

Beacon

September 2012



A Message from the Executive Director

I would like to thank the Child Support Enforcement staff for including me in their recent conference. It was well planned, well attended and the content was excellent. I appreciate Chief Justice Waller, House Speaker Philip Gunn and other judges and officials who juggled their busy schedules to spend time with us. And congratulations to Judge Edward Fenwick for being selected as the Child Support Judge of the year!

An organizational change is underway here at MDHS to create the Division of Field Operations and the Division of Family Foundation and Support from the former divisions of Economic Assistance and Child Support Enforcement. I can feel a sense of comradery already being developed and appreciate everyone's spirit and willingness to work together to provide better services to our customers while at the same time maximizing our resources.

Let there never be any doubt about who we work for-**the people of Mississippi**. Currently about one in four citizens receive services from MDHS. The funds that support these vital programs come from the state and federal taxes paid by "we the people." Nothing upsets me more than for a "public servant" to look down on or be condescending to those who need a hand up during a personal crisis.

Our organizational values are a reflection of this philosophy with the first being

integrity. As employees of MDHS we are expected to be incorruptible in our adherence to the principals of honesty, character, morality, decency and goodness. We should all be engaged in **self-development**, working to continuously make ourselves better through training, education and character development.

As an organization we should be committed to **excellent program delivery**. This means being as technically proficient as possible in our service delivery through efficient procedures, strict adherence to policy and good old fashioned hard work!

Our final goal is **customer service**. If you operate a technically proficient program but mistreat people in the process, you will not reach the goal of serving the citizens in need. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. It is by the grace of God that we are not on the other side of the desk and everyone we encounter, regardless of how frustrated or difficult they may be, still has the right of human dignity. Our organization will exemplify these core values!

Rickey Berry
Executive Director

Angels on Earth - One Good Deed at a Time



The following is an excerpt from a story written by Dominic Carter, political television reporter for RNN TV and posted in the national news magazine, *The Huffington Post*.

In the photo above, I'm kissing a woman named Kimberly Hall on stage in front of an audience of 200 people at a Crimes Against Children Conference in Mississippi.

I had just met Kimberly minutes before, but I couldn't help myself. I was so touched on an emotional level, that I just did what my heart told me was the right thing to do.

As the keynote speaker for the conference, I had invited some of the attending social workers and law enforcement officials on stage, and asked a simple question: Why do you do, what you do for others?

When it was Kimberly's turn to take to the

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podium, her voice started to tremble, and she almost broke down in tears. However it was the emotion of joy as she described it as an honor for her to spend a portion of her own salary on "her children."

Of course the relationship between Kimberly and the children is not biological, but the bond is deep. As a social worker in the great state of Mississippi, Kimberly goes over and beyond, but don't tell her that. Kimberly takes the children to an occasional movie or the girls to go get their nails done.

These acts of kindness may not sound like much to some, but to an abused child, it means the world to them. Such validation can be the difference in a child conceding to a sense of hopelessness and feeling that no one cares or loves them or to the other extreme, doing good in school to one day change their circumstance. Sort of, as I often say, it doesn't matter in life where you start at, it's where you are going. I can tell you firsthand that the children will always remember Ms. Kimberly and her kind deeds.

I know because as an abused child myself who grew up poor in New York City, I will always remember Coach Bill. Coach Bill was a one-man army that touched thousands of inner city, mostly African American and Latino, males as our youth football coach. We didn't know it at the time, but Coach Bill would do his daily tour as a NYC police officer, and then would coach us in the football program. I don't know if he knew it, but Coach Bill was the only father figure that many of us had, and this police officer, who happened to be white, was an ambassador, if you will, of greatly improving race relations. He showed us that race didn't matter, and he taught us, leading by his own example, that one person can change the world. One good deed at a time.

That's why I couldn't help it at the event at Hinds Community College, and I just had to put a kiss on Ms. Kimberly's cheek. Americans through their deeds, like Football Coach Bill, and social workers bring out the best in us.

