



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.

My Shot

This month like many of my fellow Memphians, I snagged tickets to see the long awaited production of Hamilton at The Orpheum. Unlike some of my co-workers who literally know every word to every song (you know who you are), I didn't know what to expect, only that it was indeed the hottest ticket in town and I needed to be there.

Early on in the musical, the lead character, Alexander Hamilton, lays the groundwork explaining what seems to guide his every decision throughout the play in the song "My Shot." I suspect this song has become one of the most prolific from the production because of the underlying message of not letting the odds define you or letting key moments pass you by. Not to mention, it is indeed a pretty clever rhyme. As I made it through the rest of the musical journey of the complex life of Hamilton, I began to quickly recognize that the very thing that made Hamilton so great, was also in many ways his biggest weakness. To be ready for what he perceived as moving up to the next level of greatness, he found it difficult to be satisfied with several significant moments (and people) right in front of him. By focusing on the next big shot, there were times that he missed the value of the seemingly smaller shots within the moment.

Alexander Hamilton is not so different from many of us individually and as a team. We are **YOUNG, SCRAPPY, AND HUNGRY** and expect to achieve great things to make our community stronger and better for everyone. We keep moving to always get to the next level of achievement because we know the issues that we face are too big to just be satisfied with good enough. Too often, though, we don't stop and recognize that this very moment and place that we are in today is indeed part of whatever shot we are working towards. Even as you read this message, you are in the perfect place to do something amazing in this moment to change the trajectory for a client, co-worker, the division, and even yourself personally. In addition to recognizing the value of the moment to do something great, it is equally important to recognize and celebrate the progress that has been made. We may not be where we want to be, but every day we are a little better than the day before. This propels us with the hope needed to keep moving towards every goal that we set.

In the days and weeks ahead, I am hopeful that each of us will take time to embrace the opportunity of the moment that we have. I am a firm believer that we must plan for tomorrow, but we must **DO** today. I commit to not throwing away my shot for today, and the one I am working towards. Will you do the same with me?

Sincerely,
Dorcas Young Griffin
Director, Division of Community Services



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Published by the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach for the Shelby County Division of Community Services
Kim Cox, Administrator; Janet Lo, Strategic Partnerships Coordinator



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Community Engagement & Outreach

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
OUTREACH

The Division of Community Services is varied with services for the aging or disabled, crime victims, people struggling with poverty, and those involved in the criminal justice system. One branch of the division is the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach.



Community Engagement and Outreach aims to serve the citizens of Shelby County by increasing awareness, thus utilization, of these necessary services. **“Essentially, it’s our job to get the word out about the services that the Division provides. We work to promote seamless and comprehensive service delivery,”** says Administrator Kim Cox.

Often when residents access the services of a department in Community Services, they rarely have just one problem. “It is our job to collaborate with partners, both

internally and externally, to work together to leverage the Division’s services to meet all the needs of the resident.”

In addition, the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach is responsible for serving the needs of special populations, including Veterans, Latinx and multicultural persons, and Children and Youth, by providing outreach and specific service delivery aimed at their specific needs.

With so many vibrant communities in Shelby County, the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach forms partnerships and goes to different events throughout the year to reach out to more people.

On July 20th we partnered with Desayunos con Libros for a special event providing free books, breakfast, and activities.

Want a representative from Community Services to come to your event?

Complete this [form](#) to make your request.

Mike Ellis, Veterans Services Officer
Ivan Flores, Latinx and Multi-Cultural Liaison
Janet Lo, Strategic Partnerships Coordinator
Kim Cox, Administrator





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Office of Justice Initiatives: Behavioral Health Unit

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:
OFFICE OF JUSTICE
INITIATIVES

The Behavioral Health Unit is a crucial part of the Office of Justice Initiatives. They assist persons who are being offered probation in lieu of incarceration, using evidence-based practices. They also promote individual and community safety and collaborate with community behavioral health and support services and provides community supervision.

The Behavioral Health Unit can help identify persons with serious mental illness, co-occurring disorders and substance abuse disorders who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration and divert them to behavioral health and community services. The goal is to provide support and services that can be maintained after participation in the court is complete and avert future episodes of incarceration.

