



THE TENNESSEE INNOCENCE PROJECT

**FIVE YEARS IN:
THE ROAD TO FREEDOM
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



WHY WE SERVE

As the Tennessee Innocence Project celebrates its five-year anniversary, our team members reflect on why they do the important work of advocating for the wrongfully convicted:



“Every single thing we do at TIP is a team effort - by our board of directors, our staff, and our supporters. Every success is a shared success. There is a direct correlation between the people we can serve and the dollars spent (and the efficiency of spending). I'm tremendously proud of our first five years, but there are many more people who still need our help.”

Jessica Van Dyke, Executive Director & Lead Counsel



“A just society requires, at a minimum, that individuals are not imprisoned for crimes they did not commit, and being part of this work allows me to help right the unimaginable wrong of imprisonment without cause.”

Margaret Wilson, Intake Fellow



“Wrongful convictions come in all shapes and sizes, and it is important to understand how they occur. It is our collective responsibility to foster a fair and accountable legal system, one that can both prevent and correct injustices.”

Connor Webber, Staff Attorney



“By the time we get our cases, our clients have been in prison for years if not decades. They have no financial resources. I often think to myself, if we don't help them, who will? We cannot get our innocent clients back home to their families without the people, foundations and companies that support us.”

Melissa Todd, Director of Development

FACTS AND FIGURES

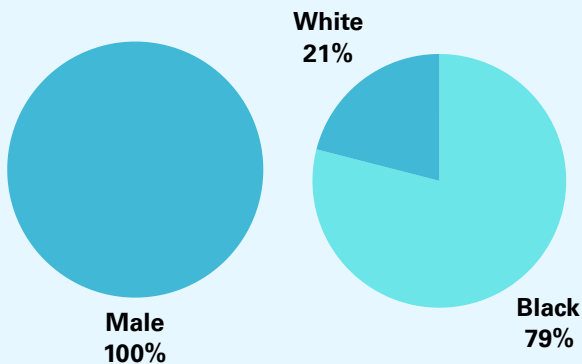
6 Exonerations Since 2019



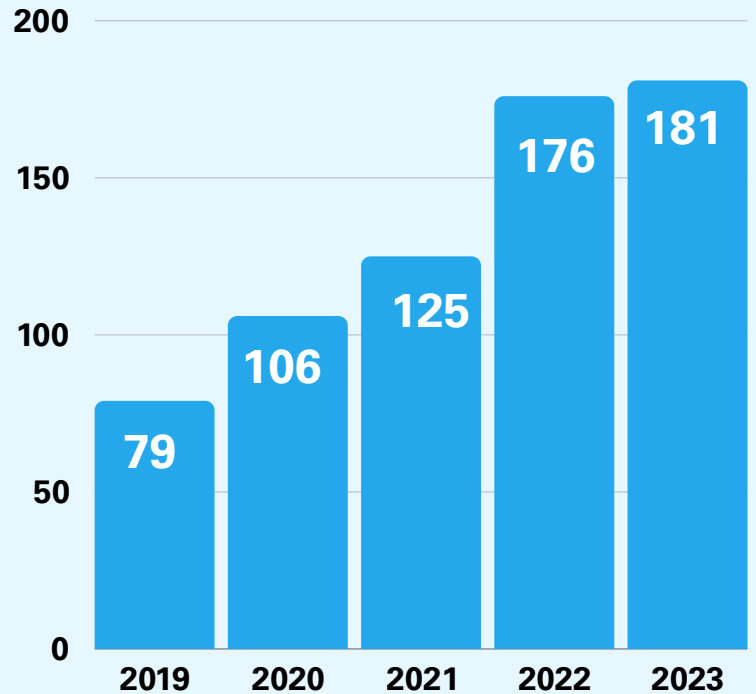
12 Active Cases in 2023



Client Demographics in 2023



Total Applications Since Opening



81 Waitlisted Cases in 2023



Most Applicants by County in 2023



FACES OF INNOCENCE

ARTIS WHITEHEAD

Incarcerated from 2003 to 2023

20 Years Behind Bars

Exonerated January 2024

During the morning of May 9, 2002, a robbery occurred at B.B. King's Blues Club on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. Artis Whitehead was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to a total of 249 years for the crime, although no evidence connected him to the robbery. Whitehead was implicated by a confidential informant working to receive sentencing consideration on his own cases. Police failed to disclose the confidential informant and masked his involvement through an anonymous Crime Stoppers tip.

