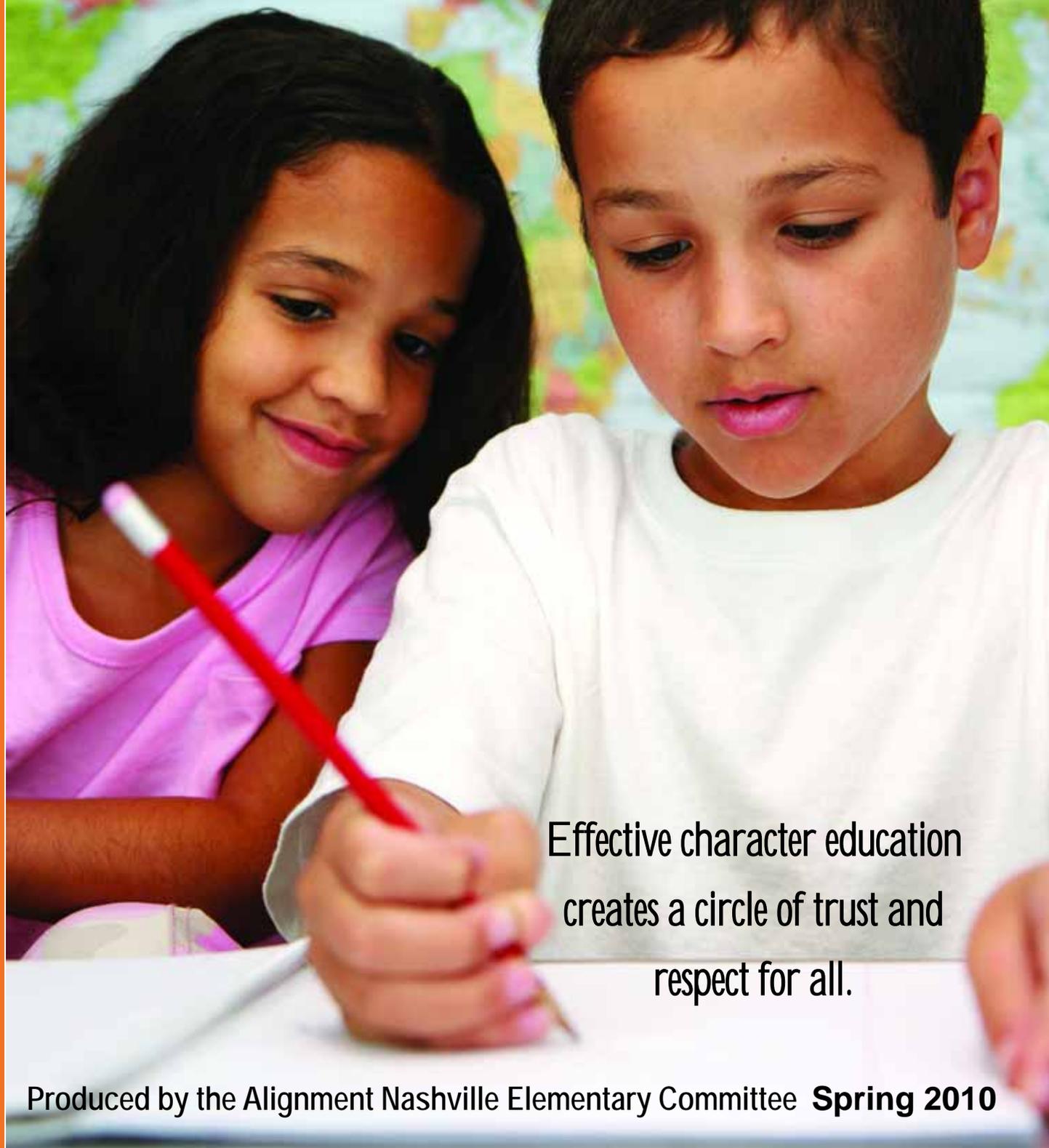


# Character Education Resource Guide

for Elementary Grade Levels



Effective character education  
creates a circle of trust and  
respect for all.