Tiffany Hilson was appointed as Deputy Administrator for the Behavioral Health Unit and Coordinator for the Mental Health Court. **“I am excited to take on the role in this department where services are provided to participants in the criminal justice system who have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. Nothing brings me more joy than having the ability to increase the quality of life for the participants that receive services in the Behavioral Health Unit.”**

Hilson is a native of Mississippi who moved to Memphis fifteen years ago. She has worked in the field of social work for twenty years in areas of social services, case management and behavioral health (children, adults and families). She’s passionate about the clients we serve. “I look forward to continue changing the lives of others by increasing resources and collaboration with community agencies to continue providing services.”





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Wake Up Call: A Conference on Domestic Violence

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:
CRIME VICTIMS &
RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Domestic violence is often only viewed as occurring between intimate partners, however, other forms of domestic violence, such as family violence or elder abuse, are also prevalent in our community and have a significant impact on both individuals and families. On September 28, the Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center will join with the Memphis & Shelby County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council and First Baptist Church-Broad to host a one-day conference on domestic violence. Please join us to Wake Up Our Community, Take Action, and Make a Difference.

This one-day conference is aimed at educating the community about the wide range of types of domestic violence and increasing awareness about the dynamics of those forms of violence and how we can all work to address it across Shelby County.

The conference will include a panel discussion with leaders in the field and a break-out session on: Understanding Orders of Protection, Hate Crimes, Grief and Relationships, Domestic Violence and Homelessness, Men and Violence, and Family Violence. www.DVwakeupcall.eventbrite.com

Domestic Violence
“Wake-Up Call” Conference
Saturday, September 28, 2019



My Sister’s Keeper Project

Black women make up 28% of Shelby County, the largest subpopulation. Moreover the needs of black women are high: black women face health disparities in heart disease, breast and cervical cancer, and mental health issues, among others. It is also crucial for black women to be engaged at the highest levels of health advocacy and equity, as community health initiatives are most successful when they are led by people who are representative of the community they serve.

In light of this information, Methodist Le Bonheur proposes a comprehensive health initiative specifically focused on health disparities of black women, and on connecting and learning from black female leaders representing various communities within Shelby County. Join My Sister’s Keeper at the Summit on November 30 or for one of their Kitchen Table Talks each month.

www.methodisthealth.org/about-us/faith-and-health/my-sisters-keeper





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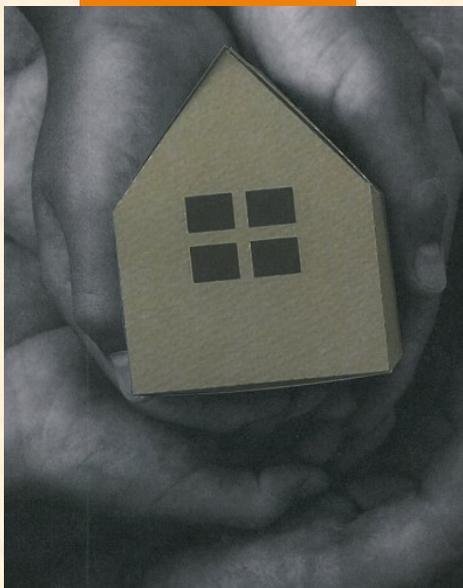
Children Have Access to Enroll

There are nearly 2,000 homeless students in Shelby County.

Shelby County Schools doesn't want any children struggling to miss out on a good education.

- Are you currently living in a hotel or motel?
- Are you living in a car or van?
- Is your entire family or part of your family living with someone else due to hardship?
- Have you been evicted?
- Have you been forced to move from your home due to domestic violence?

If you or someone you know is currently experiencing any of those circumstances and needs help enrolling your child in school, transportation to and from school, school uniforms or supplies, please contact the Office of Student Enrollment, Equity and Discipline at 901-416-6007.



Barbershop Talks

The University of Memphis Barbershop Talk is an event designed to give men a safe space to discuss issues related to manhood modeled after the open dialogue that often takes place at "the barbershop."

Barbershop talks also welcome women and families and provide services to the community such as free haircuts, health screenings, voter registration, depression screenings, active warrant searches, and workshops on a variety of topics.

On June 29, 2019, Barbershop Talk was held at Knowledge Quest's Green Leaf Learning Farm. Felica Richard and Tiffany Williams of Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center gave out information and resources to attendees. The event was a true collaboration between the community, community partners, and the University of Memphis.





