TENNESSEE Business + Family Forum

POWERED BY TQEE

EVENT PROGRAM

Tennessee Child Care Solutions Summit



8.28.2026

MUSIC CITY CENTER

NASHVILLE, TN

TN Child Care Solutions Summit

Welcome

Welcome to the Tennessee Child Care Solutions Summit.

At Tennesseans for Quality Early Education, we say often that **child care is everybody's business**. Today, that idea is coming to life in a remarkable way.

Gathered here are business leaders, chambers of commerce, policymakers, educators, child care providers, local governments, faith leaders and community partners from across Tennessee. We come from different industries and communities, but share a common understanding: quality, reliable, affordable child care is essential to a strong workforce, strong families and a strong Tennessee economy.

More importantly, we are moving beyond simply recognizing the problem.

Across our state, employers and communities are putting solutions into practice. Businesses are helping employees find and afford care. Public and private partners are creating new capacity. Schools, local governments, community organizations and churches are finding creative ways to use existing resources. And new state and federal incentives are giving employers more tools to act.

There is still much work ahead. But there is also real reason for optimism.

One thing I've learned from working with employers, families and leaders across Tennessee is that there is no single child care solution that works for every business or every community. What works for a large employer may not work for a small business. What works in Nashville may look very different in rural Tennessee.

But there *are* solutions. And Tennessee leaders are increasingly showing us what they look like.

That's what makes this Summit so important. This is more than a collection of good ideas and successful programs. It is a movement taking shape. One built around practical solutions, shared responsibility and a growing recognition that addressing Tennessee's child care challenges will require all of us.

My hope for you today is simple: find one idea that could work for your company or your community, and commit to a next step. Talk with someone who has already tried it. Ask questions. Make a connection. Consider what is possible where you live and work.

And when you're ready to take that next step, our Tennessee Business + Family Forum team is here to continue the work with you: sharing what we are learning, making connections and helping you identify a path that makes sense for your organization.

I'm deeply grateful to our speakers, Host Committee, sponsors and partners, and to the TQEE staff and Board of Directors whose commitment made today possible.

Child care is everybody's business. Together, we can build a Tennessee where businesses can grow, parents can work, and families can thrive.

With gratitude,

Blair Taylor
President & CEO
Tennesseans for Quality Early Education

TN Child Care Solutions Summit

Host Committee

Kim Baker
President & CEO,
Gallatin Area
Chamber of Commerce

Josh Brown
President & CEO,
Tennessee Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Miles Burdine
President & CEO,
Kingsport
Chamber of Commerce

Bob Cantler
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Duncan Williams
Chairman & CEO,
Greater Memphis
Chamber of Commerce

Charles Wood
President & CEO,
Chattanooga Area
Chamber of Commerce

Agenda

10:30 Coffee and Networking

11:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Blair Taylor**, President & CEO, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE)
- **Freddie O'Connell**, Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

11:10 Workforce of Today & Tomorrow - The Business Case for Quality Child Care

- **Blair Taylor**, President & CEO, TQEE

11:20 The Child Care Advantage

Hear from Tennessee business leaders featured in The Child Care Advantage, a landmark report showcasing employers across the state who are supporting employees' child care needs and seeing returns in recruitment, retention and productivity.

- **Charles Robert Bone**, Managing Director & Partner, Southeastern United States, Southwest Value Partners
- **Todd Rolapp**, Managing Partner, Bass, Berry & Simms PLC
- **Dana Bottenfield**, Senior Vice President Human Resources, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- **Johnny B. Moore, Jr.**, President, Tennessee Region, Truist
- **Debbie Spielman**, SVP/CEO Women's and Children's, Erlanger
- **Joey Buck**, Chaplain, Dollywood
- CO-MODERATOR: **Stephanie Coleman**, President & CEO, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- CO-MODERATOR: **Matt Largen**, Williamson, Inc.

12:00 Public-Private Partnerships Growing Child Care Supply

Hear how a city government, school districts, and an industrial development board have paired public and private sector resources to creatively expand child care access for employees and families across Tennessee.

