



THE CSLC COMMUNITY VOICE

"In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge"

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From the Executive Director's Desk



Greetings!

We all have a lot to be thankful for as the holiday season approaches. First and foremost, we are all grateful to be alive. We are again delighted to share CSLC's activities, triumphs, progress, and updates since our last CSLC Community Voice newsletter. CSLC thanks you, our partners/grantors, contributors, supporters, friends, volunteers, family, friends, and well-wishers, for being vital to our programs and activities that benefit families, children, communities, and the state. Our thanks go out to our federal funders, which include the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. We are also grateful for the Housing Rehabilitation financing provided by the Federal Home Bank of Dallas and BankPlus of Mississippi. We thank God for our HIPPY International leaders' direction and safety.

We are also pleased to inform you that our SBA CNPP outreach activities have increased:

Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Submitted:	\$20,313,547.00
Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Approved:	\$1,210,505.00
Unique Clients Assisted:	712
Total Counseling Hours	3,226
Total Trained Clients	2,776

As we share the content of this publication, we hope you make it a part of your holiday reading pleasure.

Congrats are in order for CSLC Co-Founder/Exec. Dir.

With more than 30 dedicated years in professional business operation and administration, Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Co-founder and Executive Director, Beulah Greer, recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.



Her family, staff, church family, friends, partners, and the CSLC Board of Directors are incredibly proud of Greer for striving toward and reaching her recent academic achievement. "She would stay up studying with her laptop and numerous books long after I would have gone to sleep," said her husband, CSLC Founder Leslie Greer. "She was determined not to give up on her achievement goal. I am so proud of her!"

Her granddaughter, Aaliyah Greer, shared that her "granny" would prepare dinner, help her with her homework, and then begin to do whatever work she needed to do toward her business administration studies.

Both current and former CSLC staff members are excited for Greer. "I have known Beulah since we were in the fourth grade," said CSLC HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley. "Whenever she puts her mind to anything, she is going to see it to the end. All of us here are so happy for her!"

"I have always compared her to the 'Energizer Bunny,'" said Gail H. Marshall Brown, Ph.D., former CSLC Project Director. "As a devoted housewife and extremely busy business administrator, she never stops doing and doing and going and going to help others. I am so happy for her! I will always be grateful for all she and her husband, Mr. Leslie Greer, taught and did for me during the ten years I served the CSLC." Greer, a Lexington, Miss. native who has also studied at Holmes Community College, Alcorn State University, and Mississippi Valley State University, believes one is never too old to learn and achieve.

"Congrats" continued on Page 2.

CNPP helps promote annual Small Business Saturday

On Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, was the annual Small Business Saturday (SBS) – "a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities" (SBA.gov). The staff of the Mississippi Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP) proudly help promote the national event (by placing flyers on store windows and social media), urging local shopping. CNPP leaders agree with SBA that "this year, ... small businesses need our support now more than ever as they navigate, retool, and pivot from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic." "That is why we were pleased to join SBA and organizations across the country in supporting this worthwhile effort," said CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark. "Small businesses are vital to our economy." Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 and officially sponsored by SBA since 2011. (SBA.gov)



One of the SBS marketing

“Congrats” continued from Page 1.



Beulah smiles as she displays her degree.

Her vast professional background includes business administration and keen financial management, housing education and counseling, housing rehabilitation and construction management, early childhood education, and home healthcare.

As CSLC’s Executive Director, she has helped the nonprofit successfully implement millions of dollars in federal and foundational grant programs/services over the past 20-plus years.

Numerous certificates, awards, and accolades are among the recognitions she and the CSLC have earned through the years.

The grateful wife, mother, and grandmother also operate Justice Bail Bonding Company of Lexington, Miss., a business she has co-owned with her husband Leslie Greer for over 30 Years.

Beulah Greer responded when asked whether she would pursue the MBA degree: “I want to do whatever is in God’s plan for me to do as long as He gives me the mind and strength to do it.”



