

# Children's Champion

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Hi **{{FirstName or 'friend'}}**,

As this week marks the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, we are reflecting on his legacy of championing racial justice and equality. One of his quotes that is particularly poignant to me is: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

We have come a long way in the last 50 years, but there is still work to be done. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for all that you have done to make this world a better place for children. We hope you continue to join us in reducing inequality and eliminating barriers so that every child can reach his or her full potential.

**Kinika Young**

Director of Children's Health

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## **INSURE OUR KIDS UPDATES**

2 new partners have joined the campaign to insure every eligible child in Tennessee. We are thrilled to welcome Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and Tennessee Voices for Children.

Don't forget to check out [insureourkids.org](http://insureourkids.org) for more information.

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## **ICYMI**

Firsthand experience is invaluable to understanding the impact of policy. We would like to spotlight some wonderful mothers who are speaking up for themselves and their children.

### **Danielle & Malcolm**

In addition to having a chronically ill child and a bright, inquisitive 8-year-old, Danielle Alaimo just had a brain surgery. Instead of focusing on her recovery, she is preoccupied with the possibility of caregivers losing coverage if legislation surrounding Medicaid work requirements passes. [Watch her video here.](#)

### **Julie & Ava Gray**

We recently received news that TJC clients, Julie Whitacre, mother of Ava Gray and Haven, won her case in order to keep Ava Gray's nursing hours from being reduced! We are so incredibly happy to hear this. The fight for better health care is never easy, but hard work by advocates like Julie make a difference not only for their loved ones but all of ours. Huge thanks to Jack Smith (VP of Litigation at HCA) for providing pro bono representation in this case. [Watch her video here.](#)

### **Cassi & Ryan**

"A normal day? We don't have those." Cassi is a mother from Morristown, TN. She spends her days caring for her five children, including twin babies, a toddler, and a son named Ryan who has complex medical needs. Cassi would love to be able to work, and has even tried working night shifts. Her hours were cut though and she is worried about getting Ryan sufficient nursing hours to monitor his tracheostomy while she was gone. [Watch her story here.](#)

### **Rebecca & Charlie**

"If we didn't get Medicaid, Charlie wouldn't be able to receive the services she receives, and right now, Charlie has a very good chance at a typical, independent adulthood. Without services, the delays she's struggling with will make her dependent for her entire life." [Watch her story here.](#)

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- You can't miss [Oprah's recent segment on 60 Minutes about adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\)](#). Tennessee has led the way on raising ACE awareness and working to make sure the state's culture changes from asking "What's wrong with you?" to "What has happened to you?" We are so encouraged by the national attention on this issue from Oprah Winfrey and 60 Minutes. Hopefully, this will be the tipping point towards creating programs, policies, practices and philosophies that prioritize preventing and mitigating ACEs to ensure the strongest, healthiest future for all our kids.
  - The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), in conjunction with Governor Haslam's TN Together plan, launched a statewide media campaign. Part of the campaign is an

exciting competition to engage the creativity of teenagers across the state, spur their interest in the issue of opioid misuse, and potentially prevent them from developing addiction issues. They are soliciting PSAs from teenagers across Tennessee. Teens are encouraged to visit [TNtogetherContest.com](http://TNtogetherContest.com), learn more about the opioid crisis, create a video with their friends, and submit it to the competition.

- TN Together Website: <https://www.tn.gov/opioids>
- Competition Website: [TNtogetherContest.com](http://TNtogetherContest.com)
- PSA Competition on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TnTogether/videos/222907821604776>
- PSA Competition Promo: <https://youtu.be/r0Wnbb4GotI>
- TN Together on Social Media:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/TnTogether/>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/tennesseetogether/>
  - <https://twitter.com/TnTogether>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4lwrk7j0-g8ZLxmDnnn7qQ>

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## **THE MORE YOU KNOW**

Georgetown Center for Children & Families & Kaiser Family Foundation: [Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost Sharing Policies as of January 2018: Findings from a 50-State Survey](#)

[New Study Shows Benefits of Identifying and Enrolling Uninsured Young Children into Public Health Insurance Through School-Based Outreach](#)

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## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **Federal level:**

The [Consumer Health Insurance Protection Act](#) was just introduced as a way to stabilize the individual market and bring down healthcare costs. The comprehensive bill would address some of the most pressing issues consumers face in the health insurance market today. It would help make health insurance more affordable through enhanced financial assistance and placing limits on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. It would improve access to care by implementing plan participation requirements and strengthen consumer protections from surprise out-of-network bills.

### **State level:**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse prevention organizations "plant" pinwheel gardens as annual observances of the month. Across Tennessee, there are opportunities focused on how to support families and reduce child maltreatment.

Individuals can write letters or op-eds to newspapers and display blue pinwheels to call attention to child abuse prevention.

- Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee [Pinwheels for Prevention](#)

- Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee [Events](#)
- CDC [Child Abuse Prevention Fact Sheet](#)

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has [a policy and issue guide](#) that is a useful resource for advocates to engage with policymakers, candidates, and elected officials about various issues impacting children in the state.

Thanks to the TCCY for regularly providing state updates, including the information above. If you'd like to receive their email updates, [you can sign up here](#).

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## [JOIN US](#)

### **Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar** **Thursday, April 12** **11 AM-12 PM CDT**

The Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar will include coverage options, eligibility, and the enrollment process. This is the same content as the last training. We are hoping to reach a new audience so if you enjoyed the training in the past, please pass it on to anyone you think could benefit from the information.

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



## **TJC HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON**

**CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND THEIR CHAMPIONS**  
**Tuesday, May 1st**  
**Renaissance Hotel, Downtown Nashville**  
**11:30AM - 1:00PM**

You read that right--we are making TJC's signature Hall of Fame event an annual springtime affair! As we enter our 18th year of celebrating Mother's Day, we are excited to invite you to a **luncheon** recognizing our 2018 Mothers of the Year and

honoring five inspiring community leaders who have devoted decades to fighting for Tennessee children and their families:

- **Honorable Sheila Calloway**
- **Rev. Kaki Friskics-Warren**
- **Dr. Craig Anne Heflinger**
- **Linda O'Neal**
- **Russell J. Overby**

Come celebrate their determination and courage with us!

**[Get your ticket today](#)** for a whole lot of fun and inspiration.

We need your support more than ever.

**Interested in doing more? [Become a sponsor!](#)**

**Can't come? [Donate a ticket](#) to a TJC client or volunteer!**

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