

# 2025 | REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

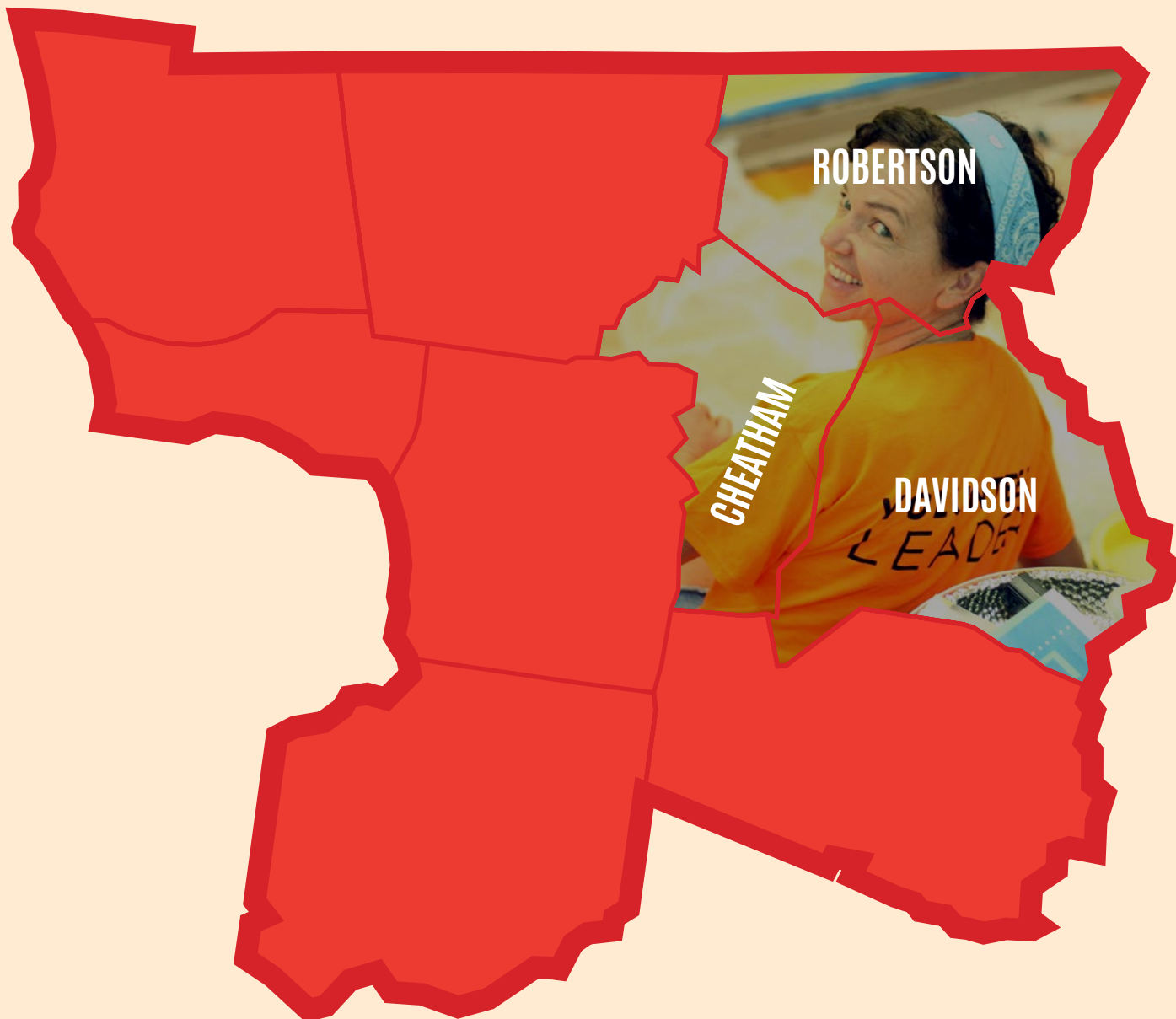
CHEATHAM / DAVIDSON / ROBERTSON



ROBERTSON

CHEATHAM

DAVIDSON



## OUR WORK, LOCALLY

Every county across Middle Tennessee has its own strengths, challenges and opportunities. While the issues facing families may be shared, the solutions are most effective when they are shaped locally.

These county reports offer a closer look at how United Way is partnering with communities to address local needs that are guided by data, informed by lived experience and grounded in collaboration. Using county-level ALICE data, we highlight the realities facing working families while elevating the stories behind the numbers that bring those realities into focus.

