

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE

# MARDI GRAS BALL

## 2025



MY FRIEND'S HOUSE

# WELCOME TO

## MY FRIEND'S HOUSE

# 2025 Mardi Gras Ball!



# Mission

**The mission of My Friend's House is to serve abused, neglected, and at-risk youth, as well as their families, by providing for their physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and educational needs.**

**We offer our youth every opportunity to recover from adverse situations and become successful young adults. By relying on an evidence-based curriculum that combines cognitive behavior therapy with a peer group approach, the participants in our program learn to think and act more responsibly. At the same time, this curriculum also positively changes the way these youths view themselves and those around them.**

**My Friend's House ultimate goal is to reunite families by focusing on family involvement, respect, and personal responsibility.**



# Board of Directors

**Courtney Theis, *President***  
Pinnacle Financial Partners

**Lorrie Graves, *Vice President***  
Franklin Special District

**Steve King, *Treasurer***  
Pinnacle Financial Bank

**Jennifer Leonard, *Secretary***  
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**Kevin Hacker**  
Better Business Solutions

**Donny Nowell**  
Williamson County Schools

**Christopher Howell**  
HealthMarkets

**Chris Vernon**  
Williamson County  
Assistant District Attorney



# My Friend's House Staff

**Tanassa Pillow**  
Executive Director

**Haleigh Anderson**  
Case Manager

**Melinda Duncan**  
Accounting & Database Manager

## Direct Care Staff

Tracy Carswell | Marvin Cathey | Brandy Crumley

Quiana Hardin | Alexis Locke | Bill Mathis

Wesley Norman | DeeDee West





# 2025 Mardi Gras Ball Committee

**Courtney Theis:** Chair of the Ball

**Lorrie Graves:** Fundraising Committee Chair

**Melinda Duncan:** Graphic Design Artist



# Welcome to the 2025 Mardi Gras Ball!

## A Message from Courtney Theis, 2025 Mardi Gras Ball Chair



Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Ball! If you are here for the first time, welcome. I hope this year will be the beginning of an annual tradition for you. I am honored to serve as this year's Mardi Gras Ball Chair, but this event simply could not have come together without the dedicated work of Lorrie Graves, Melinda Duncan, or the rest of our Board Members and staff. It truly takes a village. We are also thrilled to have three wonderful court couples joining the Mardi Gras Royal Court this year. They have done a tremendous job acting as our boys' ambassadors in the community. Tonight would not be possible without them. Finally, we are so incredibly grateful to every single one of our attendees. Our organization cannot achieve its mission without your support. We hope you are prepared for a wonderful evening.

*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*



# Events of the Evening

5:30pm-7:00pm	Cocktail Party
5:30pm-6:45pm	Live Court Voting* Online
6:45pm-7:00pm	Blind Court Voting* (via check, cash, debit/credit card at Registration Table)
7:00pm	<b>ALL COURT VOTING* ENDS!</b>
7:05pm	Grand Entrance to the Ball
7:15pm	Dinner is served!
7:30pm	Kick off of the 2025 Mardi Gras Ball
7:50pm	Red Carpet Review and Crowning of the 2025 Royal Court
8:00pm	PARTY BEGINS! <i>Laissez le bon temps rouler!</i>



\*Voting is done via monetary donations.

# Corporate Sponsors

PRESENTING SPONSOR

**Pinnacle Financial Partners**

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**Bird Dog Whiskey**

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# Corporate Sponsors

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**Williamson Herald**



# **Corporate Sponsors**

FRIEND OF A FRIEND SPONSORS - \$1,000

**CFPO Consulting**

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**Tennessee State Senator Jack Johnson**

**Rogers Group, Inc.**

DIGITAL AD SPONSORS - \$400

**Danette Cravens Travel**





# **Table Hosts**

**Bank Director**

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**Button Trans Inc.**

**Church of the City**

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# **Table Hosts**

**Friends of Lorrie Graves**

**Kimberley W. Nowell Consulting LLC**

**Mayor Kenneth Moore**

**METTLE5**

**My Friend's House**

**Pinnacle Financial Partners**



# **Table Hosts**

**Riverside Entertainment**

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**Theis Family Foundation**

**TPG Financial**

**Williamson Herald**

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# **Table Hosts**

**Mr. & Mrs. Tim Adgent**

**Mr. & Mrs. Brian Button**

**Mr. & Mrs. Mike Clay**

**Mr. & Mrs. John Harrison**

**Ms. Jennifer Leonard**

**Ms. Lisa Martelli**

**Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McGehee**





# Media Partners

**Williamson Herald**

**YOUR Williamson**

**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**



# Royal Court Couples

**Our 2025 Mardi Gras Ball Royal Court is made up of three fabulous couples! Please take a moment to view their posters to learn more about them and why they chose to spend the last several months fundraising for My Friend's House.**





