



RISE Foundation of Memphis • February-March 2015

Fayette County Goal Card Expansion

RISE's Goal Card program continues to expand, adding two Fayette County schools: East Junior High School and West Junior High School.

Currently, almost 200 Fayette County students are reaping the rewards of earning Goal Card points for attendance, academics and conduct. These young people are excited

about the possibility of earning and receiving school supplies, gift cards and other incentives as they learn, grow and prepare for high school.

Fayette County Schools Superintendent James Teague decided to launch the program with eighth-grade students, with hopes they'll carry the concept of goal-setting with

them into high school and beyond.

Several local companies have generously committed to supporting the program through financial funding and/or providing adult volunteers to serve as Goal Card academic coaches. Those companies include RING Container Technologies; MCR Safety; Fayette County Bank; First Alliance

Bank; Orion Federal Credit Union; and Troxel.

Although the program is in the initial stages of development, Fayette County students and all parties involved have expressed excitement about being involved in the RISE Goal Card program.



MCR Safety Goal Card Volunteers



RING Container Technologies Goal Card Volunteers

Tracie's Save Up Success Story

Tracie Simpson, a divorced mother of four sons ages 14-19, saw a lifelong dream come to fruition when she closed on a home of her own.

A Department Tech at SRVS, which serves people with disabilities, Tracie spends her workdays shuttling clients to and from doctors' appointments. Although Ms. Simpson always dreamed of becoming a homeowner, she never believed homeownership was within her reach – that is until she heard about RISE through a coworker.

Tracie enrolled in the Save Up Program, which teaches participants how to create a budget based on their personal income and expenses, and how to obtain and improve their credit scores and credit reports. The Save Up Program also helps participants establish bank accounts and purchase assets.

RISE then helps participants obtain asset-specific training as needed, at no cost to the participant. For example, those saving for homeownership will need to complete homebuyer education classes. Finally, RISE will help Save Up participants purchase the asset for which they've saved. Assets include homes, cars, computers, post secondary classes and small businesses.

"Being in the Save Up Program was a faith builder," said Tracie, who moved her family into their new home in 2014. "Now I feel that I can accomplish anything. RISE is a symbol of me having faith in myself. Learning how to budget and save has helped me to purchase a home. My next goal is to save for my children's college education."



Retiring board members Mark Sutton (right) and Charles Schadt (left) with RISE Board Chairman Mike Bruno (center).

A Special Thank You to Our Retiring Board Members

A special thank you to retiring board members Mark Sutton and Charles Schadt for their service to RISE. Mr. Sutton is the CEO of International Paper and Mr. Schadt is the Principal of CFS Development. Both men were honored at a special board member reception at the Crescent Club. We are truly grateful for your service and commitment to the RISE Foundation.



RISE Foundation's current board members and staff celebrated retiring board members at a party at the Crescent Club in Memphis.

Donate Now! Visit RISE at www.risememphis.org

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SILVER NEIGHBORS

*Financial Security
Education for Neighbors*

Our Silver Neighbors program focuses on financial security for older adults. A partnership between RISE Foundation, the Aging Commission of the Mid-South and Memphis Area Legal Services, Silver Neighbors provides seniors with information about financial products and community organizations that provide free assistance with financial issues.

We connect with older adults in the Memphis area through organizations such as churches, senior centers and senior housing. Our trained volunteer ambassadors lead learning circles where seniors receive information about various topics related to economic security, including scams and fraud, benefits eligibility, budgeting and health care coverage. Ambassadors include agency staff, ministers, group leaders or community members with an interest in promoting financial security for older adults.

Silver Neighbors is funded by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Plough Foundation and Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. Interested in learning more? Contact RISE at 901.507.8883.

UPCOMING RISE EVENTS

- March 20 Goal Card @ East Middle - 1:30 pm
- March 23 Goal Card @ West Middle - 9:30 am
- March 26 Goal Card @ BTW Middle and High School - 3:00 pm
- March 30 Goal Card @ Melrose Middle - 3:00 pm
- March 31 Goal Card @ Bellevue Middle - 3:00 pm
- March 25 Save Up Graduation - 5:45 pm
- April 2 Savers Club Meeting - 5:45 pm
- April 11 Youth April Forum - *Planning Your Dreams* 9:00am - 2:00pm at Southwest Tennessee Community College - Macon Road Campus.
- April 18 Save Up Family Reunion @ National Civil Rights Museum (Time TBD)
- May 14 Save Up Program Orientation for New Participants 5:45 pm

New Board Member Announcement

The RISE Foundation is excited to welcome Mr. Jason Lee to our Board of Directors. Mr. Lee is Executive Vice President/CFO of Orion Federal Credit Union. His appointment was recently featured in Memphis Business Journal. Welcome aboard, Mr. Lee, and we thank you for your service and commitment to RISE's mission of transforming the lives of our low-income neighbors through financial literacy education.



Look for RISE President & CEO in Special Women's Edition of Southern Soul Magazine

RISE Foundation President & CEO Linda Williams will be featured in the March edition of Southern Soul Magazine, whose theme is "Women Shaping, Empowering & Supporting Our Community."

The issue will highlight women at the helm of our community's nonprofits, who will share their knowledge and wisdom as leaders. Ms. Williams has also been invited to participate in a special roundtable with these other female nonprofit leaders. Keep an eye out for the March issue of Southern Soul, available at Kroger stores, or visit www.southernsoul.com.

RISE Featured on Joy in Our Town

In December, RISE Foundation President & CEO Linda Williams and RISE Goal Card Senior Program Director Ricco Mitchell were interviewed on the WBUY-TV (Trinity Broadcasting) program *Joy in Our Town* to discuss RISE's Goal Card Program, which teaches financial literacy to students in grades 5-12. WBUY is a Christian network that features uplifting and inspirational stories. You can find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WBUY40.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Thank you to SunTrust Bank and Ring Container Technologies

for their continued financial support of the RISE Foundation. Our generous corporate sponsors help us continue to lift up our neighbors in the Greater Memphis community through financial literacy education and programming.

Women's Foundation Grant

The RISE Foundation is grateful to the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, which presented RISE with a \$25,000 grant made possible through funding from the Walmart Foundation.



Ring Container Technologies CFO Tim Whalen presented a check to the RISE Foundation. He's pictured (center) with RISE Foundation COO Shelia Terrell and Goal Card Senior Program Director Ricco Mitchell. Thank you to Ring Container Technologies of Oakland for their continued support of the RISE Goal Card program.



Thank you to our sponsor SunTrust for their ongoing support to light the way to financial wellbeing! Johnny B. Moore, SunTrust President and CEO, and Angela Dixon, RISE Board Member and SunTrust Senior Vice President, presented a check to RISE President and CEO Linda Williams.