



Your support helps us **THRIVE**

Thrive connects caring adults with at-risk youth through gospel-centered relationships. On the following pages, you will see how your support is changing the lives of at-risk youth in Knoxville. **Because of you, Knoxville youth can THRIVE.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hank Bertelkamp
Al Cage
Veronica Douglas
Tom Fox
Diondre Jackson
Les Mirts
Leland Murphy
Erin Rodgers
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Fred Trainer
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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Ministry Partners,

God has continued to refine the mission and purpose of Thrive. The investment of many years spent prayerfully improving and growing Thrive allows us a clear vision of what Thrive can and should do as we move forward. In the last 12 years, we have grown from 1 site to 7 sites. We have tried Thrive programming inside a school, inside buildings we own, inside churches that are mostly empty, and inside churches that are healthy. By far, the best model has been running our program inside healthy churches. In the last year, partnering with healthy churches has been a tremendous blessing, not only to the students and families we serve, but to the host church and surrounding community as well. We think it is the path God wants us to take as an organization moving forward.

The word "orphanos" in the Greek is the word Jesus uses when He tells His disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18. It does not mean a child without living parents, it means a person who is without guidance, without leadership. Thankfully, Thrive is able to provide guidance, love, and care for students in our program. Our ultimate hope is that our students come to know Christ and then we want them to get disciplined by more than just our wonderful staff and volunteers. We desire our students to connect with other believers, get involved in a local church, and continue to walk with the Lord into adulthood. We pray that what they learn when they are young will abide with them as adults, transforming their lives eternally. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

One of the primary ways we want our students to see the love and care for them is through local churches. We are grateful that our kids do not all go to the same church. There are many great options for church, and if they move to a new city as adults, we want them to find a place to be known and serve that proclaims the Word of God. We have already seen the amazing blessing it is to watch churches care for the families of our students. There are wise people with many years of relational experience who know the best way to assist these families, helping them grow and transform from a place of hopelessness to hope and joy.

When our students are adults, no program is going to make them dinner every day. Even in college, they are unlikely to have the level of excellence with homework help that they get at Thrive today. But there is a place where they can grow spiritually for the rest of their lives, it is within the church. Please pray for us as we desire to share this model with healthy churches near and far.

Clayton Wood

ABOUT THRIVE



Thrive exists to partner with communities to provide nutritious meals, academic tutors, and a loving environment for **more than 240 youth** to come after school and during the summer. Our program partners with communities in five areas in Knoxville, **servng the most vulnerable youth in our city to provide spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical support** to youth.



The main campus is in the *Lonsdale Neighborhood*
(there are 3 programs in Lonsdale)

Parkridge *West View*



Expanded to programs in



New Hopewell *Papermill*

1 program at each of these sites

Thrive provides a safe, positive, and educational haven for our youth to come after school and during the summers. We set a mandatory attendance policy for youth in the program, who attend at no cost, where **students spend more than 700 hours with qualified and loving mentors, tutors, and leaders.** This leaves little time for negative influences in their lives. Most students we serve live in food deserts, with little access to healthy food options. Because of their lack of healthy food options, we provide a snack and dinner to the students in our program daily.



Thrive works through three programs:

Thrive After School
Thrive Summer
Mentoring

We partner with communities to pursue spiritual, emotional, academic, and physical wholeness.

2023 DEMOGRAPHICS

62%

of families at Thrive do not have a family member who has ever attended college.

49%

of students at Thrive have worried that food would run out before they had money to buy more food.

38%

of students at Thrive said the food their families bought did not last and they didn't have enough money to buy more.

**203 students completed the survey, some students did not answer every question.

Gender

88
MALE



115
FEMALE

Age

5-9

10-12

13-15

16-19

83

STUDENTS

42

STUDENTS

24

STUDENTS

12

STUDENTS

Race

6

AFRICAN

55

AFRICAN AMERICAN

47

WHITE/CAUCASIAN

88

HISPANIC

4

MIXED

5

OTHER

Language Spoken at Home

103
ENGLISH



100

OTHER THAN ENGLISH INCLUDING SPANISH, KIRUNDI, AKETAKO AMONG OTHER LANGUAGES

THRIVE AFTER SCHOOL



“I Thrive because of the students' joy, their energy and love for others, and their desire to create lasting relationships that are centered on the love of Christ.”

Perry Harrell, Thrive Elementary Director

Thrive After School is a 3-hour program that meets five days per week after school where students receive academic tutoring, a nutritious dinner and snack, participate in homework-help time, one-on-one tutoring lessons, reading lessons, team and character-building activities, educational electives, outside playtime, and share a healthy, home-cooked meal.



“I *Thrive* BECAUSE MY
TEACHERS LOVE ME AND HELP
ME LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS.”



THRIVE SUMMER

Thrive Summer is a full-day, six-week program that blends educational activities with encouragement, excitement, and fun. There is an emphasis on practicing English language skills through daily reading and writing lessons. Our summer program is built around fun weekly themes which incorporate educational activities, and field trips. Thrive Summer is offered to students who have completed 1st-8th grade.

MENTORING

Mentoring is an opportunity to intentionally invest in a Thrive student in a life changing way. The mentoring role is available to volunteers and staff members who over time have built a relationship with a student at Thrive through sports, tutoring, sharing meals, etc. Mentoring a student requires specific training and has a life-long impact on both the mentor and the student.



“I thrive because the Lord has assembled an amazing staff at Thrive to share the Good News about Jesus with kids who might not hear it otherwise.”

