



Monroe Harding

Homes • Healing • Opportunities



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



1 Vantage Way Suite C-165
Nashville, TN 37228
P: 615-298-5573

2025 AT MONROE HARDING

At Monroe Harding, our mission is to ensure that young people in foster care and those transitioning to adulthood build a solid foundation for a successful future. In 2025, that mission came to life in powerful ways:

- We launched and grew [Monroe Gardens](#), our young adult social enterprise, providing meaningful work and life skills.
- Through a new partnership with Mississippi, we [expanded our housing program across state lines](#), offering even more young adults a safe place to call home.
- Our resource center started a [new weight-training program, investment series, and employment group](#).
- Partnered with 3 [Crowded table groups](#), who supported foster families through services such as home cooked meals, groceries, and help around the house.



What began as an orphanage in 1893 has evolved into a dynamic organization meeting the ever-changing needs of youth in foster care and those transitioning to adulthood. Today, we remain committed to walking alongside young people as they navigate life's challenges and pursue their full potential.

These milestones reflect the heart of Monroe Harding: creating homes, healing, and opportunity for the youth who need it most. Thank you for walking alongside us and making this work possible.

PROGRAMS



FOSTER CARE



**SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING**



**RESOURCE
CENTER**

CAUSE

MISSION

VISION

CAUSE - To ensure foster care youth and other vulnerable young people build a solid foundation of strengths positioning them for success in adulthood.

MISSION - Changing Young People's Lives.

VISION - To be a healing community where youth and families make meaningful change so hope, not past trauma, is the heartbeat of their future.

Monroe Harding utilizes **four key strategies** to empower the young people we serve to make meaningful changes in their lives:



HOMES

We foster safe, nurturing homes through supportive family environments.



HEALING

We mitigate the effects of abuse and neglect by creating a trauma-informed healing community.



OPPORTUNITIES

We offer young adults opportunities through experiences, education, life skill-building, reengagement, and career readiness.



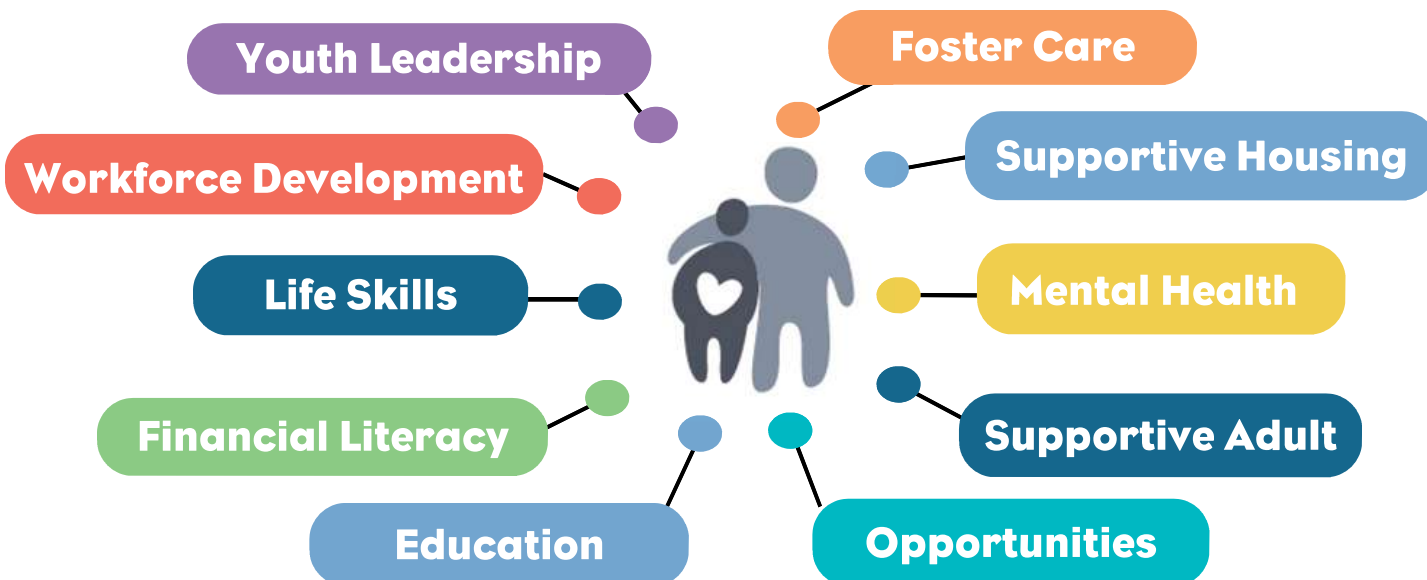
ENGAGEMENT

We engage with supportive adult volunteers and community partners to maximize our impact in the areas of home, healing, and opportunities.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Monroe Harding is proud to be the only agency in Middle Tennessee offering a full continuum of care for current and former foster youth from birth through age 26. Our work goes beyond addressing a single need; we care for the whole individual.