The Tennessee Innocence Project, led by Executive Director Jessica Van Dyke, undertook a new investigation. The team, including investigator Marc Caudel, uncovered that the informant was paid and admitted he lied when he implicated Mr. Whitehead.

In December 2023, a judge overturned Whitehead's conviction, citing multiple constitutional violations and new evidence of actual innocence. Whitehead was exonerated on January 31, 2024, exactly 21 years to the day of his arrest.



"A lot of things have happened and taken place for me to finally be at the end of this journey...This is definitely something that I want to put behind me. I want to be able to turn back to the things that I used to do in life. I want to be able to have my record expunged. I want to be able to go back to doing what I like doing."

- Artis Whitehead

WAYNE BURGESS

Incarcerated from 1999 to 2023

24 Years Behind Bars

Exonerated April 2023

In 1999, Wayne Burgess was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison for the death of his girlfriend's one-year-old daughter in Pulaski, TN. The theory presented at trial was that Burgess struck the child, resulting in a liver laceration that caused her death. This theory was grounded upon an inaccurate medical opinion as to the timing of the injury. However, expert medical witnesses provided testimony at the post-conviction hearing that proved it was scientifically impossible that Wayne Burgess committed the crime. After more than a year of tireless work by a team of attorneys led by TIP Deputy Director Jason Gichner, Burgess was released on May 2023, and the prosecution dropped charges against him.



"Everything has changed since I went in and came out like a newborn baby out in the world... A lot of people would have animosity, but not me. It's something you have to go through."

- Wayne Burgess

THOMAS CLARDY

Incarcerated from 2005 to 2023

18 Years Behind Bars

In 2005, Thomas Clardy was convicted of a murder outside an auto body shop in Madison, TN. The only evidence connecting Clardy to the scene was a single, cross-racial eyewitness identification made nearly a month after the crime. The State had no motive for Mr. Clardy's alleged involvement and forensic evidence tested after Clardy's trial connected different suspects to the crime. In July 2023, a federal judge overturned Mr. Clardy's sentence based on ineffective assistance of counsel. The State has appealed that decision and the fight for Mr. Clardy's freedom continues. Bass Berry + Sims and Scott Gallisdorfer have led the charge on Mr. Clardy's federal habeas claims. Gallisdorfer has represented Clardy since 2019. TIP Executive Director Jessica Van Dyke has represented Clardy since the summer of 2014.



"Mr. Clardy has lost years of his life serving a prison sentence for a crime he did not commit. We believe in his innocence, and we will continue to fight for his freedom."

- Jessica Van Dyke

THE ROAD AHEAD



SUCCESSSES IN 2023

FORGING NEW PATHS

In 2023, the number and geographic span of Tennessee Innocence Project (TIP) applications increased, collectively representing more counties in TN than ever before. TIP also achieved its first ever Giles County exoneration and first ever release in Shelby County, culminating in an exoneration in January 2024.

For the first time since the organization's founding, TIP opened a second office in Memphis and welcomed new staff in both offices. By planting roots in Memphis, TIP better serves Shelby County applicants, who make up the highest percentage of inquiries received annually.

DRIVING COMMUNITY IMPACT

TIP led 13 community events reaching over 1,000 people across the state and conducted two Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses, training 55 attorneys about wrongful conviction cases and how to prevent them. In 2023, TIP organized two major public fundraising events attended by over 600 people.



"Overturning a wrongful conviction is incredibly difficult. It takes attorneys, experts, advocates, money, time and resources. For an innocent person, trying to navigate this process alone, from behind the prison walls, it is impossible. No one should have to walk that road alone and that's where we can help."