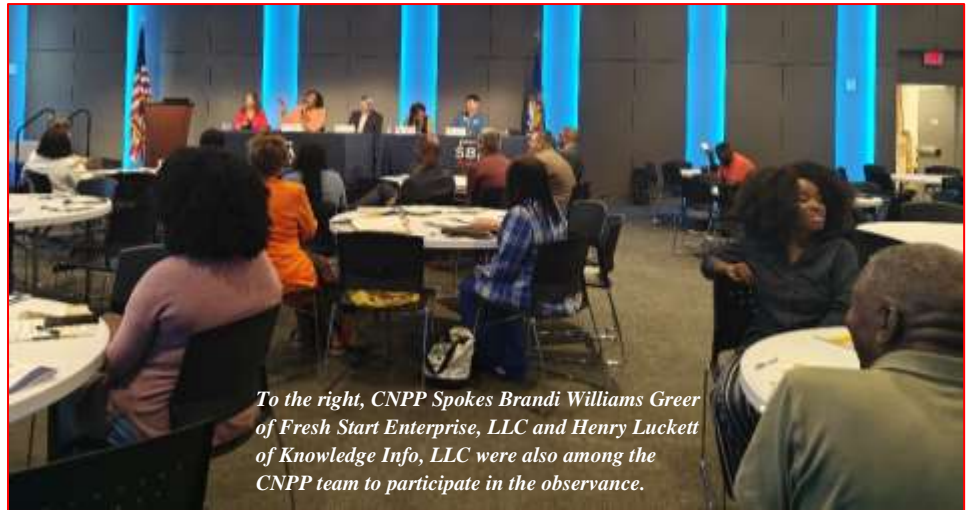
Business Award – Delta Region, October 2013.

CNPP’s PD/spokes participate in SBA’s 70th Anniversary



The Mississippi Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) Hub and a few Spokes partners were happy to participate in the Mississippi SBA Celebration of U.S. SBA 70th Anniversary in Jackson, Miss. The celebration was highlighted in The Mississippi Link newspaper and online news. Above, the Entrepreneurial Panel consisted of (from left) CNPP Spokes Sydney Brown, Deputy District Director Ashlei N. Donerson, CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark, Mike Pornovets, Mitch McDowell, and Jeremy Sanford. Below are additional highlights from the SBA Mississippi celebration.

Courtesy Photos



To the right, CNPP Spokes Brandi Williams Greer of Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC and Henry Lockett of Knowledge Info, LLC were also among the CNPP team to participate in the observance.



Colorful and festive entrance



Attendees listen to Mayor Chokwe Lumumba as he brings greetings from the City of Jackson.

CNPP reaches out to the small business community on the Mississippi Coast



The Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) Hub and spokes partners WEM Consulting, LLC and Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC joined SBA Mississippi in a lending fair and business technical assistance outreach in Gulfport, Miss. Above are highlights of the outreach engagements that took place as business owners and potential business owners were assisted.

Courtesy Photos

Spoke, WEM Consulting, conducts TA webinars; one featured an SBA expert



The CNPP spoke, WEM Consulting, LLC's Willie McGriggs was delighted to have Veronique Thomas, SBA Marketing and Outreach Specialist, DPO, and PIO, on one of his monthly Zoom business technical assistance (TA) webinars. Thomas is a devoted professional with extensive expertise and experience in marketing and outreach who is passionate about assisting small businesses to succeed. In this fascinating virtual event, she shed light on the SBA's vital function and how it can be a catalyst for the growth and success of small businesses. She offered a thorough review of the SBA's offerings and services, demonstrating how they may make a significant difference for entrepreneurs and business owners.

WEM Consulting has hosted a series of monthly virtual small business outreach presentations as part of its duties as a spoke of the federally supported Mississippi CNPP by SBA. They have included a variety of other business experts to assist individuals in growing or starting their businesses. McGriggs is grateful to all visitors who gave up their time during their hectic schedules to assist CNPP in its outreach to emerging startup firms.

