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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 17, 2013

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Memphis City Schools in collaboration with Just Care Family Network hosts mental health fair and town hall meeting

Memphis, TN — Saturday May 18, 2013 The Mental Health & Wellness Fair & Town Hall... ***Building Healthy Minds: It Takes A Village*** is a collaborative effort between Just Care Family Network (JCFN) & Memphis City Schools to raise awareness about mental health needs in the Memphis community.

Student discipline data on the Tennessee Department of Education's state Report Card reveals a wide disparity in the suspension rates among African American students at MCS, many of whom suffer from undiagnosed and untreated mental illnesses and whom eventually interface with Memphis police and the juvenile justice system for mostly non-violent offenses.

City of Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton Jr. and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell signed proclamations earlier this month declaring Children's Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

Please join us on **Saturday, May 18th from 11a.m.-3p.m.** at **Colonial Middle School** (1370 Colonial Rd) where the Memphis Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit, TJ Maxx, TENNderCARE, Kroger Pharmacy, the Shelby County Health Department, and more than 30 vendors will offer information and FREE health screenings. Activities include bike give-aways, Yoga, step-teams, choir, and band performances. Recently added, the Memphis Barber School will be on hand to provide FREE haircuts.

Hosted by JCFN youth and parents, a community town hall meeting to discuss mental health services in a unified school district will be held at 1 p.m. in the Colonial Middle School auditorium. Panelists include State Representative G.A. Hardaway, School Board Commissioner Kevin Woods, and Mayor Mark Luttrell.

Just Care Family Network's mission is to change the Memphis system of care to make life easier and less frustrating for the families they serve. They partner with youth and families to link them to the services that they choose.

Memphis City School's mission is Academic Achievement: It is their vision that the Memphis City Schools will be an internationally competitive urban school system that produces well-rounded, high-achieving students.

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