



INNOVATION, GROWTH, & GRATITUDE

A Message from CEO Kelly McGillis

As I reflect on 2025, I'm filled with gratitude for what our community accomplished together. This year marked a transformative chapter for TNC Community—one defined by innovation, growth, and a deepened commitment to the individuals and families we serve.

We proudly launched Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, a social enterprise that creates meaningful employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and strengthens the long-term sustainability of our mission. This venture is much more than a business initiative; it is a powerful expression of our belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to contribute, to earn, and to thrive.

At the same time, we significantly expanded our services. Since I joined TNC Community in 2019, we have grown to serve nearly 200% more individuals—a testament to both the rising need in our region and the trust families place in our organization. Behind the numbers are stories of increased independence, friendships formed, and lives enriched.

None of this would be possible without you—our donors, families, partners, volunteers, and dedicated staff. Your belief in our mission fuels every milestone and makes expansion possible. With your ongoing partnership, we will continue to create even more opportunities!



2025 Highlights

Opened Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, employing 15+ people with disabilities

Expanded to serve more individuals and added services

100% of families and guardians surveyed recommend TNC Community

OUR COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS

AGES

0-24 25-64 65+
16% 69% 15%

SUPPORTS

Non-or Minimally Verbal 34%
Ambulatory Device 29%

TNC COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES & SUCCESS!

Residential Services

Around-the-clock support for individuals with severe disabilities in neighborhood homes across Missouri's KC area, featuring a 24/7 Health Team



Growth Happens at Home

When **Ceylone** moved to a TNC Community home in 2024, daily routines were difficult due to significant behavioral challenges. With consistent structure, patient support, and a team committed to understanding her, meaningful change began.

Today, Ceylone enjoys outings, loves getting her hair and nails done, and takes pride in helping others, often volunteering to assist her peers. Program Officer, Lacey Taylor said, "She has grown in ways we hoped for, and it shows every day."

Community Connections

Services that empower individuals for community inclusion, skill development, and achieving self-determined goals

Transformation for Everyday and Pivotal Moments

Individuals in our Community Connections Program receive support to thrive at home and in their communities.

Through hands-on experiences like cooking classes, participants build confidence, learn practical recipes, and develop teamwork and decision-making skills that strengthen daily independence.

D'Andrea reached a lifelong goal of traveling independently. She obtained her Real ID and flew to visit family, gaining confidence along the way. She also values the relationships she's building, "It is so nice having people to connect with."



Community Connections also supports individuals in times of crisis. **Rene** faced housing instability. With support, he secured transitional housing, found employment, and now lives in his own apartment, where he enjoys the chance to "make new friends."



OUR MISSION

We champion equity and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, inspiring lives of dignity, belonging, and joy.

DIAGNOSES

Severe Developmental Disabilities **62%**

Autism **34%**

Mental Health Diagnoses **34%**

Medically Fragile **38%**

Cerebral Palsy **17%**

Epilepsy/Other Seizure Disorders **23%**

Day Program

Structured social activities to enhance daily living and interpersonal skills, and emphasize community inclusion

Customizing Services for Unique Needs

Through creative leadership and strong community partnerships, Day Program participants have opportunities to try new things, build meaningful connections, and give back.

Making new friends is a highlight for many, and that includes animals. Participants have gathered fleece from alpacas, visited dairy calves, and spent time with Sam the therapy dog at Paws & Pals.

They also stay engaged through hands-on projects like recycling and hydroponic gardening, while volunteering for Meals on Wheels and seasonal park clean-ups.



Workforce Development

Providing equitable, meaningful jobs and work-based learning experiences for youth through Howdy Homemade Ice Cream

Transforming Lives One Scoop at a Time

In May 2025, TNC Community opened Howdy Homemade Ice Cream in Lee's Summit. More than a shop, it's a mission-driven social enterprise employing 15 Heroes, individuals with IDD who deliver great service, scoop ice cream, and help run daily operations.

When **Tommy** interviewed, he was quiet and avoided eye contact, nervous about his first job. Today, he is one of the most outgoing team members, even stepping confidently in front of a news camera. His mom shared, "His personality has really blossomed... that one opportunity gave him confidence in himself."

Lilly, who previously felt overlooked for jobs because of her disability, found belonging at Howdy. "I don't have to pretend to be somebody that I'm not," she said.

For **Julius**, earning a paycheck has been transformative. "It makes me feel confident," he shared something his parents say has truly "given him his voice." Through meaningful employment, Howdy Homemade is building confidence, independence, and opportunity by the scoop.





FINANCIALS

July 2023 – June 2024

Expenses: \$10,657,530

Revenue: \$11,027,707

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EXPANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN 2026

Many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities want to work, and TNC Community is ready to support them in their journey. Through a variety of services, we will help individuals prepare for, obtain, and succeed in competitive jobs. Further, we are opening a Training Academy to offer hands-on experience for youth and adults in a variety of fields.

THANK YOU FOR EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

TNC Community, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered as the Harry S. Truman Children's Neurological Center, EIN #44-0608429, is grateful to donors and partners who make a difference in the lives of individuals we serve. Your support is transforming lives every day.

Stay up-to-date by subscribing to our newsletter at [TNCCommunity.org/news](https://www.TNCCommunity.org/news).



TNC Community

[\(816\) 373-5060](tel:(816)373-5060)

[17601 E US 40 Hwy, Ste A
Independence, MO 64055](https://www.TNCCommunity.org)

www.TNCCommunity.org

Howdy Homemade Ice Cream

[\(816\) 846-2658](tel:(816)846-2658)

[921 NE Woods Chapel Rd
Lee's Summit, MO 64064](https://www.HowdyHomemadeKC.com)

www.HowdyHomemadeKC.com