Each report reflects our commitment to place-based solutions, strong local partnerships and strategies tailored to the unique context of each county. Together, they show how regional coordination and local action work hand in hand to create meaningful, lasting change.

**This is what impact looks like: county by county, community by community.**

## BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FROM THE START

United Way has long invested in the education of our youngest residents through partnerships that expand access to affordable, high-quality early child care for children from birth through age 5. These investments ensure children enter kindergarten ready to learn while supporting early childhood professionals who make that success possible.

### READ TO SUCCEED

Launched in 2004, Read to Succeed is a comprehensive early childhood learning model focused on building both academic and social-emotional skills from birth to age 5. The program is grounded in a vision of equitable, high-quality early education for every child and family.

Read to Succeed strengthens classrooms by providing instructional coaching, professional development and training for early childhood educators. Children in participating programs are assessed for kindergarten readiness at ages 3 and 4.

During the 2024–2025 school year, 499 3- and 4-year-olds were evaluated, with 94% demonstrating proficiency in overall developmental readiness. In addition, 2,805 hours of training and support were delivered to early child care providers—reinforcing quality, consistency and long-term impact across early learning environments

## STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL FUTURES

### NASHVILLE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FEC)

In 2025, the Nashville Financial Empowerment Center, a program of the Mayor’s Office, continued to deliver measurable, life-changing results for families navigating financial challenges. Through free, one-on-one counseling focused on credit, debt, banking and financial behaviors, the FEC supported 1,206 individuals across 2,906 counseling sessions.

As a result of this work, families reduced \$7.6 million in debt and increased savings by \$1.5 million—helping stabilize households and create pathways toward long-term financial security.

### RAISE YOUR HAND

UWGN’s Raise Your Hand program provides free tutoring and academic support to students across Middle Tennessee. In Cheatham County, 33 dedicated Raise Your Hand teachers and volunteers served more than 160 students across six elementary schools. And in Robertson County, 51 Raise Your Hand teachers and volunteers served 348 first through eighth graders across 12 schools. In both counties, nearly 70% of all students improved their reading scores from the previous school year.

### RESET: SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS

The Raising Economic Security to Enjoy Thriving (RESET) initiative extends the reach of the Financial Empowerment Center to older adults, many of whom live on fixed incomes. Launched in partnership with AgeWell, FiftyForward, NeedLink Nashville and the Tennessee Justice Center, RESET provides benefit screenings and personalized financial counseling.

Funded by the AARP Foundation, RESET served 297 adults age 50 or older, delivering 669 counseling sessions. Participants realized a combined \$185,360 increase in savings and \$1.2 million in debt reduction, strengthening financial stability for older neighbors across the community.

## STRENGTHENING LOCAL PREPAREDNESS

### ROBERTSON COUNTY: SAFER PLACES INITIATIVE

In November 2025, United Way partnered with the City of Springfield and the Robertson County Emergency Management Agency to host a Safer Places interest meeting for faith-based and nonprofit leaders. The event featured NewsChannel 5 Meteorologist Heather Mathis, co-creator of the “Safer Places Bill,” and focused on strengthening community preparedness and emergency response coordination.

## MOBILIZING GENEROSITY ACROSS COUNTIES

### HANDS ON VOLUNTEERISM

Hands On remains a key platform for connecting community members to meaningful service opportunities:

- **Davidson County filled 12,948 volunteer opportunities, representing 39% of listings**
- **Robertson County filled 7 of 15 opportunities (47%)**
- **No volunteer listings were posted in Cheatham County during this period**

These efforts reflect continued interest in service and highlight opportunities to grow volunteer engagement across additional counties.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

### STUFF THE BUS

This year’s Stuff the Bus initiative helped ensure students across the region had the supplies they need to succeed in the classroom:

- **6,620 backpacks were delivered to Davidson County**
- **350 backpacks to Cheatham County**
- **350 backpacks to Robertson County**
- **200 backpacks were distributed through the 211 Helpline and the Financial Empowerment Center**

Each backpack reduced financial strain for families while supporting students’ readiness to learn from the first day of school.

### CHEATHAM COUNTY: COMMUNITY GIVING IN ACTION

In Cheatham County, representatives from ExxonMobil Pipeline Company donated brand-new bicycles assembled by their team and delivered to Cheatham County Schools. The bikes were distributed during the district’s Christmas Anonymous event in December—bringing joy and tangible support to local families during the holiday season.

