



# A year of **extraordinary** growth and accomplishment



## Who We Are:

### VOICES FOR A SAFER TENNESSEE

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition committed to advancing firearm safety policies and programs that protect our communities and respect the Second Amendment. In 2024, Safer TN helped pass some of Tennessee's first firearm safety policies in nearly a decade and continues to build on that progress.



**VOICES  
FOR A  
\*SAFER\*  
TENNESSEE**

Dear Safer TN Supporters,

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our donors, 2024 was truly a year of extraordinary growth and accomplishment for our coalition and our small, but mighty, team.

Together, we championed Tennessee's first legislation in nearly a decade that restricts firearm access for vulnerable people who have been deemed by the courts to be a danger to themselves or others. We also traveled from Memphis to Knoxville to host community events and facilitate candid conversations. While there were challenges along the way, we remained steadfast in advancing our mission to address preventable firearm deaths in our state with homegrown solutions.

Looking ahead to 2025, Voices for a Safer Tennessee will continue advocating for state policies that promote firearm safety while expanding educational efforts to encourage responsible firearm ownership. Partnering with law enforcement and health care leaders, we will impact behavioral change alongside legislative progress.

History shows the power of a combined approach: Smoking rates have dropped over the years thanks to policies, education and incentives. We believe this proven model can address Tennessee's tragically high rate of firearm deaths, saving lives and creating safer communities.

Now, to the good stuff: an in-depth look at all we've done this year, and where we're headed in 2025, with your treasured support.



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**TODD CRUSE**  
*Chair*



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**CLAUDIA HUSKEY**  
*Executive Director*

# FINANCE

In 2024, Tennesseans continued to invest in our work, which enabled us to extend our reach statewide, develop educational initiatives and retain professional lobbyists to help navigate the legislative process.

## OTHER 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ Nearly **\$800,000** total raised (\$2 million total raised including pledges since May 2023 founding)
- ★ **1,500+** donors representing 43 counties
- ★ **15 multi-year pledges** ranging from \$45,000-\$90,000
- ★ **New fundraising opportunities** including our Back to School Bash and online storefront

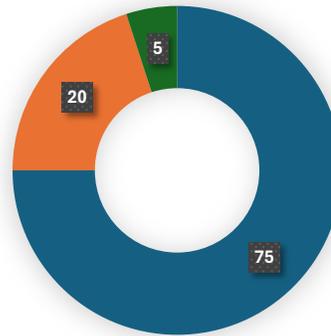
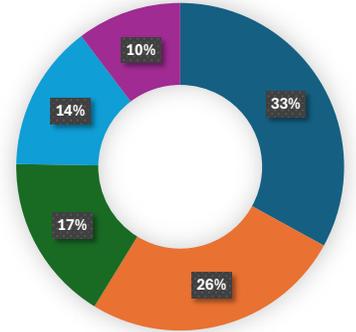
## 2025 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- ★ Establish an independent 501(c)(3).
- ★ Seek grant funding from foundations and corporations.
- ★ Expand grassroots support through merch sales, recurring giving and statewide fundraising events.

## Where Your Contributions Go

**501(c)(3) Projected Expenditures, 2025**  
Total \$900,000

- Operations
- Policy, Research and Education
- Communications
- Finance
- Coalition Growth



**501(c)(4) Projected Expenditures, 2025**  
Total \$165,000

- Advocacy, Lobbying and Legal
- Operations
- Finance

## Our People

### Board of Directors

Todd Cruse, *Chair*  
 Nicole Smith, *Vice Chair*  
 Joey Nelson, *Secretary*  
 Tim Sinks, *Treasurer*  
 Katy Dieckhaus  
 Lindsay Landman  
 Katie Marchetti  
 Jeremy Nagoshiner  
 Clay Richards  
 Beverly Robertson  
 Lisa Rottmann  
 Dori Thornton Waller