- Jason Gichner, Deputy Director and Senior Legal Counsel



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

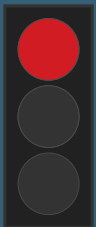
DEVELOPING POST-RELEASE RESOURCES

As TIP grows, we hope to partner with more re-entry and social service organizations to better support our clients after they are freed from prison. In 2023, TIP welcomed its first ever re-entry fellow, who has connected clients to a number of post-release services, including dental care, medical care, mental healthcare, financial counseling, educational services, and more. TIP looks forward to growing this work in the years to come, building a robust infrastructure of support for exonerees.



"As part of my fellowship, I work to strengthen TIP's re-entry services so that when our clients are released from incarceration, they can have the tools they need to transition back into the community and continue to rebuild their lives."

- Madison Lowery, Re-Entry Fellow & Staff Attorney



CURRENT OBSTACLES

EXPANDING OUR REACH

Each case that the Tennessee Innocence Project takes on requires a wealth of resources for exoneration to be achieved: from legal staffing to expert witness testimony and more. As a small nonprofit, TIP is dependent on the financial support of its community to grow its caseload and expand its impact. Learn more about how you can support TIP today by visiting www.tninnocence.org.

2023 DONORS

Anonymous
A Durham Investigations
Julie and Dale Allen
AllianceBernstein
Amazon Smile
American Charities
American Fundraising Foundation
American Online
Jamie Amos and Patrick Kennedy
Arlene Anderson
Belinda and Calvin Anderson
Derek Anderson
Rosalyn Anderson
Heather and Mike Argo
Joyce and John Argo
Vic Arms
The Assisi Foundation of
 Memphis Inc.
Joe Atnip
Autodesk Foundation Corporate
Mary Avent
Shahzaib Azam
William Baggett
Baker Donelson
BAMM Huggett Family Fund
Emily Bank
Christopher Barbic and Natasha
 Kamrani
Angie Barham
Barnes and Thornburg LLC
William Barr
Kay and Richard Barry
Bass, Berry and Sims
Vickie and Thomas Bates
Bauchiero Family Foundation
Stuart Bayne
Cathy and Rick Bean
Anna and Christopher Beauchamp
The Belgian Brotherhood

Ray Bell
David and Susan Benner
Joy Bennett
Cassidy and Dierks Bentley
Seth Berglund
Angela Bergman
Matthew Bernhard
Rick Berry
Brent Bishop
Michael Bohmer
Heather and Kris Bomar
Mary Brooke Bonadies
Bone Family Fund
Jaz Boon
Frances Bowman
Michele Bowman
Tim Boyd
Janice Boyko
Bradley Arant Boulton and
 Cummings
Patricia A. and John Braun
Raffaella Braun
Virginia Britto
Kyle Brown
Laura Brown
Timothy Browne
Kenneth and Graham Bryant
Jarvis Cox Burgess
Jennifer Burch
Greg Burlison
Joseph Burnett
Burr and Forman LLP
Kate Cain McKee
Kathryn Calhoon
Blake Campbell
Heidi Campbell
Dan Canale
Liza Canale and Baker Eadie
Capital Wealth Advisors
Sam Carden
Mary Carpenter
Patrick Carpenter
Jonathan Carrera
Lee Carter
PJ Carter
The Carter Malone Group
Jennifer and Mark Chalos
Lauren and Michael Chapman
Lisa and Jamie Cheek

Katherine and Chris Cigarran
LaRose Coffey
Cokesbury United Methodist
 Church- Knoxville
Brian Coleman
The Community Foundation of
 Middle Tennessee
Congregation Micah
Hunter Connelly
Ellen Cooper Klyce
Ruth and Chopper Coppeans
Lora Cosio and Robert Arendt
Cowen and Co.
Elizabeth Cowen
Tereyo Cox
CultureLift
Makeda Crabb
Jami Crockett
Dalton Crow
Costas Cyprus
Cas and John Czarnezki
Dr. Jill Danford and Jared
 Danford
Ginny Dant
Rachel Dattilo
Dr. Beverly Davenport
Wendy Davenport
Delta Anne Davis and Karl Dean
Ryan Davis
Chris Dawson
Elizabeth Delsman Hunter
Department of Justice
Reginald Destin
Rachel Dey
Sarah Dickson
Sally Ditenhafer
Stephanie and Bill Ditenhafer
Harlan Dodson
Margaret Dodson
Marie Dodson
Stephenie Dodson
Tracey Doering
Dianne Doochin
Melanie Dover
Shana and Jon Dowell
Wesley Dozier
James Duckworth
Joe Dughman

