



UNITED WAY OF THE MID-SOUTH

DRIVING THE DREAM

POVERTY to PROSPERITY NEWS

July 2020



Driving the Dream: Impacting Critical Needs

Savannah was experiencing a housing crisis and entered one of DTD's five Care Coordination Hubs for guidance on how to avoid homelessness. Upon enrolling in care coordination, she was anxious about her future. Savannah was uncertain about whether she would be able to maintain her home as the hours on her part-time job were drastically cut.

The Care Hub was able to provide supportive services to eliminate the possible eviction. Savannah has two master's degrees and stable work history. However, she still felt hopeless, as she hadn't been able to find adequate employment. Savannah was in desperate need of medical benefits; her most recent housing crisis was due to hospitalization and medical bills. Along with hard work and patience, Savannah obtained full-time employment with a Major Corporation as a Coordinator Services Manager. Savannah is proud of herself, her new position not only boosted her income but provides her with medical benefits. After each phone call with her coordinator, Savannah expresses gratitude for the help she received from *Driving The Dream* and looks forward to the future.

Driving The Dream is the solution:

83% of DTD Care Coordination clients reported increased stability in housing

66% of DTD reported improvements in employment

76% reported increased income

United Way's Relief Call Center Powered by Driving The Dream

- 381 requests total (since April)
- 117 calls received July 1-10
- Top requests:
 - Income (159)
 - Shelter/Housing (113)
 - Food & Nutrition (36)
 - Healthcare (15)
 - Employment (13)

Shelby County Schools Provide Summer Meals for Local Students

Since the pandemic forced school closures across the state, country, and world, schools have continued to fill the gap to make sure our students are still receiving daily breakfast and lunches. In doing so, SCS has also expanded their partnership with organizations like YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South to set up meal distribution sites across the city, but they need community support to keep them going!

Learn more and see distribution sites [here](#).

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Driving The Dream Systems Training: CaseWorthy - Register

For assistance with the CaseWorthy system, including training and login issues, please contact Candace.Sanders@uwmidsouth.org. For all other questions or concerns related to DTD technical systems, please contact Eric.Burden@uwmidsouth.org.

Momentum Nonprofit Partners and the Community Foundation are partnering to offer virtual trainings, free and open to any Mid-South nonprofit - [Register](#) for an upcoming session

Momentum Nonprofit Partners, in partnership with The Institute of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership in the University of Memphis Department of Nonprofit Administration, is hosting their annual nonprofit conference as a virtual summit--Now & Beyond! Virtual Summit. [Learn more & Register](#)

Partner Agency Updates

For now, almost all of our DTD partner agencies are staying put and have not yet implemented plans to reopen. We will share status and reopening plans as they become available from our partners.

- **Anaya Partnership (Youth Villages)** - Anaya/Youth Villages is still conducting the majority of our sessions via telehealth. We are open and can receive referrals.
- **BRIDGES** - Our offices remain closed to all staff, volunteers, and students. We successfully transitioned our summer conferences to virtual experiences and are working with the student leaders to determine next steps for fall programming. For now, we will continue to offer virtual programming to Collaborate students and are still accepting applications for senior Collaborate students. Team BRIDGES and Connect level programming is also being offered virtually and is available for professional or student groups seeking team building and racial identity workshops. Please contact mhendrix@bridgesusa.org for more information.
- **Community Foundation of Greater Memphis** will award Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund grants to stabilize nonprofit organizations that are directly responding to the significant consequences of, and disparities exacerbated by, this public health crisis. [Learn more](#)
- **Memphis/Shelby County Eviction Settlement Fund** - The Eviction Settlement Fund aims to provide rental assistance, legal support, and housing counseling services to people currently facing an eviction proceeding. Tenants facing eviction can submit an intake form [here](#).
- **One by One Ministries** - Staff in office full time and assisting clients. Open and can receive referrals.
- **One Health Connect** is a searchable database hosted by Regional One that brings together resources and services throughout Memphis to help connect service providers and individuals with resources they need. [Learn more](#)
- **Refugee Empowerment Center** - REP is hosting summer programming for youth in grades K-12, in accordance with stringent public health guidelines, from Monday, July 6 - Friday, August 7, Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm . We continue to offer cultural navigation and integration support to families via our cultural brokers. We are in discussions with adults about when and how to resume ESOL and citizenship readiness classes.
- **Shelby County Community Services Agency** has funding available through its [Utility Assistance Program](#) and is currently accepting applications by drop-off, mail, or email. Returning individuals who previously received assistance between 10/1/2017 and 9/30/2019 are eligible to apply [online at this link](#).
- **Shelby County Schools (SCS) Return Stronger S.A.F.E. Plan for 2021 School Re-Entry** - We are responding to parents' requests to provide multiple options for learning in 2020-21. We're allowing families to select one of the two learning options below for the 2020-21 fall semester based on the needs of their child and the format they feel will best support his/her learning. Be assured, the same instructional policies, curriculum standards and student supports will be provided in both formats. Parents must select an option from July 6-18 in PowerSchool. Choices will apply the entire fall semester. View options and learn more [here](#).

DTD Updates

If your agency has an update to share, please email Chelsea.Brock@uwmidsouth.org or Karlescia.Brookins@uwmidsouth.org so we can maintain accurate information. Additionally, you can contact your associate to provide, or receive, updated information.

Visit Driving The Dream



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