February 2018 Edition

SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential

Community Connections

A Newsletter of the Shelby County Government's Division of Community Services

The Heart of the Matter

A Message from the Director's Office

I have often described the Division of Community Services as the heart of Shelby County Government. This is true not just during this month when we celebrate Valentine's Day, but every month. Each day, over 200 of my colleagues work with individuals and families who have immediate needs and challenges. Whether it is providing support to victims of sexual assault or other crimes, assisting seniors in securing access to meals and services, helping families to keep utilities on through extreme temperatures or supporting an individual with mental illness into treatment versus incarceration, this network of service providers does amazing work.

I have been accused of being a person who focuses too much on feelings. It is true that I dance every time I hear "Happy" by Pharrell. I cry every week during "This Is Us", and I also cry when Elmo shares with his friends on "Sesame Street".

If you see me in the hall, I will likely ask you not only how you feel, but how your entire family is doing. I am definitely an Expressive ENFP (remember your personality tests from last year?) If I am being transparent with you, in my new position, balancing who I am with the realities of leading diverse people within diverse situations is paramount. But I never discount the fact that leading and serving with my heart indeed matters.

. . . leading diverse people within diverse situations is paramount.

Being the heart of an organization goes well beyond making sure that we are being nice to the people we serve. It means that in addition to providing care, our steady beat serves to maintain focus on what is important in our community. As the heart, we have to make sure that we balance learning new skills, implementing new technology and exploring new programming and funding sources with making sure that our services are person centered. We must be as thoughtful as we are compassionate. We must be intentional about developing processes, programs and systems that enable people to get from where they are to where they desire to be, independent, successful, confident, and secure.

This month, as you are inundated with visuals of hearts because of Valentine's Day, I hope that you will be reminded of your significance to County government. Because just as we are the heart, you are the pulse of our community. We value your commitment to making Shelby County a better place to live, work, and play.

Dorcas Young Griffin,

Division of Community Services Director

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Vision Statement

The Shelby County Division of Community Services strives to be a highly organized team and partner, dedicated to promoting a strong community where all people are able to reach their full potential.

Mission Statement

The Division of Community Services promotes ongoing economic security and independence for the people of Shelby County. We do this by promoting, coordinating and delivering services that address the underlying conditions for wellbeing and justice.

Love = Respect

The National Resource on Domestic Violence reports that every year, approximately 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner. It is also known that 3 in 4 parents have never talked to their children about domestic violence. In light of these alarming facts, every year during the month of February advocates join efforts to raise awareness about dating violence, highlight promising practices, and encourage communities to get involved. Learn more facts about ***Teen Dating Violence and how you help at http://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/Help_Your_Child.pdf.***

LOVE IS NOT ABUSE

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The Aging Commission of the Mid-South Welcomes New Leadership

Some people search a lifetime for their purpose in life and a perfect job, fortunately, years ago, Shirley Bondon, the new Deputy Director of the Aging Commission of the Mid-South, realized that the ideal position for her is one that provides an opportunity to serve others. Since this realization, she has been on a journey to be the best "servant leader" possible. She has worked to improve the lives of seniors and persons with disabilities, mostly through programs that support them living in the community with the greatest independence possible.

As an attorney, a manager, and an engineer, Shirley's unique background has prepared her to think analytically, and readily make sense of a large volume of information. She understands organizations and people and sees the big picture. But her most important skill – caring – wasn't learned in a classroom or a boardroom. A myriad of life experience has taught her to value all people regardless of age, station in life, race, or any description or label society can create. Since her first job at age 12, working in the laundry of the hotel where her mother was the manager of Housekeeping to developing the Office of Public Guardianship in Washington State, her experiences have taught her to respect all people and everyday in her work she strives to honor the will and preferences of the people she serves.

Shirley joined the Aging Commission of the Mid-South, a department of Shelby County Government's Division of Community Services, this past December after living and working in a suburb of the greater metropolitan area of Seattle, Washington. She is a native Arkansan, born and reared in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Learn more about how the Aging Commission of the Mid-South serves seniors and people with disabilities on page 3 . . .

A Salute to Black History Month: African Americans in Time of War

Each year beginning on February 1, an entire month of events is planned nationwide honoring the history and contribution of African Americans.

The theme for Black History Month 2018 is, "African Americans in Times of War." The purpose is to recognize and honor those brave men and women who served their country in the Armed Forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the American ideals of freedom and democracy.

