



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.

Own Your Engagement

A Message from the Director's Office



Employee engagement has become a focal point in today's workforce across all sectors because of the recognition that happy employees equate to happy customers. Engaged, motivated workers have higher employee satisfaction, which leads to enthusiasm in their role and overall company growth in the form of higher retention and lower turnover; higher productivity; increased profitability;

less absenteeism, and increased employee loyalty.

In addition to these benefits to an organization, you can also find countless articles and books that outline the correlation between employee engagement at work and personal health and well-being. Based on much of this research, over the past few months our Division of Community Services Employee Ambassadors Team has put in place very intentional efforts to increase opportunities for each of us to feel more connected to our team and take much needed moments for self-care.



I know from firsthand interactions with this team that there is not a more committed group of public servants to be found. You support individuals and families who are in the midst of an economic or

personal crisis and have complex needs. You provide this support regardless of how you might feel physically or emotionally day in and out. The weight of balancing all of this can have an adverse impact on your own health and well-being despite your unwavering commitment.

Understanding all of this, I am hopeful that you will take full advantage of upcoming engagement opportunities and own it, such as upcoming United Way activities, the Annual Office Olympics (Date TBD), and the 1st Division Holiday Party, December 14th. While the picnic has been canceled, the Ice Cream Eating Contest will go down at Office Olympics . . . **HAVE YOU SEEN THAT LEADERSHIP MEETING VIDEO?** If not, click [here](#)? These events and others are designed to give each of you much deserved time and space for being appreciated, engaged and connected to your fellow team members. When we are individually healthy and happy in our work today, we are best equipped to collectively support our clients and families leading Shelby County to a better tomorrow.

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Find Us On Social Media





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New Program for Crime Victims with Substance Abuse Issues

The Healing Hearts Foundation is excited to announce the award of a grant from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP). This grant will enable them to offer services to victims of crime who have co-occurring substance abuse problems. Best practices suggest that it is important to treat these issues concurrently for participants to achieve and maintain ongoing recovery.

The program will include group therapy co-led by Healing Hearts Foundation staff and a trauma subject expert. Individual therapy will be offered as needed and creative experiential processes will be available to help participants open new paths to healing. The program will also offer aids to detoxification including accu-detox to help participants reduce anxiety and increase their ability to heal.

The OCJP grant will allow the Healing Hearts Foundation to offer all services free of charge to participants.

Please make plans to attend the open house and hear Dr. Jane Abraham share more about this exciting program and how you can make referrals!

Program Announcement and Open House

The Healing Hearts Foundation

Located at the HART Center
1384 Madison, 38104



Monday, September 10, 2018
3:00 PM-5:00 PM
Presentation at 4:00

United Way Days of Caring



United Way of the Mid-South

DAYS of CARING

Be a **DAYS OF CARING VOLUNTEER**

Impact lives, neighborhoods, and nonprofits with a week of service!

September 10-15, 2018

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2epGJ8S>

UWMIDSOUTH.ORG





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SNAP for Seniors

AGING COMMISSION OF THE MID-SOUTH

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Nutrition and healthy aging go hand in hand & SNAP can help you buy the food you need to stay active, independent, and involved.

Each month, SNAP dollars are automatically deposited onto a special card, similar to a debit card, that you can use to buy groceries.



Free confidential screening and guidance through the SNAP application process is available through the Aging Commission

APPLYING FOR SNAP IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK!
Applicants who are 60+ may request a phone interview
Free application assistance by calling 901-222-4139

Extra Benefits:

- ❖ Special deductions offered
 - Deducts all **out-of-pocket** medical expenses over \$35/month, such as, medical/dental care, hospitalization, nursing home/rehab, premiums/deductibles/co-pays, dentures, hearing aids, prosthetics, service dog, eyeglasses/contacts, attendant/aide, prescription drugs, OTC supplies/medications/equipment
 - No maximum "excessive shelter costs" deduction limit
- ❖ 6 Farmers Markets in Memphis and 1 Farmers Market in Lauderdale County which accept EBT and some offer "double dollars" on every purchase
- ❖ SNAP recipients are eligible for AT&T's Access Program, which offers reduced internet service

For assistance, contact:

MIRANDA ADAMS
SNAP Program Coordinator
901.222.4139/866.836.6678
madams@agingcommission.org



AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

What's the Medical Deduction for SNAP?

A Special Rule to Help Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Q What is the medical expense deduction in SNAP?
Eligible individuals with at least \$35/month in medical expenses are allowed to deduct these expenses from their gross income helping them to qualify or qualify for more SNAP help

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What's the Medical Deduction for SNAP? Continued

- Q What is the medical expense deduction in SNAP?**
Eligible individuals with at least \$35/month in medical expenses are allowed to deduct these expenses from their gross income helping them to qualify or qualify for more SNAP help
- Q Who is eligible for the medical expense deduction?**
A household member must be 60 or older or have a disability to be eligible for this deduction. To qualify by having a disability, the member must receive Social Security Disability, SSI, Veterans Disability, or other permanent disability benefit.
- Q What medical expenses count?**
Healthcare-related expenses provided or ordered at the direction of a healthcare professional including:
 - Medical, dental, mental healthcare
 - Inpatient and institutional care
 - Health insurance and Medicare premiums
 - Prescriptions, OTC medications, special prescription diets, glasses, dentures, hearing aides, prosthetics, service animals
 - Medical-related transportation, including using personal vehicle, and lodging
 - Costs of home health aide, housekeeper, etc. needed due to "age, infirmity, or illness"
 - Outstanding medical debt
- Q How do I get the medical deduction?**
If you don't currently get SNAP, note your medical expenses on your SNAP application. If you already get SNAP, contact your caseworker or call the Family Assistance Hotline. You will need to provide DHS with documentation for the expenses.
- Q Still have questions?**
Call Tennessee Justice Center at 1- 877-608-1077.

