



# Relative Caregiver

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2007

TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- DIRECTOR NOTES
- TN CAREGIVER RESOURCES
- RCP UPCOMING CHANGES
- REGIONAL RCP UPDATES
- RCP WISH LIST

## Director Notes



I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Chattanooga Police Department Annual Grandparents Luncheon held at the Brainerd United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, TN.

The conference held workshops that include: The Relative Caregiver Program, Medicare Fraud, Medication Management and the Chattanooga Police Department held a workshop on fraud as well.

It was great to see law enforcement officers interacting with caregivers and great to witness the appreciation the CPD expressed to the grandparents present.

I would like to send a special thanks to Police Chief Mike Williams and Officer Diaz for collaborating with Steve Witt and Amy French of the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability that implements the Relative Caregiver Program in partnership with The Department of Children Services.

This proves that there is power through partnerships. Thanks for making grandparents feel special.

-Robert L. Matthews-

## TN Caregiver Resources



### Relative Caregiver Warmline

Davidson County Relative Caregiver Program has developed a Caregiver Warmline to offer 24 hours, 7 days a week support services. The program services ensures relative caregivers are knowledgeable on available resources that are provided in the Davidson County area.

For more information about this resource service contact:

**The Relative Caregiver Warmline**

**@ 615-340-9751**

### TennHelp Website

TennHelp is a website service that has a statewide directory that provides a listing of organizations and agencies across Tennessee. The website also features a section for Relative Caregivers that address advice on legal, health, money, transportation, childcare, housing, support and other services.

For more information about this website go

**[www.tennhelp.com](http://www.tennhelp.com)**

# TN RCP All Staff Training October 18-19th



The Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program will be engaging in it's 3rd Annual All Staff Training on Octo-

**This year's theme: S.E.E Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children**

ber 18-19 2007 in Nashville, TN. This training will be an opportunity for all twelve regions to come together to build cohesive relationships with other staff across the state. The theme for this year's training is S.E.E (Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children), which reflects the

purpose of the program. David Miller and LaMarr Shields from The Urban League Institute in Baltimore, MD will be coming to present two workshops for the staff.

The workshops are titled:

- Bridging the Generation Gap: Keys to Quality Youth Development
- Understanding the Potential of Hip-Hop Culture

*“To be successful in our work with young people, we must understand a particular condition of youth”*

## Bridging the Generation Gap: KEYS to Quality Youth Development

Provided by Urban League Institute

To be successful in our work with young people, we must understand a particular condition of youth: that young people are often mistreated and disrespected simply because they are young.

Therefore, *KEYS to Quality Youth Development* encourages adults to focus on how young people are mistreated or discriminated against

in adult-defined institutions, how young people can internalize mistreatment against themselves, and other youth, and explores strengths of young people to plan and prepare a complete menu for positive youth development.

This session is a *working tool* to stimulate, challenge, and encourage youth and adults as they work to-

gether to plan, conduct, and evaluate quality experiences. Whether you are a parent, teacher, volunteer, youth development professional, or teenager, this workshop will help you work with youth.

## Understanding the Potential of the Hip-Hop Culture

Provided by Urban League Institute

Hip-Hop is an undeniable social force for youth, particularly urban youth. This musical form exercises its force by shaping the identities, and furthermore the social character of its listeners. It grooms individuals, particularly youth to accept or reject their economic, political, and social conditions. The future path of the hip hop movement is uncharted. Ultimately it is up to the hip-hop community to accept or reject the current construction and appropriation of this musical form, which

potentially can work as an agent of social and political change.

Therefore, the purpose of this interactive workshop is to share the multi-layered ways in which Hip-Hop can be used as a tool for social justice, education, and empowerment.

This session is highly interactive and will utilize video, music sam-

ples, and other multi-media illustrations of Hip-Hop.

It will particularly benefit those who are looking for new and innovative ways to engage youth.

# TN RCP All Staff Agenda

## S.E.E

### Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children



State of Tennessee  
 Department of Children's Services  
 Relative Caregiver Program  
 All Staff Training  
 1252 Foster Ave.  
 Hardison Bldg Auditorium  
 Nashville, TN.