Knowledge Info, LLC helps a client boost his business via Google Search

Thanks to some business technical assistance (TA) from Knowledge Info, LLC, Phillip Brown has now experienced an increase in bookings of his business, Chef Phillip's Creative Foods. CNPP spoke Henry Luckett of Knowledge Info assisted Mr. Brown with how to list his business on Google Search. The businessowner shared that his "bookings increased significantly because of the listing."

A CNPP Success Story

Since the last Community Voice publication, Knowledge Info, LLC has indicated that it assisted 25 new customers in formulating their businesses, registering them with the Mississippi Secretary of State, and obtaining their EIN. Luckett also participated in a partner event in Silver City to help businesses and other citizens affected by the disaster.

CNPP Spoke Fresh Start Enterprise excited to work with its youngest client!

Meeting young people who aspire to become business owners is always inspiring. CNPP Spoke Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC's recent client, Destynee Hemphill, is such a person. "She is 18 years old, and she is the youngest person I have signed up for a business," said Brandi Williams Greer, co-owner of Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC. "She wants to make party favors and T-shirts." Thanks to the business technical assistance (TA) received from Fresh Start, the young Hemphill now has her Mississippi Secretary of State Certificate of Formation, her IRS EIN, and her SAM.gov number. She is also a student at Holmes Community College majoring in Business Administration. "She is so excited about being a small but soon-to-be-growing business owner," Williams Greer said.

A CNPP Success Story

Good News! The CSLC HIPHY program now serves Jackson, Miss. area

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPHY) is a developmentally appropriate, early literacy curriculum that promotes children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. The curriculum consists of easy-to-use educational activity packets and storybooks developed for parents of children ages 2-5. Parents engage with the curriculum by role-playing the parent-child activities with a home visitor from the same community and often a former HIPHY parent. A professionally trained program coordinator supervises all home visitors. CSLC HIPHY is a part of the International HIPHY program. It has served families of preschool children in Holmes County since 2009. Due to its success, among other aspects, CSLC HIPHY has been given the green light by its national leaders to serve families of preschool-age children in the Jackson area (Hinds County) with this proven, effective research-based curriculum.



On September 18, 2023, the CSLC HIPHY Program expanded to Jackson, MS. "several families in the Jackson area enrolled in the program," said CSLC HIPHY Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley. "Mrs. Valorie Young is the Home Visitor for the Hinds County area."



Banks-Mosley

Parents in the Jackson area are already pleased with the program. Chandrian Jones said: "My son Jaxson Watkins is three years old and in a private home daycare. The HIPHY Program has been a blessing for my son and me. Just as pre-K, it's fostering early cognitive development in his social skills, promoting language acquisition, and preparing my child for academic success in later years. This program also improves school readiness, better emotional regulation, and a foundation for lifelong learning for my child. It also allows us to spend more time together learning."



Young

We have begun the enrollment for the 2023-2024 Program," said Banks-Mosley, and we are incredibly grateful to BankPlus for their continuous support. "We are very excited about the growing success of our HIPHY Program, and we are extremely thankful to all of our contributors and donors who help keep it going and ensure that these children begin school ready. We could not successfully implement HIPHY without our generous and kind-hearted donors and supporters."



Anderson

If you are interested in this "no-cost-to-you" early learning program for your child in the Hinds and Holmes areas, please get in touch with Banks Mosley at (662) 834-0905 or email her at luberthabanks58@bellsouth.net. Applications are being accepted for the 2024-2025 program session.



Polk

Other news from the successful CSLC HIPHY program includes the following information briefs:

- Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley and Home Educators Audrey Anderson and Nona Polk 2023 attended the 2024 HIPHY Kickoff on September 13, 2023, at 2 p.m. via Zoom videoconference.
- Roslyn Greer, the mother of one of the first CSLC HIPHY graduates, coordinated a Community Luau Fundraiser for the HIPHY Program and the community. More than \$1,000 were raised. "Mrs. R. Greer provided the food, and there were games and dancing for the children. We had a wonderful time," said Banks Mosley. "The HIPHY Program provides all learning material to families free of charge." See *Community Luau highlights below*:
- There will be a CSLC HIPHY Holiday Sing-along on November 18, at 5 p.m., at the CSLC Center, 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, Miss. All HIPHY families, children, and contributors are invited to participate. It will feature singing Christmas Carols around the tree, playing games, storytime, gift exchanges, and snacks.