Social Workers are the fabric of our society, and I for one don't think we should take them for granted.



They are unsung heroes; as at the conference, I felt like a child meeting their sports hero in person for the first time. I watched as the police officers from throughout the state attending the conference came up when I asked them to, some dressed in their

crisp police uniform, some in plain clothes with their firearm on their side, some wearing jackets with the word police on the back in bold letters. But one by one, all of these law enforcement officials told the same story, and it was that they do what they do because they want to help people. They want to make a difference, that it surely wasn't for the salary.

One police commander who reminded me of Coach Bill told the crowd the following when he answered my question of why he does what he does for others. "The world is too dangerous, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who do nothing!"

It was a remarkably humbling experience that day in that large auditorium, and I really feel we should all hug a social worker today, and say thank you. If not a social worker, how about a teacher, or a police officer?

I will never forget the faces of the professionals I met in Mississippi. From the Executive Director of Human Services, Richard Berry, to administrators like Tasha Smith. These are the types of people that helped save my life. If we don't have people like this in society, what is the alternative? Well that was nearby as well. Only about 100 yards from the event was a local jail. I couldn't stop thinking about all the good we can do on "the front side of life," (education, building up the lives of Americans) as compared to the "back side" (Jails).

At one point or another in all of our lives, we will all need the assistance of a social worker. Someone to fight, and advocate on our behalf, and also to help those that don't have a voice in society to stand up on their own.

Several years ago, I was the commencement speaker for the School of Social Work at Yeshiva University in NYC. You could see the look on the faces of those graduates as well. They were excited to get out there and stand up for people. To help people. To stand for those that can't stand on their own. I advocated for Social Workers on radio, on TV at NY1 and on RNN-TV. I will always do so.

A voice for the voiceless. That's what social workers are.

Perhaps another term should be Angels on Earth.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dominic-carter/we-should-all-hug-a-social_b_1897417.html



Oakley News Flash

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Oakley Youth Development Center announced Ms. Florine Archie as a recipient of the Employee of the Month award. Ms. Archie, a 16 year Oakley employee, was nominated by her peers who noted that she is a problem solver who goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Ms. Archie was presented a certificate along with a gift package made possible through donations by The Parker House in Ridgeland; Community Bank of Brandon, Pearl, Jackson and Madison; Trustmark Bank of Madison; BancorpSouth in Fondren; McAlister's Deli, Applebee's, Little Caesars Pizza, Mazzio's Pizza, Chick-fil-A all of Clinton and State Farm Preston Derivaux Agency on I-55 Jackson.



SPONSOR NEWS

Oakley Youth Development Center would like to announce the newest sponsors for the Behavior Incentive and Employee of the Month Programs: Newton's Fine Jewelry located on Lakeland Drive north of Dogwood Festival Market; Yankee Candle Company and Godiva Chocolates both located on the lower level in Northpark Mall; Melanie's Cupcakes and Marie's Gifts, Interiors and

Jewelry located next door to each other in the Victorian Houses on Siwell Road in Byram; Preston Derivaux State Farm Agency, I-55 Jackson; The Parker House in Ridgeland; Community Bank of Brandon, Jackson, Pearl and Madison; Trustmark Bank of Madison; BancorpSouth in Fondren; BankPlus in Ridgeland and The Mississippi Braves. We also thank those who continue to assist with our programs: Chick-fil-A; McAlister's Deli, Applebee's, Little Caesars Pizza and Mazzio's Pizza all located in Clinton; and Sal and Mookie's New York Pizza and Ice Cream, Broad Street Baking Company and Cafe, and Bravo! in Jackson. With the continued support of these local merchants we are able to continue supporting the mission and vision of DYS.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

At OYDC, we rely, on not only the expertise of our staff, but the hearts of our volunteers to help youth learn to become model citizens with a growing awareness of their own self-worth and the value of others. The volunteer program at Oakley, although not new, is recruiting additional volunteers. Traditionally we have leaned heavily on local colleges for our volunteer recruiting and have been successful. However, we would like to lean closer to home. If just four people from each of agency's divisions became committed volunteers we would be more than capable of providing the youth with the experiences and skills they need to succeed when they transition into their communities.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the estimated value of volunteer time for 2010 in Mississippi was \$15.43 an hour. Now granted many Mississippians do not make that much, nevertheless the value of the time given freely is certainly worth that much and more.

