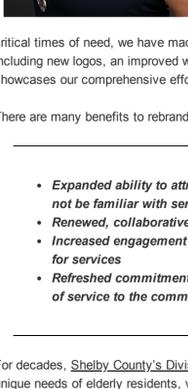




Where Human Needs and Government Intersect.

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 well-being and justice. We strive to be a highly organized team and partner, dedicated to promoting a strong community where all people are able to reach their full potential.



Director's Message Allow Us To Reintroduce Ourselves...

You probably already noticed that things look a little different around here. This month, we're unveiling a new look for the Division of Community Services. With the various services that our division provides, we're introducing a fresh appearance to help Shelby County residents better understand and access the important resources available to them to improve their well-being, promote economic security, and independence.

To highlight Community Service's unified and connected departments that assist individuals and families during critical times of need, we have made some exciting improvements and changes to our identity including new logos, an improved website, and video, and this new eNews format, that showcases our comprehensive efforts and impact.

There are many benefits to rebranding right now in the division, including:

- **Expanded ability to attract new clients that are eligible for services, but may not be familiar with services offered**
- **Renewed, collaborative focus to achieve goals that are set by our team**
- **Increased engagement and buzz that can generate expanded opportunities for services**
- **Refreshed commitment and focus on our core mission, values and purpose of service to the community**

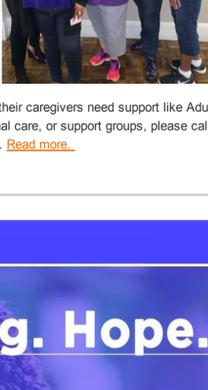
For decades, [Shelby County's Division of Community Services](#) has been devoted to serving the unique needs of elderly residents, veterans, young adults, women and families in our community. In times of need and crisis, we want all Shelby County residents to know and remember that there's hope and that we're here to assist. Together, we look forward to advancing our work and service to our community.

Dorcas Young Griffin
Director of the Division of Community Services
Shelby County Government



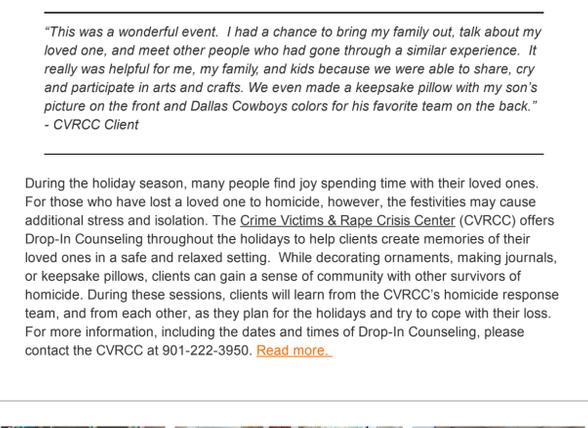
Aging Commission of the Mid-South Fighting Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most critical public health issues in America. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's is growing fast. In the United States, one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. This is why we unrelentingly advocate for the rights of the Alzheimer's and dementia community. We advocate to change the trajectory of this disease.



Please join the [Aging Commission](#) High Steppers as we walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, November 9th 9:00AM at Tiger Lane.

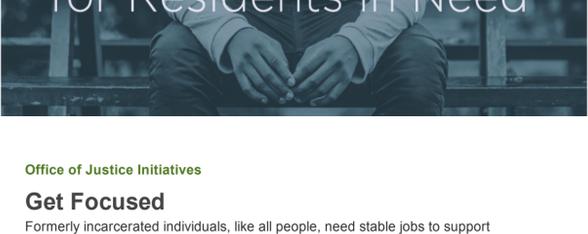
If you know someone living with Alzheimer's and they or their caregivers need support like Adult Day Care, home delivered meals, in home respite, personal care, or support groups, please call the Aging Commission of the Mid-South at 901-222-4111. [Read more.](#)



Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center Support For Those Who Lost Loved Ones

"This was a wonderful event. I had a chance to bring my family out, talk about my loved one, and meet other people who had gone through a similar experience. It really was helpful for me, my family, and kids because we were able to share, cry and participate in arts and crafts. We even made a keepsake pillow with my son's picture on the front and Dallas Cowboys colors for his favorite team on the back."
- CVRCC Client