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Community Services in your area

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
OUTREACH

The best way for residents to learn about Community Services and access programs is to be in touch with someone from our incredible team. Join us for an upcoming event all around Shelby County.

Build a Community—School is back in session!

At Macedonia MB Church
August 3, 11am—3pm

Back 2 School Family and Community Initiative—FFUN’s 15th Annual Stop the Killing

At Gaston Park Community Center
August 3, 11am—2pm

Back to School Fair

At UTHSC Student Alumni Center
August 3, 9am—noon

Back 2 School Youth Explosion

At Grace Temple Ministries
August 8, 6-8 pm

Bruce’s Community Block Party

At Bruce Elementary School
August 10, noon—3pm

Community Service Agency Outreach

At Millington Public Library
Every Friday in August, 10am—2pm

At Baker Community Center

Every Thursday in August, 10am—2pm

INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Click on the flyer to see/print what you need in English or Spanish.

Hoja de Recursos

Comisión para la 3ra Edad del Medio Sur 901-222-4111

Ayuda a adultos mayores y adultos con discapacidades a llevar vidas independientes, significativas y dignas en sus propios hogares y comunidades el mayor tiempo posible. Los servicios incluyen:

- Cuidado para adultos
- Comidas congregacionales
- Consejería para cuidadores
- Comidas llevadas al hogar
- Amá de casa
- Modificación/Reparación del hogar
- Cuidado de adultos en el hogar
- Prórroga institucional
- Asistencia legal
- Defensoría de cuidado a largo plazo
- Equipos y suministros médicos
- Tutela pública
- Prevención del abuso de ancianos
- Centros para adultos
- Programas estatales de seguro de salud
- Transporte

Agencia de Servicios Comunitarios 901-222-4200 oficina principal 222-4270 preguntas 222-4299 línea directa para citas

Ayuda a los clientes a romper el ciclo de la pobreza al permitirles que provean a sí mismos y a sus familias a través de los siguientes servicios:

Asistencia de utilidades (citas los Lunes) Brinda asistencia de utilidades a individuos y familias si:

- Ingresos del hogar no excedan 150% de las guías federales de ingresos de pobreza.
- Circunstancias incontrolables/proporcionando documento de aviso de cancelación de servicios.
- Residente de el Condado de Shelby.
- El hogar debe tener a un adulto de (60 años o mayor), una persona discapacitada, y/o un niño(s) menor de 6 años.

Programa de asistencia con recetas medicas
Ayuda a individuos sin seguro o poco seguro con costos de recetas medicas.

Asistencia con Renta/Hipoteca (citas los Miércoles) - Asiste a individuos y familias bajo amenaza de desalojo o ejecución hipotecaria si:

- Residente de el Condado de Shelby.
- Crisis documentada en los últimos 120 días.
- Ingresos del hogar no excedan 125% de las guías federales de ingresos de pobreza.

Programa de Autosuficiencia para la familia
Ayuda, a personas que califiquen, apoyo que promueve, empodera a familias e individuos. Servicios incluyen pero no están limitados a manejo de caso, proveer información y referencias, abogacía, consejería individual o familiar y asistencia de cupones.

Centro de Víctimas de Crimen y Crisis por Violación 901-222-3950 oficina 901-222-4350 línea de ayuda sexual 24hrs.

Sirve como un centro de servicio para víctimas de Crimen en Memphis y el Condado de Shelby.

- 24/7 Exámenes Forenses de Asalto Sexual y Abogacía.
- Abogacía y Consejería de Crisis para Víctimas de Todos los Crímenes, incluyendo Servicios Bilingües.
- Consejería y Grupos de Apoyo para Víctimas de Asalto Sexual y otros Crímenes Violentos.
- Asistencia para Órdenes de Compensación de Víctimas y Órdenes de Protección (parejas no íntimas).
- Acompañamiento a juzgados
- Servicios Especializados para Adultos Mayores y Adultos Vulnerables, Sobrevivientes de homicidios, y víctimas de Disparos.

SHELBY COUNTY DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CORPORATE VISION CENTER, CHICKENHEAD
WWW.SHELBYCOUNTYTN.GOV
901-222-8990

Revised March 2019



Follow our latest news at:
www.shelbycountyttn.gov/Community-Services