Through our comprehensive, wrap-around services, we provide everything from stable housing, therapy and mental health support, career development, educational guidance, and more. This holistic approach empowers young people to heal, grow, and thrive at every stage of their journey.



2025

IMPACT REPORT



158

Volunteers
changing young
people's lives.



425

total children,
teens, and young
adults served.



33,323

nights of sleep provided
for children, teens, and
young adults.



1953

opportunities created to
remove barriers and
support youth success.

Foster Care

19

children in Foster care
found forever homes.

49

Youth provided safe, loving
homes and support in
certified foster homes.

2

Families reunited

Clinical Support

96

children, teens, and young
adults received clinical
emotional and mental
health support.

450

crisis interventions
provided to youth and
young adults in care.

Career and Education Readiness

310

Young adults built life skills and career
readiness through financial literacy,
workforce development, and healthy
relationship programs.

50

Young adults achieved progress in
secondary and post-secondary education
through our resource centers education
programs.

20

Young adults earned their high
school diploma.

Supportive Housing

74

Young adults lived in Monroe
Harding's supportive
housing, while pursuing
education and/or
employment opportunities.

FOSTER CARE

Monroe Harding has continued to train and support foster families throughout Middle Tennessee in order to give every child a safe, loving home. We continued walking alongside our foster families by offering 24/7 support, personalized relationships with each family, ongoing training, respite care, and more.

In addition to practical support, we also prioritize celebrating and showing appreciation for our incredible foster families. This past year, we hosted our annual Christmas party where every child received personalized gifts and stockings, creating moments of joy and lasting memories. We also gathered for our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Lunch to recognize the dedication and love our families pour into their homes. Throughout the year, we've had the joy of offering complimentary tickets to family-friendly events such as Tennessee Titans games and the Nashville Children's Theatre. We were also able to provide our families with essential items like school supplies, clothing, meals and diapers.

Together, we're not just supporting foster parents, we're helping create lasting joy and stability for every child.

4

New Foster Homes

37

Foster Homes



"Monroe Harding makes you feel welcomed at all times and always ask 'is there anything else I can do for you?' "

-Ms. Coffee, Monroe Harding Foster Parent



Keyshawn's Forever Family

Keyshawn was just 10 months old when he came into foster care due to domestic violence, an incarcerated father, and drug exposure. He was placed with Ms. Lakesha Bryant, an amazing foster mom who had been with Monroe Harding for 10 years.

Ms. Bryant immediately fell in love with Keyshawn. He is an imaginative, joyful child who lights up every room. While he faced early behavioral challenges, Ms. Bryant patiently helped him learn to self-soothe and feel safe. After his birth mother relinquished parental rights, Ms. Bryant decided to move forward with adopting him. But between his birth father's reluctance, COVID shutdowns, and legal setbacks – the process became exhausting. At one point, after his birth father missed his court-date due to an attorney error, Ms. Bryant nearly gave up out of frustration.

Monroe Harding stood by her side and encouraged her not to lose hope. At the final hearing, Keyshawn's birth father took one look at Ms. Bryant and Keyshawn and their love for each other and chose to step down. He did make a request to get updates and to leave the door open for a future relationship with Keyshawn when he gets older, if Keyshawn chooses. Ms. Bryant agreed with compassion and grace.

In May 2025, Keyshawn's adoption was finalized at the Governor's Mansion in a joyful celebration with Monroe Harding, the mayor, and 4 other adoptees. Today, he is thriving in a loving home with a foster brother, Ms. Bryant's partner, and they have open communication with his birth father. Ms. Bryant continues to foster through Monroe Harding to provide more children with a safe home.

Thanks to Monroe Harding's unwavering support, Keyshawn's story is one of hope, healing, and a forever family.

RESOURCE CENTER

For the past 20 years, Monroe Harding's Resource Center has empowered vulnerable young adults ages 16 to 26 by providing essential support and life-changing services.

PROGRAMS

Works Wonders

Workforce development program including career coaching, mock interviews, job shadowing, resume building and job placement assistance.

Opportunity Passport

Financial Literacy classes with a matched-savings program that helps young people build savings accounts and purchase assets.

Sexual Health

a one-time training that teaches young adults the importance of safe sex and healthy relationships in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

Education

HiSet preparation, tutoring, and assistance with applying and accessing post-secondary opportunities.

Essentials

Drop in closet where young adults can pick up clothes, hygiene products, food, and other essentials.

Community

Allowing young adult's to connect with each other through social events, holiday parties, weight-training groups, and more.