#### Thursday, October 18, 2007

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
 Robert Matthews, TN RCP Director  
 Viola Miller, DCS Commissioner

11:00 a.m. Lunch

11:20 a.m. **Subgroup Breakout Session**  
 (Working Lunch)

11:50 p.m. Break

12:00 p.m. **Operations Manual Presentations**  
 Regional RCP Staff

2:20 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. **Update on Families First and Child Only Grant Changes**  
 Paul Lefkowitz, Director of DHS Families First

3:30 p.m. Q & A

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

#### Friday, October 19, 2007

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. **Welcome**  
 Betty Smith, TN RCP Program Coordinator  
 Vickie Jones, TN RCP Program Specialist

8:50 a.m. **Introduction of Speaker**  
 Robert L. Matthews, TN RCP Director

9:00 a.m. **Keynote Message**  
 LaMarr D. Shields, M.Ed.  
 Co-Founder and President  
 Urban Leadership Institute, Baltimore, MD

9:35 a.m. Break

9:50 a.m./11:45 a.m. **Workshops (Offered twice)**  
*Understanding the Potential of Hip-Hop Culture -Conf. A*  
 LaMarr D. Shields, M.Ed.  
*Bridging the Generation Gap -Conf. B*  
 David Miller, M.Ed.  
 Co-Founder and Chief Visionary Officer  
 Urban Leadership Institute, Baltimore, MD

11:00 a.m. Lunch

12:50 p.m. **Q&A/Closing Remarks**

1:30p.m. Adjourn



# Davidson RCP Updates

**Davidson Co. RCP**  
**Family and Children Services**  
**3203 Brick Church Pike**  
**Nashville, TN. 37207**  
**Office: 615-226-4917**  
**Fax: 615-226-4971**  
**Director: Aimee Brake**

**New Cases**

Davidson Co. RCP opened 10 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

DCRCP was able to assist a grandmother who was unable to care for her 3 grandchildren anymore. The children's aunt was identified and the children were placed with an aunt. DCRCP assist the aunt with applying for child only grant an also provided material assistance. DCRCP also linked the aunt with other agencies that were able to provide more assistance with stability for the children and aunt. The children are thriving in the environment with the aunt.

**Upcoming Events**

Oct. 1st/15th-DCRCP Sup Grp.  
 Oct. 2nd-Training - Taking Care of Me@ McGruder  
 Oct. 6th-Training- Talking to Kids about Puberty/Sex @ McGruder  
 Oct. 9th/23rd-McGruder Sup Grp.  
 Oct. 12th-Teen Act.-Hunted House  
 Oct. 13th- CG Enrich-General Jackson Showboat;  
 Youth Act.-DCRCP Halloween Party.  
 For more information on locations and times contact Family and Children Services @ 615-226-4917.

**Tennessee Relative Caregiver**

**Program offers the following services:**

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Case Management
- Caregiver Support
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
- Material Assurances

# Shelby RCP Updates

**Shelby Co. RCP**  
**University of TN Boling**  
**Center for Developmental**  
**Disabilities**  
**711 Jefferson Ave.**  
**Memphis, TN 38105**  
**Office: 901-448-3133**  
**Fax: 901-448-3534**  
**Director: Juanita Williams**

**New Cases**

Shelby Co. RCP opened 18 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

The Tennessee Department of Human Services Volunteer Support Committee donated 50 pairs of Payless Shoes for the children in the SCRCF, just in time for back to school.

**Upcoming Events**

Oct. 4th, 11-12:30- New Life CG Support Groups  
 Oct. 11th, 11-12:30 -Mt. Vernon CG Support Group  
 Oct. 16th, 3:00-4:00- Birth Parent Support Group @UTBCDD  
 Oct. 18th, 9:30 -Caregiver Breakfast @ IHOP  
 Oct. 25th, 11:00-12:30 CG Support Groups @ Benjamin L. Hooks  
 For more information on locations and times contact UT Boling Center @ 901-448-3133.

# Upper Cumberland RCP Updates

**Upper Cumberland Region RCP**  
**Upper Cumberland Development District**  
**1225 South Willow Ave.**  
**Cookeville, TN 38506**  
**Office: 931-432-4111**  
**Fax: 931-432-6010**  
**Director: Patty Jones**

**New Cases**

Upper Cumberland Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

UCRCP had great success and participation during the Annual Rodney Atkin's Golf Tournament Fundraiser. The Upper Cumberland Development District

raised \$50,000.00 for Relative Caregiver Program and Area Agency on Aging and Disability Program

**Upcoming Events**

Upper Cumberland RCP will hold their monthly support groups in each of the 14 counties.