- **Dani Badget**, Director of Operations & Culture, Holladay Ventures
- **Josh Ward**, Executive Director, Clarksville Industrial Development Board
- **Hope Patonis**, President & CEO of The Youth Academy
- **Chuck Carter**, Director of Schools, Sullivan County Schools
- **Steve Shives**, President & CEO, Greater Kingsport Family YMCA
- **Andria Smith**, Child Care Special Projects Coordinator, First Tennessee Development District
- **Roger Houck**, City Manager, City of Clinton
- **Kelly Johnson**, Director of Schools, Clinton City Schools
- **Bart McFadden**, President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley
- CO-MODERATOR: **Amy New**, President & CEO, Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
- CO-MODERATOR: **Miles Burdine**, President & CEO, Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

12:40 Lunch and Networking

1:10 Better Together: Intergenerational Shared-Site Care

Discover how co-locating child care within elder care communities improves outcomes for children and older adults alike, and creates a compelling value proposition for facilities, families, and the workforce.

- **Lavonda Cantrell**, Director of Marketing and Special Projects, Hillcrest Healthcare and VP, Hillcrest Healthcare Foundation
- **Lori Humphreys**, Vice President of Child Care Services for the YMCA of East Tennessee
- MODERATOR: **Dakasha Winton**, SVP and Chief Government Relations Officer, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

1:30 Business Leaders on the Front Lines of Advocacy

Hear from Tennessee business leaders who successfully advocated for smart state investments in child care in the 2026 legislative session. Learn what was accomplished and what it means for Tennessee's business community and child care.

- **Alan Levine**, Chairman & CEO, Ballad Health
- **Dave Miller**, CEO, Apex Bank
- **Nancy Dishner**, CEO Emeritus, Niswonger Foundation | TQEE Board Chair
- **Josh Brown**, President & CEO, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- MODERATOR: **Rebecca Woods**, SVP, Government Affairs, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education

2:00 Senator Marsha Blackburn Fireside Chat on Child Care

Senator Marsha Blackburn joins TQEE CEO Blair Taylor for a discussion on the newly expanded federal "45F" child care tax credit for employers investing in child care.

- **The Honorable Marsha Blackburn**, United States Senate
- **Blair Taylor**, President & CEO, TQEE

2:20 Incentives & Tools for Business Investment in Employee Child Care

Explore the "45F" tax credit, Smart Steps, CareShareTN, and other resources available to businesses supporting employee child care. Plus expert guidance on accessing them.

- **Jim Meade**, CEO and Managing Shareholder of LBMC, PC
- **Blair Taylor**, President & CEO, TQEE

2:35 Beyond Sunday: Activating Tennessee's Churches as Child Care Infrastructure

Hear why churches are making child care part of their mission; and get a first look at Beyond Sunday, a new initiative to help congregations across Tennessee use empty weekday space to expand quality child care for families and communities.

- **Reverend Keith Norman**, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Broad
- **KeAsia Darden**, Broad Minds Academy Director
- **Will Tyner**, Executive Director of Operations at Cross Point Church
- **Bruce Lys**, Director of Faith-Based Onsite Child Care, Learning Care Group | Pathways Learning Academy
- MODERATOR: **Jenny White**, Director of Community Engagement & Digital Advocacy, TQEE

2:55 Concluding Remarks and Call to Action

TN Child Care Solutions Summit

Speaker Bios



Dani Badgett

Director of Operations & Culture, Holladay Ventures

Dani Badgett serves as Director of Operations and Culture at Holladay Ventures, a Nashville-based real estate development firm that invests in workforce, affordable, and mixed-income housing communities across the country. A native of Meridian, Mississippi, she brings a decade of experience in higher education, DEI consulting, and real estate, designing sustainable operational systems for institutions and nonprofits.



Marsha Blackburn

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn, United States Senate

Marsha Blackburn represents Tennessee in the United States Senate, where she made history in 2018 as the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from the state. She previously served 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives for Tennessee's 7th Congressional District and in the Tennessee State Senate. A longtime advocate for Tennessee's businesses and families, she has championed workforce and economic development throughout her career in public service.