"Being around people that helped and supported me, it really did help me grow and learn as a person"

-Paulina, Young Adult

61

Works
Wonders
Participants

109

Opportunity
Passport
Participants

87

Sexual Health
Class
Participants

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Monroe Harding has seven homes that can accommodate up to 44 young adults ages 18 to 24. Each resident has their own private bedroom and bathroom, providing both comfort and independence. and cooking preparing them for successful, independent living.

While our housing program primarily serves youth transitioning out of foster care, we also provide safe housing for unhoused young adults, victims of crime, and other vulnerable individuals in need of support.

Beyond housing, residents receive a grocery allowance, bus passes, hygiene supplies, and more. Our dedicated staff offer case management and life coaching, helping young adults build essential life skills such as cleaning, grocery shopping, and cooking. This year, through a new partnership with Mississippi, we expanded our housing program across state lines, offering even more young adults a safe place to call home.

22

Held stable employment

26

Transitioned into stable, permanent housing

THERAPY & HEALING

Monroe Harding's on-staff therapist provides healing and support tailored to each young person's needs. Using a non-traditional approach, she meets them where they are which can mean accompanying them on a grocery trip, riding the bus to ease anxiety, or more traditional sit-down sessions.

In 2025, we expanded our services by hiring an additional therapist to support foster parents and children, ensuring the entire family system receives the care they need.



Kyree's New Ride

Kyree spent his childhood in foster care before joining the Monroe Harding Housing Program in 2020. From day one, he stood out as one of the most dependable and caring young adults in the program. Always willing to help, Kyree was known for his generosity such as always offering his food to young adults in need. Kyree also decided to begin taking classes at our resource center, such as our financial literacy class.

Determined to build a stable future, Kyree was worked two jobs while saving to buy a car. His hard work and positive spirit caught the attention of Monroe Harding staff, who nominated him for the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides® program. Thanks to All State, Crash Champions, and the NABC, Kyree was gifted a beautifully refurbished car that looked brand new, along with funds and gift certificates to cover his insurance and maintenance for over a year. Out of gratitude, Kyree immediately tried to pay for Monroe Harding staff parking after the ceremony; a small gesture that perfectly reflected his kind and giving heart.

This incredible gift opened new doors for Kyree. Kyree was able to move out of supportive housing in October of 2025 and into his own apartment, achieving true independence. Kyree now works in security and continues to pursue his dream of becoming a physical therapist a reflection of his lifelong desire to help others.

"My main goal is to always spread love to everybody I see"

-Kyree, Monroe Harding Young Adult



Monroe Gardens is Monroe Harding's new social enterprise focused on creating meaningful work experiences for young adults aging out of care by providing entrepreneurial, sales, and agricultural experience.

Our young adults handmade all products at our Resource Center and then sell their products at markets. This year, Monroe Gardens expanded its product line beyond potted herbs to include dried herbs, scent bombs, bookmarks, essential oils, and more. All proceeds directly support Monroe Harding's programs and mission.



25
Events and
markets held

21
Young adults
gained
experience
through the
garden



PAULINA'S GROWTH

At 16, Paulina faced difficult circumstances at home that forced her to leave and put her education on hold. When she joined Monroe Harding's housing program at 18, she was determined to get back on track. Through our Education Program, she earned her HiSET diploma and proudly graduated in June 2025.

After graduating, thanks to our partnership with the Urban League, Paulina gained paid internship experience by helping manage our clothing closet, combining her love for fashion and her people-skills. She also helped Monroe Gardens, where her creativity flourished. She came up with an idea to dry-press flowers and turned them into bookmarks, which quickly became a favorite at markets.

Paulina not only gained valuable job experience but also built confidence and discovered her potential.



2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Ashley Golson
Jackson®

Vice Chair

Kylen Sharpe
Creative Artists Agency

Treasurer

Mark Patterson
KraftCPAs

Secretary

Brittany Macon
Polsinelli

Chris Anderson
Littler

Raquel Barlow
hellohive

Thomas Beck
Beck Consulting, LLC

Kanishka Biddanda
The Creative Trust

Mel Bond
Oasis Wealth Planning

Krishna Campbell
Amazon

Lagina Chaudoin
O'Neil Hagaman, LLC

Travis Hamilton
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center

Laronda Henderson
Caterpillar Financial

Jeanette Opheim
Author

Sydney Rogers
Uniti Health, LLC

Josh Scales
Uniti Health, LLC

Christina Schmitt
Apple One

Jackie Shrago
Community Volunteer

Rachel Sodee
Bradley Arant Boult
Cummings LLP

STAY UPDATED



@MONROEHARDING

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY



WWW.MonroeHarding.Org