

Jonathan's Path Year Book

2023



**Jonathan's
Path** SUPPORTING TEENS IN FOSTER CARE

Our Purpose

We give Middle Tennessee youths in foster care a new path—with a place to call home and a chance to dream. Jonathan's Path fills a huge void of consistency teens face in foster care including, housing, support, direction and love. No paths are the same, but the love, stability, and support from Jonathan's Path will be constant for every youth.

Who We Serve

- Teens in Foster Care (13-18)
- Teens Extension of Foster Care (EFC) (18-25)

TN Counties

9 Middle Tennessee Counties represented with JP Youth



Why?

These stats are not acceptable and we want to change them.

24 years old By this age, only **HALF** will have stable and steady employment.

Statistics show that the same % will develop substance abuse.

Become homeless at 18

46%

51% of foster youth graduate high school.

Never earn a college or vocational degree

97%

1/3 Former foster youth who rely on government assistance programs.

3/4

From Us To You

Hello Friends,

As we bid farewell to a truly transformative year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of Jonathan's Path. Your commitment to the cause has been the cornerstone in paving new paths forwards for these youth. We are delighted to share a brief overview of the incredible journey we've embarked on together.

In the past year, Jonathan's Path has achieved remarkable milestones, touching the lives of countless youths in foster care and those aging out of care. Through your generous contributions, we've prevented young adults from being homeless, paved new career paths, helped with dental and mental health needs and so much more.

One of our proudest achievements is the successful launch of The Path Line, which is a direct line to support ranging from mental health therapy, sporting equipment, independent living, educational support and more. You'll hear real impact stories in this annual review.

As we reflect on the year gone by, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the trust and confidence you have placed in us. Your belief in our vision has empowered us to dream bigger, work harder, and strive for excellence in everything we do. We are truly thankful for the positive impact your contributions have made, and we look forward to continuing this incredible journey together.

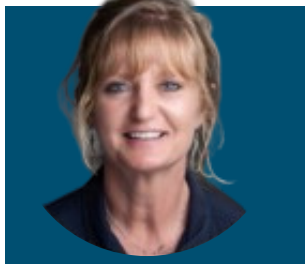
With sincere gratitude,



Jase & Carrie DuRard
Co-Founders
Board President/
Executive Director



Jonathan Whitacre
Board Member



Buffy Loveday
Board Member



Leah Jensen Bennion
Board Member



Mark Nosal
Board Member



Tammy Sutton
Board Member



Chad Sutton
Board Member

2023 Pathways of Gratitude: Honoring Our Sponsors

On behalf of the Jonathan's Path teens, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and generosity. Your commitment to our cause has paved the way for countless individuals to embark on a journey towards a brighter future. Through your generosity, we have been able to provide essential resources, education, and support to those navigating challenging paths.

FOUNDING PARTNERS (\$10,000+)



Earle & Trish DuRard

Ed Lanquist

Dave & Jennifer Worachek



Value-Based
RCM



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES (\$1,000+)

Heather & Jude Crowell

Rebekah Panepinto

Erik Milam

Jonathan & Tilghman

Whitacre

Kim Handel and Mark Nosal

Bob Yeager

Keith Truax

Tammy Sutton

Ray Bwling

Jennifer Whitney (Canipe
Whitney, P.C.)

Janice Winter

Jeff Roberts Consulting

Susanna Quasem

Macy Mulligan

DeAndre Hopkins



THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON that donated in 2023. Every dollar spent improved the life of a local teenager in foster care or those aging out of care.

Every Dollar Counts



2023 Raised Over
\$91,000

To Create New Paths

We ♥ our Volunteers

Join the team in 2024!

All paths are possible with our volunteers!

