



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
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Shelby County Rape Crisis and Crime Victims Centers Celebrate Anniversary Advocates Honored at Awards Program

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and a host of other dignitaries will celebrate the work of the Shelby County Rape Crisis Center and Shelby County Crime Victims Center at an anniversary and awards ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 5:30 p.m., at Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Avenue.

This will be the 40th year the Rape Crisis Center has served victims. It was started in 1975 and linked to the Memphis Police Department, and was one of the first centers of its type in the nation. Shelby County Government took over operations in 2009.

Additionally, 2015 is the 20th anniversary of the Shelby County Crime Victims Center. It was created through the efforts of former Shelby County Mayor Jim Rout and community advocate Linda Miller, the center's first executive director. **"Both Mayor Rout and Ms. Miller were visionaries in their desire to help crime victims. So much is owed to these dedicated community servants,"** said Mayor Luttrell.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will also be the setting for the annual crime victim advocates awards:

- *The Veronica Coleman Davis Criminal Justice Professional of the Year Award*
 - *The Ken Blackburn Victim Service Provider of the Year Award*
 - *The Jim Rout Victim Advocate of the Year Award*

The Shelby County Rape Crisis and Crime Victims are housed in the same building at 1750 Madison Avenue. The building is a "one-stop shop" for linking crime victims to law enforcement agencies, counseling and support services.

(End of Release)