Oakley's youth need people to commit their time which illustrates that people do care, are concerned and want to make a difference. Donate a couple of hours a week and make a difference in the life of a child.

Do You Have a Facebook or Twitter Account?



Social networking is one of the many ways we stay connected with our friends and family. We also use it to find out what's going on in the world. "Like" the Mississippi Department of Human Services Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/msdhs> or follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/MS_DHS to stay up on the latest happenings at MDHS.

Mississippi Department of Human Services monthly newsletter, The BEACON.

*For information or to submit articles, contact Julia Bryan, Beacon Editor
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To mail photos or articles, send to: PO Box 352, Jackson, MS 39205-0352

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**United
Way**



United Way Campaigns Begin
Become a Local Missionary by Joining the Team of
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Be the Change for your Community

Many of us are interested in mission work and by working for the Department of Human Services, our mission heart is revealed. However, it takes time, commitment and money to go to the mission fields. The United Way makes it easy. Your pledges and donations can and do make a difference in your local communities.

This year the State Office will raffle items to support divisional "Mr. and Mrs. DHS" along with \$1 tickets for prize "**BASKETS.**" Information on how to get your raffle tickets and photos of the baskets will be available soon. Staff can also buy a chance to win reserved parking for ninety days in one of ten spaces in the parking area under the State Office building. Reserved parking for winners will begin January 7, 2013 and end on April 8, 2013. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from a division United Way representative. Winners for the baskets, Mr. and Mrs. DHS and the parking spots will be held December 19th.

If you want to purchase a ticket for a particular basket or raffle item and you are outside the State Office, contact either Joe Broger/HR at 601-359-4394, joe.broger@mdhs.ms.gov or Julia Bryan/Communications at 601-359-4517, julia.bryan@mdhs.ms.gov.

If you win a basket and do not work in either the Hinds, Madison or Rankin County office, we will deliver your basket to your office in appreciation of your support for United Way and post your photo in the Beacon.

Support United Way and be a part of the team of PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE.

FAQs

Q. What is the United Way?

A. United Way is a local nonprofit organization that brings communities together. By partnering with businesses, individuals, government and other nonprofits, we are able to monitor the needs locally and respond as issues or opportunities arise. And thanks to the generous support of volunteers, contributors and concerned citizens throughout our area, we're helping to improve lives every day.

Q. Why should I give to United Way?

A. When you give to United Way, you help provide solutions

to the most critical human care issues in the community. You become part of a coordinated, community-wide effort that brings about the changes that matter most where you live and work. United Way maximizes your gift by combining your contribution with others and strategically investing in results-driven programs and initiatives. Giving hope to kids, families, seniors, people with disabilities and individuals fighting disease, you help our entire community. Plus, with the ease of payroll deduction, you can help others and improve the quality of life in our community without the financial challenge of a one-time donation.

Q. Is United Way a national or local organization?

A. United Way chapters are local, autonomous nonprofit organizations. With more than 1,400 United Ways across the country, all are governed by a local volunteer board of directors.

Q. How do I know that my donation will help those who need it most?

A. Trained, knowledgeable community volunteers carefully invest United Way contributions in local programs. This group of dedicated volunteers ranges from community volunteers to business leaders. They carefully monitor community needs, meet with local health and human service agencies, review each agency's requests for program funding and invest your contribution in programs that do the most good in helping people in need.

