



The Holiday *Joy* CHALLENGE



Monroe Harding

PARTICIPANT PACKET

For Information:

Sharica Ware

615-945-4622

SharicaWare@MonroeHarding.org





Welcome to The Holiday Joy Challenge!

Dear Friend,

Thank you for considering becoming a *Joy Maker* in Monroe Harding's Holiday Joy Challenge. This holiday season, our community is coming together with one shared purpose, which is to raise \$150,000 in support of children and young adults impacted by foster care.

As a *Joy Maker*, you are at the heart of this challenge. By creating your own fundraising page and inviting others to give, you will spread holiday cheer and provide youth with the homes, healing, and opportunities they deserve, not only during the holidays but all year long.

Enclosed in this packet, you'll find tools to help you succeed, including sample emails, social media captions, and goal ideas to make your page shine.

On behalf of the children and young adults at Monroe Harding, thank you for joining us in this joyful challenge. Together, we can make the holidays brighter and futures stronger.

Cheers,
The Monroe Harding Family



What is the Holiday Joy Challenge?

The Holiday Joy Challenge is a movement powered by Joy Makers, passionate supporters of Monroe Harding who create their own personal fundraising pages through our OneCause platform.

As a Joy Maker, you will rally your friends, family, coworkers, and social networks to help raise critical funds that bring hope and joy to youth in foster care during the holiday season and beyond.

Right now, more than 8,000 children are in Tennessee's foster care system, and each year, over 700 young people age out without the stable housing or support they deserve. Your efforts ensure they have access to safe homes, caring mentors, workforce training, and essential resources that build brighter futures.

Together, we can turn holiday giving into lasting change.

Here's how you can join:

1. Sign Up

- Set up your Joy Maker fundraising page (it only takes a few minutes!) by clicking **"Become a Fundraiser"** HERE: https://onecau.se/_ctyqh1
- Personalize it with a photo and short note about why Monroe Harding and the youth we serve matters to you.
- Choose your personal goal – whether it's \$250, \$500, or \$1,000, every amount makes an impact
- Think of it as your own mini-campaign, powered by Monroe Harding!

2. Share Your Page

- Share your page with friends and family by email and social media. We'll even provide templates to make it easy.
- Post on social media (we'll provide graphics and captions!).
- Ask 5–10 people personally, you'll be surprised how quickly the support adds up.

3. Celebrate Every Gift

- Post updates along the way by thanking your donors, sharing your progress, and encourage others to join in.



Foster Care by the Numbers

Understanding the need helps us see how powerful your impact truly is. Across Tennessee and beyond, foster youth face challenges that no young person should navigate alone.

- More than 8,000 children are currently in Tennessee's foster care system.
- Each year, over 700 young people age out of foster care in our state without a permanent family or stable housing.
- 1 in 4 youth who age out will experience homelessness within two years.
- Only 50% of youth aging out will find safe and stable housing.
- Less than 10% will go on to earn a college degree.
- Nationally, about 20,000 young people age out of foster care every year, often without the support they need to thrive.

At Monroe Harding, we believe these numbers can change. Your support helps provide homes, healing, and opportunities that transform statistics into success stories.

Key Dates

- **Kickoff Day:** Saturday, November 1st – Joy Makers launch their pages!
- **Push Week:** Monday, December 1st – Post daily or share stories.
- **Final Day of Giving:** Friday, December 19th – Make a last big push before the campaign closes.

Monroe Harding Fundraising Goal

Our Collective Goal: \$150,000

Together, all *Joy Maker* will help Monroe Harding raise \$150,000 to support Monroe Harding's mission of providing *Homes, Healing, and Opportunities* for children and young adults impacted by foster care.

What \$150,000 can do:

- Cover essential support for young adults in our Resource Center who are transitioning into independence.
- Fund educational, workforce, and therapeutic services that continue long after the holidays.

Each *Joy Maker* plays an important role. Whether your goal is \$250, \$500, \$1,000, or more, every dollar adds up to big change for the young people we serve.



Give Joy. Build Futures.

Every act of generosity through The Holiday Joy Challenge brings comfort, hope, and opportunity to children and young adults impacted by foster care.

Your support doesn't stop with a gift, it fuels year-round programs that help youth find safe homes, heal from trauma, pursue education, and build independent, fulfilling lives.

Below you'll see examples of how your contribution makes an impact during the holidays and beyond.

Meals & Moments of Connection

- \$50 provides a festive meal for a young adult in Supportive Housing.
- \$250 hosts a special gathering for youth at our Resource Center.
- \$500 provides meals and celebration for foster families during the holidays.

Gifts That Go Beyond the Season

- \$25 provides a meaningful gift for one child in foster care.
- \$100 brings joy to a sibling group with gifts and shared experiences.
- \$500 provides gifts for an entire foster family, creating lasting memories.

Support That Lasts Beyond the Holidays

- \$100 provides a month of essentials for a young adult living independently.
- \$250 supports educational and career goals for youth and young adults.
- \$1,000 covers emergency housing or educational support for a youth preparing to age out of foster care.

Season of Impact

- \$2,500 empowers 25 youth and young adults with essentials and support to build self-sufficiency.
- \$5,000 strengthens both our foster care and young adult programs through housing, education, and workforce opportunities.
- \$10,000 sustains Monroe Harding's year-round mission of providing Homes, Healing, and Opportunities for every child and young adult we serve.



About Monroe Harding

For more than 130 years, Monroe Harding has opened doors for children and young adults impacted by foster care. Founded in 1893, the organization has evolved from an orphanage into a comprehensive support network that helps youth heal from trauma, build resilience, and reach their fullest potential.

Monroe Harding provides Homes, Healing, and Opportunities through programs that meet the unique needs of every child and young adult they serve:

- **Foster Care:** Recruiting, training, and supporting foster families who provide safe, nurturing homes for children from birth through age 18.
- **Supportive Housing:** Offering safe, affordable homes and personalized support for young adults transitioning out of foster care.
- **Resource Center:** A downtown Nashville hub where youth can access workforce training, financial literacy, education support, and everyday essentials.

Monroe Harding's mission is to ensure that every young person, regardless of their past, has the opportunity to thrive. With your help, we are building a community where children and young adults experience belonging, stability, and hope for the future.

CLICK HERE FOR EMAIL TEMPLATES AND EXAMPLES.

For More Information, Contact:

Sharica Ware
Senior Director, Development and Communications
615-945-4622
SharicaWare@MonroeHarding.org



Thank You, Joy Maker!

Because of you, children and young adults impacted by foster care will have more than just holiday cheer. They will have homes, healing, and opportunities that last far beyond the season.

Your voice, your posts, and your generosity help Monroe Harding continue its 130-year legacy of changing young people's lives.

Together, we are spreading joy, building futures, and showing that one act of kindness can change everything.

Thank you for being a Joy Maker.