# 2025 Royal Court

**Andrew & Kayla Butts**

Team Butts2025





# 2025 Royal Court

## Brian Button & Jeff Molyneaux

Team Button2025





# 2025 Royal Court

**Matt & Julie Brown**

**Team Brown2025**



# Community Partners



**CHURCH  
OF THE CITY**



**United Way  
of Greater Nashville**





# Volunteers

A special thank you to all the volunteers that come out to the house to invest in the growth and well-being of our residents. Here are just a few ways you have supplied the needs of our house and our boys:

**Yard Work**

**Groceries**

**School  
Supplies**

**Outdoor  
Recreation**

**Repairing  
Furniture**

**Fold, Sort, Stack  
Clothing**

**Teaching a Sport  
or Craft**

**Painting**

**And SO  
MUCH  
MORE!**

**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**



# Chef for the Night Program

One of our most popular year-round volunteer activities is called **Chef for the Night**, where individuals or groups sign up to bring a meal or cook a meal with residents.

You can order a meal from a local restaurant, pre-cook a meal at home or bring ingredients and cook in our beautiful, spacious kitchen.





# Chef for the Night Program

This is a great time to spend at My Friend's House getting to know our residents and learning more about life at the house.

Volunteers provide positive adult interactions for our youth and are an important component of our program.



# Chef for the Night Program



- Scan this QR Code to be taken to our **VOLUNTEER** page.
- Choose the month you want to volunteer then pick a date from the calendar.
- Come on your assigned night to provide dinner and interact with the boys & staff.

# Chef for the Night Program

## 2024 Chefs

Amanda Belmonte  
Cindy Caudle (COTC)  
Myra Court  
Lisa Crain  
Kristie Crossman  
Matt Custodero  
Michael Darr  
Brad Duncan (COTC)  
Melinda Duncan

Christy Geuther  
Jeff Green  
Kevin Hacker  
Matt Harding  
John & Whitney Harrison  
Connor Hatcher  
Craig Haworth  
Jonah Hescock  
Taylor Irwin





# Chef for the Night Program

## 2024 Chefs

Mary Jensen  
Michele Knipp  
Jennifer Leonard  
Leah Levine / Woven Tree  
Matt Lindsey  
Chuck & Emma Lorentz  
Peyton McClure  
Callie Meyer  
Melinda Nowers

Michelle Pallante  
Joel Payne  
Michael Pineda  
Tristan Piscane  
Inez Rice  
Windle Riles  
Kathryn Roberson  
Steven Roberts  
Elizabeth Russell



# Chef for the Night Program

## 2024 Chefs

Les Sander  
Monty Smith  
Allison Tanner (COTC)  
Kacy Turner  
Yvonne Visbeen  
Chynna Walker

Christie Walls  
LaRhonda Williams  
Gina Williams  
Gary Willis  
Aaron Yost

# Friend of a Friend Monthly Program

**Our Friend of a Friend monthly donation program provides a means to help improve the lives of the boys who find their way to My Friend's House on a recurring, monthly basis. Scan the QR Code to learn more.**





# Advertisers

**Thank you to everyone that purchased an advertisement for this year's program!**

**We appreciate your support!**



# 2025 Mardi Gras Ball

## *Presenting Sponsor*

**Pinnacle**<sup>SM</sup>  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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# 2025 Mardi Gras Ball

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**Strong Board.** Strong Bank.

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BankDirector proudly  
supports the work of  
My Friend's House.

# 2025 Mardi Gras Ball

## *Cocktail Sponsor*



**BIRD DOG  
WHISKEY**



# 2024 Mardi Gras Ball *Media Partner Sponsors*

YOUR *Williamson*  
A DISTINCTIVELY SOUTHERN PLACE

Williamson  
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THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST COUNTY





**CHOMPS**

— THE —

# TOTAL SNACKAGE™

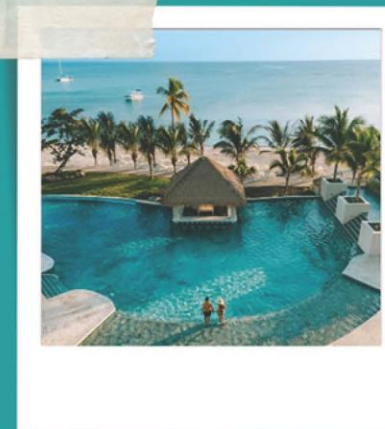
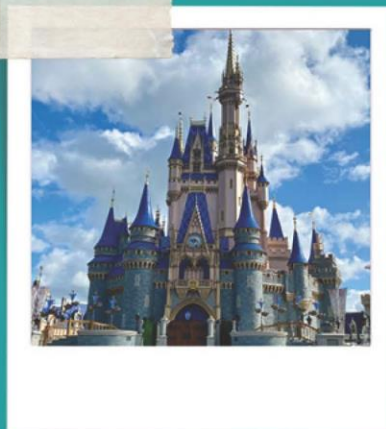
**10g**  
PROTEIN