Produced by the Alignment Nashville Elementary Committee **Spring 2010**

The development of socialization skills and integration of character education are an important part of a child's academic success. The Alignment Nashville Elementary School Committee has developed this resource guide to help you integrate a series of character traits into your students' educational experience. The resources and service providers in this guide make up the Character Education Network, dedicated to providing support of character education for Metro Nashville elementary school students.

### Letter from Committee

The Alignment Nashville Character Education pilot project was first implemented in thirteen elementary schools in 2005-06. Additional schools have become involved incrementally over the years, and today all of our elementary schools are involved in the sharing of ideas and resources for character education.

The Alignment Nashville Elementary Committee has helped schools connect with a variety of community organizations and resources to assist with implementing character education programs. Working with principals we have established a schedule to provide consistency across the district for covering the traits recommended by the state. In the last two years, four Metropolitan Nashville elementary schools have received special commendation from the state of Tennessee for their implementation of character education.

Our most recent endeavor has been to create this resource guide as an additional tool for schools as they continue to enhance their character education programs. We are proud of the progress our schools have made in character education and are thankful for the community organizations who continue to assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

Todd Wigginton  
Alignment Nashville  
Elementary Committee Chair  
Coordinator of Social Studies,  
Metro Nashville Public Schools

Melissa Spradlin  
Alignment Nashville  
Elementary Committee Vice-Chair  
Executive Director, Book'em



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The Alignment Nashville Elementary School committee has identified seven character traits that all children should practice.

Character Education Traits 2009 - 2010

**RESPECT** (First 9 weeks: August/September/October)  
Good manners, honesty, tolerant of differences, considerate of other people's feelings

**RESPONSIBILITY** (First 9 weeks: August/September/October)  
Do your best, think before you act, keep trying, accept responsibility for your actions, take initiative

**FAIRNESS** (Second 9 weeks: October/November/December)  
Don't blame others carelessly, take turns, share, be open-minded, don't take advantage of others

**CARING including kindness** (Second 9 weeks: October/November/December)  
Help people, be kind, show that you care, demonstrate gratitude

**HONESTY** (Third 9 weeks: January/February/March)  
Telling the truth, not lying, admitting wrong doing, being sincere

**TRUSTWORTHINESS** (Third 9 weeks: January/February/March)  
Do what's right, have courage, build a good reputation, be true to your word, don't cheat or steal

**CITIZENSHIP** (Fourth 9 weeks: March/April/May)  
Cooperate, obey laws, vote, protect the environment, and be involved in the community

This guide outlines resources that are available in the Nashville area to support educators while they incorporate character education into their classrooms and schools.



## The Importance of Character Education

The Character Education Network supports MNPS efforts to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Knowledge of character traits and behavior expectations
2. Improvements in behavior and social development
3. Improvements in school climate
4. Improved student achievement

As well as the Tennessee State Guideline:

T.C.A. 49-6-1007 requires the course of instruction in all public schools shall include character education.

## How to Implement Character Education

Members of the Character Education Network provide the following categories of services, both in and out of school:

1. Mentoring
2. Tutoring
3. Assemblies/presentations/speakers
4. Marketing/publicity
5. Student incentive programs/items
6. Books/materials/resources

## Attention Community Organizations:

If you would like to be included in future updates of this guide, please visit the Alignment Nashville website at [www.alignmentnashville.org](http://www.alignmentnashville.org) and click on the "Get Involved" link. You may also contact Glen Biggs, Associate Director, at [glen.biggs@nashville.gov](mailto:glen.biggs@nashville.gov).

*"If we want our children to possess the traits of character we most admire, we need to teach them what those traits are." --William Bennett*

Through a collaborative effort between home, school and the community, character education guides students in developing positive ideals and good habits that will improve behavior, school climate, and ultimately academic performance. Students are provided opportunities and examples for becoming conscientious and productive citizens in their school, community and nation. By integrating character traits like caring, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship and fairness into all areas of the school experience, students will gain better self-awareness and the desire to become more socially responsible.