Q. Why should I give to United Way instead of directly to an agency?

A. There are several reasons why supporting United Way is the best way to help the most people in our community. These reasons include:

- When you give through your workplace campaign, your gift can be spread out over the course of a year through payroll deduction, making it easier for you to support the human care needs of our community.

Q. Is my United Way contribution tax deductible?

A. Yes, your contribution is tax deductible.

For information on your Mississippi United Way, go to: <http://apps.unitedway.org/myuw/luindex.cfm?id=browseCities&abbr=MS&app>

Lets exceed our goal of \$7,500 for 2012!



Money Talk

With the severity of the recent recession, many stores are offering more incentives to shop than ever before - coupons, financing deals, free shipping and so on. But, according to a recent article in TIME magazine, those so-called "deals" might not be saving you any money at all. Some things to consider:

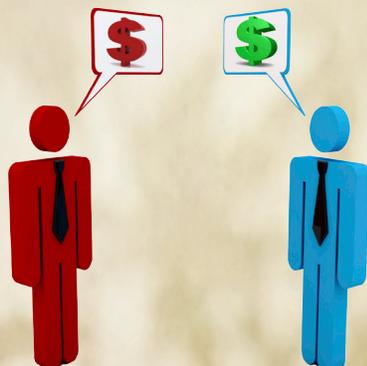
Coupons - Coupons are never a bad idea when you use them to get a brand you'd buy anyway. But they're often used to entice you to buy something more expensive than usual. For instance, if you save fifty cents on a four dollar bottle of salad dressing, that doesn't help if the normal brand you buy is only \$2.50. To really use coupons effectively, you have to jump from store to store and from brand to brand - and it comes down to what you think all that time and effort is worth.

Low or No Financing - You may see big offers for 0% financing if you buy a big screen TV - but if you don't pay back the entire loan amount before the 0% period runs out, you could get hit with an interest rate of around 30% of what's left of the debt. These stores are counting on you not being able to pay back the amount in the agreed time - after all, that's why you need the financing in the first place!

Free Shipping - Like coupons, this is often used to make the consumer spend more than they had originally intended. Usually, you have to buy a certain amount to get that free shipping. Say it takes \$50 of purchases to get the free shipping from an online retailer - and you were only going to buy a \$30 item. The incentive to not pay an additional few dollars in shipping might cause you to spend \$20 more at an online store.

The Non-Stop Sale - There is a lighting fixture store we always pass - and the joke is, they always have a giant 20% or 30% sale going on. Some stores act like everything is always at discount - but the fact is hardly anyone pays list price and these places are just pretending their normal pricing is a huge savings for you.

So, before you go for what looks like an obvious deal, make sure it is actually a deal - and we mean for you, not for them.



Staff Steps up during Isaac

DSNAP was offered in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson and Pearl River Counties in the wake of Hurricane Isaac. The program served: 19,783 households, (67,034 persons) with an average of \$565 per household, for a total benefits of \$11,184,595 issued. Additionally, there were 4,450 households that received supplemental replacement benefits for a total of \$793,444.

Countless agency personnel from the counties and State Office worked in many capacities to ensure that people who suffered loss from the storm had access to assistance. Great job MDHS!



It's Open Enrollment Time! Contact your MS SHIP Counselor

The MS SHIP is 100% federally funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and is the local voice for people with Medicare. The MS SHIP is a free and impartial public service offering counseling, assistance and education.

Since its inception, SHIP has become known as a trusted source for unbiased information about Medicare and related insurances, fraud and abuse, and consumer assistance. MS SHIP provides unbiased information to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers about Medicare and related health insurance benefits. MS SHIP assists with enrollments into plans or changing of plans.

MS SHIP offers presentations at Senior Centers, Health Fairs, Agencies, Colleges, Corporations and rural communities to educate and make the public aware of the services offered.

Open Enrollment runs from October 15th through December 7th.