Charles Robert Bone

Managing Director & Partner, Southeastern United States, Southwest Value Partners

Charles Robert Bone is Managing Director & Partner for the Southeastern United States at Southwest Value Partners, a national real estate investment firm, where he has played a key role in Nashville Yards, one of the city's most transformative mixed-use developments. He previously served as President and CEO of the Nashville law firm Bone McAllester Norton and is a founder of several well-known local ventures, including Acme Feed & Seed and Southern Steak & Oyster. He serves on the investment committee of the Tennessee Angel Fund and on the board of ServisFirst Bank.



Joey Buck

Chaplain, Dollywood

Joey Buck serves as Chaplain for Dollywood Parks & Resorts in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, where he provides spiritual and emotional care to employees and guests. He leads Dollywood's weekly worship services at the historic Robert F. Thomas Chapel and offers counseling, discipleship, Bible studies, and support to individuals and families during times of need. Buck began his ministry at Dollywood in 2010 and has served as the park's full-time chaplain since 2013. He previously served as a stateside missionary with the North American Mission Board.



Dana Bottenfield

Senior Vice President, Human Resources, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Dana Bottenfield is Senior Vice President of Human Resources at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, with over 25 years of HR experience spanning talent acquisition, compensation, HRIS, and employee relations. She leads the HR team overseeing benefits, wellness, learning and development, and campus culture, and previously worked at Harrah's Entertainment. She has testified before the Congressional Education and Workforce Committee and received the Memphis Business Journal's HR Impact Award.



Josh Brown

President & CEO, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Josh Brown serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Tennessee Manufacturers Association. A lifelong Tennessean with more than 25 years of experience in government, corporate, and association leadership, he previously served as Vice President of U.S. Government Relations at Pfizer and in the administration of former Governor Don Sundquist. He also chairs the Williamson County Board of Education.



Miles Burdine

President & CEO, Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

Miles Burdine is President and CEO of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce, a role he has held since 1999 after joining the chamber in 1994, with a career-long focus on education and workforce development. A native of Kingsport, Burdine also served 30 years in the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves, retiring at the rank of Colonel, and was appointed by two Tennessee governors to the Tennessee Board of Regents.



Lavonda Cantrell

Director of Marketing and Special Projects, Hillcrest Healthcare and VP, Hillcrest Healthcare Foundation

Lavonda Cantrell serves as Director of Marketing and Special Projects for Hillcrest Healthcare and Vice President of The Hillcrest Healthcare Foundation. A Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, she joined Hillcrest in 2007 and has been instrumental in advancing community engagement and support for older adults. She brings a deep commitment to improving access and quality in senior care across East Tennessee.



Chuck Carter

Director of Schools, Sullivan County Schools

Chuck Carter is Director of Schools for Sullivan County, appointed in 2022 and now under contract through June 2030, with a career-long focus on career-connected education and workforce preparation. A Morristown native, he previously served as director of career technical education for the Tennessee Department of Education before stepping into the top role for Sullivan County's school system. Carter has prioritized career pathways that give students real-world skills employers are seeking across the region.



Stephanie Coleman

President & CEO, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Stephanie Coleman is President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, one of the largest regional business advocacy organizations in the country, a role she assumed in February 2025 after 17 years with the organization. She previously served as Chief Talent Development Officer, leading a $7 million initiative to expand career pathways in high-wage, high-demand industries.



KeAsia Darden

Director, Broad Minds Academy

KeAsia Darden serves as Director of Broad Minds Academy, the early childhood education program of First Baptist Church Broad in Memphis. Before joining FBC, she worked as a classroom educator, behavioral specialist, and instructional coach across the Texas and Las Vegas regions, building a career at the intersection of pedagogy, psychology, and policy. She now leads Broad Minds Academy's day-to-day educational programming as part of First Baptist Broad's broader community education initiatives.



Nancy Dishner

CEO Emeritus, Niswonger Foundation | TQEE Board Chair

Dr. Nancy Dishner is President and CEO Emeritus of the Niswonger Foundation, where she directed the prestigious Niswonger Scholarship and Leadership Program. She previously served as Vice Provost for Enrollment Services at East Tennessee State University and as a tenured professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. She chairs the board of Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) and has served on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation.



