In Knoxville, for more than 10 years, the Helen Ross McNabb Center has been working on the problem of the criminalization of people experiencing mental illness. Nonviolent persons with mental health or substance use disorders who come in contact with law enforcement often are charged with a misdemeanor. Law enforcement has limited options, so the individuals are incarcerated. In addition, people experiencing mental illness typically spend more time in jail for the same offenses than an individual not experiencing mental health disorders since they have a difficult time navigating the system, complying with court dates and often lack adequate support systems in their lives. The Helen Ross McNabb Center, along with Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett and Sheriff Jimmy “J.J.” Jones, has been working toward an alternate solution, a facility that law enforcement can bring people to in lieu of jail called the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC).

The Metropolitan Planning Commission, Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council approved the Helen Ross McNabb Center's proposal for BHUCC, formerly known as the Safety Center, in March.

This facility will be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as an alternative to jail or emergency room placement. The Center will provide assessment, opportunity to begin treatment, 72 hours of safe and supportive care, discharge planning and case management for our community. Offering mental health, addiction and crisis services will help make an impact on jail recidivism, homelessness and personal recovery.

The Center has been working with a state-wide coalition led by Judge Daniel Eisenstein in Nashville to advance funding for pretrial diversion options across our state. As a result of the collective effort, Gov. Bill Haslam proposed a budget with $15 million for pretrial diversion. If the legislative body approves this budget, this will go a long way in making Knoxville’s dream a reality. The budget approval will be known by early May.

An existing McNabb Center facility will be renovated to meet the programmatic needs of this innovative solution. The capital cost will be nearly $2 million. Helen Ross McNabb Center representatives and local governmental leadership have met with neighbors of the proposed site to provide information about its design and services.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center will continue seeking to improve the lives of people with behavioral health disorders in the community.
The Helen Ross McNabb Center is celebrating a new domestic violence shelter that nearly doubles the capacity of the previous shelter and better serves the unique therapeutic needs of domestic violence victims in East Tennessee.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center's previous domestic violence shelter had 18 beds. In 2016, the shelter served 226 individuals, 77 of which were children. The new 6,800 square foot shelter has 32 beds available.

The Center believes all individuals deserve access to quality care, and it is especially important that victims of domestic violence receive the treatment they need in a safe and therapeutic environment. Trauma-therapy experts tailored the building to the specific needs of domestic violence victims. For example, the shelter's new design includes a wing specifically for families staying in the shelter and a wing specifically designed for single residents. In addition, the building is accessible for individuals with disabilities. It also features an enhanced security system, open floor plan, private garden, gaming room for adolescents and playroom for children. The shelter offers a safe and therapeutic environment where individuals and families can find hope and healing after fleeing from dangerous and often deadly situations.

The City of Knoxville, Knox County and the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation dedicated funding and resources to provide a place where victims of domestic violence can become survivors.

“The City of Knoxville is proud to support the Helen Ross McNabb Center’s domestic violence shelter,” said Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero. “The shelter offers life-saving services for hundreds of individuals and families in crisis each year.”

The Junior League of Knoxville is also devoted to supporting victims of domestic violence. They are teaching job training and skills for the future, such as résumé building and budgeting. The organization is supporting a professional development center within the shelter that features computers and fosters an environment of learning and collaborating.

In addition, a mentorship program at the shelter, through professional football player Jason Witten’s SCORE Foundation and SCOREkeepers grant, focuses on providing a positive male role model to counsel children who experienced domestic violence. Continued on page 4

Nationally, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner.
Center celebrates Connells for improving lives

The Helen Ross McNabb Foundation’s 2017 Spirit Award Dinner presented by Richard and Joni Maples buzzed with excitement as guests enjoyed a silent auction, dinner and program recognizing Joe and Melinda Connell. Joe has more than 30 years of experience in the real estate and development field, and Melinda has dedicated herself to her passion of working with children. Both of them have improved lives through their devotion to the community. The Helen Ross McNabb Foundation established the Spirit Award Dinner in 2004 to honor individuals who have carried forth the Center’s simple yet powerful mission of improving lives in East Tennessee.

Joe and Melinda became involved with the Helen Ross McNabb Center in 1999 when Joe began work on the Center’s Board of Directors. From 1999 to 2005 and then again from 2007 to 2014, Joe served on the board. He led the organization as the chair of the board and as a member of the finance and nominating committees. His insight and business expertise created a sense of confidence during a time of immense change and growth for the Center. Over the years, Joe and Melinda also led and participated in several campaigns that raised nearly $12 million to provide access to affordable, quality behavioral health care and support services for 26,000 individuals annually.

“Joe and Melinda actively demonstrate the Center’s mission of improving lives through their persistent support, guidance and generosity. This couple’s wholehearted advocacy of the Center is deeply appreciated,” said Jerry Vagnier, Helen Ross McNabb Center president and CEO. “With support from partners like the Connells, the Center serves thousands of children and adults experiencing mental health, addiction and social challenges in Tennessee.”