### SEASON OF SHARING & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Through a generous partnership with Bridgestone Americas, Season of Sharing delivered critical support to families in Robertson County. In November, United Way collected and distributed more than 28,000 donated items, including nonperishable food and hygiene supplies.

These items were delivered to United Ministries Food Bank, which has experienced nearly double its typical daily client volume since mid-October. The partnership helped stabilize food supplies during a period of heightened demand, ensuring families had access to essential resources when they needed them most.

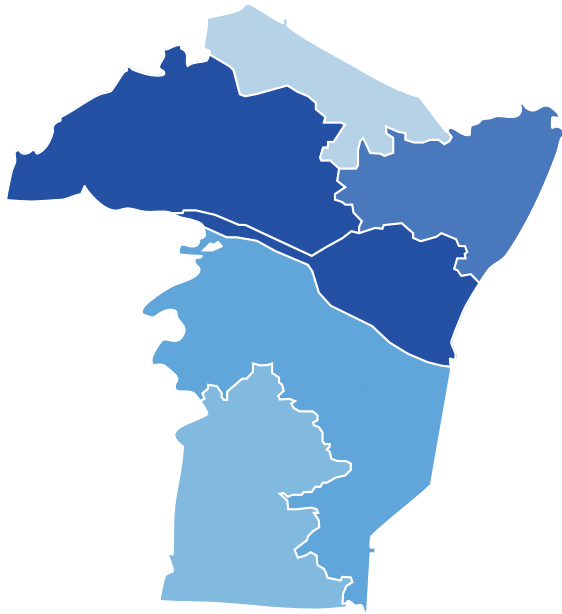
### RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP

United Way continued to elevate excellence and leadership in education and community service through initiatives such as the Ignite! Awards and Strobel Awards, celebrating individuals and organizations whose work is shaping brighter outcomes for children and families.

WHAT IMPACT LOOKS LIKE IN

# CHEATHAM COUNTY

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDS INVESTED IN 2025: **\$113,985**



## 40%

of households are below the ALICE threshold

- > **9% are in poverty**
- > **31% are ALICE households**

Sources: ALICE threshold, 2010-2023

Map is shaded to show the percentage of households that are below the ALICE threshold (poverty-level and ALICE households combined). The darker the blue, the higher the percentage.



## 40,536

impacted by services in education, economic mobility, health or basic needs



## 34

Community Impact-funded partners



## 69%

of Raise Your Hand students' reading scores improved



## 350

backpacks packed through Stuff the Bus



## 54

tax returns completed through VITA



## \$33,892

in tax refunds through VITA

211

## 214

211 Helpline referrals made to neighbors in crisis

### AGENCIES SERVING CHEATHAM COUNTY

**Bolded names are new partners**

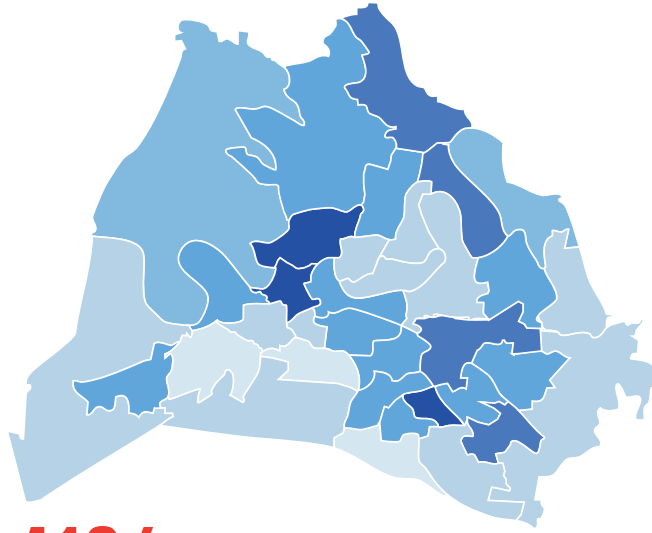
- Alive Hospice
- American Cancer Society Inc. - Middle TN Chapter**
- American Red Cross
- Boy Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Building Lives Foundation
- Cheatham County Ministerial Alliance - Bethesda Center
- Child Advocacy Center for the 23rd Judicial District
- Community Resource Center
- Dickson Community Clinic
- East Nashville Wellness Center**
- Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- GraceWorks Ministries
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville
- High Hopes Development Center
- Insight Counseling Centers
- Legacy Mission Village
- Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland
- Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency
- Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency
- Nashville Conflict Resolution Center
- Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee
- One Generation Away
- REBOOT Recovery
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- Special Olympics Tennessee
- STARS Nashville
- Tennessee Justice Center Inc.**
- Tennessee Kidney Foundation
- Tennessee Poison Center
- Tennessee Voices**
- The Refuge Center for Counseling
- United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee Inc.**
- Westminster Home Connection**