Roger Houck

City Manager, City of Clinton

Roger Houck is a longtime public servant with nearly four decades of service to the City of Clinton, having served 28 years as Parks and Recreation Director and 16 years as City Manager, including eight years in both roles simultaneously. A 1987 University of Tennessee graduate with a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration, he oversees all city operations outside the utilities board and school system.



Lori Humphreys

Vice President of Child Care Services for the YMCA of East Tennessee

Lori Humphreys is Vice President of Child Care Services for the YMCA of East Tennessee, where she has led early learning programs since 2000. With extensive experience in child-care management and family services, she previously directed Children's Circle Child & Family Tennessee. She has dedicated her career to ensuring safe, high-quality environments that help Tennessee's children and families thrive.



Kelly Johnson

Director of Schools, Clinton City Schools

Kelly Johnson has served as Director of Schools for Clinton City Schools for nearly a decade, leading a Pre-K through 6th grade system of roughly 950 students to a top-tier Level 5 composite growth score from the Tennessee Department of Education. She previously served as Assistant Principal, Principal, and Supervisor of Elementary Education in Knox County Schools. Johnson also serves as President of the Tennessee Association of Independent and Municipal Schools.



Matt Largen

Williamson, Inc.

Matt Largen serves as President and CEO of Williamson, Inc., the chamber of commerce and office of economic development for Williamson County, home to over half the publicly traded companies in the Nashville region. He has led major corporate relocation and expansion projects, including the headquarters campuses for Tractor Supply Company, Mars Petcare, and Mitsubishi Motors, representing over 3,000 new jobs and $200 million in capital investment. He previously directed the Williamson County Office of Economic Development and the Nashville Area Chamber's business recruitment efforts.



Alan Levine

Chairman & CEO, Ballad Health

Alan Levine serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ballad Health, an integrated health system serving the Appalachian Highlands region of Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, and Western North Carolina. With more than 25 years of experience leading hospitals and health systems, he previously served as Secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and as a senior health policy advisor to Governor Jeb Bush. Levine is widely recognized for his leadership in rural health care delivery and health system transformation.



Bruce Lys

Director of Faith-Based Onsite Child Care, Learning Care Group | Pathways Learning Academy

Bruce Lys serves as Director of Faith-Based Onsite Child Care for Learning Care Group's Pathways Learning Academy (PLA) brand, where he partners with churches and faith-based organizations to develop sustainable early childhood education solutions for children and families. Prior to joining Learning Care Group, he spent nearly 20 years serving the faith-based community through risk management, insurance, and consulting, helping ministries, schools, and nonprofits strengthen their organizations and advance their mission.



Bart McFadden

President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

Bart McFadden is President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, a role he assumed in March 2016 leading an organization of 27 Clubs across Knox, Blount, Claiborne, Loudon, and Anderson Counties that serves more than 8,400 members annually. A Johnson City native and Boys & Girls Club alumnus, he built his career opening a middle school Club in Spartanburg, South Carolina, then led the Walt Disney World Boys & Girls Club and later served as Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Georgia, where he more than doubled membership capacity.



Jim Meade

CEO and Managing Shareholder, LBMC, PC

Jim Meade is CEO and Managing Shareholder of LBMC, PC, one of the Southeast's largest accounting and business consulting firms, with more than 800 team members across Tennessee and North Carolina. A CPA with over 25 years of experience, he previously led the firm's technology industry segment and audit and advisory division before stepping into the CEO role in 2024. He serves on the board of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and the advisory board of Nashville Capital Network.



Dave Miller

CEO, Apex Bank

Dave Miller serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Apex Bank, one of Tennessee's leading community banking institutions with 95 years of history. He brings more than 30 years of banking leadership, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Head of Strategy and Performance at First Horizon Bank, where he oversaw strategic planning, performance analytics, and business transformation. A committed civic leader, Miller serves on the boards of numerous community organizations.



Johnny B. Moore, Jr.

President, Tennessee Region, Truist

Johnny B. Moore, Jr. is President of the Tennessee Region for Truist Financial Corporation, responsible for the company's regional operations, commercial lending, and business development across a market with assets in excess of $4 billion. He brings more than 27 years of banking experience, previously serving as market president of SunTrust Bank's Memphis region and head of the region's commercial lending divisions. He serves on the board of directors of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.