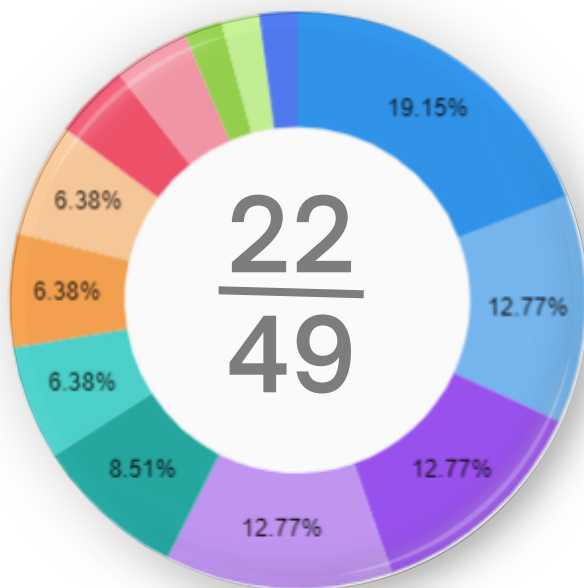
We Are Currently 100% Volunteer Driven.

There is no Jonathan's Path and without volunteers giving their time and energy to these youth. We are grateful and humbled by your unwavering support this year.

Jenn Rasmussen, Haylee Hall, Rebecca Cooper, Caroline Siegrist, Kim Handel, Mindy Hampton, Melinda Morgan, Lindsey Daniels and many more!

The Path Line

Since launching The Path Line in late September, an average of two teenagers a week submitted inquiries for support with an average of 2.2 services needed. As anticipated, the ability to access medical, dental and mental health services quickly is the most requested need, followed by clothing, food and independent living needs tied for second. Special thanks to our dental partner Dr. Ryan Cregger of [Brentwood Pediatric Dentistry](#) for supporting teens in foster care!



Over
\$13,000
 in Path Line services granted
 in just over 2 months



Average
 Support Per
 Youth
\$590

“Before The Path Line, I felt a little worried and confused about my future. Now I feel positive!”
 ~Rebekah



The Path Line: Homelessness to Hope

The story of Vincent Ross, a young man aging out of foster care and facing homelessness, is a testament to the profound impact that a simple act of kindness can have on an individual's trajectory. Thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous couple, Vincent's life took an unexpected turn for the better.

Vincent, like many teens in foster care facing the daunting prospect of aging out of the system, had two options 1) join extension of foster care (EFC) or 2) go out on his own. Vincent joined EFC, but due to the lack of foster homes and no available beds for EFC youth, he was headed to the homeless shelter the next day. "My mental health was in at a critical level just knowing the next day I was homeless." said Vincent.

A social worker told Vincent about The Path Line. He submitted an inquiry online and within an hour, Vincent was on a new path. Jonathan's Path found safe housing, worked with him daily from 8am to 8pm on all manner of independent living skills.

Vincent took charge of his life. Instead of facing the grim possibility of homelessness, he now holds two jobs, diligently working towards financial independence.

Anonymous donors decided to donate their older family car to Jonathan's Path for Vincent. The donated car not only facilitated his commute but also opened up opportunities for better employment prospects. "I'm going to continue to stay on this path and none of it would be possible without Jonathan's Path and the "earth angels" who donated the car," said Ross. *Read more News & Events page on website.*

Vincent's journey didn't stop at securing employment. Fueled by newfound determination, he enrolled in a GED program to complete his high school education. "I owe this to myself and to those that are making it possible for me to achieve it," said Ross. "Since day one at JP, my life changed for the better and I'm never looking back," said Vincent.

The story of Vincent Ross serves as a powerful reminder that acts of kindness, whether big or small and The Path Line has the potential to transform lives.



Driving Change: Donation of a Car Transforms a Teen's Life
 In a world often marked by challenges, the power of compassion and generosity has the ability to change lives. The story of Vincent Ross is a testament to this.

Read full story and see all the pictures on our News & Media page
www.jonathanspath.org



The Path Line

I contacted Path Line on behalf of a teenager in foster care who has received zero support/encouragement/literally anything. I have felt desperate for anyone besides my family to show her that she is worthy of care and support, and have felt completely drained from spending the last year fighting for even the most basic things for her. Not even an hour after I filled out the contact form, Jonathan's Path called and said "Yes, we can help her." She is a teenager who had a need and that was all Jonathan's Path needed to know to help. It was the complete opposite of what I am used to and that show of support made all the difference to me. She is so grateful and I am so grateful.



