



## Habitat Williamson-Maury Board Member

### Jennifer Shepard



Jennifer Shepard is Brentwood City President with First Farmers and Merchants Bank, and she and her husband, Scott, live in Brentwood with their two children. Jennifer was born and grew up in Auburn, Alabama, and graduated from Auburn High School.

Upon graduating from high school, Jennifer moved to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt University, where she met her husband Scott. Scott had grown up in Nashville before attending Vanderbilt and still has most of his extended family in the Middle Tennessee area. Jennifer graduated with a degree in English and a concentration in mathematics. Shortly after graduation, she was hired into a management training program by Union Planters Bank. She spent the first 15 years in the retail branch system, managing several branches during that time. Being a banker offered the perfect opportunity to work with numbers, but still have lots of interaction and

relationships with clients. She stayed at Union Planters Bank from 1993-2013, through the big mergers with Regions Bank and AmSouth Bank. In 2013, she was thrilled to accept an opportunity to move her private banking business over to Avenue Bank, which merged with Pinnacle Bank in 2016. In late 2018, Jennifer moved in to her position with First Farmers.

Jennifer and her husband lived in Bellevue for many years, but moved across the county line to Brentwood in 2011. With two children and two careers, they stay very busy and love every minute of it. Jennifer also volunteers with Junior Achievement as a classroom instructor and serves with her children at the Nashville Rescue Mission. She got involved with Habitat for Humanity in 2008 by working on build sites. Jennifer also served on the Family Selection Committee for Greater Nashville Habitat before coming on the board for Habitat of Williamson County. She is inspired by the concept that Habitat offers a "hand up, not a hand out." Her *favorite* part of volunteering with Habitat is working on a build site, but she feels that the *most important* part of the Habitat experience is the financial counseling. "Financial education provided by Habitat can profoundly impact the direction of a family and the habits that they pass down to their children. This is how we make a lasting impact on families and our community."