March 2018



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National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is an official celebration of American citizens whose ancestry can be traced back to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

When is Hispanic Heritage Month?

The festival now lasts from September 15th to October 15th each year but started as just a weeklong celebration in 1968. Twenty years later, in 1988, it expanded to dedicate four weeks for the celebration. The celebration starts in the middle of the month, as opposed to the end, because the 15th marks the *independence days of five Latin American countries*: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize follow shortly after, on the 16th, 18th and 21st.



Who does it celebrate?

Hispanic Heritage Month "pays tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society," according to the official website. It particularly celebrates Hispanic arts and culture and is therefore supported by: The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.





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Community Spotlight: Bundles for Babies Shelby County Diaper Drive

Making ends meet is a daily difficulty for those in our community who are unemployed or under-employed. Many juggle paying bills and providing food for their families. Items that are truly necessities become luxuries when there is not sufficient income to go around. Families can't afford diapers for their children, feminine products for young girls in their homes or adult briefs for seniors with incontinence issues. A lack of any of these sanitary needs creates dire consequences for families in Shelby County. Keisha Walker, the Director of the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach states, "The

An initial drive for diapers, Bundles for Babies, will take place September 22nd through the 30th (see flyer and fact sheet on page 6.

WREG-TV reported on August, 18, 2018 that the lack of hygiene supplies can be the reason that students in the Shelby County Schools are truant. Dr. Lori Phillips, Director of Family and Community Engagement for the school system noted that "Many time, girls stay home because they don't have the proper feminine products and it directly inhibits their ability to come to school during that time."



Bundles for Babies Shelby County Diaper Drive September 22nd thru 31st

Kick Off September 22nd, 2pm to 4pm
Neighborhood Christian Center, 785 Jackson Ave
Other drop locations at all Memphis Public Libraries

lack of diapers may mean that children cannot attend daycare. Seniors in need of adult briefs run a significantly higher rate of infection when disposable products are not available and young girls are unable to go to school if they lack feminine hygiene products contributing to our ongoing challenges with truancy. "

In an effort to avoid these consequences, the Division of Community Services in partnership with the Urban Child Institute and other community partners are establishing the Shelby County Diaper Bank Network to provide these essential products to those in need. The goal of the Diaper Bank is to serve as a repository for donated diapers, feminine products, and adult briefs. The project is being incubated at the Urban Child Institute and will move to a more permanent location when it is ready to begin regular dispersing of materials.

Shelby County Schools and the Kappa Beta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. are hosting a necessity drive for students. The drive will be held at the Chick-Fil-A on Union Avenue from 5-7 p.m. on September 14. A portion of the proceeds from their sales will be donated to Shelby County Schools. Necessities that will be accepted for students include socks, undergarments, deodorant, toothbrushes, and feminine products. All donations should be new and in their original packaging.

To specifically target the needs of elders, the Aging Commission of the Mid-South is developing a Dignity Drive. The Aging Commission will be soliciting donations of incontinence briefs from businesses, faith communities and citizens to help protect the health of senior citizens in our community. The dates of the Dignity Drive are to be announced soon.





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Bundles for Babies

Shelby County Diaper Drive

Why Diapers?

- In Memphis, 44% of children live in poverty.
- There are 0 direct government assistance programs for diapers.
- A healthy baby can use between 8-12 diapers daily costing \$100+ a month.

September 22nd-30th



Ways to Donate

Purchase diapers or wipes, any size or brand will do, place them in a donation bin at one of the locations below :

- Crosstown Concourse, Central Atrium
- Germantown Middle School
- Fabellous Beauty Lounge
- For more locations visit our Facebook Page: Bundles for Babies Shelby County Diaper Drive

Help us meet our goal of 100,000 diapers by September 30th!

For more information email Dominique DeFreece at ddefreece@tuci.org



Bundles for Babies: Diaper Drive

KICKOFF

Awareness | Refreshments | Fun | Raffle | Diaper Cake Contest

Saturday Sept. 22nd

2:00pm-4:00pm

Neighborhood Christian Center

785 Jackson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38107

Donate disposable diapers and be entered into our raffle!



Find Us Around Town !

Shelby County Division of Community Services is Coming to a Location Near You!

Join Us at One of the Community Events Listed Here to receive information about the following :

- Services for older adults & adults with disabilities
- Rent , mortgage, utility & medical prescription assistance
- Services for multicultural & Hispanic individuals
- Mental health services
- Veterans services
- Crime Victim services

***Services available on site at these events

Click here to invite us to your event or organization.

SEPTEMBER 12TH 1PM

METHODIST LEBONHEUR HEALTH FAIR, RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER, 1891 KANSAS SR

SEPTEMBER 15TH 9AM

PRE-OCTOBER FEST KINGDOM FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, 3735 NORTH TREZEVANT

OCTOBER 6TH 10AM

HOLA FEST, CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEA ISLE ELEMENTARY

OCTOBER 10TH 10AM

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS STUDENT HEALTH FAIR

OCTOBER 13TH 9AM

WELLNESS WITHOUT WALLS JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH 1761 WEST SHELBY DRIVE

