



# SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlying 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

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.

## Reflect. Renew. Recharge.

As 2018 comes to a close, I am grateful for the incredible opportunity that I have had to serve as the Director of the Division of Community Services. When I started in January 2018, I was both excited and anxious about what was to come. I had so many questions. Would I do a good job? What is considered a good job anyway? Would the team be receptive to my vision and quirkiness? So many questions. The one thing I was certain of is that I could not really grasp fully what it would take to assume this role until I was in it.

I also understood that the work of the Division of Community services was complex. **The people that we serve have complex needs** that must be met so that they can achieve their dreams around wellness and economic stability. Our own lives are complex as we seek to be our best selves in service daily. We have our own health, wellness and family obligations that must be met. All of the human complexities of the work are magnified by the complexities of managing grants and program processes necessary to deliver quality services.



Dorcas Young Griffin, Director, Division of Community Services

As I **reflect on 2018**, I am fully aware that the only reason that I have been able to navigate the known and unknown has been because of the encouragement and support of the Division of Community Services team. All 249 of you. If it is true that the measure of a leader is determined by the strength of her team, I am feeling **super confident about the future**. You have met every success, challenge and transition with the highest level of integrity, grace and professionalism. Because of the groundwork that has been laid this year, I feel a renewed energy in my role. I am recharged and ready to accomplish even more together in the year ahead.

**Thank you.** Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and commitment to supporting individuals and families every day in this community. I am honored to have the privilege to be inspired by each of you. I am hopeful that as we close out 2018 that you too will have a chance to reflect, renew, and recharge for an amazing 2019.

Sincerely,

Dorcas Young Griffin  
Division Director

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## Honoring Veterans in Shelby County

### DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: VETERANS SERVICES

*Joseph Kyles, Coordinator for Veterans Services*

A veteran is someone who at one point in his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their life.

Veterans Day is a National Holiday observed on November 11th each year to honor both living and dead veterans. November 2018 at Shelby County Government, we expressed our appreciation to our veterans and their families at the **Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon** held on November 1. Nearly 600 people attended including veterans and their family members. In addition to the luncheon, we honored the veteran employees of Shelby County Government at a **Veteran Breakfast** sponsored by **Mayor Lee Harris and Commissioner Amber Mills**. Mayor Harris addressed the veterans, thanked them for their service to our country and presented each veteran in attendance a challenge coin. The challenge coin is a unique gift that shows Pride, Respect and Appreciation for those who protect our Freedom.

If it weren't for our veterans, we would not be enjoying many of the freedoms that we do. Remember to thank our veterans for their service.



Above: Commission Amber Mills, Mayor Lee Harris, Division of Community Services Director Dorcas Young Griffin





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## Protecting Veterans and Their Families

### MORE BENEFITS

Veterans, or surviving spouses who are eligible for a veteran's pension, may be eligible for the **Aid and Attendance benefit**. If you need help with activities of daily living, are bedridden, a patient in a nursing home, or have certain vision limitations, you may qualify.

### WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

Unfortunately, as benefits increase, so too are people trying to scam vulnerable people. Veterans and spouses, look out for these signs of possible Aid and Attendance benefit scams:

#### BE SUSPICIOUS IF SOMEONE...

- ◆ Offers to file an application to get you benefits or increase your pension for a fee
- ◆ Claims to get you benefits faster for a fee
- ◆ Advises to move your money so you'll qualify for benefits

### HELP ACROSS THE BOARD

Looking at scams around Veterans Benefits, especially those Vets that also are 60 and older or disabled, shows some of the interconnectedness of the people and programming of Community Services. Veterans Services, Aging Commission, Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse programming, all offer ways the Division of Community Services can assist this large and important population.

Veteran Services  
901-222-4237

Aging Commission  
Victim Advocate  
901-222-4111

Crime Victims Center  
Senior Victim Advocate  
901-222-4113

Photo credit to AARP

## VETERANS ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE. NOW SCAMMERS ARE CALLING.





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### Fighting Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:  
AGING COMMISSION

#### Baby Boomers Booming

The baby boomer generation is aging and in 10 years, will number 61 million. As the most populated county in the state of Tennessee, Shelby County's number of elders in the community will only continue to grow, increasing the possibilities of elder abuse and need for support services.

#### Elder Abuse

Unfortunately, the abuse of older adults is a pervasive, growing, and under-reported problem in the United States. Some estimates suggest that as many as one in ten Americans aged sixty and older have experienced some form of elder abuse while others suggest as many as 5 million elders are abused annually. Elder abuse can have profound negative implications on the wellbeing of seniors, their families, and on society as a whole.

*One in ten Americans  
aged sixty and older  
have experienced some  
form of elder abuse*

#### Responding with Care

In 2015 the Plough Foundation was awarded a three-year, \$3.45 million comprehensive plan addressing elder abuse in Shelby County utilizing a multidisciplinary team approach now known as Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse (CREA).

