

VALENCIA

"Not being able to make ends meet—I know what that is. I owe much because I've been given much and GraceWorks is a way for me to live out my beliefs, my compassion, my faith and my love for my fellow man."

— *GraceWorks Ministries*

BRANDON

"Being a kid from humble beginnings, I just always wanted to make my world and the people around me better. Growing up in public housing can be difficult. That's really been what's fueled me ... just trying to use my experience to help people who were coming up in the same conditions that I did."

— *Nashville Soccer Club*

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DESTINY

"It was really early mornings, and I didn't feel very supported in the high school that I went to. I was just having a tough time there. My freshman year was really bad, and I got so behind. They told me that I wouldn't graduate with my class, so I just decided to drop out and get my diploma elsewhere. Now, I'm doing the job that I love, and I get to be around a lot of animals. That's really great."

— *Crossroads Campus*

APRIL

"I have a lot to offer and services that I would like to provide to communities that may not know how to reach out and reconnect to services. This work is important because we can't leave our children behind. That's our future."

— *The Salvation Army*



LIZ

“This work has given my life a purpose I didn’t know it needed. That’s why I get up every morning and do what I do. Far too few of our children read on grade level. They struggle with decoding the language on a page. They struggle with understanding the words that they’re reading. Up until about third grade, you are learning to read in school and then after that, you’re expected to read in order to learn. If you aren’t able to read at the level of your peers, then you’re not going to get the content that you need from your classwork.”

— *Nashville Public Library*



KENYA

“It’s so important that leaders of color are making sure that we are speaking life into students and making sure that they know how valuable they are ... that they know that they matter.”

— *Teach for America*



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TARA

“Nonprofit work is not easy. Every day, you have to start over because some people ... it takes them a long time to get to where they need to be. You have to really love what you do and care about humankind and care about those who may not be as fortunate as you. To actually see them graduate and achieve those goals really makes me happy. And when children come back after they’ve graduated high school or college to come and see the teachers that have impacted them over the years, that lets us know that we’re doing something right.”

— *Community Child Care Center*

PHIL

“I’ve always said that I get more out of it than the people I’m trying to teach.” — *Raise Your Hand*



DONNY

"I hate seeing kids that are disadvantaged in any way. I know that one way we can help them is by giving them food. That's the least we can do for them. I've had people say to me, 'My kids were on that program when we were having a rough time and those sacks of food were really helpful. It gave them something to eat over the weekend until they could get back to school and get their school breakfast and lunch.'"

— *TNKids*

ASH

"Members of our community are not getting their needs met. And how can we look away from that? I myself am in recovery and have been trained to use the experiences that I had in the mental health system to help folks navigate that system as they move through their recovery."

— *Park Center*

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LYNN

"Our program is one of empowerment. We do not make decisions for the victims that come in under our roof. We help them set up their goals, their budgets, etc."

— *Bridges Domestic Violence Center*

TIFFANY

"We are raising our future. I certainly believe that building a strong foundation is a great way to build good citizens. We're trying to make great leaders and to help the kids find their own voice. To help them to find their uniqueness and their greatness."

— *Greater Faith Community Action Corporation*



DENISE

"Over the years, because of the way things didn't turn out in my life like I thought they would, there seemed to be this sort of weight. When I went to Insight, it was like my hope got refurbished and filled up. Everything that happened in the past is the past, but I have a future. Before therapy, it was like a painting that you could see the images on, but there wasn't any color. After therapy, there was color. There was movement."

— *Insight Counseling*

HEATHER

"The vast majority of people go into dialysis because transplant is just not a viable option for everyone. There are not enough organs, kidneys especially, to go around for everyone who might need one. We just simply provide a way for people to get the treatment they need to stay alive and have that be one less thing they have to worry about."

— *Tennessee Kidney Foundation*

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**DEREK**

"If our residents are given the skills to learn how to take care of themselves, then they will be thriving. They will be agents of their own healing."

— *The Center for Living and Learning*

MIKAYLA

"We focus on serving families who have experienced trauma. With our family resilience, we work with both the parents and the children. And then we go out in the community ... we train other organizations in ACEs or any other type of trauma-based training that they may need."

— *The Family Center*



CHARMIN

“Strength in the community ... it’s holding each other accountable and uplifting each other.”
— *Creative Girls Rock*



LUCIBETH

“I understand the value of giving dollars so the impact can be compounded when added to other people’s dollars. It made a lot of sense to me to find an organization like United Way that gave to so many worthy causes that I could really get behind. I feel like my dollars can go further.”
— *Patricia Hart Society*



KELLY

“I’ve been in the nonprofit world in Nashville for over 20 years now, and I feel that philanthropy and volunteerism are our privilege and price of existence as human beings.”
— *Progress Inc.*



LESLIE

“My mom used to come home with all these stories about how this person came in and they needed things and she just couldn’t help them. And I felt so bad. So that really made me want to be more involved in the community ... to help communities just be better, be stronger and come together.”
— *Nurture the Next*

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