**0g**  
SUGAR

**REAL**  
INGREDIENTS







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*Discover Your Next Adventure*

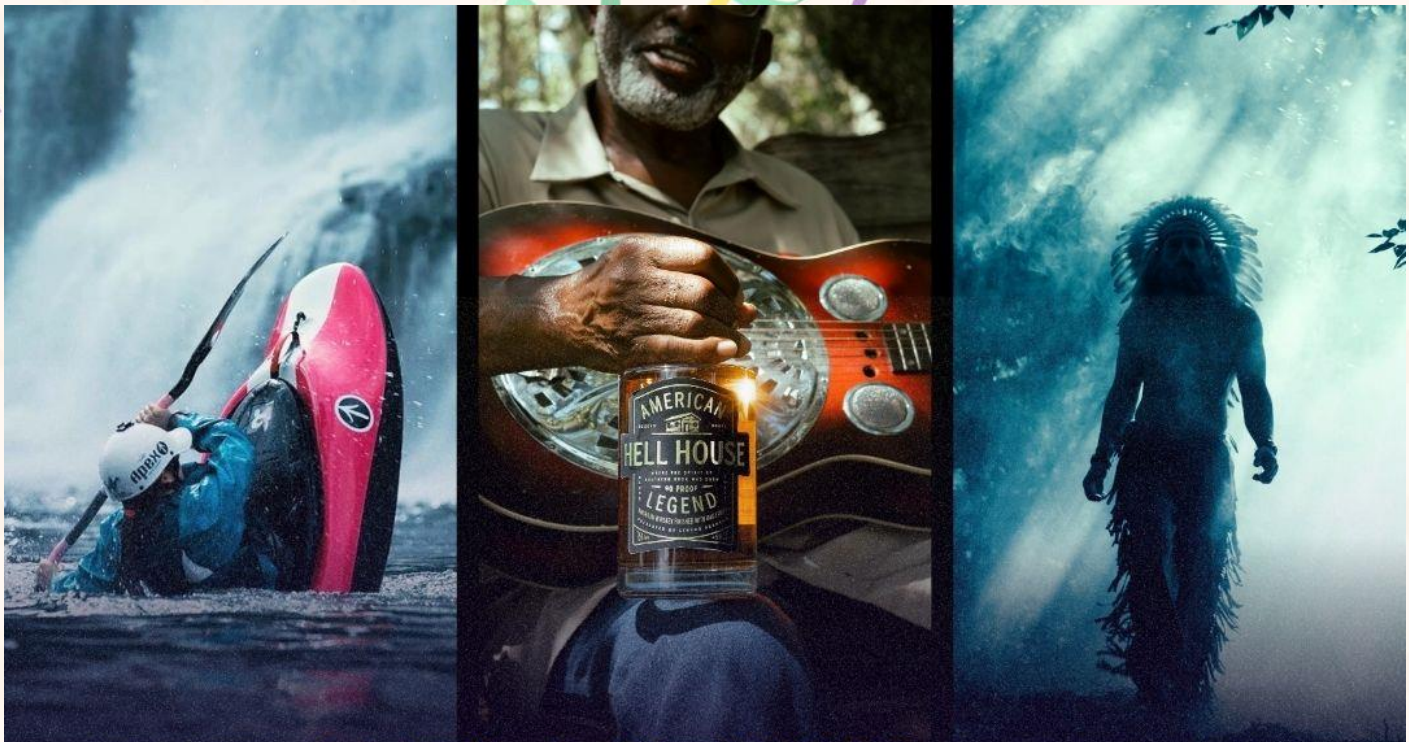


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Whether you're looking for luxury, adventure, or simplicity, I bring invaluable expertise and personal service. From saving you time and stress to offering unique access to exclusive deals, I will transform your trip-planning process into a seamless, enjoyable experience. I am your go-to resource if you're looking for a customized, hassle-free vacation!





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DS **CREATIVES** AGENCY

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# biZZics IDEAS

*The Hub*

Join our community and  
make your business  
stronger than ever!



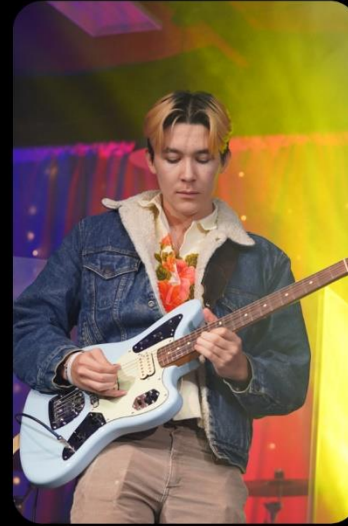
Full-steam strength, growth, profit.  
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We coach business owners to improved growth, profitability, and financial security.

