



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transition to Success® Acquired by Starr Commonwealth

Albion, Michigan – March 9, 2026

Starr Commonwealth, a Michigan-based national nonprofit with 113 years of experience healing children, families, and communities, announces the acquisition of Transition to Success® (TTS), the first evidence-based Standard of Care to address the condition of poverty as a treatable, environmentally-based condition.

Created by Dr. Marcella Wilson, Transition to Success® has become a national movement to reframe poverty — shifting the narrative away from personal blame and toward diagnosable environmental exposures to social determinants of health. Poverty has reached epidemic proportions, and the current U.S. system(s) for addressing it are highly disjointed and complex. By approaching poverty as a client-centered health condition that can be diagnosed and treated by proper assessment and standards of care, TTS overturns decades of well-intentioned but ineffective remedies.

In her groundbreaking book, Diagnosis: Poverty, Dr. Wilson calls for “nothing less than a scalable, sustainable, national standard of care to treat the condition of poverty.” Most notable is that this new paradigm is achievable based on current resources and expenditures. Transition To Success is currently being trained, implemented and evaluated across the country, serving state and local health agencies, 211 centers, education institutions, nonprofits and the thousands they serve who are living in poverty, all while establishing statistically significant outcomes. Dr. Wilson’s work with TTS has been showcased by the CBS Evening News, The New York Times, and recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative.

“This partnership with Starr Commonwealth ensures that Transition to Success will continue long beyond any one leader,” says Dr. Wilson. “For more than a decade, I have searched for a forever home that shares our vision to transform how our nation understands and responds to poverty. Starr Commonwealth brings the leadership, infrastructure, and long-term commitment needed to steward and expand this work for generations.”

Transition to Success® has already established a national network of certified trainers, coaches and community-based C.A.R.E. Networks, integrating human services, government, education, healthcare, and faith-based organizations under a shared framework. The TTS model includes a foundational training and certification process, a 19-domain reliability-tested assessment tool, a client-centered “Map of My Dreams” protocol, accountable service tracking standards, and it has been validated by multiple independent evaluations.

WE LEAD
WITH COURAGE
TO CREATE
POSITIVE EXPERIENCES
SO THAT ALL
CHILDREN,
FAMILIES,
AND COMMUNITIES
FLOURISH.

13725 Starr Commonwealth Rd.
Albion, MI 49224
PH: 517.629.5591
FX: 517.630.2400

www.starr.org

Officers:

Elizabeth A. Carey
President and Chief Executive Officer

Derek S. Allen
*Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer*

Paula Dolson
Chief Financial Officer

Robert W. VanSumeren, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel and Compliance Officer



“Transition to Success aligns deeply with our mission to lead with courage and create positive experiences so all children, families and communities flourish, and poverty is so often the barrier to that mission,” said Elizabeth Carey, President and CEO of Starr Commonwealth. This partnership began in 2024 when Starr hosted Dr. Wilson for a community forum, and subsequently hosted a local training and implemented TTS in its own youth empowerment programs. “We quickly found what many existing TTS adopters already knew – it works. Now we want to grow the TTS network and help train the world in its approach.”

Starr Commonwealth brings national expertise in trauma-informed, resilience-focused, and evidence-based practice, along with research, evaluation, and an extensive professional training infrastructure. Where TTS has led with bold vision and national influence, Starr provides the training and implementation capacity to scale and sustain the work. Dr. Wilson will remain actively involved in a key consulting and advisory role, ensuring continuity of vision, collaborations, and standards as Transition to Success enters its next chapter.

More information is available at www.starr.org/tts or by contacting tts@starr.org.

About Starr Commonwealth

Founded in 1913, Starr Commonwealth is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children and families by strengthening the systems that serve them. Guided by its mission to lead with courage and create positive experiences so that all children, families, and communities flourish, Starr partners with educators, clinicians, and community leaders to implement trauma-informed, resilience-focused, evidence-based practices across complex systems.

About Transition to Success®

Transition to Success® (TTS) is the first evidence-based National Standard of Care to treat the condition of poverty as an environmentally based condition. Grounded in the science of social determinants of health, TTS integrates uniform protocols, measurable assessments, and coordinated systems of care to improve health, educational, and economic outcomes. TTS is the subject of Dr. Marcella Wilson’s book *Diagnosis: Poverty*.