

LOCAL / REGIONAL

Pinnacle Named One of America’s Top Companies That Care in People Magazine

NASHVILLE, TN, –Pinnacle Financial Partners has again earned a spot on People Magazine’s 100 Companies That Care list, jointly chosen by the publication and Great Place to Work®. Pinnacle came in No. 35 on the list, joining much larger international brands like Target, Salesforce and Hilton, all chosen for the generosity of their company benefits and charitable work, as well as personal accounts of the impact these organizations have made on the lives of their employees.

“There’s no shortage of caring, kindness and compassion among our associates,” said Terry Turner, Pinnacle’s President and CEO. “We are intentional about the care we show to them, our clients and the communities we serve. We are also more committed than ever to taking everybody with us on the path to equitable economic success. This honor recognizes who we are at our core both collectively and individually. Pinnacle may be the name on the list, but it’s the result of work from our associates and

hundreds of community partners we are honored to support.”

Pinnacle is committed to being a great place to work and making a significant positive impact on the communities it serves. With a high level of associate engagement, the firm is able to delight clients and drive improvements in its home markets, including the following highlights from 2021 and now.

- \$1.4 billion committed to investments, lending and grants for low-to moderate-income housing, small business and minority-owned institutions in 2021
- Nearly 25,000 associate volunteer hours in 2021
- Continued diligence with safety protocols and gradual return to the office to keep associates and clients safe
- Intentional increase in mental health resources for associates at a time when mental health issues were increasing significantly
- New partnerships with community

organizations to further DEI efforts

Rankings are based on more than a million employee survey responses and data from companies representing more than 6.1 million U.S. employees. In that survey, 98% of the firm’s associates said Pinnacle Financial Partners is a great place to work.

Pinnacle Financial Partners provides a full range of banking, investment, trust, mortgage and insurance products and services designed for businesses and their owners and individuals interested in a comprehensive relationship with their financial institution. The firm is the No. 1 bank in the Nashville-Murfreesboro-Franklin MSA, according to 2021 deposit data from the FDIC, is listed by Forbes among the top 25 banks in the nation and earned a spot on the 2022 list of 100 Best Companies to Work For® in the U.S., its sixth consecutive appearance. American Banker recognized Pinnacle as one of America’s Best Banks to Work For nine years in a row and No. 1 among banks with

more than \$11 billion in assets in 2021.

Pinnacle owns a 49 percent interest in Bankers Healthcare Group (BHG), which provides innovative, hassle-free financial solutions to healthcare practitioners and other licensed professionals. Great Place to Work and FORTUNE ranked BHG No. 4 on its 2021 list of Best Workplaces in New York State in the small/medium business category.

The firm began operations in a single location in downtown Nashville, TN, in October 2000 and has since grown to approximately \$40.1 billion in assets as of June 30, 2022. As the second-largest bank holding company headquartered in Tennessee, Pinnacle operates in 15 primarily urban markets across the Southeast.

Additional information concerning Pinnacle, which is included in the Nasdaq Financial-100 Index, can be accessed at www.pnfp.com.

TVFCU & CHI Memorial Work Together To Provide Mobile Lung Cancer Screenings

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.— CHI Memorial’s Breathe Easy Lung Coach, a mobile space dedicated to taking low-dose CT lung screenings out into local communities, is working with Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union (TVFCU) to save lives by detecting lung cancer early.

On Wednesday, September 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Lung Coach will be set up in the TVFCU Southside Branch parking lot, located at 125 West 20th Street in Chattanooga. Scheduling appointments in advance is highly recommended and can be done by calling 423-495-LUNG (5864).

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, killing more people than colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined. In its early stages, it is curable but often displays no symptoms. Therefore, getting preventative screenings is critical to avoid the negative consequences of lung cancer.

Individuals may have little or no payment due if their screening is cov-

ered under insurance or grant funds. If the requirements are not met for coverage, a discounted self-pay option of \$150.00 will allow anyone over the age of 40 to get screened. People are at higher risk if they have smoked in the past or are currently smoking, but the screening can prove beneficial even beyond the detection of lung cancer.

“Low-dose lung screening is much more than just finding lung cancer early,” said Dr. Rob Headrick, thoracic surgeon at CHI Memorial Chest and Lung Cancer Center. “It allows doctors to see inside the entire chest, similar to looking under the hood of a car. In addition to the lungs, the image also shows the heart and coronary arteries, allowing doctors to assess the risk of cardiovascular disease.”

To be ready day of, patients should bring their insurance card (if applicable), photo ID, and COVID vaccination information (if applicable). Paperwork can be filled out upon arrival, so no need to worry about filling anything out prior. The overall experience should



only take about 15 minutes.

“Lung screening is key to the prevention of lung cancer,” said Tammy Zumbun, marketing/community outreach manager. “We are honored to work with CHI Memorial to help bring the mobile lung coach to the Southside community. We hope that many people will take advantage of this convenient,

life-saving opportunity.”

For more information about TVFCU’s services, including mortgages, auto loans, checking accounts and other financial accounts, please visit tvfcu.com.

For more information about the CHI Memorial Breathe Easy Lung Mobile, please visit memorial.org.

Chattanooga Will Rapidly Rehouse Up to 100 Residents Experiencing Homelessness in Partnership with Local Housing Authority

New agreement will help alleviate homelessness in some of the city’s most vulnerable neighborhoods

Chattanooga, Tenn.— Chattanooga City Council unanimously approved the use of \$60,000 in federal American Rescue Plan funds to help rapidly rehouse up to 100 residents currently experiencing homelessness. The funds will go to the Chattanooga Housing Authority as part of an agreement to provide housing to residents with no income at the cost of \$600 per person, per year. Once the residents are housed, the City’s Office of Homelessness and Supportive Housing will provide them with wraparound services and support to help them stabilize and find employment.

