Driving The Dream (DTD) envisions a Mid-South in which all people have equitable access to resources and supports needed to achieve their hopes and dreams by fostering a community where the people we serve are hopeful, resilient and self-sufficient.

DTD promotes a multi-generational approach to advancing health and well-being. Such an approach involves identifying all the factors that undermine a family’s overall self-sufficiency, then working with the family to solve problems, access new resources, and sharpen existing skills. Together with our partners, we are updating the way our programs work, so that the ways we build capacity for adults are connected to supports for children. Our collective goal is to help families move out of poverty towards a future of their choosing.

We work with 68 organizations providing 120 different services.

**2,794** TOTAL REFERRALS

**1,961** FAMILY MEMBERS IMPACTED

**1,728** HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

**4,004** CLIENT INTERACTIONS

**60%** HAD MORE STABLE EMPLOYMENT

**60%** OF CLIENTS REPORTED AN INCREASED SENSE OF HOPE

**71.4%** REPORTED HIGHER INCOME

**75%** HAD BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

“HOPE is a power within the self that mobilizes one to move beyond the present situation and to envision a better tomorrow for one’s self and others.”

~Herth, 1996
In the midst of being terminated from her job and facing a housing crisis, Kapreshia reached out to United Way of the Mid-South for employment assistance and was referred to one of United Way’s Driving The Dream hubs, Porter-Leath. Since she had previous experience with early childhood education, her Care Coordinator helped her update her resume and land an interview with La Petite Academy.

The interview was successful, and Kapreshia was offered the job. She is now the Lead Toddler Teacher at La Petite Academy and is working with her landlord to get caught up on rent. Thanks to Driving The Dream, Kapreshia is now very optimistic about her future.

Mr. Jefferson enrolled in DTD Care Coordination with dreams of securing employment and stable housing. Mr. Jefferson was facing homelessness at the time, living outside and in a 24-hour fitness center. With the help of his DTD Care Coordinator, Mr. Jefferson was able to enroll in a local shelter, find a job, and begin to save money towards a security deposit for housing. In April 2019, Mr. Jefferson signed a lease for an apartment and was able to move in August 2019. He continues to work with his Care Coordinator to pursue his additional life goals.

“I was astonished because I had never experienced such a connection. I left with almost eight job options and resources that I didn’t know were there. It gave me a sense of peace. The experience was amazing.” ~ Mr. Jefferson

Due to a recent surgery, Ms. Jones was unable to work for six weeks. That loss of income led to eviction, and she and her children were facing homelessness. Luckily, her family found shelter at the YWCA, and she was able to connect with a DTD Care Coordinator. Through the support and guidance of her DTD Care Coordinator, Ms. Jones was able to secure employment, transportation, and housing assistance, which allowed her to separate from her abusive spouse and enroll her children in their new neighborhood schools. With the help of DTD, Ms. Jones has regained her sense of hope and is on a path to pursue her family’s dreams.
Driving The Dream is aligning resources in a manner that unites local agencies in a “no wrong door,” collaborative effort to help Memphis’ and the Mid-South’s most economically challenged individuals advance toward economic self-sufficiency and other life goals they identify. These DTD partner agencies and their programs improve the overall well-being of our local economy by reducing poverty, one person at a time.