Thank you to all of our 2023 fiscal year donors!
Donors are listed in alphabetical order.



Michael Duncan
Matt Duvall
Kim Ebeling
Georgia and Michael Edgeworth
Sarah and Matthew Egge
Zach El-Oqlah
Ethan Elzen
The Episcopal Diocese of TN
and Dandridge Trust
John Evans
Brad Farrow
Charles Fels
Ginny and Garry Ferraris
Dennis Ferrier
Charles Field
The First Wednesday Society
Alexandria Fisher
Darla Flowers
Paula Flowers
Formanek Foundation
Claire Fox Hodge
Freeman & Fuson
The Dorothy Cate and Thomas
F. Frist Foundation
Chaucey Fuller
Gayle Fuson
Lacey and Joseph Fuson
Barbara Futter
Sarah Gabriel
Maria and David Gall
Michael Galligan
Scott Gallisdorfer
Bailey and Scott Galloway
Amy and Frank Garrison
Garza Law Firm
Wendy and Vic Gatto
Caroline Geeze
Amanda Gentry
Susan Gerrald
Dayne Geyer
Jennifer Gibson
Jessica and Jason Gichner
M. Bradley Gilmore
Rosemary and Patrick Girouard
Jillian Glick
William Gobbell
Rabbi Shana Goldstein
Mackler

Darby Gooding
Stacia Gorden
Robert Graves
O'Neil Green
Meredith Griffith
Mark Gurliacci
Jayme Gwaltney
Steven Gyimesi
Elaine Hackerman
Jennifer Hadiaris and TD
Cowen
Katie Hagan
Pat Halper
Kate Hamilton
Joan and Lawrence Hamilton
Emily Haney
Marian Hargis
Morgan Hartgrove
Megan and Cameron Hawk
Andrea Hayduk
Christina Hayhurst
Marlene and Spencer Hays
Foundation
Joanne and Mark Hazelwood
HCA Foundation
HCA Healthcare/TriStar Health
The Hemingway and Danford
Families
Dr. Celeste and Graham
Hemingway
Kindy and Raymond Hensler
Leslie and Eddie Herbert
Rachel and Erik Herbert
Tricia Herzfeld
Jodi and William Hess
Jennifer Hill
Mackenzie Hobbs
Hochman Family Charitable Fund
Janet Hogan
Thomas Holland
Holland Law PLLC
Diane Honda
Collins and Tom Hooper
Thomas and Mamie Houser
Charitable Foundation
Rebecca and John Howard
Jeffrey Huddleston

Hunt Family Foundation
Chris Hurley
Yumeca Inman
Brianna Jamison
Matthew Jarfi
LeToia Jenkins-Crozier
Blake Jeter
Martesha Johnson
Phillip Jones
Tammy Jones
Peter Kangas
Ashleigh Karnell and Garrett
Anglin
Dean Susan Kay
Robin Kelly
Jorie Kersey
Kharis Foundation
Callie Khouri
Patrick Kibby
Robin Kimbrough
Nancy King
Miles Kirkland
Kurt Klaus
Knoxville Bar Foundation
Deborah and William C.
Koch, Jr.
Scott Krauthamer
Kroger
Caroline Lamar
Rebecca Lance
Rosci Lara
Eric and Amy Larsen
Celeste Lavezzari
Roberta Lawrence
Eric Lawson
Racheal Lee
Ellen and Michael Levitt
Hayley Levy and Jacob Kupin
Elizabeth Lewis
Michelle Ley
Bonnie Licata
Lieff Cabraser Heimann
Bernstein LLP
Lipman Brothers
and RS
Lipman
Company