Nearly 700 friends of Joe and Melinda and the Center gathered at the Knoxville Convention Center on March 23 to celebrate the couple’s tireless advocacy of the Center’s mission. Attendees browsed silent auction items in the categories of art, travel, sports and much more. The highlight of the auction was the section of Joe and Melinda’s favorite things. Following the reception, guests enjoyed a dinner of winter greens salad, smoky pork loin, roasted garlic mashed potatoes and oven-roasted vegetable medley during a program that reflected the Connells love for family and community. In the program, the Center also highlighted its Therapeutic Preschool, a 10-week intensive outpatient program for children ages 4-6 who have experienced a traumatic event, such as abuse or neglect.

“Melinda and I continue to be inspired by everyone at the Helen Ross McNabb Center for their compassion and dedication to the people they serve,” said Joe Connell. “We have partnered with the Center for nearly two decades now, and we are thankful for the opportunity to see firsthand the positive impact of behavioral health care in our community.”

George Kershaw and Richard Maples led the Spirit Award Dinner committee, creating a memorable evening for the Connells and everyone in attendance. Mintha Roach, president and CEO of Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB), served as master of ceremonies. Guest speakers described the Connells investment of their time, resources and talents to expand services for East Tennesseans in need of behavioral health care and social services. A proclamation was presented to the Connells by Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III. Concluding the evening, Jerry Vagnier presented Joe and Melinda with the 2017 Spirit Award.
The Helen Ross McNabb Center’s domestic violence shelter is Knox County’s only shelter dedicated solely to serving victims of domestic violence.

“When victims need somewhere to turn, this shelter provides a safe place for them to get the help and the support they need,” said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. “Knox County is proud to support the domestic violence shelter and the services it provides our community.”

In addition to emergency shelter care, the Center also provides a crisis hotline, transitional housing, advocacy and outreach to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence. All Helen Ross McNabb Center domestic violence services are free and confidential.

If you or a loved one needs help, please call the 24-hour Helen Ross McNabb Center Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline at (865) 637-8000.

Essential domestic violence shelter continued

McNabb unites community against child abuse

Child Abuse Prevention Walk

Community members wearing royal blue, the awareness color for child abuse prevention, with pinwheels, the symbol of hope for survivors of child abuse, filled Market Square in Knoxville for the Center’s Child Abuse Prevention Walk on April 7.

Before the walk, a community information fair was available with child abuse prevention information and resources. Then, proclamations were presented and remarks were made in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month by Mona Blanton-Kitts, Helen Ross McNabb Center vice president of clinical services, Avice Reid, City of Knoxville senior director of community relations and Tim Burchett, Knox County mayor. Also, a survivor story was shared. The Center united the community in support of child abuse prevention to demonstrate our commitment to protecting the children of East Tennessee.

Therapeutic Preschool Campaign

This spring, the Center is encouraging the community to raise awareness and support for the Therapeutic Preschool, a 10-week intensive outpatient program for children ages 4-6 who have experienced a traumatic event, such as abuse or neglect. Your gift will help expand current services through an additional class time and additional staff members. Please text MCNABB to 71777 to donate or find out more information. Give children a lifetime of healing!
The following gifts were made between Jan. 1 - March 31, 2017

Access to Care
Beverage Control, Inc.
Kenneth M. and Gayla Bielak
Chapman Family Foundation
Wade V. and Bethany Davies
Joseph A. and Ruth Fielden
Charles M. and Tesa Finn
Greg G. and Mary E. Gilbert
Haslam Family Foundation
Ted Flickinger and Julie Howard
Randy and Diane Miller
Avice Reid
Alex B. and Jane Shafer
Anne Sprouse

Adult Outpatient Mental Health Program
John and Mary Denise Ranger

Beth Haynes 12 Days of Christmas Online Auction
B97.5 WJXB
Commercial Bank
Knoxville Pediatric Dentistry
WBIR-TV

Big BBQ Bash
Greg Forderhase
Susan Greer

Hoggy Bottom Boys
Kyle and Raina Kant
Sean E. and Whitney L. Mikel
Pilot Flying J
Richard and Heather Sinyard
Staffing Solutions
The Fat Guyz BBQ & Catering Company

Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp Golf Tournament
AlcoPro, Inc.
Barnhart Crane & Rigging Co.
Food City Charitable Foundation

Genoa Healthcare Holdings, LLC
Pilot Flying J
Teklink, Inc
Trust Company of Knoxville

CenterPointe Services
ORNL

Chattanooga Access to Care
City of Chattanooga
Tennessee Health Foundation
United Way Suncoast
ChildNet East Tennessee
Keith H. and Fran Burroughs