Majority of Path Line inquiries are answered to about an hour!

"I felt like I was getting little to no help but after I got into path line they have help me so much and continue to help me."

~Brianna

The Path Line: Empowered Beginnings

Brianna was one of the first to contact The Path Line about her goal to live independently, but not knowing where to start. Guided by the mentorship of Jonathan's Path, she learned the nuances of the apartment-hunting process, mastered budgeting, and gained insights into credit management. Armed with this knowledge, Brianna not only secured her first apartment but also set the stage for a financially secure future. "Every time I call someone answers and is ready to help. I've never had this level of support anytime I needed it," stated Brianna.

Jonathan's Path mentorship with one of our volunteers proved instrumental not only in Brianna's housing success but also in steering her toward her dream career in real estate. Recognizing her passion and potential, a local Keller Williams office in Mt. Juliet offered to sponsor Brianna's real estate license path by providing access to online education, paying for her license test and propelling her into the world of realty. "I think I just screamed with excitement," laughed Brianna.

“I’ve been in foster care since I was 13. I’m twenty now and I’ve received more support in the past 5 weeks, than in the last 7 years thanks to Jonathan’s Path.”

Brianna was our star guest decorator at the 12 Days of Giving event held at the Governor’s mansion and hosted by First Lady Lee. During the luncheon with the the First Lady, Brianna said, “I’ve been in foster care since I was 13. I’m twenty now and I’ve received more support in the past 5 weeks, than in the last 7 years thanks to Jonathan’s Path.”

Brianna is a force to be reckoned with and we can wait to buy a home from her in the future!



Read full story and see all the pictures on our News & Media page www.jonathanspath.org



Pictured left to right: Jase DuRard, Jenn Rasmussen (volunteer extraordinaire), First Lady Lee, Carrie DuRard & Brianna!

Field Day Cook Out with the Tennessee Titans



One of our goals at Jonathan's Path is to enrich the lives of foster teens with fun and educational events. If those events include a little star power and some delicious barbecue, even better!

On June 8th, 2023, the Vrabel Young Men's Collaborative hosted 25 Jonathan's Path teen foster boys to experience a Tennessee Titans field day. These young men scored some Titans swag, listened to an inspiring speech from Coach Vrabel, and enjoyed a delicious spread of smoke meats and baked goods.

"My hope is that they got four hours where they got to be kids and not worry about what they worry about every hour of every day," said Jen Vrabel, wife of head coach Mike Vrabel. Mission accomplished.



Foster teens enjoy field day cookout with Tennessee Titans
Aside from providing stable housing, one of our goals at Jonathan's Path is to enrich the lives of foster teens with fun and educational events. And if those events

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2nd Annual VYMC Holiday Party

'Tis the season of giving, and the Vrabel Young Men's Collaborative embraced the spirit wholeheartedly by hosting the 2nd annual holiday party for 25 teens in foster care from Jonathan's Path. The evening was filled with heartwarming moments, inspirational stories, and a generous outpouring of support from sponsors. This letter from a youth at the event summed up the evening perfectly.

Hey, this is J... from the titans event
 Yall had. I want to say thank you, for
 caring for a caring not just for me but
 other people. This shows that there is still
 kindness in this awful world. I am glad
 I got to spend some time with Yall it was
 really fun, more than I expected... I am
 glad I get to talk about the way
 things are for me. I know that nobody
 is perfect and that has a perfect life, but
 what im trying to say that i am thankful
 for everything that Yall have done.