Amy New

President & CEO, Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce

Amy New is President and CEO of the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, a role she assumed in 2020 that also encompasses leadership of the Highlands Economic Partnership, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Leadership Putnam, and the Leslie Town Centre. A Monterey, Tennessee native, she previously served as Director of Programs for Government and Community Affairs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and as Tennessee's first Assistant Commissioner of Rural and Community Development. She was the first-ever



Reverend Dr. Keith Norman

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Broad

Reverend Dr. Keith Norman is Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Broad in Memphis, a role he has held since 2000, during which he has grown the congregation from 75 members to more than 4,500 and raised $8.7 million to fund a five-phase campus expansion. He also serves as Vice President of Government Relations and Chief Community Relations Officer for Baptist Memorial Health Care, a role he has held since 2014, maintaining relationships across every level of government on public health issues. Norman was named a White House "Champion of Change" by President Obama for his work reducing youth violence in Memphis.



Freddie O'Connell

Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Freddie O'Connell is the tenth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, with an administration focused on affordability and quality of life for residents. In his first year, he secured historic voter approval of dedicated transportation funding and negotiated an East Bank developer agreement with major affordable housing commitments. He previously served on the Metro Council from 2015 to 2023 and brings experience from Nashville's software and start-up industry.



Hope Patonis

President & CEO, The Youth Academy

Hope Patonis is Owner, President and CEO of The Youth Academy, a Clarksville-based child care provider operating two locations that serve working families across multiple elementary school zones. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded to offer pre-school, kindergarten, and summer camp programming, along with the country's only dedicated tween program for ages 12 to 15. The Youth Academy has been voted Clarksville's Best Childcare/Preschool provider for six consecutive years, from 2020 through 2025, in Clarksville Now's annual community reader's choice contest.



Todd Rolapp

Managing Partner, Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

Todd Rolapp serves as Managing Partner of Bass, Berry & Sims and chairs the firm's Executive Committee, leading the strategic priorities that drive client service, firm performance, and growth since his election in 2013. He continues to represent corporate clients in mergers and acquisitions and previously chaired the firm's Corporate & Securities and Executive Compensation practice groups. Rolapp serves on the Nashville Chamber of Commerce's International Business Council and the board of the National Organization for Workforce Diversity.



Steve Shives

President & CEO, Greater Kingsport Family YMCA

Steve Shives serves as President and CEO of the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA, bringing more than 32 years of YMCA leadership experience across organizations including the YMCA of Birmingham, YMCA of the Shoals, and YMCA of Greater Toledo. Under his leadership, the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA serves more than 13,000 members, operates 23 after-school sites, and provided more than 225,000 meals through its feeding program in 2025. He is currently leading development of three Early Learning Centers set to open by 2027, including two in partnership with Sullivan County Schools.



Andria Smith

Child Care Special Projects Coordinator, First Tennessee Development District

Andria Smith serves as Childcare Special Projects Coordinator for the First Tennessee Development District, which supports Northeast Tennessee's eight-county region through workforce and literacy initiatives. She represents the region's childcare workforce priorities at statewide forums, including panels on strengthening the pipeline of qualified early educators. Smith works alongside FTDD's Workforce & Literacy Initiatives team to expand access to quality childcare across Northeast Tennessee.



Deborah Spielman

SVP / Chief Executive Officer, Women's Services & Children's Hospital at Erlanger

Deborah Spielman is a healthcare executive with over 33 years of leadership across adult and pediatric care, and in November 2024 became the first female CEO of the Children's Hospital at Erlanger. In February 2026 she was promoted to Senior Vice President/CEO, adding oversight of Erlanger Women's Services, and now leads a 134-bed pediatric hospital with 125+ specialists alongside 140 Women's Services beds. She previously served as COO at AdventHealth Porter in Denver and led operations for AdventHealth for Children and Women in Orlando, with expertise spanning behavioral health, neurosciences, and pediatric transplant services.



Blair Taylor

President & CEO, TQEE

Blair Taylor is Founder, President and CEO of Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), which she launched in 2016-17 and has led as CEO since 2020, driving state policy wins including the PreK Quality Act, a strategic overhaul of Tennessee's TANF program, and the Promising Futures child care fund. She also serves as President of Memphis Tomorrow, an association of CEOs of Memphis's largest businesses that partners with government and civic leaders on economic development, education, and public safety.