Effective character education creates a circle of trust and respect among students, school staff, parents and the community. All should make every effort to encourage individual good as well as common good. ~ State of Tennessee T.C.A. 49-6-1007

## Book'em

Contact Person: Melissa Spradlin  
 E-mail Address: ceo@bookem-kids.org  
 Phone Number: 615-255-1820  
 Fax Number: 615-866-3482  
 Web Site: www.bookem-kids.org  
 Address: 161 Rains Avenue  
 Nashville, TN 37203

Mission Statement:  
 To inspire a love of books and reading in all children.

Program Statement:  
**Reading Is Fundamental** - Provides reading role model volunteers who read aloud to assigned elementary classrooms about once a month and incorporate the MNPS character traits into their time with the students. Students also get to select a new book to become their own five times during the school year.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

Contact Person: Anne Gallo  
 E-mail Address: anne.gallo@bbbs.org  
 khayree.williams@bbbs.org  
 Phone Number: 615-329-9191  
 Fax Number: 615-321-5913  
 Web Site: www.bbbsmt.org  
 Address: 1704 Charlotte Avenue,  
 Suite 130  
 Nashville, TN 37203

Mission Statement:  
 To help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors that have a measurable impact on youth.

Program Statement:  
 In our One-to-One Mentoring, the BBBS training manual, given to volunteers, addresses Character Education and strategies to incorporate character development with their "Littles". In addition, BBBS sends out a monthly newsletter to volunteers that addresses MNPS's "Character Counts" and provides them with relevant activities, resources and information on the pillar of character development that coincides with MNPS's 'Character Counts' curriculum.

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee

Contact Person: Jim Williamson  
 E-mail Address: jwilliamson@bgcmt.org  
 Phone Number: 615-425-7016  
 Fax Number: 615-833-4381  
 Web Site: www.bgcmt.org  
 Address: P.O. Box 110268  
 624 Grassmere Park Dr., Ste. 8  
 Nashville, TN 37211

Mission Statement:  
 To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Program Statement:  
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee exist to provide boys and girls ages 6-18 with a place to learn, grow and succeed.

Below is a list of programs offered at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee that address positive character development:

**Club Service:** club based national service program (volunteer program) provides career development and scholarship opportunities for young people ages 17-24. A key component to this program is providing young people the opportunity to give back to their local Boys & Girls Club through service.

**Keystone Club:** a "service club" led by Boys & Girls Club participants ages 14-18 that provide them opportunities for character and leadership development through community service.

**Torch Club:** a "service club" led by Boys & Girls Club participants ages 11-13 that provide them opportunities for character and leadership development through community service.

**Passport to Manhood:** promotes good character and male responsibility among 11-14 year olds.

**Youth for Unity:** encourages diversity and addresses issues of prejudice and bigotry for 6-18 year olds.

**Youth of the Year:** promotes character development and civic engagement for 14-18 year olds.

As a part of our Project Learn program, we also implement a similar approach to MNPS using Character words of the month and a Country of the Month. These designated themes for the month are woven through all program areas.

Details:  
 Organization requires more than a 1 week notice to schedule presentations.  
 Organization may use special equipment (e.g. projector, laptop, appropriate props, etc) and should be asked/informed in advance of potential barriers that may inhibit their use.

## Character Connex / Cornerstone Church

Contact Person: Joe Mutter  
E-mail Address: [jmutter@cornerstonenashville.org](mailto:jmutter@cornerstonenashville.org)  
Phone Number: 615-865-6655  
Fax Number: 615-860-9368  
Web Site: [www.Cornerstonenashville.org](http://www.Cornerstonenashville.org)  
Address: 726 W Old Hickory Blvd.  
Madison, TN 37115

### Mission Statement:

Develop good character in children by providing a high energy and entertaining program that captivates and motivates the children to learn.

