

The Healing Trust FACT SHEET

The company

The Healing Trust was chartered in 2002 as a private, independent entity empowered as a grant-making foundation. The Trust was created out of the sale of Baptist Hospital to Ascension Health/St. Thomas Health Services with the goal of continuing Baptist Hospital's health-related community outreach and partnerships. Specifically, The Trust's whole purpose is to facilitate access to compassionate healthcare services for the most vulnerable people in Middle Tennessee.

Grants are awarded quarterly. To date, The Trust has awarded over \$79 million to health-related agencies, reaching millions of underserved Middle Tennesseans through over 1200 grants to 384 agencies. In 2017, The Trust awarded \$4.6M, and the average sizes of its grants are between \$34,000 and \$45,000.

Every year, two finalist nonprofit agencies each receive a \$10,000 cash gift for The Catalyst for Change Award and The Compassionate Care Award. Four finalist agencies receive smaller cash awards.

In addition to providing grants, The Trust also provides resources for health-related nonprofits and other service agencies including grant-writing workshops, retreats, leadership programs, and sabbatical grants to help these critical nonprofits operate and serve their communities.

Grant Recipients

All of The Trust's nonprofit grant recipients offer and support health-related services in Middle Tennessee. Nonprofits receive funding for specific programs or projects, advocacy programs, leadership training and staff development, and operating costs. Grants are awarded to agencies focused on sustaining essential health programs and growing vital programs where rising need is documented. Some examples:

- [YWCA](#)
- [Interfaith Dental](#)
- [Family & Children's Service](#)
- [Tennessee Justice Center](#)
- [Safe Haven Family Shelter](#)
- [Hope Family Health](#)
- [Welcome Home Ministries](#)
- [Our Kids](#)

Leadership Team

The Healing Trust is an independent, self-funding nonprofit with seven employees involved in grant selection, program direction and administrative duties. The leadership team includes:

- **President and CEO Kristen Keely-Dinger, LPSW.** Kristen has been with The Trust since 2003, beginning as an intern and then as the first program officer. Before she joined The Trust, she started her career in AmeriCorps and later worked for another nonprofit as their program coordinator. She is a graduate of the 2011 Nashville Emerging Leaders class.
- **Senior Program Officer Meredith Benton, MPA.** Meredith leads the program team and directly manages grant programs. Her career highlights include serving in the office of a U.S. Senator, two Governor's administrations and for a former President's international organization. She has led state and local nonprofit advocacy efforts in Tennessee and 20 other states. She joined The Healing Trust in October of 2016.