



ONE WILLCO

PRESS RELEASE

February 15, 2021

***Williamson County, TN:* Local community advocacy group, One WillCo, formed to advance racial equity in Williamson County Schools**

In response to racially-charged incidents within Williamson County Schools (WCS) over recent years, parents and concerned community members have formed a grassroots advocacy network to help promote safety and equity for all students within the public school system.

The group was co-founded in 2020 by WCS parents Revida Rahman and Jennifer Cortez, and further organized by members Dr. Maya Bugg, Inetta Gaines, Tizgel High, Marci Carter, Kate Keese, and Sara Konecny. Their website is now live at www.onewillco.org and will serve as a central information hub for the community, to highlight opportunities for engagement with elected officials, and for tracking media coverage related to diversity, equity, and inclusion within WCS.

One WillCo is a non-partisan and politically unaffiliated network of Williamson County residents who represent all walks of life, united by the belief that every student, regardless of skin color, deserves a safe and equitable learning environment. They seek to provide positive support, encouragement, and varied perspectives as needed by the school district and its leaders, with the singular goal of escalating the pace of progress towards systemic solutions on behalf of current students, staff, and families who continue to experience inequalities and inequities.

One WillCo is open to any Williamson County community member who seeks to be a part of supporting racial equity within WCS. More information can be found at www.onewillco.org.

Bios:

Revida Rahman is an active citizen, employee, family, and community member. A native of Mississippi and Tennessee, she holds a bachelor's degree from MTSU and a master's from TSU. She also holds the 2017 Community Service Person of the Year Award from the Williamson County Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma. She's the 2018 recipient of Presidential Spirit Award from the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, where she is a lifetime member. In 2019, Revida was a nominee for Women Who Rock Nashville's Health Impact Award. She was appointed to the board of directors for A Step Ahead Foundation of Middle Tennessee in 2016. She is also the mother of two WCS students and an active volunteer in Williamson County Schools.

Jennifer Cortez is a native Southerner who has lived in Tennessee since 1995 and in Williamson County since 2004. Her writing has been published in Asperger's Digest, The Mom's Bible, and The Devotional Bible for Dads. She has also partnered with the faith-based, human rights organization Set Beautiful Free, since 2013. Through that partnership, she created and

taught a summer writing workshop combining critical thinking and creative writing skills for the female students at Bombay Teen Challenge Academy. All four of Jennifer's children have attended or currently attend Williamson County Schools.

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