WHAT IMPACT LOOKS LIKE IN

# DAVIDSON COUNTY

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDS INVESTED IN 2025:

# \$4,703,065



**41%** of households are below the ALICE threshold

- > 11% are in poverty
- > 30% are ALICE households

Sources: ALICE threshold, 2010-2023

Map is shaded to show the percentage of households that are below the ALICE threshold (poverty-level and ALICE households combined). The darker the blue, the higher the percentage.



## 548,536

impacted by services in education, economic mobility, health or basic needs



## 136

Community Impact-funded partners



## 94%

of 3- and 4-year-olds met their overall developmental goals



## 6,620

backpacks packed through Stuff the Bus



## 4,508

tax returns completed through VITA



## \$4,565,378

in tax refunds through VITA

211

## 39,480

211 Helpline referrals made to neighbors in crisis

## AGENCIES SERVING DAVIDSON COUNTY

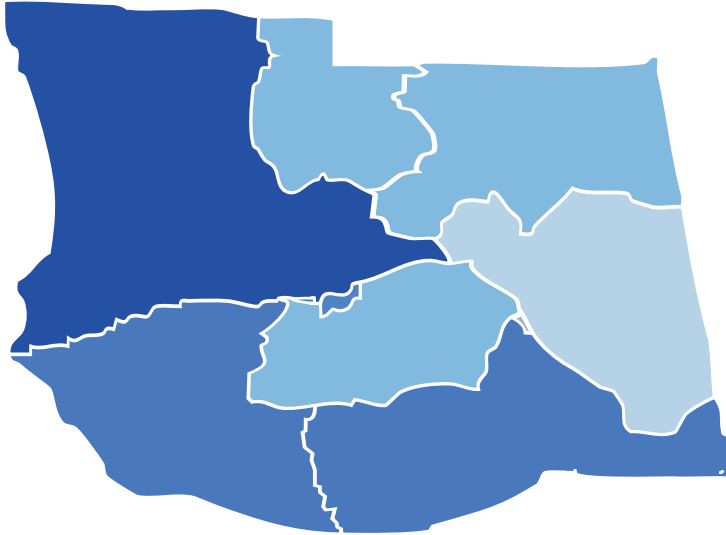
Bolded names are new partners

- 413 Strong
- Alive Hospice
- Aloe Family Inc.**
- American Cancer Society Inc. - Middle TN Chapter**
- American Red Cross
- Ancora TN
- Assistance League of Nashville
- Backfield in Motion Inc.**
- Begin Anew of Middle TN
- Bethany Christian Services of Middle Tennessee
- Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee
- Boy Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Boys & Girls Club of Middle Tennessee
- Branch of Nashville Inc.**
- Building Lives Foundation
- CASA of Nashville and Davidson County
- Catholic Charities of Tennessee
- Christian Community Services Inc.**
- Communities In Schools of Tennessee
- Community Care Fellowship
- Community Child Care, Inc.
- Community Resource Center
- Conexión Américas
- Cosecha Community Development**
- Crossroads Campus
- Culzvate
- Dismas House - Nashville
- Dream Streets
- East Nashville Wellness Center**
- Faith Family Medical Clinic
- Family & Children's Services
- FiftyForward
- Freedom Reigns Ranch
- Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee
- Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Global Outreach Developments International**
- Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- GraceWorks Ministries
- Guardianship and Trusts Corporation of Tennessee
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville
- Hard Bargain Mt. Hope Redevelopment, Inc.
- Healing Housing
- High Hopes Development Center
- Homework Hotline, Inc.
- Hopekids Inc.**
- I AM NEXT - Omni Family Foundation Inc.
- Insight Counseling Centers
- Interfaith Dental Clinic
- Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- Learning Matters**
- Legacy Mission Village
- Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland
- Martha O'Bryan Center, Inc.
- Medical Foundation of Nashville
- Mending Hearts, Inc.
- Mercy Community Healthcare
- Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency
- Monroe Harding
- Move Inclusive Dance**
- Moves and Grooves, Inc.
- Music City Construction Careers (MC3)
- NAMI Tennessee
- Nashville Academy Theatre and Nashville Children's Theatre Assoc.**
- Nashville Adult Literacy Council
- Nashville CARES
- Nashville Children's Alliance
- Nashville Conflict Resolution Center
- Nashville Diaper Connection**
- Nashville Food Project, Inc.
- Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE)
- Nashville Rescue Mission**
- Nashville State Community College Foundation**
- Nations Ministry Center
- Needlink Nashville
- New Beginnings Center
- Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee
- Oasis Center, Inc.
- One Generation Away
- Open Table Nashville
- Operation Stand Down Tennessee
- Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (ONE)
- Our Place Nashville
- Park Center
- Pathway Lending
- Pathways Kitchen**
- PENCIL Foundation
- People Loving Nashville
- Preston Taylor Ministries**
- Primer Academia de ABC Spanish Immersion Program Inc.**