The Aging Commission of the Mid-South launched a Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse (CREVAA) program 1 year ago

and has served over 86 clients from Shelby, Lauderdale, Fayette, and Tipton counties. This program is a TCAD funded initiative, which recently granted the agency additional funding to grow the program and hire 2 more Advocates in 2019. The most notable difference between the two programs is that CREVVA provides services to elders who have been victims of an alleged crime.

#### PROGRAM GOALS:

The statewide CREVAA program will address the un-met needs, both emergent and on-going, of elder and vulnerable adult victims of crime by providing advocates who will work with victims as well as stakeholders, including Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, District Attorneys, and aging service providers.

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

The CREVAA program can provide the following emergency services to elder and vulnerable adult victims of crime: Emergency assistance (food, clothing, etc.); Home repairs; Personal care assistance; Home maker services; Durable medical equipment; Transportation; Medication replacement; and Emergency housing.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kim Meabon /CREVAA Advocate 901.222.4183

kmeabon@agingcommission.org





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### Caring for Children in Crisis: Survivor Connection



#### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

The **Survivor Connection** is a new program by Tennessee Voices for Children and will provide in-home services that directly improve health and well-being of victims of crime with priority given to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and services for previously underserved victims. They intend to respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assist to stabilize their lives after victimization, assist victims in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system, and provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security. Participation is voluntary and free for families and services provide support and teach families to advocate for themselves.

#### Who is eligible?

- ◆ Young Adults with trauma ages 17-24
- ◆ Has been victimized or is at risk of victimization (domestic and/or family violence)

Referrals or questions for Tennessee Voices for Children: Daniel Haile, LMFT

dhaile@tnvoices.org

615-604-0630

### Caring for Children in Daily Life: Child Care Resource and Referral

Shelby County is home base for two Family Engagement Quality Coaches to provide training, referrals, education, and services to families, child care agencies, and community organizations. These Coaches work with child care educators and community partners to engage the families they serve and strengthen parent-child relationships in the home. In addition to providing training and resources to child care professionals, **Child Care Resource & Referral Network** began providing referral services to families searching for quality child care in their communities. To date, there are eight Child Care Resource & Referral sites serving all 95 counties throughout Tennessee with the support of Infant/Toddler Coaches and Health Safety Wellbeing Coaches. A referral process or eligibility requirements is not needed for a family to receive support. To learn more, checkout their website at [www.tnccrr.org](http://www.tnccrr.org). In Shelby County contact Johnican Lias at 901-302-8767 or email [johnican\\_lias@signalcenters.org](mailto:johnican_lias@signalcenters.org).





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## Proud to Be a Citizen



On December 10, 2018 the U.S. voting population grew when approximately 60 people took the oath and become United States citizens. The **Naturalization Ceremony**, held at the federal building, was well attended by family and friends who were eager to welcome, take pictures of and pictures with, these new citizens. Each new American was greeted and received letters, pamphlets and other tokens from the Tennessee congressional delegation, Daughters of the American Revolution, Navy wives clubs, among other clubs and organizations. Each new individual was welcomed by Joseph Kyles, representing Shelby County and the Office of Engagement and Outreach.

## Outreach & Engagement: Community Services Comes to You

### DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Shelby County Division of Community Services greeted residents of the Latino community at a service fair hosted by the Memphis Police Department, Mt. Moriah precinct. Approximately 200 people visited the precinct where they received health screenings and received information from various agencies including the Mental Health Center of Shelby County Schools, Memphis 901, Dove Family Dental, Le Bonheur, A Step Ahead and Community Legal Center.

Representatives from the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, Ivan Flores and Kim Cox, were there to provide information about the many services that our agencies provide.



*Want a representative from Community Services to come to your event? Email us your request or questions to [Janet.Lo@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:Janet.Lo@shelbycountyttn.gov) on or before January 15.*





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## Build Up, Not Out: Memphis 3.0 Needs Your Input

Below photo credit:  
Division of Planning  
and Development

After two years, nearly 200 public meetings and events, and engagement of over 15,000 residents, the City of Memphis has released a public draft of the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan. The vision of the **Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan** calls for the city to “Build Up, Not Out” by focusing resources, investment, and policy in growth of the core city and neighborhood centers to create more dense, mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable, transit-served communities.

Many of the plan’s recommendations come in the form of policies and potential investments, organized in the plan elements of Land, Connectivity, and Opportunity. Within the plan elements are eight goals addressing communities and development, civic spaces, sustainability, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, housing, and community engagement.

The public draft of the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan is available by visiting [www.memphis3point0.com](http://www.memphis3point0.com) and open for comment through February 8, 2019.



*Got an idea for the January Newsletter? Email your submissions to Janet Lo at [Janet.Lo@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:Janet.Lo@shelbycountyttn.gov) on or before January 15.*