2023 DONORS, cont.

Joseph Little
Travis Lloyd
Amber Logue and Shanna Spies
Joy Longnecker
Kelly Loudermilk
Frank Loughlin and Briana
Jamison
Madison Lowery
Lowery, Lowery and Cherry
PLLC
Jennifer Lusty
Luxury Auto Collection
Alex Lynch
Cynthia Wood MacLean and
Brad MacLean
Kenneth MacLean
Matthew MacLean
Julie and Robert MacLean
W. Lee Maddux
Rita and John Maggart
Gregory Malik
Agnes Mallard
Melvin Malone
Shambria Malone
Jeannine Manes
Stephanie Manner
Terry Maroney
Henry Martin
Jerry Martin
Brooks and Robert Mathews
Amy and Mike Mauldin
May and McKinney PLLC
Thomas Maynard
Patrick McDougal
Bernie McEvoy and Erik Herbert
Richard McGee
Rosie McGrady
Lizzie McKeand

Claire McKinnon
Chris McPherson
Zachery Meadows
Maria Melendez
Melkus Family Foundation
Memorial Foundation
Memphis Bar Foundation
Memphis City Council
Bob Mendes
Jacqueline Mendez
Joseph Meredith
Dr. Louise Merritt
Marion R. Millar
Tamara Miller
Steve Mock
Joseph Mondelli
Camille and Matt Mondelli
Adriana and Christopher
Moniodes
Alia Morgan
Daniel Morrell
Faith Morris
Yasmine Mukahal
Kevin Mulrane
Brian Murray
Rayetta Murray
Nashville Bar Foundation
Nashville RV LLC
David Neff
Laurel Newman
Network for Good
Dr. Rosevelt Noble
Colleen O'Connell
Rachel O'Daniel
Kara O'Donohue
Kathy and Bob Olsen
Marguerite Orndorff
Ortale Family Foundation
Matthew and Amy Owen
Parks Real Estate
Robert Parker
Cole Parkinson
Garrah and Carlos Partee
Jessie Paul
PayPal Giving Fund
Emily Pelton
Gordon Pera
Lucian Pera and Jane Van
Deren

WHY I GIVE:

"Most of our friends and family live free to be who we are daily. But there are many people who are wrongly incarcerated and don't have the means or resources to fight for their freedom... I am honored to support an organization that changes lives by exonerating those who need our support."

Belinda Anderson, Memphis

Mark Peters
Sara Pettit
The Louie M. and Betty M. Phillips
Foundation
Fred Pickney
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Candida Poinsette
Polsinelli
Jeff Pool
Haley Potter
Byron Pugh
Purpose Transport LLC
Roberto Ramirez
Ursula Ramsey
Peter Rathmell
Lindsay Rauth
Kaka Ray
Stacy Rector
Red Light Management
Marie Reed
Regions Bank
Jason Resha
Retirement Specialty Group Inc.
RG Touring Inc
Amy and Clay Richards
Robinson Giving Fund
Ricky Rodriguez
Katherine Rogers



DONATE TO TIP HERE

Madeline Rogers
 John Romero
 Graham Rowbottom
 Jennifer Ryan
 Ryan C. Davis Law PLLC
 Carin and Andrew Salter
 Sami Family Foundation
 Sanford, Heisler and Sharp
 Aileen Sayeed
 Emily and Stuart Saylor
 Cindy and Tom Schiller
 Schooner Foundation
 Nickolas Schulenberg
 Jordyn and John Schumm
 Gina and Stephen Scott
 Valerie Scott
 Scott and Scott
 Kristin and Bhavesh Shah
 SharingChange- Community
 Shares
 Joan Shayne
 Patricia Shelton
 Lindsey and Jeff Shepard
 Sherrard, Roe, Voigt and
 Harbison PLLC
 Patricia Short

