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Shelby County Office of Reentry

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Staff Spotlight



Vonzetta Douglas, Case Manager

Vonzetta Douglas began her career at the Shelby County Division of Corrections in December of 1999 as a Care and Custody Counselor. During her 19 year tenure, she held many different roles at the institution. She started working for the Office of Reentry in February 2019 as a Case Manager/Coaction Net Administrator.

A native of Batesville, Mississippi, Vonzetta earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Mississippi. She later furthered her education and obtained a Master of Arts in Business and Human Resource Management from Strayer University.

Vonzetta proudly serves her country as a Captain in the United States Tennessee Army National Guard. During her 19 year career, Vonzetta became an Army War Veteran by serving in Kuwait (2003-2004),

Afghanistan (2006-2007) and Iraq in (2009-2010). She also performed a 6 month stint in Bulgaria in 2015. Vonzetta's hobbies include painting, running half marathons, and line dancing.

Client Success Spotlight

Mr. Aundrea Bell, a convicted felon, initially came into the Office of Reentry in January 2019 to enroll in our FOCUSED program- Cohort I with the hopes of finding gainful employment as a convicted felon. Mr. Bell completed Vatterott College's HVAC diploma program in 2014.

Mr. Bell made a commitment to himself and maintained 80% class attendance while enrolled in FOCUSED. Upon completion of our very first cohort of FOCUSED in May 2019, Mr. Bell obtained employment as an HVAC technician and now earns an annual salary of \$63,000.

Mr. Bell, father of 5, stated the he "loves his new career, and is especially excited about his benefits package." When asked what he would tell individuals that are in similar situations, he said "continue to work hard, and keep trying!"

We are extremely proud of Mr. Bell's success, and look forward to more success stories like his!

April 27th Expungement and Resource Fair

Our office in collaboration with Tennessee Department of Corrections, Maximus Child Support Services, Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church, General Sessions Court Clerk Edward L. Stanton's Office, and Criminal Court Clerk Heidi Kuhn's Office hosted an expungement and resource fair for the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County. We had a tremendous turnout! The following numbers were reported from each agency:

General Sessions Court-

- 266 expungements processed
- 100 expungement applications sent back to the office

Criminal Court-

- 50 expungements were processed

Maximus Child Support Services-

- 45 arrest warrants were recalled for a \$50 fee
- 121 drivers licenses were reinstated for FREE



Attendees receiving assistance from Maximus Child Support Services

Please Pardon Our Dust- Shelby County Office of Reentry Small Engine Repair Center

When the Office of Reentry moved to our current home, we inherited a small, unused, shed located in the rear of the building. The building sat idly for 4 years. With the entrance of our new Executive Director, Harold Collins in October 2018 came new ideas and a new purpose. After careful consideration and planning, Director Collins decided the building would be best utilized as the home to our small engine repair program. In June of 2019, renovations began and we expect completion by August 1, 2019. We are extremely excited about the opportunities our clients will have to learn a certified skill in our newly renovated small engine repair center.

Please see below for photos of the progress.



Employment Symposium



**Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris
speaking during the 2019 Ex-Offender
Employment Symposium**

On June 11th, The University of Memphis Public Safety Institute in collaboration with the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, Tennessee Department of Corrections and the Greater Memphis Chamber, held a symposium to help local employers understand the benefits of hiring trained and qualified ex- offenders and also to understand the many economic benefits associated with hiring this population.