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BALL 2025**



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**Did You Know??**  
**2025 IS THE**  
**43<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF**  
**MY FRIEND'S HOUSE**  
**FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**  
**AND**  
**THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF**  
**THE MARDI GRAS BALL!**

**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**



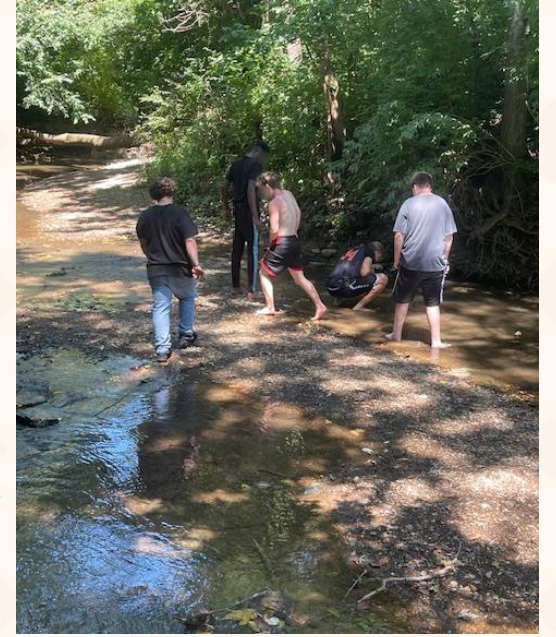


**Here are some ways our  
boys engage in the  
community around them.**





# A day at the park and Nashville Zoo



MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025





# Cornhole Day with the Westhaven Community and Christmas Break with Local Volunteers



MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025







**Officer McClendon with the Franklin Police Department works with the boys on painting and assembling Warhammer figures**

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**Learning how to play the game of Chess with a local volunteer.**



# Family Fun Day

May 27, 2024

We enjoyed a great day of food and fellowship with staff and their families along with our residents with some of their family.



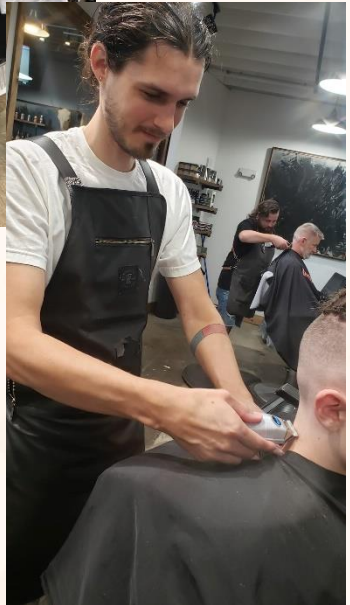
**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**





# We could not do this without the support of our loyal volunteers and donors!

Whether it's your time, your in-kind donations, or your financial donations, we LOVE our volunteers and donors!



**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**



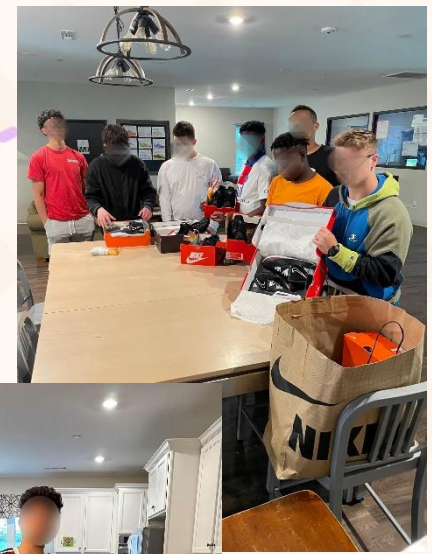




**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**







MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025





43 years ago, it all started with a compassionate judge who saw a need and filled it. A couple of years ago, Judge Jane Franks came to visit the boys benefiting from her long-ago desire to make a change.



**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**





**21 years ago, the Mardi Gras Ball was created as a festive, engaging way to build awareness about My Friend's House.**

**From the New Orleans decorations to the grand entrance parade complete with a four-piece brass band to the delicious four-course dinner to the dancing until your feet fall off, the Mardi Gras Ball quickly became a staple in the Williamson County community.**

**And we know our success is heavily dependent on you, our guests.**

**From the Board of Directors, the staff, and the boys, we humbly thank you for joining us this year and hope you will continue your involvement in the years to come.**







MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025







MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025







MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025







**MARDI GRAS  
BALL 2025**





**THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR  
SUCCESS AND PARTNERING WITH US  
TO PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE FOR BOYS TO  
LIVE, HEAL, GROW.**

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED  
YOUR TIME WITH US!**