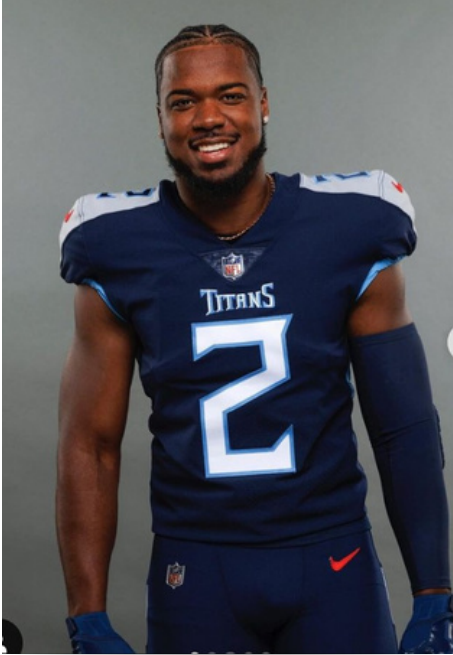
**Vrabel Young Men's
Collaborative Spreads Holiday
Cheer at 2nd Annual Party fo...**

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Read full story and see all the pictures on our
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#2 Azeez Al-Shaair, Treats JP Teens To Tennessee Titans Game



For many of these teens, attending an NFL game was a distant dream. However, on Christmas Eve, that dream became a reality. Azeez Al-Shaair, known for his dedication both on and off the field, arranged for the group to witness the Titans in action against the formidable Seattle Seahawks. The excitement and joy radiating from these teens were palpable as they stepped into Nissan Stadium, their eyes widening at the enormity of the experience.

The day began with pre-game field passes where the boys had the chance to greet Al-Shaair and Coach Mike Vrabel. Their words of encouragement and resilience resonated with the teens, reinforcing the idea that they, too, could overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.

Al-Shaair's commitment to making a difference in the lives of these teens goes beyond just a single event. Through his involvement with Jonathan's Path, he is helping create lasting memories and offering hope to those who need it the most. His generosity serves as a reminder that, even in the fast-paced world of professional sports, there are individuals dedicated to giving back and uplifting their communities.

The Christmas Eve Titans game was not just about football; it was about creating lasting memories and spreading joy to those who need it most. Thanks to Al-Shaair and Coach Vrabel, these teens in foster care experienced the magic of the holiday season in a way they never thought possible.



#2 Azeez Al-Shaair, Treats Foster Care Teens To Tennessee Titans Game

jonathanspath.org

Read full story and see all the pictures on our News & Media page
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Creekside Cocktails & Cuisine

This year we hosted our inaugural Creekside Cocktails & Cuisine to bring awareness to, and raise funds for, teenagers currently in or aging out of foster care in Middle Tennessee. We raised just over \$25,000!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors for their unwavering support in making the Creekside Cocktails and Cuisine event a resounding success. Your generosity and commitment to our cause have been instrumental in creating an unforgettable experience for our guests. Your partnership is invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

- Tosha Layton – On tour now!
- Keith Evertte Smith
- Taylor Davis – hear him at Stable Reserve
- BAMFoods – Incredible food and staff.



Photos -Creekside Cocktails & Cuisine

jonathanspath.org

See all the pictures
www.jonathanspath.org



Friends of Jonathan's Path (FOJP)



If you own a business, are part of a company that can offer support or services to teens in foster care and/or young people aging out of care, we'd love to partner with you like these fine folks! Raise your hand if you can help.

- Dr. Ryan Cregger - Brentwood Pediatrics Dentistry
- Crescent Homes
- Gallagher Insurance
- TN Auto Sales
- Jessica Brown - Redman-Davis, Inc
- Nashville Child & Family Wellness Center
- Keller Williams Realty, Mt. Juliet
- Gena Leone, LCSW
- Department of Children Services
- The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives



Nonprofit Friends

- Thrive Tutoring
- Connections Homes
- Arch Academy
- Nashville Foster Love Closet and Resource Center
- Still Water
- Omni Family Foundation
- ShareBuilt
- Viable Inc.
- Church of the City
- Monroe Harding



Join us **2024** in for our biggest year yet! Our strategic goals include:

1. Opening our first home for teens!
2. Support support 1000 youths, aged 13 and up navigate Jonathan's Path and Friends of Jonathan's Path services and programs.
3. Increase awareness of foster care, crisis, and solutions offered by Jonathan's Path.
4. All programs & services and homes fully-funded

*Thank
You*



Become a
monthly
donor!

Join Friends
of Jonathan's
Path



**Jonathan's
Path** SUPPORTING TEENS IN FOSTER CARE



Volunteer
Volunteer
Volunteer