### Program Statement:

Eight different character building assemblies are provided. Topics include: Responsibility, Honesty, Kindness, Respect, Self Discipline, Courage, Perseverance and Consideration.

A team of trained presenters/performers have years of experience working with children. Assemblies are visually attractive and utilize a professionally produced platform which includes music and video.

Peek-a-Boo and Puppet Bob are two characters that we have created that the children can relate to. These characters entertain and use visual aids that help children remember the topic.

### Details:

Please call at least three weeks in advance to reserve your assembly. Subject to availability.

## Country Music Hall of Fame

Contact Person: Julia Belsante  
E-mail Address: [jbelsante@countrymusicalloffame.org](mailto:jbelsante@countrymusicalloffame.org)  
Phone Number: 615-416-2088  
Fax Number: 615-255-2245  
Web Site: [www.countrymusicalloffame.org](http://www.countrymusicalloffame.org)  
Address: 222 5th Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37203

### Mission Statement:

To identify and preserve the evolving history and traditions of country music and to educate its audiences.

### Program Statement:

Through the **Words & Music** program, now in its thirty-first year, students write or co-write a song. The Words & Music Teacher's Guide assists teachers in guiding students through the lyric-writing process. The guide contains a CD for classroom use, with songs connected to each lesson. Completed lessons are followed by a class visit to the museum, where a professional songwriter demonstrates the adding of melodies to students' original lyrics. This program is free of charge to MNPS students. The Words & Music lessons take approximately four to six class periods of one hour each to complete, and may be completed by a classroom or music teacher. Teachers are also encouraged to attend a Words & Music teacher workshop, held twice annually at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Several of the songs on the classroom CD, including "Man in Black," "Don't Laugh at Me," and "Coat of Many Colors" are about understanding, caring, and respect for others. Upon request, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum can provide a resource sheet for teachers involved in the Character Education program with discussion questions for students to adapt lessons and activities to character education. Students will use lyrics and songs from the lesson guide CD to explore personal experiences related to responsibility, respect, honesty, and citizenship.

### Details:

Lessons take several weeks to complete and original student lyrics must be submitted to the Country Music Hall of Fame two weeks prior to a school visit. It is advisable to reserve a program date at least six weeks in advance.

## CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville

Contact Person: Tom Carr  
 E-mail Address: Tom.carr@lipscomb.edu  
 Phone Number: 615-966-6208  
 Fax Number: 615-966-1807  
 Web Site: www.charactercountsnashville.org  
 Address: One University Park Dr.  
 Nashville, TN 37204

Mission Statement:  
 The mission of CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville is to elevate the ethical behavior of children and adults in their everyday life through character education programs and activities.

Program Statement:  
 CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville seeks to enhance the ethical quality of individual and organizational conduct and behavior by presentations, keynote addresses, panels, workshops, consulting seminars and on-site training. CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville provides resources and materials in the form of publications, newsletters, videos, posters, and placards.

## Children's Kindness Network

Contact Person: Ted Dreier  
 E-mail Address: ted@childrenskindnessnetwork.org  
 Phone Number: 615-591-4660  
 Web Site: www.childrenskindnessnetwork.org  
 www.moozie.com  
 Address: 1323 Barkleigh Lane  
 Franklin, TN 37064

Mission Statement:  
 Building a Culture of Kindness - Beginning with Pre-K.

