



# 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

## Transition Report Guides A New Era

Since August, a team of over 40 dedicated community, civic, and business leaders have worked to identify valuable opportunities to implement the agenda of our new leader, **Mayor Lee Harris**. The Mayor's Transition Team recently released a report outlining recommendations in six distinct areas:

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Transportation and Community Development
- ◆ Criminal Justice
- ◆ Healthcare
- ◆ Economic Development
- ◆ Government Structure and Metrics

Read the full report here:

<http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov/3476/2018-Transition-Report>



Dorcas Young Griffin,  
Director of Division of  
Community Services

Over the next couple of weeks, the Division of Community Services staff will be reviewing these recommendations closely and working to align our strategic goals to meet the Mayor's agenda. A primary focus of his agenda is the **reduction of poverty**. This critical issue, of course, is interwoven in the work of our Division. As we create programs, implement new processes and even hire new staff, we must be mindful at all times of this bigger vision that we are called to work towards. Reducing poverty in our community is not an easy fix, if it were we definitely would have done it by now. It will take intentionality, thoughtfulness, and cooperation of every person in our work to make even the slightest impact.

### This means you.

Every person within the Division of Community Services will be asked to share their own ideas for how we should work to address recommendations within the transition report and the Mayor's overall agenda. Every person, in every department has some valuable perspective and ideas that could possibly be a missing piece in turning the tide in our work. We will discuss this during our monthly staff and supervisory meetings, quarterly webinars and even our annual All Staff Training. Feel free to email me with your ideas as well.

The next four years promise to be one of innovation and commitment to **improving the lives of individuals and families** all across Shelby County. I am hopeful that each of us takes the opportunity to share our ideas and talents to usher in this new era for our community.

Sincerely,

Dorcas Young Griffin  
Division Director

### Inside this Edition

- ◆ Director's Message 1
- ◆ Preventing Sexual Violence:  
A New Partnership 2
- ◆ Partner Spotlight:  
*Kindred Place* 3
- ◆ Pamper Day for Survivors 5
- ◆ CSA: Addressing Poverty 6

#### 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.

Published by the Office  
of Community  
Engagement and  
Outreach for the  
Shelby County Division of  
Community Services  
Kim Cox,  
Administrator



## SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential

# Preventing Sexual Violence: A New Partnership

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:  
CRIME VICTIMS  
CENTER & RAPE  
CRISIS CENTER

The Crime Victims Center & Rape Crisis Center (CVC/RCC) is embarking on a **partnership with Shelby County Schools** and other community partners utilizing **Rape Prevention and Education** seed funding from the Tennessee Department of Health to bring sexual violence primary prevention education and programming to our community. This is limited, one-time funding for now (which ends on January 31, 2019), but they are hoping to successfully prove **how important primary prevention funding is to Shelby County** in order to continue to implement programming.

The award funds three deliverables:

1. Collaborate with Shelby County School District to pilot **Safe Dates violence prevention curricula** in four schools, two middle schools and two high schools (includes adaptation of the curricula to fit the schools' unique needs and program evaluation).
2. Hold a **primary prevention conference** for community members, government officials, social justice advocates, and victim and offender service professionals to educate our community on sexual and interpersonal violence primary prevention principles and frameworks and brainstorm together what we might be able to implement here.
3. Conduct a **community-wide climate survey and needs assessment** to determine the community's attitude and knowledge of sexual violence, as well as to map existing services, outreach, and prevention efforts.

CVC/RCC hired **Kaleb Newell** as their new part-time prevention coordinator to help fulfill these deliverables. Please welcome Kaleb to the Division and let him know if you have any ideas on how expand and increase our community's capacity for sexual and interpersonal violence prevention (Kaleb.Newell@shelbycountytg.gov).



Picture features Kaleb Newell, Sandy Bromley, and Flo Gibbs from our recent Respect2Connect healthy relationships events

*Got an idea for the December Newsletter? Email your submissions to Janet Lo at [Janet.Lo@shelbycountytg.gov](mailto:Janet.Lo@shelbycountytg.gov) on or before December 15.*





# SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## New Name, Long Tradition: Kindred Place

by Jennifer Balink, Kindred Place Executive Director

### Kindred Place. Peace Begins Here

For more than 30 years, the agency you’ve known as the Exchange Club Family Center has been helping children by healing families. Through classes and clinical services, we guide families to the north star of healthy relationships.

And the work our clients do is far from easy. When adults and children come to our building – often by court order – they may be discouraged, uncertain and embarrassed. Most are reluctant to talk about their own trauma, things they’ve never disclosed to anyone.

With the help of therapists and social workers, our clients find a path toward love, respect and compassion. Through a trauma-focused approach, working with both victims of violence and family aggressors, we **help adults and children develop the stability, self-reliance, emotional control and resilience that can lead to peaceful families and safe neighborhoods.**

This is the work we’ve always done, and it’s the work we are committed to continuing.

Though our programs have had different names over the years, our essential mission has never changed: **we build a kindred community, where conflict is resolved without violence.**

The work and the mission are the same, but our name is new: Kindred Place.





# SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential



## Life skills | Parenting Support | Trauma-focused Therapy



COMMUNITY  
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT  
CONTINUED

**Kindred place** provides clinical services to disrupt the cycle of violence, abuse, and conflict within families. Our professional, non-residential treatment and education services include:

- ◆ **Children's Domestic Violence Program:** a 12-week group therapy for mothers who have left abusive relationships and the children who witnessed violence
- ◆ **Comprehensive Anger Management Program:** a 10-week, whole-family life skills program, led by therapists, for unruly adolescents, their parents, and their siblings
- ◆ **Adult Anger Management:** a 10-week life skills class, led by therapists, for adults
- ◆ **Domestic Violence Assessment Center:** clinical assessment, risk assessment, and treatment recommendation for adults charged with DV offense
- ◆ **Visitation Services:** supervised parenting time for families with a history of violence or abuse
- ◆ In addition, Kindred Place offers **parenting classes, co-parenting workshops, and individual and group therapy** for children and adults who have experienced violence. For more information, visit [kindred-place.org](http://kindred-place.org) or call 901-276-2200.



Shelby County Government Division of Community Services  
Shelby County Mayor's Administration  
Dorcas Young Griffin, Director  
[www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov)





## SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential

### Pamper and Relaxation

**Thirty survivors were treated to a day of relaxation thanks to you.**

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Crime Victims Center & Rape Crisis Center (CVC/RCC) hosted its **1st Annual Pamper & Relaxation Day for victims of domestic and sexual violence.** Collaborating with the Memphis & Shelby County Family Safety Center and the Domestic Violence Department of the Cocaine Alcohol Awareness Program, Inc., we provided the survivors of both domestic violence and sexual violence with manicures, pedicures, skin-care sessions, make-overs by professional make-up artists, a photo shoot with instant photos, mocktails (non-alcoholic beverages), and lunch, all for free.

The event also included giveaways of approximately 40 purses individually packed with personal items like dental travel kits, hair products, lotions, deodorant, tissues, socks, stockings, and so much more. An additional treat was a shopping spree while they waited for their treatments. Staff and community partners provided winter clothing items for the attendees such as winter coats, sweaters, and shoes. The event was kid-free, so moms could solely focus on themselves for the day.

***“Our agency would like to thank each of you who made this event a great success ... To see these ladies leave this event***

***made up from head to toe and feeling on the inside like they looked on the outside was simply BEAUTIFUL!!!***

***...This was amazing to witness and to capture. The attendees of this event were both victims who have or are transitioning to become survivors. These ladies are accustomed to having negative experiences. However, to have a day designated to make them smile and to have the ability to provide them with fun, instant pics to create new positive memories and to remember good and fun times was simply priceless.” — Jasmine Wright Smith, Domestic Violence Team Supervisor, CVC***

***“Thanks so much... The ladies had an amazing time and greatly appreciated all of the great activities, mocktails, pictures, clothes, purses and giveaways. This was truly awesome!!!” — Fatimah Stout, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Cocaine Alcohol & Awareness Program, Inc.***



**DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:**  
CRIME VICTIMS  
CENTER & RAPE  
CRISIS CENTER



Shelby County Government Division of Community Services  
Shelby County Mayor's Administration  
Dorcas Young Griffin, Director  
[www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov)





## SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlining conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential

### Fighting Poverty's Causes and Conditions

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT:  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES AGENCY

#### ***Community Services Agency continues to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in Shelby County through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).***

##### **Rent/Mortgage Assistance Program**

This program serves to prevent residential eviction or foreclosure due to recent extenuating circumstances that have occurred. The maximum award for each household is \$1,000 per calendar year. Appointments are taken on Wednesdays only, beginning at 8am by calling 901-222-4299.

##### **Family Support Self-Sufficiency Program**

This program is designed to help families become less dependent on government aid. It provides longer term, more in-depth support to participants who want to develop the skills to acquire and sustain stable income and housing. For more information or to make an appointment to be screened for services, call 901-222-4200.

##### **SCG/CSA Medical Prescription Assistance Program**

This program provides immediate relief to families whose household income cannot support the expense of buying prescription medications.

Initial contact to this program is made through the receptionist or a direct call to the Counselor. During the initial contact the client is screened for eligibility and if he or she qualifies, an appointment is scheduled to assist them.

Madison Pharmacy located at 1350 Concourse is the provider for this program. These professionals are critical to the implementation and success of this program.

Assistance is now up to \$1,000 for one person per household once a program's fiscal year. We are extremely excited to have increased the amount by \$500.00 this program year.

For any additional questions and/or concerns, feel free to contact: Darria Childress, Counselor (901)222-4236.

#### ***Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) serves to prevent disruption in utility services.***

##### **New number, same important services.**

LIHEAP offers regular energy assistance and emergency energy assistance for anyone who may have experienced a sudden, unexpected, uncontrollable loss of financial resources and meet the eligibility requirements.

In an effort to improve the customer experience, CSA has changed its main office number to 901-222-4270. Customers should call this number for general information or to inquire about the status of a completed application, only. To obtain an appointment, customers should call 901-222-4299 on Mondays, beginning at 8am.