Dear Santa
ORNCL

Domestic Violence Shelter and Sexual Assault Center
Chasity Renee Baugh
Erin Bennett
Steve M. and Mary Ellen
Brewington
John and Kelli DeRieux
East Tennessee Foundation
Beall Family Advised Fund
Jack R. Helmboldt
Merrit and Joan Heminway
Kevin James
Jimmy and Debbie Jones
Robert and Chris Kahn
Robert and Rachel Maria Kirby
David and Jessica Ownby
Polished Designs
Regal Entertainment Group
Charles Sennstrom
Andy C. and Teresa Shafer
David and Rebecca Sims
Student Organizations Fund of the University of Tennessee Trust Company of Knoxville
Richardson V. and Marilyn Turner
University Of Tennessee Campus
Chest Committee
VLH Trust
Molly Yerger

In memory of Dr. W. Marshall Parker
L.D. and Jennifer Brown

In honor of Bill and Jerry Anderson
Barbara W. Sampson

In honor of Gene and Becky Hartman
Barbara W. Sampson

In honor of Bob and Ellie Kassem
Barbara W. Sampson

In honor of Joe Mont McAfee
Barbara W. Sampson

In honor of Hugh McWilliams
Barbara W. Sampson

In honor of Tommy and Susan Overton
Barbara W. Sampson

Family Crisis Center
Jennifer Bain
Suzie Cutshaw
Knoxville Pays it Forward, Inc.
Melrose Foundation
David and Rebecca Sims

Tricia Somers

In memory of Gary Mitchell Powers
Friends and Classmates of Class of ‘73

In honor of Andy Black
John W. and Sylvia Lacey III

In memory of Martha Anne Withers
John W. and Sylvia Lacey III

In memory of Jean Warren Flickinger
Lakeway Foundation, Inc.

In honor of Dr. Clif Tennison
Carroll and Martha Sterne

In memory of Harry W. Stowers
Eugene S. and Suzanne Stowers III

Great Starts
Angela Hickey
Once Upon A Child

Hamblen County Capital Campaign
Lakeway Foundation, Inc.

Knoxville Challenger Tennis Tournament
Joseph K. and Carole Ayres
James and Paige Bell
Big Wheel
Chick-Fil-A
James T. Cogdill
Dunkin Donuts
Joseph M. and Patricia H. Googe, Jr.
Hoffman Quality Tools USA, Inc.
Kirk A. and Joanne Huddleston Humana, Inc.
Just Give
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Lucille S. Thompson
Family Foundation
Haresh K. Mirani
Jason and Janene Nordin
Pilot Flying J
Tennessee Tennis Club & Academy
Chest Committee
Lakeway Foundation, Inc.
Warren Flickinger

Sevier County Programs
Knoxville Restaurants, Inc.
Pigeon Forge Rotary Club

Spirit Award Dinner Honoring Joe and Melinda Connell
John H. and Carol Acker
Richard G. and Denise Anderson
Steve W. and Ann H. Bailey
Joshua M. and Laurel C. Ball
Belleza Salon & Spa
Bert and Shelia Bertelkamp
Hank F. and Sandy Bertelkamp, Jr.
Nancy Biddle
Alton E. Blakley, Jr.
Marshall H. Peterson and Linda Gay Blanc
Randy and Jenny Boyd
Adam and Jenny Brock
Charlie Brooks and Candy Finley-Brooks
Pat Brown
Bush Brothers & Company
David Bulte
Russell Byrd
Cache pot
Harry M. and Teresa Call
E. M. and Rosemary Canada
Ronnie H. Carroll
Robert and Amy Cathey
Cedar Bluff Racquet Club
Jefferson and Vicki Chapman
Cherokee Country Club
Citadel Construction, Inc.
Citicos Restaurant and Club at WindRiver
Pete Claussen III

River Sports Outfitters
Ruby Falls
Tennessee Aquarium
Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
Wonderworks

New Hope Recovery Center
Bethel Baptist Church
William Manthey
United Way of Greater Knoxville

Russell Biven
Summer Clayfest
Gary W. and Julia Bentley
Food City Charitable Foundation
Trust Company of Knoxville

Scenic City Sporting Clays Tournament
Pioneer Auto Sales, LLC
Pioneer Jewelry, LLC
Warren & Griffin, P.C.

Sevier County Government
Through the Foundation’s giving options, you have the opportunity to leave a legacy starting today. There are many ways you can create a brighter future for children, adults and families in East Tennessee by remembering the Helen Ross McNabb Center in your financial planning. For more information, please call the Foundation at (865) 541-6684.
Upcoming events

Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp
Golf Tournament

Monday, May 22
Holston Hills Country Club

BIG BBQ BASH
Benefitting Helen Ross McNabb Center

June 23 and 24
Downtown Maryville

Sponsorship opportunities available! Please visit mcnabbcenter.org or call (865) 329-9030 for more information.

For a full list of locations and services, visit www.mcnabbcenter.org.