Program Statement:  
**Moozie's Kind Adventure:** Moozie the cow is the ambassador of kindness for the Children's Kindness Network. This 20-25 minute presentation is centered around the book *Moozie's Kind Adventure*. With the use of the book and a five minute CD with Larry Gatlin reading the book backed up by a 104 piece orchestra, children listen to the story assisted with actions led by Farmer Ted and Moozie (in costume). The theme of this presentation is "it's all up to me". Children are encouraged to tell how they can make a difference. Normally presented for first grade or younger. Children/teachers are encouraged to make a list or draw a picture that relates to "it's all up to me".  
**Moozie Kindness Presentation:** The children are captivated with Moozie, the talking robotic cow. This 25-35 minute presentation includes Moozie talking about being kind to the earth, each other, animals and ourselves. Children tell about different ways they are kind. This message can be reinforced by later drawing pictures of how they are kind. When given to pre-K children, the message can be followed up with classroom materials and activities developed by the Children's Kindness Network.

Details:  
 All of our presentations are in English only. For presentations, we prefer to have at least two weeks lead time, and more if possible. We bring all of the equipment we need.



### FiftyForward - RSVP/ Friends Learning in Pairs (FLIP)

Contact Person: Sandra Thomas  
E-mail Address: sthomas@fiftyforward.org  
Phone Number: 615-743-3422  
Web Site: www.volunteerRSVP.com  
www.fiftyforward.org  
Address: 174 Rains Avenue  
Nashville, TN  
37203

Mission Statement:  
**Friends Learning in Pairs (FLIP)** - to provide the support needed by matching senior adults astutors/ mentors with at-risk student's who are struggling with reading and math skills and who have low-self esteem, to help increase their reading and math skills and self-esteem levels.

Program Statements:  
During the tutor/mentor session with K-4 students, the FLIP volunteers will help build positive character traits by spending 30-minutes each month using activity sheets with quick and fun exercises that address each trait. Volunteers will also look for opportunities to point out and discuss character traits when they occur in the books that they read.



### Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee

Contact Person: Andy Schenck  
E-mail Address: andys@janash.com  
Phone Number: 615-627-1186  
Fax Number: 615-297-8514  
Web Site: www.janash.com  
Address: 120 Powell Place  
Nashville, TN 37204

Mission Statement:  
The mission of Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.

Program Statement:  
Junior Achievement (JA) of Middle Tennessee offers 6 different grade-appropriate programs that incorporate JA's themes of financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness into the classroom. Each program contains five 45-minute lessons delivered directly by a business volunteer in the classroom during the school day. Volunteers share their personal and professional experiences with students while teaching a curriculum that provides interactive, hands-on activities that teach students applicable 21st-century skills.

Details:  
Organization requires more than one week's notice to schedule presentations. Once a teacher signs up, JA must recruit a volunteer to deliver the program. Volunteers and teachers will communicate directly to schedule classroom visits. They are typically delivered once per week. Scheduling is flexible and is determined by the teacher and volunteer.

## Kids on the Block of STARS Nashville

Contact Person: Melanie Scott  
 E-mail Address: mscott@starsnashville.org  
 Phone Number: 615-279-0058  
 Fax Number: 615-279-0056  
 Web Site: www.kobnashville.org  
 Address: 1704 Charlotte Ave., Ste. 200  
 Nashville, TN 37203

### Mission Statement:

The mission of Kids on the Block is to educate children and the broader community about health and social concerns that affect their lives. Using puppets and other teaching tools, Kids on the Block promotes understanding and acceptance of all children and adults, regardless of their differences.

### Program Statement:

Kids on the Block provides educational programs for children Kindergarten through the 6th grade. These programs are designed to be an enhancement tool for a guidance counselor's curriculum and each of the programs contains the components of Character Education. The topics covered are Bullying, Child Abuse Prevention, Disability Awareness, Prejudice Prevention, Combating Childhood Obesity, Teen Pregnancy and Substance Abuse Prevention. Engaging the students is easy with a live puppetry presentation. With each program, the students are able to ask the puppets questions. At this point the students relate to the puppets as peers and ask questions accordingly. Materials are given to the students to help reinforce the message.

### Details:

Kids on the Block's (KOB) schedule fills up quickly, so please try to book at the beginning of the school year. KOB asks that all Davidson County schools pay a \$50 travel fee. The Kids on the Block puppets are culturally diverse and many of the programs deliver the message of acceptance of all people regardless of their differences. Kids on the Block representatives bring all of their own equipment, but need a space big enough to fit a grade level at a time.