Will Tyner

Executive Director of Expansion and Operations, Cross Point Church

Will Tyner serves as Executive Director of Expansion and Operations at Cross Point Church, a multisite church based in Nashville, Tennessee, with six campuses across Middle Tennessee. Before joining the Cross Point staff, he spent 16 years in commercial real estate development, experience that continues to shape his approach to leadership, strategy, and stewardship. He is passionate about operational excellence, building scalable systems, and leveraging spaces and strategies to help more people find and follow Jesus.



Josh Ward

Executive Director, Clarksville Industrial Development Board

Josh Ward is Executive Director of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Industrial Development Board, leading economic development efforts that have attracted more than $9.8 billion in direct investment in recent years, including Tennessee's largest-ever foreign direct investment. A Nashville native who moved to Clarksville after graduating from MTSU, he has overseen major projects including the Korea Zinc manufacturing facility since joining the IDB in 2021.



Dakasha Winton

SVP and Chief Government Relations Officer, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Dakasha Winton is Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, which serves nearly 3.3 million members nationwide. She leads the company's state and federal government relations efforts and previously served as chief counsel for the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. She chairs the Board for Tennessee State University and serves on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the board of Tennesseans for Quality Early Education.



Jenny White

Director of Community Engagement & Digital Advocacy, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education

Jenny leads TQEE's work to build and mobilize a statewide movement of parents, early educators, and community advocates for Tennessee's youngest children, connecting families, educators, and policymakers around quality early care and education. She leads TQEE's Day on the Hill and Early Educator Awards, equipping advocates with the tools to share their stories and making state policy accessible to all Tennesseans. Prior to TQEE, she worked as a youth pastor, served as a house parent for Harvest Childcare Ministry, and was a marketing director at DMAI promoting early education resources.



Rebecca Woods

SVP, Government Affairs, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education

Rebecca Lofty Woods serves as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), where she leads the organization's lobbying efforts and advocates for research-based early learning policy with Tennessee lawmakers. She previously spent a decade in Tennessee government affairs, including roles with the Tennessee Primary Care Association and the Tennessee Medical Association. Woods serves on the board of the Tennessee Lobbyist Association.

Get to Know Our Presenting Sponsor!

LBMC

LBMC is a top national accounting and business consulting firm and the largest professional services provider headquartered in Tennessee. Founded in 1984, the firm serves more than 14,000 clients from offices across Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Louisville, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Chennai, India and a dedicated remote office. With over 1,000 employees, LBMC serves many of the privately held and private equity backed companies in TN; and is an industry leader in audit, tax, advisory, technology, human resources, and wealth advisory services for businesses and individuals.

Our Official "45F" Tax Credit Advisory Partner

In addition to being our Summit's Presenting sponsor, LBMC is TQEE's official "45F" Tax Credit Advisory Partner. The firm brings expertise in tax credits and incentives, helping businesses identify and claim savings that support long-term growth; and its team is uniquely positioned to help Tennessee employers understand a new opportunity: the recently expanded Employer-Provided Child Care Tax Credit under Section 45F of the federal tax code.

Reformed for the first time since its creation as part of 2025's tax legislation, the credit now allows businesses to claim up to 40% (for large companies) and 50% (for small businesses) of qualified child care expenditures, with a maximum annual credit of $500,000 and $600,000 respectively. This represents a significant new incentive for employers looking to offer child care solutions to their workforce.

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A division of TQEE, our TBFF team helps Tennessee employers take action on child care, from navigating tax incentives to finding the right strategy for your team. Whether you're just getting started or ready to go deeper, we'll provide you with the expertise to move forward.

Because Tennessee works when families thrive.



We Simplify Child Care for Employers.

Our experts help individual employers move from awareness to action, providing introductory education to hands-on implementation support.



We Showcase Strategies That Inspire, and Work.

Employers are investing in child care and family-friendly workplace solutions. We tell their stories, build the evidence, and translate what's working into practical intelligence every business can use.