Rosalyn Greer happily greets guests as they arrive to the Community Luau Fundraiser



Some of the learning supplies purchased for HIPHY from the Community Luau Fundraiser.



Above are some of the CSLC HIPHY graduates who returned to enjoy and support the Community Luau Fundraiser for the program.

To the right, a former HIPHY Home Visitor and her nephew, a HIPHY graduate prepare their plates of the delicious foods. While in the inset photo, children are seen enjoying supervised fun activities on the bouncer.



CSLC's Annual HIPHY Fund Fest /Motorcycle, Car and Truck Show a 'huge' success!

On Saturday, June 3, 2023, at around Noon, Mississippi Bikers and motorists rode into Lexington, Miss., for the fourth Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) HIPHY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) Fund Fest. This year's fest featured a combo Motorcycle and Car Show. The event is a fundraiser (in memory of Lula Mae Friar) to help support and sustain the HIPHY program. Friar, who succumbed to COVID-19 in July 2020, was the CSLC HIPHY Coordinator and Education Coordinator. She was a longtime public educator in Mississippi for more than 33 years. Her HIPHY babies were always near and dear to her heart. "The event to help provide needed learning materials, etc., was a huge success," said HIPHY Coordinator Lubertha Banks Mosley. More than \$9,000.00 were raised. *Please see the pictorial highlights below:*



CSLC's STOP Project Director 'highly recommended' to serve on a national conf. panel

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) is pleased to share that its Project Director, Lucretia Holmes, for the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) STOP Grant was asked to join the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Center for School Safety (NCSS) on August 8-10, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia for the 2023 STOP School Violence National Conference the National Center for School Safety (NCSS). She was asked to attend and invited to serve on one of the national panels with other BJA grantees. In a letter from Brent Allen Miller, MA, PMP Training Manager National Center for School Safety,

University of Michigan School of Public Health, is this excerpt: "Hello Lucretia, "We hope you can join us as a panelist for a moderated discussion with other STOP grantees. You come highly recommended by our School Safety Specialists. This panel is one of four distinct sessions that will provide attendees an opportunity to learn about the work of their peers."

During the 75-minute panel, Holmes and other grantees discussed and answered questions "about your organizational context, your role, your STOP grant work, and other relevant details around how you have addressed school safety (e.g., population served, geographic considerations, local and state landscape)" as state in the invitation letter.

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer also attended the conference. She participated in the breakout groups and explained how the CSLC grant has been a success because of the relationship that CSLC has with the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) and School Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson, who is "passionate about the safety of students." The STOP grant collaborative partnership with HCCSD is referred to as TIME.

Holmes is grateful to Greer and the CSLC administration for allowing her to attend this crucial and enlightening conference. Below, Holmes shares her commentary regarding her conference experience: "As Project Director of the Community Students Learning Center BJA STOP Grant, I was honored to serve as a panelist at the STOP School Violence National Conference in Richmond, Virginia. These programs through the Bureau of Justice are essential to all schools, especially in rural areas like Holmes County. As a panelist, I stated that involving the students on the panel is vital. We need to hear from our students and what school safety means to them." "Let them express their concerns on increasing school safety and what contributes to school violence?"

Community Students Learning Center and Holmes County School District are currently implementing the STOP Grant in all seven schools in Holmes County using the curriculums Mind Matters and Positive Action. Both curriculums are designed to help overcome adversity and bullying resilience.