### Advisory Board

Dr. Clay Stauffer, *Chair*  
 Michelle Augusty  
 Dave Bhattacharya, M.D.  
 Dr. Michael Burcham  
 Bill Carpenter  
 Carlie Cruse  
 Senator Bill Frist, M.D.  
 Vince Gill  
 Amy Grant  
 Milton Johnson  
 Teresa Sloyan  
 Dwayne Tucker  
 Jamie Woodson

### Full-Time Staff

Claudia Huskey, *Executive Director*  
 Jessica Jaglois, *Director of Communications*

### Part-Time Staff

Erin Rogus, *Policy Director*  
 Emily Ezell, *Communications and Operations Associate*  
 Susan Leach, *Visibility Coordinator*





**ERIN ROGUS**  
*Policy Director*

## **POLICY** and *Legislation*

Safer TN achieved a major milestone by helping pass the first legislation in nearly a decade that limits firearm access for Tennesseans deemed mentally incompetent or adjudicated for violent juvenile offenses. At the State Capitol, we engaged Governor Bill Lee and lawmakers in meaningful conversations on community safety, mobilized over 250 volunteers from 13 counties to meet with legislators, and successfully blocked a dangerous open carry policy for loaded long guns in public spaces.

### **OTHER 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Helped pass HB1600**, which prohibits firearm access for individuals aged 18–25 who were violent juvenile offenders and/or juveniles with mental health adjudications.

**Advocated for Jillian’s Law**, which prohibits firearm access for those deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial and provides a process for involuntary commitment and treatment.

**Helped secure funding** for TBI personnel to complete more thorough background checks by ensuring criminal convictions are properly reported by all county courts, keeping guns out of the hands of felons and other prohibited purchasers.

### **2025 LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY**

- ★ Incentivize secure storage and background checks.
- ★ Explore ways to strengthen and better enforce existing laws, including improving the firearm dispossession process in our domestic violence laws.
- ★ Continue and expand on Tennessee’s public service announcement campaign to promote secure firearm storage.
- ★ Work to obtain better data on firearm injuries in Tennessee to find evidence-based, homegrown solutions.





## COALITION *Growth*

In 2024, Safer TN expanded to nearly 30,000 members across all 95 counties. We launched a community presence initiative to connect with Tennesseans at local events through representatives, speaker trainings, presentations, and collaborations with grassroots volunteers and organizations. These efforts ignited meaningful conversations about firearm safety and motivated individuals to take action.

