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CONTACT

John Chobanian

john@healthiertn.com

Healthier Tennessee Communities to Be Sustained By Volunteer-Led Committees

Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness Completing its final phase of work

NASHVILLE – The Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness today announced it is nearing completion of the third and final phase of its six-year operating plan and will transition its Healthier Tennessee Communities program to implementation by local, volunteer-led committees across the state by the end of this year.

The Foundation was created in 2013, and its communities-based initiative began in 2015 as a grassroots campaign in nine pilot locations to improve health and the quality of life in Tennessee at the local level. It is now being carried out in more than 100 counties, towns, neighborhoods, and on college campuses.

“Over the past four years, hundreds of volunteers have created plans, organized events, generated publicity and participation, and achieved measurable progress improving the health of Tennesseans,” **said Richard Johnson, CEO of the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness.** “More than 50 places have earned the official designation as Healthier Tennessee Communities, and better health and more action to improve the quality of our lives have been the result.”

The Foundation will continue to provide grants and complete the evaluation process to designate more Healthier Tennessee Communities before concluding its mission in December. The ongoing work will be transferred to community partners and supporting organizations so the program can be fully maintained at the local level.

“I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the community leaders who have made this program possible, and proud of our team of professionals who have been advisors and guides to local volunteers and committee members,” added Johnson. “Healthier Tennessee can now continue to grow and be sustained in the many locations where it is established.”

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