



RISE Foundation of Memphis • Summer 2017

## ***Silver Neighbors Program Continues to Grow in Service and Outreach***

This has been an exciting year for our Silver Neighbors program, which empowers older adults to make better choices about their finances. The program is expected to serve 1,000 seniors each year. This year, RISE has surpassed that goal by serving 1,300 seniors, who've learned about topics such as scams and fraud, Medicare, life insurance products, budgeting and benefits.

In addition, we've almost completed training for First Tennessee Bank branches in Shelby County to educate their employees about helping to protect older adults from financial exploitation, as well as teach employees about services provided by CREA, a Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse Team, dedicated to the protection of older adults.

RISE developed the training strategy, taught by the RISE Pres./CEO and the Silver Neighbors Program Coordinator.

RISE is now preparing to train other banking institutions in the Memphis area to protect seniors in our community.



## **RISE Celebrates Another Successful Teen Financial Forum**

Memphis teens on the cusp of adulthood learned how to prepare for their financial futures at RISE Foundation's sixth annual Goal Card Financial Forum, held April 29 at First Baptist Church - Broad.

Goal Card is RISE's year-round youth program that teaches students in grades 5-12 how to set and achieve academic, financial and life goals. Students enrolled in the program have been shown to academically outperform their peers.

Lessons teens learned at the free financial forum included budgeting, establishing credit, opening savings accounts, and exploring ways to help pay for college. The forum was

facilitated by adult mentors from academic and business backgrounds, who generously contributed their time and talent to empower the city's next generation of leaders.

Thank you to all of our speakers: Stan Bell, Shelby County Schools teacher and radio host; Levi Pointer, Shelby County Schools principal; Bernal Smith, publisher of the Tri-State Defender; Steven Sanders, FedEx Corp.; Alton Cryer, Orion Federal Credit Union; Jacques Hamilton, Workforce Investment

Network (WIN); Felecia Orr, State of Tennessee; and Harry T. Cash III with STAX Music Academy.



**Donate Now! Visit RISE at [www.risememphis.org](http://www.risememphis.org)**

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Circled on the front row is 6th grader, Layia Ussery and circled on the back row is 8th grader, Jakiya Moore. Photo courtesy of Bill Stranfield, First Tennessee.

## First Tennessee Essay Contest

Two RISE Goal Card participants, 6th grader Layia Ussery and 8th grader, Jakiya Moore, both students at Bellevue Middle, were among the winners of First Tennessee’s annual essay focused on helping students in grades 6-12 make wise financial choices and plan for their futures.

This year’s topic was “How do you differentiate between needs and wants, and how do you save money to afford both?” Along with our students from Bellevue were students from several other schools including Bon Lin, Faith Heritage, Lausanne, St. Benedict and St. Mary’s.

Layia and Jakiya both won Memphis Grizzlies tickets, a financial literacy book, and \$100 to save or invest. We’re so proud of Layia and Jakiya!

## Save Up Program Sees Phenomenal Growth!

Our Save Up program exceeded our goals for this past fiscal year! Our goal was for participants to purchase a total of 20 assets, including homes, cars, computers, tuition for higher-level education, and micro-enterprise development during the fiscal year. This year, participants have purchased 33 assets!

Save Up, RISE’s matched-savings account program, is designed to help low-wage earners learn to manage their income, improve their credit, save money, purchase assets, and even establish their own micro-enterprises.



## Common Cents For Everyday Life

RISE Foundation is hosting a workshop to help people learn to better manage their money. If you know someone who has trouble understanding where their money is going, RISE staff will offer some sound advice on about how to remedy that. This one-day seminar will teach participants how to:

- Create a spending plan
- Develop short-term financial goals
- Learn how to read credit reports and improve scores
- Discover how to earn money doing something they love

The workshops take place June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th from 10-noon at the Poplar-White Station Library. The workshop is free but registration is required. Call (901) 507-8882 to reserve a spot.

Follow RISE on Facebook or the RISE website for the next series of classes that begin in September 2017.



## RISE In The Media

Have you seen RISE Foundation in the news lately? We’ve made several appearances! Memphis Daily News wrote about our Goal Card Financial Forum and WREG covered the event, RISE Board Member Randy Williams was featured in the Memphis Business Journal’s “People on the Move,” Goal Card Senior Program Coordinator Ricco Mitchell was interviewed on Local Memphis’ Midday Show and our President and CEO, Linda Williams, participated in a Facebook Live event with High Ground.



RISE