February 2019 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

## Resilience Matters

**February is one of my favorite months**. From Groundhog's Day to Valentine's Day, Super Bowl Sunday to Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (I didn't make this up), there is so much to celebrate. Among the top on my list, however, is the observance of **Black History Month**. During this month, we collectively, and intentionally, take time to revisit the history and applaud the achievements of African Americans in this country and across the world. We are able to recall stories of individuals like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ida B. Wells. We also are challenged to learn about achievements that are less widely known, like Richard Spikes and his invention of automatic gear shift, George Sampson and the clothes dryer and George Crum who singlehandedly changed the snack time game with the potato chip.

Dorcas Young Griffin, Director, Division of Community Services

No matter what the story, there is a common theme that connects all of those that we celebrate this month. They have faced insurmountable odds of inequities, lack of access to supports, poverty and racism, but still found a way to not only achieve, but to excel. ***Black History Month gives us all an in depth look into countless examples of what psychologists label as RESILIENCE***, or the ability to adapt for positive outcomes in the face of adversity.

**Building resilience is a primary foundation of the services that we provide every day**. Community Services Agency is not here just to pay light bills, but by filling that need, it allows other bills to be paid that can stabilize a family's finances. While getting a job is important, the Workforce Investment Network works to provide skills, education and networks that allow a person to continue to grow in a career and support his or her family. The Aging Commission of the Mid-South provides services every day that help seniors and those living with disabilities to live as independently as possible, regardless of physical limitations.

Regardless of heritage, **having real life examples of resilience matters for everyone**. It gives us confidence to know that the possibilities to achieve our dreams are within our reach. Being able to lean on these examples is especially important as we work to support the people that we serve each and every day. As a division, I am hopeful that we will all view Black History Month and all that comes with it, as one filled with untapped opportunities for better serving this community.

### Inside this Edition


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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.*

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Editor Janet Lo, Strategic Partnerships Coordinator

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# Shelby County Welcomes Its Third American Job Center

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris kicks off the ribbon cutting of the third and newest American Job Center in the County.

Below, Justin Jamerson, Director of the Greater Memphis Region AJCs and Douglas Cotter, President of Grant Associates ring in the event with staff and friends.

There's a renewed focus in Shelby County. The **Workforce Investment Network** prepares job seekers for jobs and helps connect them with the best opportunities available, while working with businesses attracting and retaining qualified employees. Through **American Job Centers**, WIN serves a diverse group of job seekers ranging from those in need of stable housing or financial stability, to those in search of a second chance to enter the workforce. The county's three American Job Centers have:

- **Workshops on resume development and interviewing skills**
- **Resource rooms with computers, phones, fax machines to assist job search activities**
- **On-site recruiting events**
- **Network of local colleges, universities and technical schools for further training**

Through these services and more, the American Job Centers are fully committed to offering hope, access to education, and new career pathways to the citizens of Shelby County and the Greater Memphis Region.

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK

***Want someone from Community Services to come to your event?***

***Call 901-222-2092 or email us at CommunityServicesInfo@shelbycountytn.gov for the Office of Community Engagement & Outreach.***

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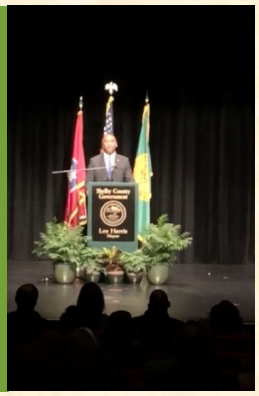
DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: WORFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK

# Investing in the Workforce Already Pays Off

**In his State of the County** address Friday, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris spoke firmly about a set of priorities that placed workforce investment at the top. "The State of the County is strong. We should focus more on workforce by investing in public assets and people. Our priority is creating a community of individuals that have the skills employers find in-demand. " To ensure their success, Mayor Lee Harris announced a new Executive Director, Kyla Gutierrez Guyette, and Deputy Director John Moore to lead the Workforce Investment Network to take the helm. Bringing on these experienced and visionary leaders will help set even higher expectations for what the county can do to give our citizens the tools they need.

> "The State of the County is strong. We should focus more on workforce by investing in public assets and people. Our priority is creating a community of individuals that have the skills employers find in-demand. "
>
> — Mayor Lee Harris, during the State of the County address



## Off to a Great Start

The newest American Job Center hosted its biggest and most successful job fair for FedEx on Tuesday, February 26 with **over 100 residents interviewed for jobs**. A whopping **90% were moved into the next phase of the hiring process** and **10% of the candidates were hired on the spot** (pending final checks and screenings).

With over 200 companies engaged already, the American Job Center is continuing to increase opportunities for residents of Shelby County eager to work.

For more information, go to www.jobs4tn.gov or visit one of three centers in the county.

***Got an idea for the next Newsletter? Email your submissions to Janet Lo at Janet.Lo@shelbycountytn.gov on or before March 15.***

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# Victim Advocates Know: Sexual Violence CAN Be Prevented

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: CRIME VICTIMS & RAPE CRISIS CENTER

## "If you've come to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

— David Lee, Director of Prevention Services at CALCASA quotes Lilla Watson, educator and activist during the Primary Prevention conference on January 30 at the University of Memphis.

The Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center invited experts from **Prevent Connect**, a national project to advance the **primary prevention of sexual assault and relationship violence** by building a community of practice among people who are engaged in such efforts.

Over 100 people from across Shelby County learned the science behind prevention work and discussed ways our community can implement primary prevention programming in our schools, our community centers and groups, our houses of worship, our neighborhoods, and our families.

# Protecting Our Victims

**What is an order of protection?**

An order of protection is a legal document which is signed by a judge and tells someone who is hurting or scaring you to stop or he or she will face serious legal consequences. It offers legal protection for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Where should I go for an order of protection?**

**Family Safety Center** at 1750 Madison: All Intimate Partner Violence related cases for anyone you have been in a relationship with—married or not, including intimate partner stalking and intimate partner sexual violence cases. Call 901-222-4400

**Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center** at 1060 Madison: All non-Intimate Partner Violence cases including adult children living at home, roommates, neighbors, etc. Call 901-222-3950.

Both the Family Safety Center and the Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center help victims APPLY (petition) for an order of protection if they so choose. This option isn't always easy and there are safety issues to consider. Staff at both organizations can talk to victims about their options and conduct safety planning even if they ultimately chose not to file.