Travel Fee: \$50

## Monroe Harding/ Project S.H.A.R.E. program

Contact Person: Laquita Harrison  
 E-mail Address: laquitaharrison@monroeharding.org  
 Phone Number: 615-298-5573 ext. 136  
 Fax Number: 615-298-1281  
 Web Site: www.monroeharding.org  
 Address: 1120 Glendale Lane  
 Nashville, TN 37204

### Mission Statement:

Monroe Harding provides a bridge to success for at-risk youth and families.

### Program Statement:

Monroe Harding and Project S.H.A.R.E is a collaboration between Alignment Nashville and the following schools: Caldwell, Carter-Lawrence, Eakin, Julia Green, Hattie Cotton, Napier, Shayne, Tusculum, UNA and Whitsett.

Project S.H.A.R.E. works with trained volunteers, who have completed background checks and are matched with a child referred to Project S.H.A.R.E. by school personnel (guidance counselor or principal).

At the time of the referral, information is gathered regarding the needs of the child. He or she is then matched with a mentor who meets with him or her one day a week for an hour working on goals established by the teacher. Often, children are lacking skills to relate and get along with their peers and other individuals. While they may work on school assignments recommended by the teacher, Project S.H.A.R.E. mentors also focus on socialization skills which include character traits identified by the Alignment Nashville Committee. Recently, Project S.H.A.R.E. mentors have worked specifically on the issue of bullying with children referred by school principals.

### Details:

Organization offers multicultural/multilingual presentations  
 Organization requires more than a 1 week notice to schedule presentations.  
 Organization may use special equipment (e.g. projector, laptop, appropriate props, etc) and should be asked/informed in advance of potential barriers that may inhibit their use.

## Nashville Public Library

Contact Person: Jennifer Schmid  
E-mail Address: [jennifer.schmid@nashville.gov](mailto:jennifer.schmid@nashville.gov)  
Phone Number: 615-862-5786  
Fax Number: 615-880-2112  
Web Site: [www.library.nashville.org](http://www.library.nashville.org)  
Address: 615 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37219

### Mission Statement:

Nashville Public Library is committed to:

- Extending the benefits and joys of reading, lifelong learning, and discovery to all people through collections and services;
- Promoting the value and power of knowledge, essential in an informed democracy, by providing open and equal access to the records and opinions of the world;
- Providing emerging technologies and instruction as a gateway to information resources within and beyond our walls;
- Serving the community with integrity and skill;
- Providing an environment welcoming to all people which serves as a gathering place within the community;
- Preserving and sharing across generations the wisdom, culture, and history of our community.

### Program Statement:

Nashville Public Library is a distributor of information to the general public. We provide informational resources and programs to students, their parents, and the school communities. Character education resources are on display at various library locations.

### Details:

Organization offers multicultural/multilingual presentations

Organization requires more than a 1 week notice to schedule presentations.

## PENCIL Foundation

Contact Person: Ann Johnston  
E-mail Address: [ajohnston@pencilfd.org](mailto:ajohnston@pencilfd.org)  
Phone Number: 615-242-3167 ext 232  
Fax Number: 615-254-6748  
Web Site: [www.pencilfoundation.org](http://www.pencilfoundation.org)  
Address: 421 Great Circle Road,  
Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37228

### Mission Statement:

Linking community resources with Nashville public schools to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life.

### Program Statement:

PENCIL Foundation's Reading Partners, designed and implemented in collaboration with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), is a kindergarten through grade six school-based program that recruits and trains community volunteers to read aloud to students and to provide individual assistance to students who need extra practice and encouragement to gain early reading skills. The program's goals are to provide positive adult role models and mentoring relationships for students, to assist students in improving their reading skills, to enhance students' self-esteem and self-confidence toward reading, to promote and model positive character traits, and to help students increase their appreciation and enjoyment of literature.