### OTHER 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**50+**

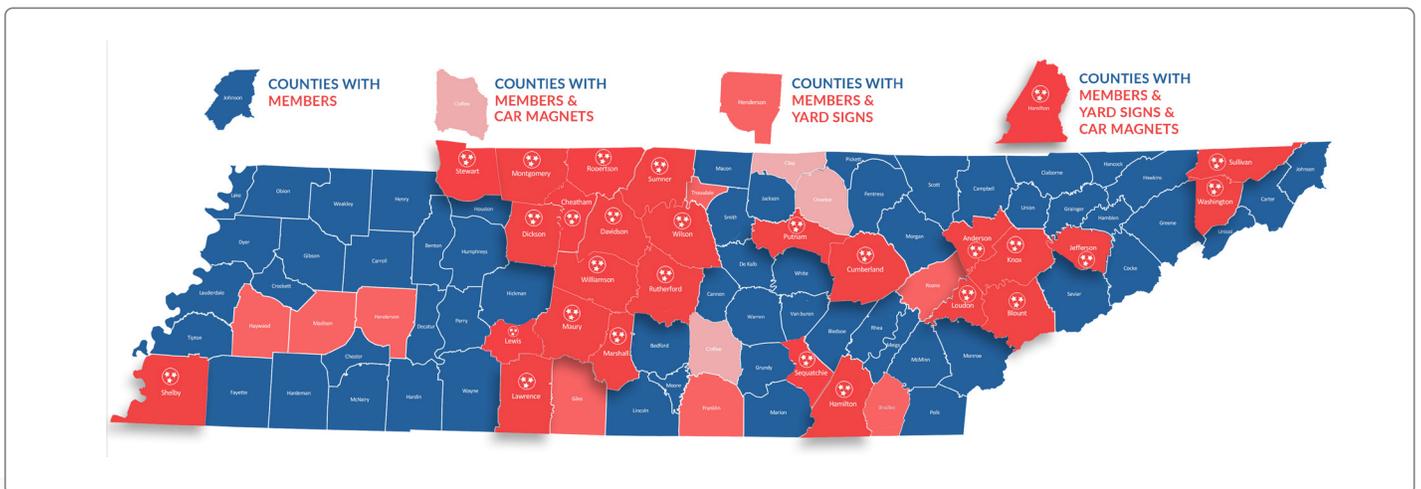
community events  
across Tennessee

**300**

volunteers and  
volunteer coordinators

**1,556**

new yard signs and  
570 car magnets deployed



### 2025 GROWTH STRATEGY

- ★ Develop community partnerships to raise awareness about our organization’s mission in strategically selected legislative districts.
- ★ Staff tables at community events, fairs and festivals, as well as provide speakers for local civic clubs, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood association meetings.
- ★ Identify advertising opportunities to introduce Safer TN’s mission to rural and underrepresented areas.



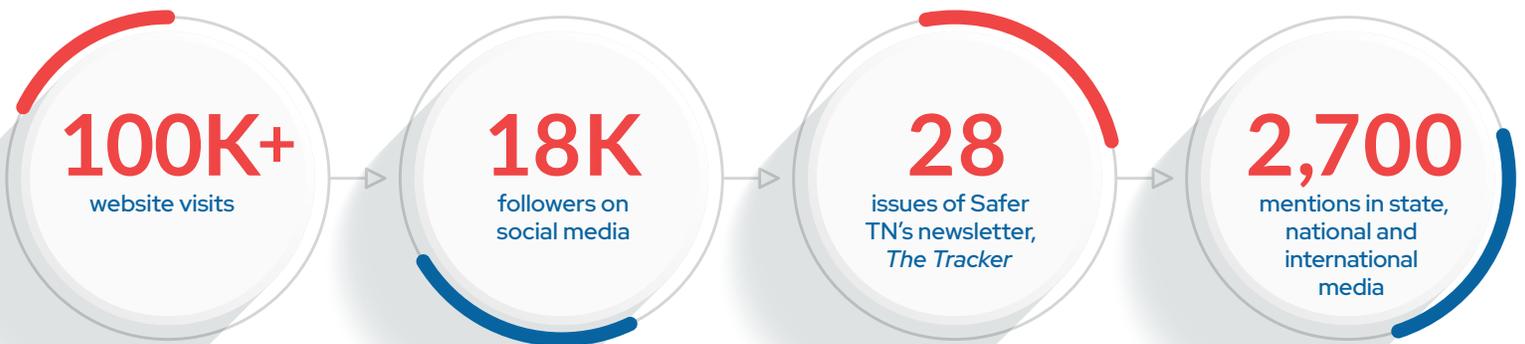
## EDUCATION *and Outreach*

In 2024, Safer TN garnered thousands of media hits while enhancing our website and leveraging social media to promote events and initiatives aligned with our mission. Safer TN hired our second full-time staff member, Director of Communications, Jessica Jaglois. Jessica spent nearly 20 years reporting on firearm tragedies as a journalist, and will now advocate for firearm safety in this new role.



**JESSICA JAGLOIS**  
*Director of Communications*

### OTHER 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### 2025 OUTREACH STRATEGY

- ★ Build on our momentum with consistent media appearances and impactful op-eds.
- ★ Establish our newsroom as a trusted source for firearm safety information.
- ★ Expand advocacy and education efforts statewide by producing content for social media platforms.