During World War ll, more than 2.5 million black men registered for the draft and 1 million served in every branch of the armed services. Most African American men were assigned to assigned to segregated combat groups. More than 12,000 African Americans heroism. The famous Tuskegee Airmen who served in the segregated 92nd Division received citations and were decorated for received a distinguished unit citation, several silver stars, 150 distinguished flying crosses, 14 bronze stars and 744 air medals. During Black History Month it is important for us to remember that African Americans participated every American war- from the Revolutionary War to the present War against Terrorism. Please join us as we salute these American heroes.

"2.5 million black men registered for the draft and 1 million served in every branch of the armed services."

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AAAD Aging Commission of the Mid-South

AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

Advocating for Communities where Seniors and People with Disabilities can maximize their independence

WHO WE ARE

Mission: To connect seniors, adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers with the tools needed to maximize their independence and safety in their chosen community.

Vision: Age and Disability Friendly Communities.

DIRECT SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Information and Assistance
Provides information and resources to help seniors, people with disabilities and their families, make choices about long-term care services and supports.

Public Guardianship
Provides conservatorship services to persons 60 years of age and older, who are unable to manage their own affairs, and who have no family member, friend, bank or corporation willing and able to act on their behalf.

Assessment
Determines consumer eligibility for home and community-based services and long-term care services and supports.

CONTRACT SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Adult Day Care
- Adult Care/Sitter
- Caregiver Information
- Congregate Meals
- Food Supplements
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homemaker Services
- Individual Counseling for Caregivers
- Medical Equipment & Supplies
- Medication Management
- Minor Home Modifications
- Personal Care Services
- Personal Emergency Response
- Pest Control
- Senior Companion
- Support Groups
- Transportation
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- Legal Assistance
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Senior Centers or Activities

For information about programs/services of the Aging Commission call 901-222-4111 or log on to www.agingcommission.org

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The Division Insider Gunshot Survivor Group

Gun violence remains a major problem in our city and many crime victims who are gunshot survivors need support and a place to share their experience as they heal and recover from this trauma.

Jeff Droke, who is a gunshot survivor from a crime which occurred in 2003 in Memphis, expressed a need for the group. A member of Mayor Luttrell's Victims of Crime Advisory League, Mr. Droke worked with Shelby County Crime Victims Center/Rape Crisis Center (CVC/RCC) to start such a group. After many meetings and planning sessions, the Gunshot Survivor group began in late 2016 and continues today.

This support group, which is facilitated by CVC/RCC counselor and support staff, provides a place for gunshot survivors a chance to share their experiences, tell their stories, be a source of encouragement and comfort to each other as well as to learn about the Criminal Justice and Health Care systems. Group members describe the group as a place to talk with others who really understand the ongoing physical and emotional pain of being shot.

Any adult, who survived a gunshot during a crime, is welcome to participate.

Gunshot Survivor Group
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
Noon to 1:30 PM
Crime Victims Center
1750 Madison Ave., Suite 100
This group is free and confidential.

Community Spotlight: The Exchange Club Family Center

The Exchange Club Family Center provides positive, supportive counseling, education, and advocacy services to improve the safety and harmony of the Mid-South community – one family at a time.

From classes for divorcing parents to clinical assessments, the Exchange Club Family Center helps children, adults, and families heal from traumatic events.

Programs & Services

- Comprehensive Anger Management (CAMP)
- Domestic Violence Assessment Center (DVAC)
- Male Anger Management
- Co-Parenting Seminar for Divorcing & Separating Parents
- Family Mediation
- Parenting Enrichment
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Visitation Services
- Victims Services
  - Group Therapy
  - Individual Counseling
  - Play Therapy

To learn more about the programs of the Exchange Club Family Center visit www.exchangeclub.net.

The Exchange Club Family Center
Helping Children, Healing Families

Save the Dates!

Nominations are now open for the
Annual Crime Victims' Rights Awards
Deadline to respond is March 22nd. Follow this link to nominate someone today!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZoM-68Jws2kHnBWrt0Zsp6Go2Goa_hVQnSVNVWOhmOgwVmA/viewform

13th Annual
Garden of Lights Candlelight Memorial
Memphis Botanic Garden
Tuesday, April 17th at 6:00pm
Hosted by
The Crime Victims Center's
Homicide Response Program

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