Each Reading Partner volunteer receives a manual during training that contains information on character education focus areas by month and a Character Counts booklist sorted by character traits. In collaboration with Alignment Nashville's emphasis upon character education in grades K-4, PENCIL's Reading Partners program encourages volunteers to select and share books that portray character traits designated for school-wide focus each month.

## Youth Life Learning Center

Contact Person: Lindsay Daly  
 Secondary: Thomas Howard  
 E-mail Address: Lindsay@yllc.org  
 Phone Number: 615-333-7672  
 Fax Number: 615-333-7031  
 Web Site: www.yllc.org  
 Address: P.O. Box 90212  
 Nashville, TN 37209

### Mission Statement:

To nurture the child, strengthen the family, and rebuild the community by aiding and supporting the educational, moral, and social development of at-risk youth.

### Program Statement:

Each six weeks at the Youth Life Learning Center (YLLC), students learn about a "pillar" from the Character Counts model. Students participate in grade-level appropriate stories, games, and hands-on activities focusing on those concepts. They also complete at least one journal about that character quality. While YLLC staff do not provide character based programs outside of the YLLC, they do communicate with school teachers and the students' parents to determine if that student is exhibiting and understanding the character focus outside of the YLLC as well.

## Other Local Services and Resources

We want to acknowledge the organizations listed below that also provide outstanding support of the Character Education efforts of MNPS and the Character Education Committee:

- Hands On Nashville
- Homework Hotline
- Museum Services
- Nashville Children's Theatre
- Nashville Symphony
- Tennessee Voices for Children - The Tennessee Parent Information and Resource Center
- Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers



Mayor Karl Dean reads to elementary school children.



# About Alignment Nashville

Alignment Nashville (AN) is a unique and scalable framework for developing community schools. The mission is to bring community organizations and resources into alignment so that their coordinated support of Nashville's youth has a positive impact on public school success, children's health, and the success of our community as a whole.

In the past, over 175 nonprofit organizations worked in the schools and community individually, without direction or coordination. While each organization provided much-needed services, the problems facing public education and our children are far too complex for any single organization to address in isolation.

Alignment Nashville has developed processes for collaboration that align the resources of these organizations to the Metro Nashville Public Schools strategic plan and to community strategic plans, aligning the city's resources toward common goals.

AN was developed to ensure all the services children need are provided to them in an effective and efficient way that complements their education, health and well-being, and the goals of the public schools. Through community-wide collaboration among schools, non-profits, businesses, and the public sector, AN creates the synergy necessary for sustained improvement in public education and children's health. This collaboration provides the following advantages:

- **Greater returns on investment** - by working together toward common goals, resources are leveraged, duplication is avoided, and efficiency is greatly increased.
- **Higher-quality services** - utilizing expertise from multiple organizations guarantees a broader perspective and a wiser approach.
- **Enhanced capacity** - very few organizations have the capacity to have community-wide impact. A collective effort enhances the impact of each of organization, while generating a much greater overall impact.
- **Leverage of local funding** - AN programs have demonstrated they can attract large national funding, increasing the impact of the local funding that played a role in building the pilot programs.

## Members of the Alignment Nashville Elementary Committee include:

Todd Wigginton, Chair	Metro Nashville Public Schools
Melissa Spradlin, Vice Chair	Book'em
Tom Carr	CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville
Judy Goetz	Nashville Public Library
Stephanie Grimes	Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle TN
Laquita Harrison	Monroe Harding Project S.H.A.R.E.
Thomas Howard	Youth Life Learning Centers
Ann Johnston	PENCIL Foundation
Judy Maloney	Metro Nashville Public Schools
Sheila Montgomery	Hillsboro Church of Christ
David Moore	Metro Nashville Public Schools
Greg Patterson	Metro Nashville Public Schools
Melanie Scott	Kids on the Block of STARS Nashville
Glen Biggs	Alignment Nashville