What is Medicare?

Medicare is health insurance for:

- People 65 or older.
- People under 65 with certain disabilities.
- People of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease.

There are specific times when you can sign up for Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C) and Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D), or make changes to coverage you already have.

1. When you first get Medicare (Initial Enrollment Periods for Part C & Part D) During certain times each year (yearly enrollment periods for Part C & Part D)
2. Each year, you have a chance to make changes to your Medicare Advantage or Medicare prescription drug coverage for the following year. There are 2 separate enrollment periods each year. Open Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

What are the different parts of Medicare?

- Part A (Hospital Insurance)
- Part B (Medical Insurance)
- Part C (Medicare Advantage)
- Part D (Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage)

For more information, call 1-800-948-3090. For more information on Medicare, to sign up or to search for plans, go online to Medicare.gov.



Spanish Interpreters Essential to the Agency



MDHS Interpreters Laura Rivera and Allison Bowie from the DFCS Resource Development Unit were proud to take part in Latin Fest 2012 in September.

The Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland opened its doors and welcomed all to come and experience Latin American Culture Mississippi style. Attendees were able to enjoy live music, dance performances by local artists and fabulous food representing Central and South American countries.

Laura and Allison set up a resource table that featured Spanish language materials on child abuse prevention. They also had an opportunity to share with Latino families about ways to prevent child abuse and neglect and available services.

County Corner - Spotlight on Jefferson and Jefferson Davis

Jefferson County is located in the southwest part of Mississippi and is one of the two oldest counties in the state. The county has a total area of 527.19 square miles and its county seat is Fayette. There are 9,740 people, 3,308 households and 2,338 families residing in the county. Jefferson County has the highest percentage of African Americans of any county in the United States.

Jefferson County was named for U.S. President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. The early settlers of the county were from North and South Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. Parts of the **Natchez Trace Parkway** and the **Homochitto National Forest** are located within Jefferson County. Many of the early settlers came in by way of the Natchez Trace and in flatboats down the Mississippi River. The county, is rich in culture and history with many antebellum homes open for tours.

Fayette has a population of 2,242. The first African American mayor in post-Reconstruction Mississippi, **Charles Evers**, was elected by the people of Fayette in 1969. Evers' election as mayor had enormous symbolic significance statewide and national resonance. The **NAACP** named Evers the 1969 Man of the Year.

Richard H. Truly, also from Fayette, is a retired Vice Admiral in the United States Navy, a former fighter pilot, former astronaut for both the United States Air Force and **NASA**, and was the eighth Administrator of NASA from 1989 to 1992. He was the first former astronaut to head the space agency and spent 8 days, 7 hours and 21 minutes in space.

Church Hill is a small unincorporated community in Jefferson County. It is located on the bluffs of the Mississippi River. At the center intersection of this small community is an old wooden country store built around 1837, with the old post office in it. It is the oldest known all-wooden heart pine country stores that had a post office in the southeastern United States. Just across the intersection on a terraced hill is an old brick church, named **Christ Church** completed in 1858. The church's design was copied from the old country churches in England.

Lorman is located in Jefferson County and is home to **Alcorn State University**. ASU is a historically black comprehensive land-grant institution. It was founded in 1871 by the Reconstruction era legislature to provide higher education for freedmen. It was the first black land grant college in the United States. Medgar Evers, a civil rights activist, and

many other activists, politicians and professionals have graduated from Alcorn State University.

The self-proclaimed "World's Best Fried Chicken", **The Old Country Store** was, in fact, an old country store. Today, it is a country restaurant serving a classic southern buffet for very little money. Pull off Highway 61 in the tiny town of Lorman, north of Natchez, and park in front of what you would swear is part of a movie set depicting Mississippi circa 1920. Mr. D, as the owner is called, will serve up some fine "suthern cookin'" along with a song to round out your meal.