I'm proud to say that we are "Transforming and Improving Mississippians' Lives" to eliminate school violence by teaching them social and cognitive skills to become successful -- **Lucretia Holmes**, Project Director, CSLC - STOP GRANT



Above, CSLC STOP Grant Project Director Lucretia Holmes (right) pauses for a photo opt with the CSLC project's Technical Assistant Heather Murphy. Murphy is a School Safety Specialist with the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

-- Courtesy Conference Photos



L-R, STOP PD Lucretia Holmes, conference attendee Doris Benford, and CSLC Exec. Director Beulah Greer



L-R, STOP PD Lucretia Holmes and Brent Allen Miller, NCSS Training Manager

The CSLC BJA STOP project, TIME, participate as an exhibitor at Breast Cancer Walk



The CSLC Project Director Lucretia Holmes for the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) STOP Grant TIME project had more reason than one to represent the project as an exhibitor at the Holmes County – Lexington, Miss. Breast Cancer Walk on October 7.

Holmes is a five-year breast cancer survivor. "I was grateful to participate by sharing materials from our program regarding school safety," said Holmes. "I felt that I was being a part of the fight to find a cure for breast cancer and our fight and intervention to stop violence in our schools." For more info about the safety program, call Holmes at (662) 834-0905.

CSLC FHLB/BankPlus Affordable Housing Program affords residents renewed holiday spirits

Thanks to the services of the Community Students Learning Center’s (CSLC) Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Program (AHP), residents in Holmes and other targeted counties are experiencing a brighter, safer, and pleasing spirits this holiday season. More than 39 Low-income homeowners have been blessed to qualify for much-needed home repairs (rehabilitation) during this granting cycle. To date, and across the years of being approved for the FHLB of Dallas grant through BankPlus, CSLC has facilitated the rehab of more than 247. This holiday season and beyond, Holmes County homeowner Sallie Ree Brooks is among those many grateful and excited individuals whose



Harmon

homes qualified for participation in the program. “Oh, she was so pleased and grateful when she saw the work the contractors had done to repair her kitchen,” said CSLC Housing Rehab Coordinator Vera Harmon. Harmon said seeing and hearing the grateful reactions of homeowners after their homes have had the needed and safe rehabs fills her heart with joy.



Williams

“This program is one of the ones that we most appreciate being a facilitator for,” said CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer. “Words are not nearly enough to express how grateful CSLC is to have been approved by FHLB and BankPlus to implement their affordable housing rehab program. Their AHP has positively impacted the quality of living for so many homeowners.” Harmon concurs.

Below are photos of before and after repairs of another happy homeowner, Lolvone Williams, also of Holmes County, Miss. She, too, has expressed her gratitude to the center for the FHLB-Dallas Affordable Housing Program and how it has helped with the much-needed repairs to her home. She smiles a lot when talking about it with others.

If you are a homeowner who wants to see whether you meet the CSLC FHLB of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Program qualifications, please contact **Mrs. Harmon** at (662) 834-0905.



Above is a “grateful” Sallie Ree Brooks for her kitchen cabinets and countertop where she can do what she loves best, cook.



Before



After

New roof installed, New front door installed, New back door installed, repaired siding, overhand, etc.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BUYING, BUILDING OR REPAIRING YOUR HOME?

If yes, then allow CSLC to assist you through the process. CSLC now participates with the USDA Rural Development on the USDA 502 Homeowner Loan /504 Direct Repair Loan and/or Grant programs; these loans and grants are available to help low to very low-income individuals in rural areas purchase, build, or repair their homes.

CSLC now has an in-house certified USDA 502 loan packager (Kalandria Newman) ready to assist and meet the needs of every future homeowner and already homeowners that just need repairs; for more information about USDA 502/504 Grant/Loan, call (662)834-0905.

As of today, the CSLC-certified USDA 502 loan packager has assisted many clients in closing by helping homeowners receive up to the maximum loan amount from the USDA on new homeownership.



COMMUNITY STUDENTS LEARNING CENTER

Season's Greetings!

AND A PROSPEROUS HAPPY NEW YEAR



Community Students Learning Center

333 Yazoo Street
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