For more information on locations and times contact Upper Cumberland Development District @ 931-432-4111.



# Northeast Region RCP Updates

**Northeast Region RCP**  
**Foothills Care, Inc.**  
**663 Emory Valley Road**  
**Oak Ridge, TN. 37830**  
**Office: 865-483-9111**  
**Fax: 865-483-9102**  
**Director: Jim Lambert**

**New Cases**  
Northeast Region RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**  
NERCP had great participation and attendance from Caregivers, youth and teen at their Enrichment Activity.

**Upcoming Events**  
For information about events and support groups that are occurring in Northeast Region, contact Foot Hills Care, Inc. @ 865-483-9111.

**Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program offers the following services:**

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistancess

# East Region RCP Updates

**East Region RCP**  
**Foothills Care, Inc.**  
**663 Emory Valley Road**  
**Oak Ridge, TN 37820**  
**Office: 865-483-9111**  
**Fax: 865-483-9102**  
**Director: Kalia Akue**

**New Cases**  
East Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August..

**Best Success**  
ERCP was able to strengthen the relationships with their families through intensified home visit.

**Upcoming Events**  
All East region's counties will hold Support Groups and Children's Enrichment Activity during the month of October.

For more information on locations and times contact the Foothills Care Inc. @ 865-483-9111.



# Knox County RCP Updates

**Knox Co. RCP**  
**Foothills Care Inc.**  
**663 Emory Valley Road**  
**Oak Ridge, TN 37830**  
**Office: 865-483-9111**  
**Fax: 865-483-9102**  
**Director: Sheryl Curry**

**New Cases**  
Knox Co. RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August..

**Best Success**  
KCRCP set-up an exhibitor booth at the Knox Co. First Day of School Festival. The event drew 5000 participants which gave KCRCP great exposure.

**Upcoming Events**  
For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Knox County, contact the Foothills Care Inc. @ 865-483-9111.



# Mid-Cumberland Region RCP Updates

**Mid-Cumberland Region RCP  
New Visions Inc.**  
4204 Home Haven Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37218  
Office: 615-473-3006  
Fax: 615-876-1167  
Director: Tim Malone

**New Cases**

Mid-Cumberland Region RCP opened 2 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

MCRCRP assisted DCS in locating a birth father that was a viable placement for a teen at risk of entering state custody. The teen was reunited with her birth father and paternal family.

**Upcoming Events**

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in the Mid-Cumberland region, contact New Vision Inc. @ 615-473-3006.

**Tennessee Relative**

**Caregiver Program offers the following services:**

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistances

# Southwest Region RCP Updates

**Southwest Region RCP  
Carl Perkins Center**  
51 Klear Vu Drive  
Brownsville, TN 38012  
Office: 731-772-8378  
Fax: 731-772-2752  
Director: Beth Wilson

**New Cases**

Southwest Region RCP opened 17 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

SWRCP received \$3900 worth of gift cards that were donated by a private group. These gift cards were used to purchase new school clothing and shoes for 49 RCP children.

**Upcoming Events**

All Southwest counties will hold their monthly support groups .  
Oct. 12th, 6-9:30-Chester Co. Education Workshop-Babysitting  
Oct. 26th, 6-8- Tipton/Lauderdale Enrichment/Respite Act.-Trunk-or-Treat Cookout  
Oct. 26th, 4-6-Henderson/Decatur Co. Whole Family Enrich.-Fall Festival  
Oct. 29th, 4-8- Chester Co/Whole Family Enrich-Fall Fest.  
For more information on locations and times contact Carl Perkins Center @ 731-772-8378.

# Northwest Region RCP Updates

**Northwest Region RCP  
Carl Perkins Center**  
51 Klear Vu Drive  
Brownsville, TN 38012  
Office: 731-772-8378  
Fax: 731-772-2752  
Director: Beth Wilson

**New Cases**

Northwest Region RCP opened 5 cases during the month of August.

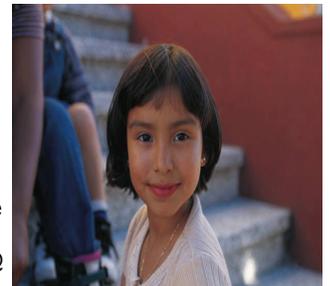
**Best Success**

NWRCP had the opportunity to assist a family with emergency hotel services, rent, and security deposit in order to secure appropriate housing.

