Willis
Pinky Young
Ann Zack

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Sourdough Cuppa Joe

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Rachel Ruiz
Jeanne Rybolt
Tekisha Sampson
Amanda Senn-Simmons
Melody Shekari
Kim Shumpert
Priscilla Simms-Roberson
Carolyn Smith
Max Taylor
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Rachel Troute
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Elizabeth Williams
Alexis Willis
Pinky Young
Ann Zack

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Michele Coffman
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Mandy Cowley
Kobi Cummings
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Catharine Daniels
Lisa Davis
Mary DeVoe
Denise Estes
Katie Giannasi
Sharon Gilley
Lissa Goeltz
Kristy Graves
Molly Groves
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Elizabeth Hammitt
Alyson Haugland
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Alicia Homrich
Sylvia Hudson
Princess Jackson
Shannon Johnson
Farron Kilburn
Ana Leonard
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Anne Helen Mathisen
Jean McCants Crockett
Cara McGowan
James McKissick
Darcy Meals
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Bold Philanthropists. Brave Advocates.

POLICY & ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY CORPS

A network of like-minded individuals seeking to serve Hamilton County and abroad by ensuring equity and fighting for justice through policy.



LEGISLATION + POLICY

The WFGC works within its legal ability to lobby and advocate for legislation that is in the interest of women and girls in Tennessee.



INITIATIVES + CONVENINGS

WFGC sheds light on issue areas by creating opportunities to foster knowledge and engage in learning on topics of interest to women and girls in Tennessee.

POLICY + YOU = CHANGE.

Our Chattanooga community needs YOU! The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga seeks to Make Life Better for Every Woman and Girl. However, this mission takes a village. It takes you!

Scan the QR Code to join our Advocacy Corps. Additionally, email "advocacy@chattanoogawomensfund.org" for any other thoughts or questions. We'd love to hear from you!





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GREATER CHATTANOOGA**

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