Bisha Harrington, Thrive Chief of Staff





COMMUNITY *Impact*

Every year, we strive to host community events to engage and welcome families to Thrive. This year, many families joined us for Light Up Lonsdale, our annual event to spread Christmas cheer throughout the neighborhood by installing Christmas lights throughout the neighborhood. Thrive hosted mothers and grandmothers of our students at a Mother's Day Event where the mothers were able to make a flower bouquet, decorate picture frames, and enjoy a lovely lunch. Thrive Christmas includes the Thrive Christmas Store and Christmas Morning where students can experience the joy of the season. Each campus provides many additional community outreach activities including a Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, and many more opportunities to engage families.



"I Thrive because, as God reminds us in Genesis 12, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. I can think of no greater blessing than giving of ourselves to help guide the children of our community to the God who made them and loves them."

*Lori Bertelkamp McKelvy,
Thrive Development Director*



OUR STUDENTS THRIVE BECAUSE OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



165

meals provided
by volunteers



1,121

volunteers



3,071

hours spent
volunteering at
Thrive



“I chose to build a fire pit for Thrive because I want to help kids less fortunate than I am. I want to give them a space to go after school and enjoy time with their friends.”

Jack Osborne, Thrive Volunteer



“I decided to help Thrive by cleaning up an empty lot owned by Thrive. I helped organize volunteers to build a gaga pit for the kids to play in. We all hope the kids at Thrive love the gaga pit.”

Sam Osborne, Thrive Volunteer

Thrive is seeking volunteers to serve as mentors, provide meals to our students, provide homework help, and help with various projects on our campus.

For more information as to how you can help, contact JoBeth Hill at Volunteer@HelpUsThrive.com



“Our church thrives because the children we may not be able to otherwise reach are coming right to our church campus.”

Nick Swarthout, Belmont Heights Pastor

BUILDING *Meaningful* PARTNERSHIPS



Thrive partners with many organizations throughout Knoxville to provide meals, tutoring, and volunteer mentors for the youth in our program. Currently, we partner with 20 churches and 36 mentors consistently work with youth in the program. Local farms provide fresh produce to our students. Thrive partners with local churches across our city as they provide space and volunteers to mentor, feed, and tutor the youth we serve.

CARE + DEVELOPMENT



The Care + Development Team provides spiritual guidance, support, and direction to interns, staff, and students at Thrive. The team hosts fall and spring retreats and Bible studies to provide the needed support to the staff to pour into the students they serve.

Thrive College Interns participated in a trip to Guatemala with the Care + Development Team where they had the opportunity to service others, learn how to better teach the gospel, and grow closer to Christ.



“I Thrive because I get to walk alongside college students as they serve at Thrive and help them explore their calling.”

*Kathryn Jordan,
Thrive Care + Development Team*



Investing IN HIS KINGDOM

At the Thrive Annual Dinner in October, we honored longtime philanthropist and enthusiastic supporter, **Hank Bertelkamp**. Bertelkamp gives his time, talent, and treasure to Thrive and thoroughly invests in the students who attend.

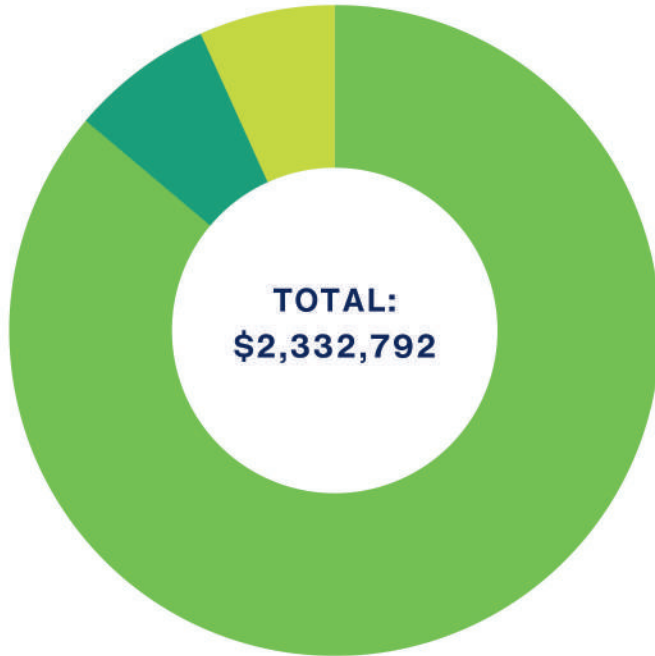
He is known for his kickball pitching, working diligently to teach the students how to properly shake hands, and his generosity to the organization. Bertelkamp's support over the years has helped the program grow to serve more youth in five communities in Knoxville.



The annual Thrive Don Campbell Men's Golf Tournament was an incredible success! The event took place May 15 at Willow Creek Golf Course and tournament participants enjoyed a great day of golf. The winning foursome of Chris Price, Grant Bodie, Mitchell Thomas, and Luke Scealf won the grand prize. The event raised more than \$70,000 to support Thrive ministries—the most in our tournament's history.

FINANCIALS

**TOTAL EXPENSE:
AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022**



- Program- \$2,009,699
- Administration- \$165,580
- Fundraising- \$157,513

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:



Donations: \$2,277,074



Other Income: \$5,074



A Year In Review

This year has brought many challenges to Thrive from our kitchen pipe bursting on Christmas morning to difficult situations our students faced at school and home. Through these trials, the Lord provided abundantly more than we could have hoped for. He provided the resources, wisdom, and guidance we needed to truly Thrive. We give thanks in all things for His goodness this year at Thrive.



Our Vision

Thrive desires to see communities transformed by the gospel.

Our Values

Consistent, loving discipline, quality time, Focus on Biblical truth



THRIVE



Connect WITH US



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THRIVE

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