Lane Shuler
 James Simms
 Julia Simpson
 Kalyn Sisco
 John Skinner
 Andrea Smartt
 Calvin Smith
 Kaylan Smith
 Smith, Currie and Hancock
 LLP
 Margaret Smyser
 Ann Soderquist
 The Sowell Family Foundation
 Cynthia Spangler
 Josh Spickler
 George Sprague
 Lucas Stepp
 Rachel Stevens
 #streetlawyers
 Dana Strupp
 The Swafford Law Firm
 MJ Sweeney
 Angela Sykes
 Julia Tait
 Jill and Daniel Talbert
 The Temple Congregation
 Ohabai Sholom- Nashville
 Tennessee Bar Foundation
 Thomas Thagard IV
 Elizabeth and John David
 Thomas
 Sierra Thomas
 Brooke and Stephen Timberlake
 Lisa and Randy Timberlake
 Titans Foundation
 Bonney and Jim Todd
 Melissa Todd
 Wells Trompeter
 Adam Male Troxler
 Union of Reform Judaism
 Dhruti Upender
 Cynthia Van Dyke
 Jessica Van Dyke
 Vanderbilt University Law School
 Irwin Venick and Dr. Jeanne
 Ballinger
 Shawn Verner
 Vickie Vila
 Vine Street Christian Church

Casie Walker
 CJ Wanser
 Joyce Watkins
 Catherine Watson
 Joyce and Bruce Webber
 Drs. Heather and Angus Webber
 Oakley Weddle
 Jane Weissman
 Wesley LLC
 Daniel White
 Katie White
 Barbara Williams
 Mary E. Williams
 Stephanie Williams
 Theresa Williams
 Leonora Williamson
 Austin Wilson
 Jacob Wilson
 Leslie Wilson
 Margaret and Ronald Wilson
 Melody Wilder Wilson and
 David Wilson
 Johnathan Wing
 Dale and Clarice Wolf
 Foundation
 Derek Wolfe
 Woodmont Christian Church of
 Nashville
 Velaire and Kristopher Woolsey
 Jane Wright
 Tyler and Senator Jeff Yarbrow
 Lois Young
 Mandy and Stephen Young
 YourCause LLC
 Tony Youssefi
 Kathlyn Zamata

Planned Giving
 Elaine Hackerman

WHY I GIVE:

"I support the Tennessee Innocence Project to provide hope and freedom to those who have been wrongly incarcerated, and to honor the memory of my dear friend, Randy Dover, who introduced me to TIP and was passionate about supporting the underdog."

- **Mike Mauldin, Nashville**



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 PRO BONO PARTNERS!

Bradley

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP

**B A S S
B E R R Y
S I M S**



**SHERRARD
ROE
VOIGT
HARBISON**

1,495 HOURS DONATED

SUPPORT OUR WORK:

GIVE



Consider donating to the Tennessee Innocence Project online at tninnocence.org or by mail at 700 Craighead St, Suite 300, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

SPONSOR



Businesses and organizations can learn more about sponsoring upcoming TIP events by contacting Melissa Todd at melissa@tninnocence.org.