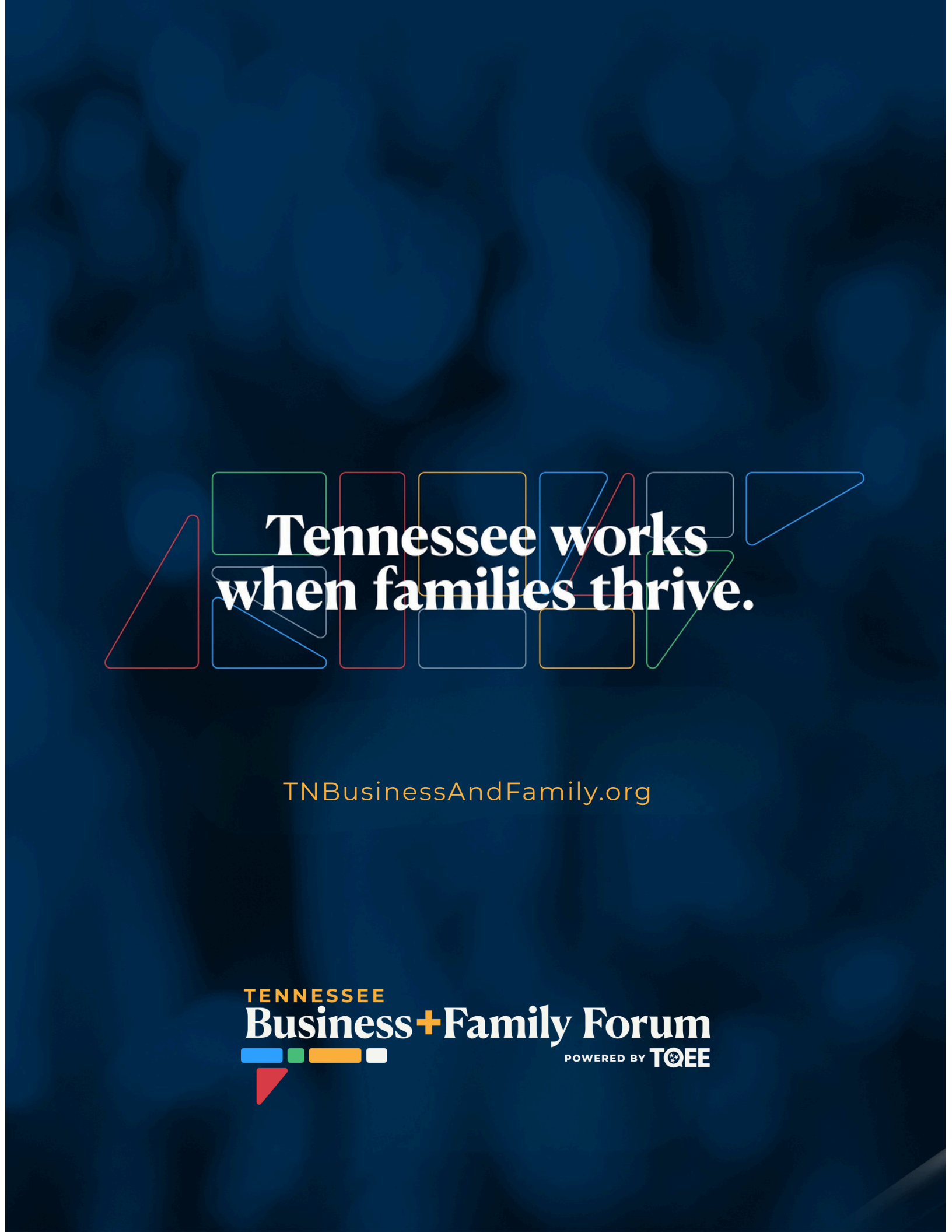
We Advance Smart, Business-Informed Policy.

Our work amplifies the voice of Tennessee business to shape state policy on child care, early learning, and family-supportive workplace solutions, and creates a direct line between business leaders and the policymakers setting the agenda.



We Power a Network for Business.

Our peer network gives businesses direct access to other employers committed to family-friendly workplace solutions in Tennessee — with exclusive convenings, signature events, and informative programming.


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