During the holiday season, many people find joy spending time with their loved ones. For those who have lost a loved one to homicide, however, the festivities may cause additional stress and isolation. The [Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center](#) (CVRCC) offers Drop-In Counseling throughout the holidays to help clients create memories of their loved ones in a safe and relaxed setting. While decorating ornaments, making journals, or keepsake pillows, clients can gain a sense of community with other survivors of homicide. During these sessions, clients will learn from the CVRCC's homicide response team, and from each other, as they plan for the holidays and try to cope with their loss. For more information, including the dates and times of Drop-In Counseling, please contact the CVRCC at 901-222-3950. [Read more.](#)



Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center Trauma Informed Environments Aide Healing

Even little things can drastically affect a victim's experience and healing. [The Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center](#) researched and creatively implemented trauma-informed design throughout the new building at 1060 Madison Avenue. This evidence-based approach takes into account clients' experiences, feelings, and perceptions. Colors, shapes, and the overall feel of the physical environment are some of the factors used to provide a welcoming, peaceful, and safe environment for clients where support is increased and re-victimization is decreased. The overall theme is "calmness and unity." Celebrated by re-displays of calming colors (blues, greens, purples), the theme weaves all around with energizing colors (pinks, yellows, oranges) and art pieces that were created in collaboration with various staff members to promote unity within our team. [Read more.](#)



Office of Justice Initiatives Get Focused

Formerly incarcerated individuals, like all people, need stable jobs to support themselves, their loved ones, and to strengthen communities. But these individuals are unemployed at a rate of over 27%. Research shows they want to work but face structural barriers to securing employment.

Fortunately, Shelby County Government has an initiative to help decrease this number. FOCUSED is a 14-16 week training program provided by the Shelby County Office of Reentry to assist those with a criminal background transition smoothly into the workforce. The [Office of Justice Initiatives](#)' Pretrial office is partnering to ensure a number of spots for their clients so they can be prepared to earn livable wages.

Vocational programs provided include:

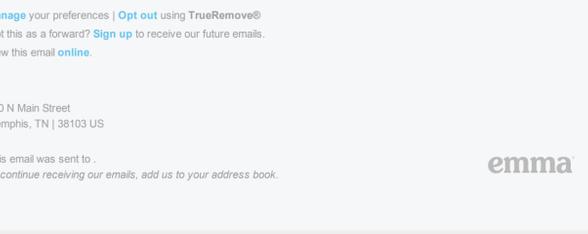
- Commercial /Residential Janitorial Certification
- Commercial / Residential Construction
- Small Engine Repair
- Low Voltage Electrician Apprenticeship

[Read more](#)



Office of Justice Initiatives Providing Help to Homeless

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, the [Behavioral Health Unit](#) and [Pretrial Services](#) volunteered to serve hundreds of individuals in the community who were homeless at Project Homeless Connect. Project Homeless Connect is an annual event held at The Pipkin Building at Tiger Lane and hosted by the Community Alliance for the Homeless. This was a collaboration with service providers and volunteers from various agencies in Shelby County who came together to assist with improving the lives of those who are homeless. [Read more.](#)



A New Century of Possibilities

Celebrate the Bicentennial of Shelby County on Sunday, November 24, 1-5:30pm, with a free, family friendly event at Shelby Farms, the urban park that's the jewel of Shelby County. The best of Memphis, Germantown, Bartlett, Collierville, Arlington, Millington and Lakeland will be on hand for this county-wide birthday party (complete with cake!), and visitors can enjoy a few exciting surprises to end the celebration with a "bang!"

Be sure to visit each community area to discover more about the cities and towns that make Shelby County great as we Celebrate 200 Years and a New Century of Possibilities!

Fireworks | Food trucks | Petting zoo | Live entertainment with Marcella & Her Lovers

Contributor Karen Gause Self-Care Becomes a Group Effort

In September Director Griffin charged us all to think about, "The Art of Self-Care", and how important it is to determine your why, go back to the basics, get an accountability partner(s), be intentional, and to recognize that self-care is a journey. With inspiration brewing in their spirits and motivation on their minds, employees in the Division of Community Services-Director's Office came together to form the first ever Division of Community Services Walking Group (catcher name coming soon). Spearheaded by Karen Gause, this group walks every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 to 11:30 am in the Employee Wellness Center or around the Downtown area close to the office. Studies say, walking 30 minutes a day improves your mood, gets your creative juices flowing, and helps you sleep better at night along with many other added benefits. So accept the challenge with us as we work towards being deliberate in our self-care journey. You never know, your office could be full of coworkers and employees with the same self-care goals as you!

[READ ALL STAFF NEWS](#)