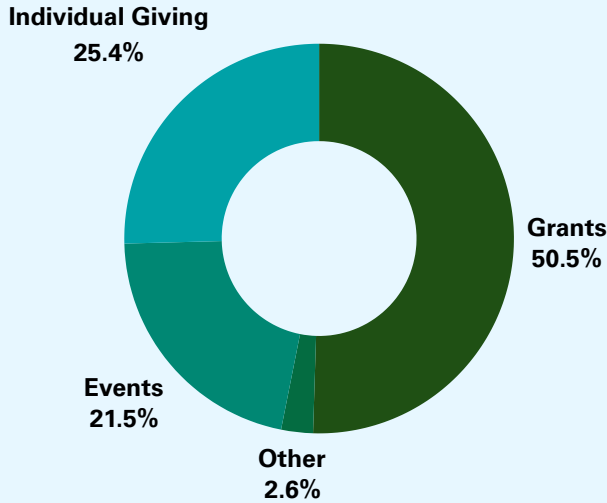
SHOP



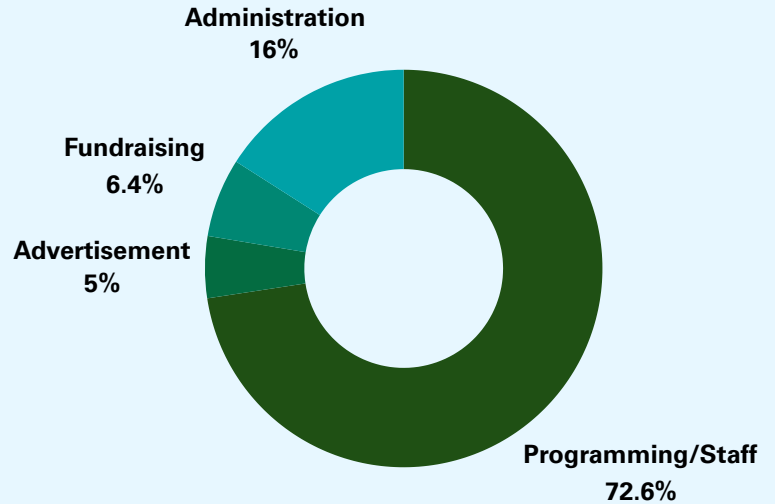
Purchase custom TIP tees, tumblers, and more by visiting our website at tninnocence.org/shop.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FY23 REVENUE



FY23 EXPENSES



EXPENSES

	FY22	FY23
Administration	\$59,188	\$167,504
Advertisement	\$22,127	\$52,730
Fundraising	\$130,138	\$67,283
Programming & Staff	\$638,044	\$761,706
Total	\$849,497	\$1,049,223

REVENUE

	FY22	FY23
Grants	\$629,388	\$643,856
Events	\$362,131	\$273,602
Individual Giving	\$356,778	\$324,021
Other	\$17,540	\$33,602
Total	\$1,365,837	\$1,275,081

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of February 2024

Frank Loughlin
President
Nashville, TN

Lane Shuler
Vice President
Maryville, TN

Josie Holland
Secretary
Memphis, TN

Joey Fuson
Treasurer
Nashville, TN

Amy Richards
Fundraising Chair
Nashville, TN

Raffaella Braun
Nashville, TN

Liza Canale
Nashville, TN

Mark Chalos
Nashville, TN

Katherine Cigarran
Nashville, TN

Beverly Davenport
Nashville, TN

Stephanie Ditenhafer
Nashville, TN

Garry Ferraris
Knoxville, TN

Andrea Hayduk
Chattanooga, TN

Ed Kendrick
Loudon, TN

Yasmine Mukahal
Nashville, TN

Faith Morris
Memphis, TN

Bhavesh Shah
Nashville, TN

Michael Scholl
Memphis, TN



CONTACT US



**Jessica Van Dyke, Executive Director
& Lead Counsel**
jessica@tninnocence.org

**Jason Gichner, Deputy Director &
Senior Legal Counsel**
jason@tninnocence.org

Melissa Todd, Director of Development
melissa@tninnocence.org

Quinn Carlson, Senior Legal Counsel
quinn@tninnocence.org

Margaret Wilson, Intake Fellow
margaret@tninnocence.org

Connor Webber, Staff Attorney
connor@tninnocence.org

**Emma Zyriek Rhodes, Development &
Communications Associate**
emma@tninnocence.org

**Madison Lowery, Staff Attorney
& Reentry Fellow**
madison@tninnocence.org

**Amber Logue, Practice Management
Coordinator**
amber@tninnocence.org

Marc Caudel, Investigator
marc@tninnocence.org



THE TENNESSEE INNOCENCE PROJECT
EXONERATING THE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED



700 Craighead St., Ste 300
Nashville TN, 37204



2029 Peabody Ave.
Memphis TN, 38104



(615) 581 - 7230



www.tninnocence.org



TNIInnocenceProject



@TNIInnocence

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that's in my mind.
Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.

Excerpted from *I Look at the World* by Langston Hughes