Several community embers and board members also donated their time and services to assist the family.

**Upcoming Events**

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Northwest region contact the Carl Perkins Center @ 731-772-8378.





# Hamilton County RCP Updates

**Hamilton Co. RCP**  
**Southeast TN Area**  
**Agency on Aging and Disability**

**P.O. Box 4757**  
**Chattanooga, TN. 37405**  
**Office: 423-424-4258**  
**Fax: 423-424-4225**  
**Director: Amy French**

**New Cases**

Hamilton Co. RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August.

**Upcoming Events**

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Hamilton county, contact Southeast TN Area on Aging and Disability @ 423-424-4258.

**Best Success**

HCRCP was able to assist in the reunification of a child with their birth parents.

**Tennessee Relative**

**Caregiver Program offers the following services:**

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time
- Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistances

# Southeast Region RCP Updates

**Southeast Region RCP**  
**Southeast TN Area**  
**Agency on Aging and Disability**

**P.O. Box 4757**  
**Chattanooga, TN. 37405**  
**Office: 423-424-4258**  
**Fax: 423-424-4225**  
**Director: Amy French**

**New Cases**

Southeast Region RCP opened 10 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success**

SERCP had the opportunity to assist a caregiver who is caring for two grandchildren. The caregiver became ill and was hospitalized and had no family support to care for the children. Caregivers from the support group cared for the children while he was in the hospital for a couple

of day. This kind gestured prevented the children from coming into DCS custody. SERCP, also assisted the family with school clothing and shoes for the children.

**Upcoming Events**

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in the Southeast region, contact the Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability @ 423-424-4258.

# South Central Region RCP Updates

**South Central Region RCP**  
**The Center for Family Development**

**100 Eastside Square**  
**Shelbyville, TN 37160**  
**Office: 888-462-2999**  
**Ext. 206**  
**Fax: 931-684-5140**  
**Director: Sue Fletcher**

**New Cases**

South Central Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August.

**Best Success** SCRCPP had great participation during the Caregiver, Youth and Teen Enrichment Activity at Hands on Science Center. This event allowed the families to gain knowledge and emotional support from other caregivers.

**Upcoming Events**

Support Groups  
 Oct. 9th, 10-11-Bedford Co.  
 Oct. 10th, 10-11-Giles Co.  
 Oct. 11th, 10-11-Marshall Co.  
 Oct. 16th, 10-11- Law./Coffee/Wayne Co.  
 Oct. 17th, 10-11-Lincoln/Moore Co.  
 Oct. 23rd, 10-11-Perry/Lewis Co.  
 For more information on locations and times contact The Center for Family Development @ 931-684-5140, Ext. 206, 219, 221, or 222.



**Tennessee Department of Children's Services**  
**Relative Caregiver Program**  
**436 6th Avenue North**  
**8th Floor, Cordell Hull Bldg**  
**Nashville, TN 37243**  
**Fax# 615-253-1717**



### **Staff**

Robert L. Matthews, Director      615-253-2342      [Robert.L.Matthews@state.tn.us](mailto:Robert.L.Matthews@state.tn.us)  
Betty Smith, Program Coordinator      615-253-2397      [Betty.X.Smith@state.tn.us](mailto:Betty.X.Smith@state.tn.us)  
Vickie Jones, Program Specialist      615-253-1776      [Vickie.Jones@state.tn.us](mailto:Vickie.Jones@state.tn.us)

### **Development of Relative Caregiver Program**

The Tennessee Department of Children's Service administers this program in collaboration with public/private agencies to support children who are not able to be raised by their parents, and are being cared for by their relatives. These committed and caring relatives have stepped in to raise children whose parents are unavailable, and serve as a safety net for our children.

### **Relative Caregiver Program Wish List**

RCP offers material assistance to relative caregivers. This program depends on the generosity and support of the community. Please review the list below, if you can be of help in providing any of these items please contact your local RCP to coordinate pick-up on any of these items.

1. Twin Beds
2. Clothing
3. Shoes
4. Pampers
5. Toilet Paper
6. Paper Towels
7. Household Furniture
8. Food
9. Lotion
10. Deodorant
11. Soap
12. Toothpaste
13. School Supplies