“The only permanent solution to homelessness is a home, and thanks to our partnership with the Chattanooga Hous-

ing Authority, we’re now able to offer that solution to up to 100 of our city’s most vulnerable residents,” said Sam Wolfe, director of the city’s Office of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. “We are grateful for City Council’s partnership on this effort, and we’ll continue to work every day to find solutions that speed exits from homelessness and empower these residents to take positive steps forward in their lives.”

In addition to covering the \$50 per month rental cost of the units, the \$60,000 in funding may also be used to cover move-in costs and back rent to the Chattanooga Housing Authority, which are often barriers for residents experiencing homelessness who are seeking housing.

The city plans to offer the majority of the housing units to residents who vacated the 11th street homeless encampment in

early June. All residents of the 11th street encampment were offered a referral to a new temporary sanctioned encampment on 12th street and a referral to work toward permanent housing through the Chattanooga Housing Authority. Those who declined were offered a new tent and relocation assistance.

Studies show a direct correlation between rising housing prices and rising homelessness, particularly when wages do not keep pace. Mayor Tim Kelly has directed the city to undertake a number of initiatives to increase the supply and affordability of housing in the city, which has seen rising demand for housing at a time when few units are available.

This year’s budget includes an unprecedented \$33 million toward a \$100 million affordable housing initiative that will create and preserve thousands of

homes over the next several years. The city is also undergoing a top-to-bottom zoning code assessment to remove barriers to the creation of housing that Chattanooga residents can afford, and has rolled out incentives for housing providers to rent to low-income families.

In July, Chattanooga City Council approved Mayor Kelly’s One Chattanooga Recovery and Relief Plan, which includes \$7.4 million for initiatives that create and preserve affordable housing, and \$5.3 million for homelessness prevention and recovery. These initiatives include, among other efforts, creation of a new low barrier shelter to help transition residents experiencing homelessness into permanent housing and creation of 230 new affordable housing units in partnership with four community-based organizations.

Tennessee Grocery Tax Holiday Could Be Permanent If Corporations Paid What They Owed

By Jill Weitz, Tennessee for All

NASHVILLE--On last Thursday, the one-month grocery tax holiday in Tennessee ended. Rep. Vincent Dixie had proposed a 6-month suspension of the grocery tax in 2021 that was not adopted. Governor Bill Lee proposed a one-month suspension in March of this year that did pass to soften the blow of inflation.

Most states don’t have a grocery tax, but Tennessee families pay among the highest grocery tax rates in the country. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “sales taxes on groceries have an especially harmful impact on income and racial inequities since low-income families tend to spend a larger share of their income on groceries.”

While families are paying high tax rates on sales and groceries, a report from the Economic Policy Insti-

tute revealed that more than 60% of corporations in Tennessee are paying nothing in state corporate income tax. The EPI estimates that between \$43 billion and \$57 billion in national revenue has been lost due to the lack of corporate income tax payments.

The Tennessee for All coalition says that if corporations paid what they owed, Tennessee families could never pay grocery taxes again.

The Rev. Francisco García, Assistant Chaplain at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Chapel in Nashville, said, “Groceries are one of the biggest expenses for families and it’s not fair that they are paying taxes on basic needs while corporations are not paying their fair share. Getting rid of the grocery tax forever would be a huge help to families across Tennessee.”

“There’s no loophole for me to not pay taxes at the grocery store, I

can’t think of any reason a profitable corporation should have a zero in their tax bill,” added Jaime Barks, a mother of two in Chattanooga.

Liv Cook, a teacher from McMinn County added, “I pay taxes on food I buy for school events out of my own pocket because we don’t have adequate funding, but a corporation that makes millions gets to pay nothing, it’s just not fair.”

Jill Weitz serves as a coordinator at Tennessee for All. According to its website, “Tennessee for All is a statewide coalition of faith, labor, and community organizations representing hundreds of thousands of people from Memphis to Mountain City. We stand united in a long-term mission to eliminate systemic inequalities, hold corporations accountable, and build a better Tennessee.”



TN state Rep. Vincent Dixie

Ingram: from front and empowers through BIPOC-centric content.

The newly crowned Mrs. Universe ran on the platform “dress for success,” a platform that she says she lives by and is a nod to her service work. She is the founder and current Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Dress For Success Greater London, an organization that

helps disadvantaged women become economically independent by styling them and giving them interview attire, career training, and support. She recently opened a Dress For Success office in her hometown Chatanooga, Tennessee.

Her proud parents Ms. Carolyn Ivel Tinker Brown and Dr. and Mrs. Richard Brown reside in Chattanooga.

FB quotes from Mrs. Universe: Truly honored. I went into this competition just giving God a “yes” for the

purpose He had for me. I am grateful for this opportunity, very grateful.

“I think pageantry with purpose a very powerful, so to all the young ladies who are interested in doing that I say go for it,” said Ingram. “Prepare and just be your absolute best self.”

“I won! I am Mrs. Universe 2022! I’ve wanted this title for the last 10 years and here it is!

What a blessing! I will post more later - I have a ton of people to thank and

an after party to attend right now! My family and friends have been angels! But for now, I just want to encourage someone to stay true to who you truly are and who God has called YOU to be. Don’t be influenced nor discouraged by anyone or anything. Hold on to YOUR standards and YOUR calling. Hold fast to your purpose and never let go!”

Juanita Brown Ingram, Esq. (Compiled: CNC Editor/FREdwards)