- Progress, Inc.
- Project Return
- Raphah Institute**
- REBOOT Recovery
- Rebuilding Together-Nashville**
- Renewal House
- Rock The Street Wall Street
- Rooftop Foundation
- Saddle Up!
- Safe Haven Family Shelter, Inc.
- Salama Urban Ministries
- Samaritan Recovery Community Inc.**
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- Senior Ride Nashville
- Sexual Assault Center
- Siloam Health
- Southern Word, Inc.
- Special Olympics Tennessee
- St. Luke's Community House
- STARS Nashville
- Teach For America, Inc.
- Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance
- Tennessee Higher Education Initiative Inc.**
- Tennessee Justice Center Inc.**
- Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors
- Tennessee Kidney Foundation
- Tennessee Poison Center
- Tennessee Voices for Children**
- The Big Table
- The Contributor, Inc.
- The Family Center
- The Hope Station
- The Next Door
- The Refugee Center for Counseling
- The Salvation Army
- The Store Inc.**
- Thistle Farms, Inc.**
- Tucker's House
- Unicycle**
- United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee Inc.**
- UpRiseNashville
- Waves, Inc.
- Welcome Home Ministries**
- Westminster Home Connection**
- YMCA of Middle TN
- YWCA

WHAT IMPACT LOOKS LIKE IN

# ROBERTSON COUNTY

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDS INVESTED IN 2025: **\$195,755**



# 44%

of households are below the ALICE threshold

- > 10% are in poverty
- > 34% are ALICE households

Sources: ALICE threshold, 2010-2023

Map is shaded to show the percentage of households that are below the ALICE threshold (poverty-level and ALICE households combined). The darker the blue, the higher the percentage.



## 40,742

impacted by services in education, economic mobility, health or basic needs



## 46

Community Impact-funded partners



## 70%

of Raise Your Hand students' reading scores improved



## 350

backpacks packed through Stuff the Bus



## 109

tax returns completed through VITA



## \$110,618

in tax refunds through VITA

## 211

## 1,176

211 Helpline referrals made to neighbors in crisis

## AGENCIES SERVING ROBERTSON COUNTY

**Bolded names are new partners**

- Alive Hospice
- American Cancer Society Inc. - Middle TN Chapter**
- American Red Cross
- Bethany Christian Services of Middle Tennessee
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee
- Boy Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Building Lives Foundation
- C.O.P.E., Inc.
- CASA of Robertson County
- Community Resource Center
- Conexión Américas
- Gateway Stem Center Inc.**
- Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
- Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- GraceWorks Ministries
- H.A.T.S., Inc. - Habilitation and Training Services, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville
- High Hopes Development Center
- Insight Counseling Centers
- Isaiah 117 House
- Legacy Mission Village
- Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands
- Medical Foundation of Nashville
- Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency
- Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency
- My Father's House Mission Robertson County
- NAMI Tennessee
- Nashville Conflict Resolution Center
- Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee
- Redemption Ranch Inc.
- Robertson County Child Advocacy Center
- Saddle Up!
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- Special Olympics Tennessee
- STARS Nashville
- Tennessee Justice Center Inc.**
- Tennessee Kidney Foundation
- Tennessee Poison Center
- Tennessee Voices for Children**
- The Refuge Center for Counseling
- TN 4-H Foundation / Robertson County 4-H
- TN Kids Nutrition, Inc.
- United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee Inc.**
- United Ministries Food Bank of Robertson County Inc.
- Westminster Home Connection**
- YMCA of Middle TN