Jefferson Davis County is located in south central Mississippi. As of 2010, the population was 12,487 and is named in honor of Mississippi Senator and Confederate President **Jefferson Davis**. Its county seat is Prentiss. There are 13,962 people, 5,177 households and 3,768 families residing in the county.

A Mississippi Track Club Grand Prix Event, The Run for the Roses, is held each year in Jefferson Davis County. Produced by the Jefferson Davis County Chamber of Commerce with extensive community support, the race is one of Mississippi's premier road races attracting nearly one thousand participants each year.

Poultry is the leading Ag-Enterprise in the county with an economic impact of over 14 million dollars and produces over 7 million birds annually. Oil and gas, a major Jefferson Davis County industry, is number two in Mississippi in production. The drilling and production of these natural resources generate millions of dollars each year and have been a part of the county's economy since the 1940s.

Prentiss, the county seat has a population of 1,158 representing 479 households and 323 families residing in the town.

Prentiss is the hometown of actor **Gary Grubbs**, NBA player **Al Jefferson** and noted software engineer Jeff Lee. It is also the final resting place of NFL great **Steve McNair**.

One of the top attractions for outdoor enthusiasts is the **Longleaf Trace**, a 41-mile biking and hiking corridor between Prentiss and Hattiesburg. One of the longest rail-trails in the United States, the Trace is building a reputation among both serious and casual bikers.

Next month we visit Jones and Kemper Counties.



SURPLUS PROPERTY AVAILABLE FOR MDHS OFFICES

Have you been thinking, wishing, hoping that you could get a couple of new items for your office? Is your office in need of a credenza or filing cabinets? What about a desk or a couple of side chairs? Now's your chance to pick up a couple of items without any expense. Call Willie Crook at 601-359-4522 in Property at the State Office to arrange pick up. No reservations are required and no delivery is available. Items are for self-pick up only and are for AGENCY USE ONLY. But call or come by soon... because it's all first come, first serve. Once they are spoken for, it's going, going, gone!



ITEM DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF ITEMS
Book Rack	3
Chairs - Side Chairs	5
Chairs/Large Furniture	2
Coat Rack	2
Credenza	1
Desk - Small Wood Desk	4
Desk - Wood	9
Desk Chair	7
Desk w/Rollers - Small Wood Computer Desk/ Rollers	1
Dry Erase Board	1
File Cabinet/ 2-Drawer Legal	1
File Cabinet/1 Bin Lateral	1
File Cabinet/2-Drawer Letter	1
File Cabinet/4 Bin Lateral	1
File Cabinet/4-Drawer Letter	2
File Cabinet/5 Bin Lateral	2
File Cabinet/5-Drawer Legal	2
File Cabinet/5-Drawer Letter	5
Folding Table 6 Feet	3
Folding Table 8 Feet	2
Laptop Case	10
Laser Printer	8
Lawn Mower	1
Metal Table	1
Modular Work Station	3
Monitor/Flat Screen	16
Pressure Washer	1
Storage Cabinet/6 Feet Metal Cabinet	2
Weed Eater	1

It's All About Leadership



Dr. Nathan Mellor, Character First and MDHS Legislative Liaison Charlie Smith.

Many of us have had the privilege of sitting in some of the Character First leadership sessions that have been held throughout the year. Charlie Smith, the MDHS Legislative Liaison along with Paul Nelson, have been instrumental in putting these classes, speakers and materials together for us to move forward as an effective, cohesive team.

Each of us, in some way, are leaders. Whether we are positive or negative leaders, however, can greatly affect those around us. These sessions bring divisions and units together to help them understand the importance of teamwork and how essential it is to positively affect your work environment and lead others appropriately.

Recently, Charlie brought in Dr. Nathan Mellor from Character First to emphasize the principles of leadership and integrity to division directors. After sharing his message at the State Office, Dr. Mellor joined the Mississippi Conference of Regional and County Directors in Oxford at their annual meeting.

