



Dr. Fayron Epps
PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN



Dr. Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, is a nurse with over 20 years of experience and is currently serving as an assistant professor at Emory University, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Dr. Epps serves as the principal investigator for the Faith Village Research Lab and is the founder of the Alter Program, a nurse-led dementia-friendly program for African American faith communities. Her career goal as a nurse scholar is to promote quality of life for families affected by dementia through research, education and service. Her program of research involves evidence-based practices for promoting quality of life for African Americans with dementia and their family caregivers/care partners. She is particularly interested in exploring the way religious activities and spiritual connectedness can promote meaningful engagement among persons with dementia across the country. Dr. Epps is seeking to enhance her skills in pragmatic clinical trial designs to be able to place culturally-tailored evidenced-based programs and interventions in the hands of those individuals who need it the most.

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Dayisia Wilson



Dayisia Wilson has made many strides towards the field of Elderly/Dementia Care. Beginning as a professional caregiver in a memory care unit, her desire for helping her elders quickly grew into a passion for providing support and education for families affected by Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias. During this time, she has discovered that there's a special amount of patience and knowledgeability required by those caring for PLWD. She disagrees with the "one size fits all" mentality and instead focuses on "person-centered care" to increase the quality of life. Wilson works diligently to make sure that people are aware of the demand, but also of the joy it brings to render support. Currently, she serves as the Diversity Coordinator for the TN Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, where it is her goal to ensure that ALL families get the support and resources needed to fight against this horrible disease.

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Eve Nite



Eve is a mental health professional of 17 years serving and advocating for those most vulnerable. Her experience includes direct care as an in-home counselor, clinical liaison with criminal justice systems, program creator, outpatient regional director, c-suite executive, and advocate for consumers of mental health services. Eve is appointed by Governors Haslam and Lee of Tennessee to the State Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention, health committee co-chair of the Mayor's Council on Women, and board member of the PAIMI Advisory Council for Disability Rights TN. Eve is a certified trainer on a number of topics. She is the Co-Founder and president of CIT Connect, a 501 (c)3 non-profit born from the desire to preserve dignity and life, with the mission to promote safe, effective, and compassionate responses to people experiencing mental health, substance use, or cognitive crisis through training First Responders and community agencies, and active rescue of people in crisis.

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**Dr. Gloria Thomas
Anderson**
PhD, LMSW



Dr. Gloria Thomas Anderson brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experience to the healthcare, education, and faith-centered arenas. She is a university-level professor, licensed social worker, an author, minister, and advance care planning expert with a passion for life. She holds an Interdisciplinary PhD in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership, Policy, and Foundations. Her research focuses on healthcare equity, spirituality, and culturally-responsive care at end-of-life.

Dr. Anderson is the founder and President of Heart Tones™, a ministry that provides customized, educational workshops and resources related to healthcare decision-making, end-of-life, and cultural competency. Considered a subject-matter expert in diversity, Dr. Anderson's natural warmth of authenticity helps inspire culturally different populations to be their best "selves".

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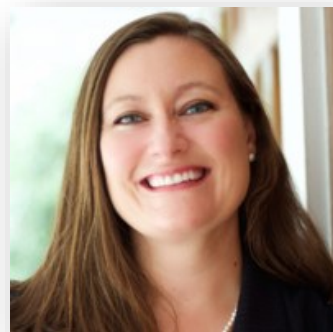
Phil Martin
JD, RCFSF

Phil Martin, executive director of HCTN, holds a J.D. from Nashville School of Law and a B.S. in communications from the University of Tennessee. He has 40+ years experience in business, having served as president and CEO for three companies employing as many as 125 individuals at one time, and on the boards of nine different education and community service institutions. His work includes leadership of strategic public-private partnerships initiatives in the areas of infant mortality rates, childhood obesity, end of life, church revitalization, and health care coverage of patients. He is a Respecting Choices® certified First Steps® facilitator and an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).



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Laura Brown
JD

Laura Brown brings more than 17 years of legal experience to Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services. She most recently worked as the Senior Deputy Director of Client Services for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland.

Previously, Brown served as general counsel at the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability. She also was an insurance defense attorney for Robinson, Smith and Wells in Chattanooga, TN, general counsel for Goodwill Industries – Knoxville, Inc. and, as an adjunct professor at Volunteer State Community College.

Brown received her juris doctorate from University of Tennessee College of Law and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in learning and leadership (public policy) at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She also holds a Master of Arts in civic leadership from Lipscomb University and a Bachelor of Science in English education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



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Dr. Kristi Wick
DNP, FNP-BC, GS-C



Dr. Wick currently serves as the Vicky B. Gregg Chair of Gerontology and an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga's School of Nursing. As a Family Nurse Practitioner and Geriatric Specialist, Dr. Wick has worked to improve the care of older adults through community collaboration, clinical practice, and education efforts. Dr. Wick is the principal investigator for the Intrastate Network to Deliver Equity and Eliminate Disparities (INDEED) initiative awarded to UTC's School of Nursing in 2021. Dr. Wick volunteers as a Nurse Practitioner for Purpose Point Community Health, a faith-based community primary care clinic.

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Stephanie Blaine
MEd



Stephanie Blaine is the Project Manager for the INDEED grant and joined the team in April 2022. Stephanie completed an undergraduate degree in Human Services from East Tennessee State University in 2012 and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2022 with a Master of Education: Teacher Leadership. Stephanie is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health at UTC.

Previously, she worked as the Coordinator for the Children's Center at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Prior to joining UTC, Stephanie was the Director of Community Kids and Camp Ridgedale, a ministry of Ridgedale Baptist Church.

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